



GTANSW Annual Report, October 2016

Submitted by Susan Caldis

President GTANSW, October 2013 – October 2016

The Geography Teacher's Association of NSW (GTANSW) continued to lead a range of high quality, accredited teacher professional learning activities across NSW throughout 2016. The focus has been around actively supporting teachers across sectors from primary and secondary schools to effectively interpret and plan for the implementation of the new K-10 Geography syllabus in 2017.

Memberships have fluctuated throughout 2016 and with corporate memberships being the most popular category; the GTANSW Council has agreed to increase the number of delegates able to be included within this membership fee for 2017. The primary-specific category will also be continuing in 2017. At the time of writing, total membership was 353; the breakdown is identified below. This figure is typical of this time of year when renewals are in process.

Membership Total: 353

Concessional: 28

Corporate: 250

Personal: 71

Life: 4

The 2015-2016 GTANSW Council had 17 members in total. Susan Caldis completed her third year as President and stepped down from the role at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) held on Tuesday 25 October. Leading the Association in 2016-2017 will be Lorraine Chaffer, working with a full committee identified on the following page. It is encouraging to see representation on Council from all career stages, regional NSW and the ACT for 2017.

There has been continual support provided to GTANSW from the administration team at the Professional Teacher's Council of NSW (PTCNSW). The GTANSW Council would like to extend their sincere thanks and appreciation to Bernadette Motulalo, Shreela Pradhan and Jill Sillar for their professional approach towards event management and production of the *Geography Bulletin*. Susan Caldis and Lorraine Chaffer have been Directors on the PTCNSW Board throughout 2016 and would like to specifically thank Executive Officer, David Browne, and PTCNSW President, Dr Denis Mootz for their guidance and support during the year.

As with previous years, various members of the GTANSW Council co-ordinated our Association's events and liaised with the administration team from PTCNSW as required. The events for 2016 were the Annual Conference which included the Arthur Phillip Awards and HSC Examination Review in May; the HSC Student Lectures in June; two regional NSW conferences in July and August; and a twilight conference in August. GTANSW were represented by Dr Grant Kleeman and Susan Caldis in the AGTA Roadshow, a national program of professional learning held from March 2015 – May 2016. GTANSW were also represented at the Western Sydney University HSC Geography study day by Susan Caldis and Sharon McLean in August.

Throughout 2016 the GTANSW presence on social media has been strengthened via the introduction of a Facebook page, the revitalization of our Twitter account, together with regular, enthusiastic and geographically informed postings from GTANSW Council members on the Community of Geography Teachers Australia Facebook page (as well as on their individual social media accounts). Thank you to all the social media-savvy members of GTANSW Council for being proactive in raising the profile of geography and geography teachers on various social media platforms. Special thanks to Susan Caldis, Lorraine Chaffer, Cath Donnelly and Louise Swanson for leading the charge with this initiative.

This year, the Annual Conference was held on 7 and 8 April at the Novotel, Sydney Olympic Park. This 2 day event included rotational fieldwork, workshops and keynotes. There were primary focused workshops in the program and 185 teachers attended each day. Presentations from the Annual Conference are available for members to access through their login to the GTANSW website. Thank you to all members of GTANSW Council for their involvement in the conference. Particular thanks and appreciation is extended to the key organisers of this event: Lorraine Chaffer, Sharon McLean and Dr Grant Kleeman. Planning is already underway for the 2017 Annual Conference and a 'Save The Date' notification has been issued via social media and email for 9 and 10 March 2017, returning to the same venue as this year.

It was decided to trial the inclusion of the Arthur Phillip Awards and Top 10 Performers in the HSC Geography Examination in to the Annual Conference program for 2016 rather than have them as separate events. A similar combination of events occurs at the Annual Conference for the Geography Teachers Association of Victoria and the GTANSW Council agreed a strategy such as this would provide an authentic audience to the student and teacher recipients of awards related to outstanding fieldwork projects across Years 7 – 11 and HSC examination performance. In responding to feedback from previous HSC Geography Examination Reviews, it was decided to hold this event at the end of the first day of the Annual Conference. This event was well supported by teachers and GTANSW will continue to use this model for these events in 2017. Much thanks and appreciation is extended to Grace Larobina for organizing both of these events and for liaising with the Annual Conference coordinators to ensure the operation of a seamless program throughout the day.

The HSC Student Lectures were organized by Lorraine Chaffer with registration and event-set-up being completed John Lewis, Cath Donnelly and Sharon McLean. They were held in Wollongong, Newcastle and Sydney during early June and presentations were delivered by Susan Caldis, Matt Carroll, David Hamper, Dr Grant Kleeman, Alexandria Lucas, Sharon McLean and Chris Tanna. These lectures are becoming well attended by teachers who are seeking to update their knowledge and understanding about requirements of the HSC course. Thank you to everyone who was involved in this event.

The regional conference program mirrored the key messages of the Annual Conference and the AGTA Roadshow. They were held in Coffs Harbour at the end of July and Wagga Wagga in early August. Each event had more than 50 participants. Presentations and workshops were delivered by Susan Caldis, Lorraine Chaffer, Dr Grant Kleeman and Sharon McLean. Feedback indicated this model of professional learning should be retained for regional NSW teachers and consideration should also be given to holding similar events in Batemans Bay, Griffith, Lismore or Tamworth during 2017. As with the Annual Conference, this professional learning event was accredited by BOSTES. Thank you to the presenters for giving up your time and sharing your expertise. Particular thanks to Sharon McLean for organizing all aspects of each regional conference.

During the last week of October, the GTANSW Council held a planning day and the Annual General Meeting. Broadly, the GTANSW Council feels it would like to move towards developing a distinct online strategy and commence development of primary-specific resources outside of articles submitted to the Geography Bulletin. GTANSW Council will have their final meeting for 2016 in early December and are also delighted to receive a repeat invitation from the Geographical Society of NSW to attend their awards night.

The end of a year signals a time for celebration and it gives me great pleasure to be able to announce that two of our long-term Councillors, Grace Larobina and John Lewis, will be presented with the PTC NSW 2016 *Outstanding Service to the Profession* award on 9 November. Congratulations Grace and John, your sustained contributions to GTANSW and geography education are greatly admired and appreciated.

In closing my tenure as President GTANSW I would like to thank all of the GTANSW Council for their support, encouragement and friendship over the last three years. I have appreciated your willingness to contribute to strategic discussions, organize and assist at events, and further the profile of geography education in schools.

Whilst GTANSW Council is a close, collaborative and hard-working team, I would like to especially thank Lorraine Chaffer, Dr Grant Kleeman, Nick Hutchinson and Sharon McLean for working so closely with me and offering tremendous support - you have made my job easy!

Finally, it is a privilege to hand over the leadership baton to Lorraine Chaffer, an expert geography educator I have admired for many years. Lorraine's willingness to share her expertise and resources continues to inspire me and I know there are many others who share similar sentiments. Exciting times are ahead for the Association and geography education with Lorraine as President.

Wishing you all a wonderful end to a productive year and a relaxing break over the holiday season. I look forward to seeing many of you at the 2017 AGTA Conference in Melbourne during January

Best wishes,

Susan Caldis,

GTANSW President, October 2013 – October 2016

Name (alphabetical order)	Role
Paul Alger	Councillor
Milton Brown	Vice President, Minute Secretary
Susan Caldis	Vice President
Lorraine Chaffer	President, Editor Geog Bulletin
Michael Da Roza (ACT rep, as of October 2016)	Councillor
Catherine Donnelly	Councillor
Adrian Harrison (as of October 2016)	Councillor
Keith Hopkins	Councillor
Nick Hutchinson	Councillor
Grant Kleeman	Vice President, Honorary Treasurer
Grace Larobina	Councillor
David Latimer	Councillor
John Lewis	Councillor
Alexandria Lucas (as of October 2016)	Councillor
Sharon McLean	Vice President
Sarah Menassa-Rose	Councillor
Martin Pluss	Councillor
Louise Swanson	Councillor Public Officer
Steve Weingarh	Councillor