

NATIONAL CONFERENCE



Lorraine Chaffer
President GTA NSW & ACT, AGTA director

The Australian Geography Teachers Association biennial conference AGTA 19 The Innovative Geographer held at the Gold Coast Convention Centre was a wonderful success thanks to the hard work of conference convenor Rebecca Nicholas and the Geography Teachers Association of Queensland.

A total of 231 teachers from across Australia attended a selection of masterclasses, workshops, keynote addresses, fieldwork and social events during the 4-day event. It was wonderful to see the mix of pre-service, inexperienced, experienced and retired teachers collaborating, sharing and inspiring each other and conversing with keynote speakers, workshop presenters, representatives of professional associations and exhibitors.

Keynote and guest speakers included:

- **Kerry O'Brien**, a distinguished and respected journalist spoke about his personal connections to place
- **Andrew Fletcher** coordinator for Environmental Science and remote Sensing of the Environment units at QUT showed the power of GIS in mapping a changing Earth.
- **Rod Lane** (Macquarie University NSW) and **Jean Kriewaldt** (University of Melbourne) presented a thought-provoking address on the meaning and purpose of Pedagogical Innovation in Geography
- **Damon Gameau**, Australian filmmaker and director of '2040' shared his reason for making the film 2040 and illustrated the power of regenerative practices in addressing climate change.
- **Jenny Woodward** from ABC News Brisbane spoke at the Geographers Breakfast about her experiences as a weather broadcaster.
- **Brett Leahy** demonstrated his emerging and immersive resource titled Virtual Songlines.

Fifty teachers from NSW and ACT attended including three GTA NSW & ACT sponsored teachers Sally Miller, Harrison Smith and Nicole Gray from northern NSW. Eight GTA NSW & ACT board members attended and / or presented at the conference. Many thanks to President Lorraine Chaffer, Vice Presidents Louise Swanson, Susan Caldis, Sharon Mclean and Grant Kleeman and councilors Alexandria Warnock, Michael Da Rosa and Catherine Donnelly for supporting this conference at your own expense and contributing to the professional learning of the Australian community of geography teachers.

AGTA AWARDS

The Australian Geography Teachers' Association Awards are given biennially for products of Australian origin associated with the teaching of geography in schools. The award winners were presented at the Conference dinner. Each award recipient receives a citation bearing the emblem of AGTA and the right to display this emblem as the association's endorsement of the product.

GTA NSW & ACT received two 2019 AGTA Awards:

- **WINNER** of the Primary Geography Resource category for Primary Geography Alive
- **HIGHLY COMMENDED** in the Not-for-profit category for The Geography Bulletin Edition 50, Volume 3, 2018

See the [AGTA website](#) for award categories and winners.

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DON BIDDLE AWARD

The Don Biddle Award recognises and honours the outstanding contributions by individuals to geographical education in Australia through their work with the Australian Geography Teachers Association.

The 2019 recipients of the Don Biddle Award are:

- Greg Calvert
- Rebecca Nicholas

Greg and Rebecca received their awards at the AGTA Conference Dinner and their citations will be published on the AGTA website.

DID YOU MISS THE 2019 AGTA CONFERENCE? START PLANNING NOW FOR THE 2021 CONFERENCE IN HOBART.



Damon Gameau spoke about his film 2040 at the conference dinner, to a very appreciative audience. Damon is being thanked for his film about hope and regeneration by GTA NSW & ACT president Lorraine Chaffer

LEFT: Promotion image

The Gold Coast Convention Centre was a fantastic Conference venue catering to over 60 workshops in 3 days. As well as full day fieldtrips, participants were able to join mini fieldtrips to experience and learn about:

- *urban planning and coastal geography career pathways at Griffith University*
- *using drones in the classroom with She Maps at Benowa State High School*
- *a local economic activity study at Black Hops brewery*



A highlight for many NSW & ACT GTA Councillors was joining our interstate counterparts from GTANT, TGTA and GAWA to discuss all things geography during the full day Fieldwork trip to Byron Bay. The focus was on Sustainable Tourism and included visits to Byron Bay Lighthouse, The Farm and Husk Distillery.

Photos supplied by L Chaffer, AGTA19 The Innovative Geographer Facebook page and conference participants



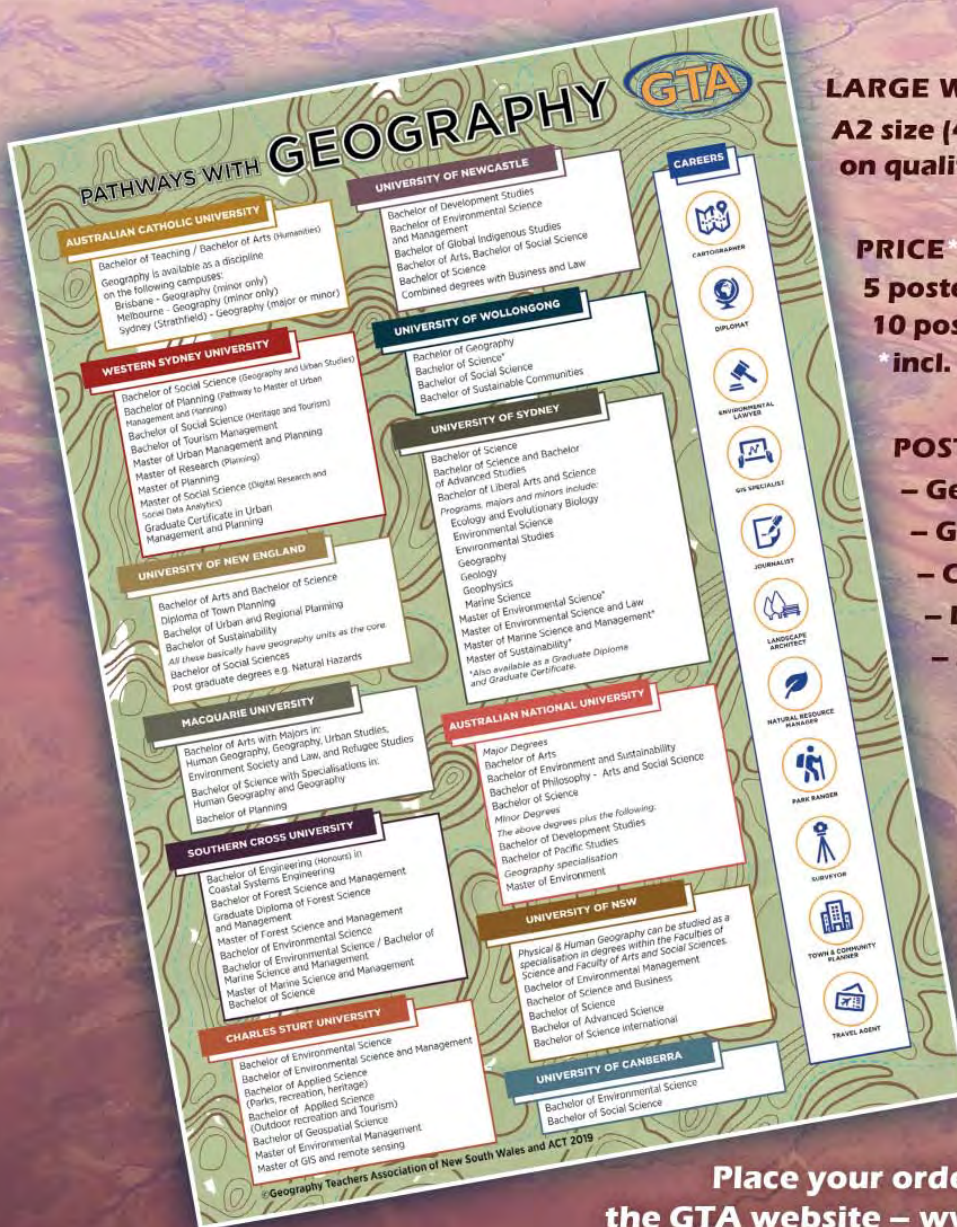
Geography Teachers Association of NSW & ACT

NEW PATHWAYS WITH GEOGRAPHY POSTER

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