



The
Geography Teachers' Association
of New South Wales

ABN: 59 246 850 128

GTANSW President Report, AGM 2018

Lorraine Chaffer

President GTANSW, October 2017 – October 2018

The Geography Teacher's Association of NSW (GTANSW) has had another highly successful year providing professional support for Geography teachers and students across NSW and the ACT. GTA NSW professional learning events have been inclusive of all sectors and continue to actively promote Geography across all stages. Professional Learning activities are open to members and non-members.

MEMBERSHIP has grown from 375 to 431 as of October 1, 2018.

Most memberships are corporate, covering all faculty members within a school. Fees for non-members remain higher to encourage membership.

GTA COUNCIL

On October 22nd before the 2018 AGM the GTA Council had 18 elected councilors (including a president and four Vice Presidents) and five co-opted members. There are five regional representatives from Wagga (1), Canberra (1) and Newcastle (3). Until recently GTANSW also had a North Coast representative who has recently moved to Queensland. GTANSW Would like to thank Melinda Rowe for her contributions to GTANSW over the past year, particularly at the Annual Conference and assistance organising the Tweed Regional Conference. Over recent years the number of councilors from outside Sydney has increased. Council meetings are a mix of members attending in person and online (through Adobe Connect and recently trialing ZOOM). This has successfully allowed the full involvement of councilors unable to attend in person.

GTANSW outsources administrative, financial, publishing and organizational tasks to the NSW Professional Teachers Council and rents office space within the PTC premises.

2018 PROGRAM

2018 was an extremely busy year as we expanded the professional learning opportunities and resources for our members. None of this would be possible without a team of dedicated council members who contribute what time and circumstances allow throughout the year. Thank you. I will name individuals as I run through our 2018 achievements.

I have a few other people to thank before I report on the 2018 program.

- Sharon McLean for facilitating our online meeting forum through Skype, Adobe and more recently Zoom

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- Milton Brown (and others including John Lewis and Susan Caldis) who took meeting minutes in his absence.
- Grant Kleeman for financial management as the ongoing GTANSW treasurer.

For office administration thanks go to all of the PTC staff but in particular

- Julie Pham for event management. Whatever the event, Julie makes us all look good and has added a level of calm and sophistication to everything we do.
- Jill Sillar for her publishing skills to satisfy our constant demand for flyers and other promotional materials and of course the publication of the Geography Bulletin.

Lastly to Rob Berry for continued service to keeping the website current – even when he is on holidays overseas.

A. PROFESSIONAL LEARNING EVENTS

- Two-day **Annual Conference** in April. This involved 41 sessions (masterclasses, presentations or workshops) attended by over 220 teachers each day. Additionally, there were 32 exhibitors, over 30 presenters and 15 GTA councilors present. The focus for 2018 was on pedagogy, literacy and skills with content-focused workshops and presentations making up the remainder.

2018 was the second year with sponsorship allowing the awarding of scholarships and bursaries to teachers in more rural or remote to attend and offsetting other costs.

- Two one-day **Regional conferences** at Tweed Heads (South) and Canberra (NW)
- Six **Webinars**

Thank you to Sharon McLean for your organisation of these important events to service our city, rural and regional colleagues.

- Two **Skills Workshops**

Thank you to Grant Kleeman organise events desperately needed to meet the high demand for training in skills but those untrained in or new to teaching Geography.

- Two **ESRI GIS in Schools** Events
- **Senior Geography Teachers Conference** (Now an annual event in November)

B. OTHER EVENTS

- **HSC Exam Preparation Lectures** to assist HSC exam preparation.

Thank you to Catherine Donnelly and those who became MC's and presenters at these events.

- **Arthur Phillip Fieldwork Awards Competition and ceremony** – competition to promote geographical inquiry through fieldwork.
- **Top HSC Achiever Awards Ceremony** – Top 10 HSC students AND their teachers recognised in the Awards Ceremony during Annual Conference.

Thank you to Grace Larobina for organising the collection and marking of the competition entries and organising the Award Ceremony at the Annual Conference. Thanks also to those of you who assisted Grace with these two activities, they could not run without a team effort.

- Many of you also represented GTANSW at several events throughout the year, particularly by visiting schools who had requested assistance.

To Alexandria Lucas, Grace Larobina, David Latimer, Louise Swanson, Lorraine Chaffer and Susan Caldis thank you, and my apologies if I have missed someone in the process.

- GTA and maintains a close relationship with the **Geographical Society of NSW**. Thank you to Martin Pluss and Susan Caldis for maintaining links and keeping us informed.
- Most recently GTA has submitted responses to NESA Review of the Stage 6 Syllabus and Draft Directions Paper. Many of you attended events and gave feedback that informed GTA's submission to NESA. This is an ongoing process.

Thank you to Sharon Mclean for being the GTA representative on the Board Curriculum Committee for Stage 6.

C. PUBLICATIONS

- The **Geography Bulletin** remains the key publication with four digital editions for K – 12 teachers and two special editions for senior Geography.
- **Primary Geography Alive** – an online resource of teaching units with integrated resources published on the GTANSW website with free access to primary teachers. Units continue to be added.

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Thanks go to Lorraine Chaffer as editor of the bulleting and Grant Kleeman as coordinator and developer of the primary resource.

- GTANSW maintains its **Facebook Page** for official notifications and general interest items, two Facebook Support Groups for HSC Teachers and Primary teachers and Twitter for conference events.

It is anticipated that all of these programs will continue into 2019. Discussions on the delivery of Professional Learning to **primary teachers** will continue with a potential focus on the use of webinars, twilight functions held in schools, and further ahead, online courses.

GTANSW is now an accredited provider through TQI in the ACT which will enable us to advertise events more widely in the future.

NEW INITIATIVES FOR 2019

- **Assessment packages** based on each of the 7-10 NSW Geography Syllabus Topics but applicable to all jurisdictions. The packages will contain a stimulus booklet and a

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range of different assessment activities, marking guidelines and suggested answers. These will be available for purchase. The first unit is in development now.

- **Online Professional Learning** through Open Learning and developed under the umbrella of a PTC NSW initiative involving other Subject Associations. The first course is in development now with a number of proposals submitted for approval.

GTANSW remains a hard-working team of volunteers with a passion for supporting Geography teachers in NSW and for that I am extremely grateful and proud of what we have achieved in 2018.

We anticipate the development of a new Stage 6 Syllabus in 2019, based on the Australian Senior Curriculum.

Lorraine Chaffer
President GTANSW

The Geography Teachers' Association of New South Wales (GTA NSW) is a not-for-profit, incorporated body that represents the professional interests of Geography teachers in NSW and Geographical education more generally.

The GTA NSW seeks to address its objectives via a yearly program of activities and events including:

- The Geography Bulletin
- Teacher Professional Learning Workshops
- Annual and regional Conferences
- Annual Fieldwork Award Competition and Awards Ceremony
- Higher School Certificate Reviews
- Recognition of top 10 HSC Geography achievers
- Professional Awards including The Brock Rowe Award, The Macdonald Holmes Medal, The Geoff Connolly Bulletin Award and Fellowship of the Association.

The Association is active in presenting the interests of Geography teachers in areas of public concern, by investigating and making recommendations to appropriate authorities (including the NSW Education Standards Authority) on educational policies and other matters of state and national interest in which

Geography teachers are involved. This advocacy includes close liaison with the Australian Geography Teachers' Association (AGTA) and the Professional Teachers' Council of NSW (PTC NSW).

Membership Categories

The Association offers five categories of membership:

Personal Membership provides teachers with access to all the activities and events hosted by the Association at a discounted rate. All personal members are encouraged to become active in the affairs of the Association by becoming a GTA Councillor. All Personal Members are entitled to vote at GTA meetings.

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School Membership is open to secondary schools and commercial bodies allowing their members to access activities and events at the corporate rate.

Primary School Membership rate is open to all primary schools and provides access to activities and events at the special primary corporate rate.

Concessional Membership is available to teachers not in full-time employment. Concessional Members receive all the benefits of a Personal Member at a discounted rate.

Pre service teachers (sign up with university email) receive all the benefits of a Personal Member at a discounted rate except that pre service teacher members are not entitled to hold office or to vote at Association meetings. Pre service teachers **MUST** register with their University email to be eligible to join at this level. This type of membership can be renewed for a maximum of two years.