

## 2019 Australian Geography Competition New South Wales and Australian Capital Territory

### Future competition dates:

**2020 Wednesday 18 March to Wednesday 1 April**  
**2021 Wednesday 17 March – Wednesday 31 March**  
**2022 Wednesday 16 March – Wednesday 30 March**

### The 2019 School Round

Over 73,000 students were entered from 788 schools across Australia. Table 1 provides a summary by State/Territory of the number of schools and students entered in recent years.

NOTE: Copies of past Competition papers can be downloaded from the AGC website. The 2018 paper is included after this report.

**Table 1: Number of entries in 2016 to 2019 by State and Territory.**

State / Territory	2019		2018		2017		2016	
	Entries	Schools	Entries	Schools	Entries	Schools	Entries	Schools
ACT	2,270	21	2,358	21	2,467	22	2,306	18
NSW	27,555	284	27,386	285	25,807	269	23,313	226
NT	244	4	164	4	297	4	122	5
QLD	13,207	152	11,227	146	11,045	150	12,813	136
SA	3,391	38	3,264	34	3,800	38	3,654	42
TAS	1,029	31	1,301	30	1,025	24	816	26
VIC	14,871	153	15,038	154	15,040	134	13,221	124
WA	10,650	101	11,395	104	11,042	97	10,243	90
Other <sup>1</sup>	108	4	123	4	156	5	79	3
<b>Totals</b>	<b>73,325</b>	<b>788</b>	<b>72,256</b>	<b>782</b>	<b>70,679</b>	<b>743</b>	<b>66,567</b>	<b>670</b>

Notes: 1. Includes External Territory and overseas schools.



Source: [www.geographycompetition.org.au/](http://www.geographycompetition.org.au/)

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Australian team at the 2019 iGeo in Hong Kong. Source: [www.facebook.com/AustralianGeographyCompetition/](http://www.facebook.com/AustralianGeographyCompetition/)

Table 2 provides a breakdown of student numbers in New South Wales and Australian Capital Territory from 2016 to 2019 by Year Level and Gender. The numbers provided are those that were returned by the due date for analysis and will not agree with totals provided in Table 1.

**Table 2: Number of students entering by Year Level, Total, and Gender 2016 to 2019**

State / Territory	Year	Year Level	TOTAL	FEMALE	MALE	NON-GENDER
ACT	2016	7	215	176	34	5
ACT	2017	7	432	220	207	5
ACT	2018	7	174	118	54	2
ACT	2019	7	165	134	29	2
ACT	2016	8	628	303	317	8
ACT	2017	8	651	284	349	18
ACT	2018	8	393	211	174	8
ACT	2019	8	449	208	230	11
ACT	2016	9	564	278	276	10
ACT	2017	9	458	226	224	8
ACT	2018	9	594	297	295	2
ACT	2019	9	642	314	322	6
ACT	2016	10	481	179	296	6
ACT	2017	10	389	146	236	7
ACT	2018	10	579	250	315	14
ACT	2019	10	590	248	328	14
ACT	2016	11	61	3	58	0
ACT	2017	11	66	14	52	0
ACT	2018	11	56	18	35	3
ACT	2019	11	101	39	59	3
ACT	2016	12	54	17	36	1
ACT	2017	12	57	6	50	1
ACT	2018	12	60	12	48	0
ACT	2019	12	59	21	38	0

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State / Territory	Year	Year Level	TOTAL	FEMALE	MALE	NON-GENDER
NSW	2016	7	2679	1163	1483	33
NSW	2017	7	3122	1393	1696	33
NSW	2018	7	3654	1589	2028	37
NSW	2019	7	3604	1575	1990	39
NSW	2016	8	3732	1281	2321	130
NSW	2017	8	4215	1610	2485	120
NSW	2018	8	4422	1692	2619	111
NSW	2019	8	4648	1880	2620	148
NSW	2016	9	5271	2362	2840	69
NSW	2017	9	5666	2757	2856	53
NSW	2018	9	5492	2741	2679	72
NSW	2019	9	5839	2788	2964	87
NSW	2016	10	6743	2809	3763	171
NSW	2017	10	7454	3545	3778	131
NSW	2018	10	7436	3691	3580	165
NSW	2019	10	7144	3514	3456	174
NSW	2016	11	1188	483	698	7
NSW	2017	11	1675	764	894	17
NSW	2018	11	1662	733	906	23
NSW	2019	11	1792	825	947	20
NSW	2016	12	724	275	412	37
NSW	2017	12	911	394	491	26
NSW	2018	12	1044	412	606	26
NSW	2019	12	868	367	465	36

Table 3 provides the national average scores for each Year Level and Table 4 provides the cut-off used to categorise student marks into certificate levels.

**Table 3: Average score for each competition level, 2016 to 2019.**

Year	2019	2018	2017	2016
7 and below	13.25	13.96	14.5	14.78
8	14.46	15.06	15.77	16.06
9	20.18	20.97	21.61	22.20
10	20.98	22.04	22.53	23.12
11	17.73	19.34	18.68	20.16
12	18.46	20.91	20.07	21.49

*RIGHT: 2019 Australian Medalists, at iGeo Hong Kong: BRONZE – Alex Shierlaw, St Peter's College, SA, Stefan Simic, McKinnon Secondary College, Vic, Eleanor Smith, Kilvington Grammar School, Vic and GOLD – Jacob Thai, Sydney Grammar School, NSW*



**Table 4: 2019 cut-off scores for the certificate levels by age.**

Year	Participation	Credit	Distinction	High Distinction	Top 1%
7	0 – 14	15 – 16	17 – 18	19 – 22	23 – 30
8	0 – 15	16 – 17	18 – 19	20 – 24	25 – 30
9	0 – 21	22 – 24	25 – 27	28 – 32	33 – 40
10	0 – 22	23 – 25	26 – 28	29 – 33	34 – 40
11	0 – 18	19 – 21	22 – 24	25 – 29	30 – 35
12	0 – 19	20 – 22	23 – 25	26 – 30	31 – 35

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In 2019, prizes were awarded to 53 students and 7 schools across Australia, excluding selection for Geography's Big Week Out.

Congratulations to the New South Wales and Australian Capital Territory students who came first in their Year Level.

**Table 5: New South Wales winners by Year Level for 2019**

Student	Year Level	Award	School
Michael Hue	7	Equal first in Australia	Sydney Grammar School
Sidharth Manoj Kumar	8	Equal first in Australia	North Sydney Boys' High School
Evan La Fontaine	9	Equal first Australia	Normanhurst Boys' High School
Elliot Moy	9	Equal first Australia	Baulkham Hills High School
Rachel Frecker	10	First in Australia	Santa Sabina College
Brendan Tate	11	Equal first in Australia	Caringbah High School
Noah Gong	11	Equal first in Australia	Sydney Grammar School
Will Segalla	12	First in New South Wales	Arndell Anglican College

**Table 6: Combined Territories (ACT, NT and External Territories) winners by Year Level for 2019**

Student	Year Level	Award	School
Rosemary Norton	7	Equal first in Combined Territories	Canberra Girls Grammar Senior School
<i>Name withheld</i>	7	Equal first in Combined Territories	Alfred Deakin High School, ACT
Adam Liu-O'Dowd	7	First in Combined Territories	Cocos Islands District High School
Thomas Lin	8	First in Australia	Canberra Grammar School
David Stocks	10	Equal first in Combined Territories	Radford College, ACT
Andrew Kerr	11	First in Combined Territories	Radford College, ACT
Daniel McCormack	9	First in Combined Territories	Canberra Grammar School
Otto Power	12	First in Combined Territories	Canberra Grammar School

Highest scoring schools are provided in Table 5 and Table 6. Currently the school score is determined by adding the results of the five best students from Years 8 to 12.

**Table 7: Highest scoring schools for each State and Combined Territories**

State/Territory	School
Australia	Sydney Grammar School
Queensland	Brisbane Grammar School
South Australia	Pembroke School
Tasmania	St Michael's Collegiate School
Territories (ACT, NT, External Territories)	Canberra Grammar School, ACT
Victoria	Presbyterian Ladies' College
Western Australia	Perth Modern School

## REASONS TO ENTER

Open to students from Year 7 to Year 12

Certificates of recognition for all participating students

Major prizes for highest scoring students

16 high performing Year 11 students invited to Geography's Big Week Out

4 chosen to represent Australia at the International Geography Olympiad

Table 8: The ten highest scoring schools in Australia

Place	School
1	Sydney Grammar School, (NSW)
2	Sydney Boys High School (NSW)
3	Northern Beaches Secondary College – Manly Campus (NSW)
4	Canberra Grammar School (ACT)
5	Knox Grammar School (NSW)
6	Perth Modern School (WA)
7	Presbyterian Ladies' College (VIC)
8	Ryde Secondary College (NSW)
9	St Aloysius' College (NSW)
10	Camberwell Grammar School (VIC)

## Geography's Big Week Out (GBWO)

High-scoring Year 11 students are selected from the Competition to take part in the GBWO which is a week of geographical activities focussing on fieldwork including spatial technologies. Year 11 students, one male and one female from each State and the Combined Territories, and the next two nationally highest scoring female and male are invited to participate in the GBWO. Australia's team to the **2020 International Geography Olympiad** in **Istanbul, Turkey** will be selected from participating students.

The **GBWO** will again be held on **Kangaroo Island** from Sunday 15 to Friday 20 December 2019. The 2017, 2018 and 2019 GBWOs have been organised by the Geography Teachers' Association of South Australia (GTASA) under the leadership of Liam Sloan and Simon Roos-Freeman. Table 9 provides the list of 2019 GBWO participants.



Participants in the 2018 GBWO on Kangaroo Island

Table 9: 2019 GBWO student participants.

State	Student	Participant's School
Combined Territories	Sebastian Connor	Dickson College (ACT)
	Tyra Kuan	Canberra Grammar School (ACT)
NSW	Brendan Tate	Caringbah High School (NSW)
	Elita So	Caringbah High School (NSW)
	Lauren Griffiths	Northern Beaches Secondary College - Manly Campus (NSW)
	Noah Gong	Sydney Grammar School (NSW)
QLD	Joshua Crow	The Scots PGC College (QLD)
	Taylor Timpani	All Saints' Anglican School Senior Campus (QLD)
SA	Lucy Watson	Pembroke School (SA)
	Oliver Shephard-Bayly	Pedare Christian College (SA)
TAS	William Mather	The Hutchins School (TAS)
	Katie Stanton	Launceston Church Grammar School (TAS)
VIC	Sonia Truong	The MacRobertson Girls' High School (VIC)
	Liam Morris	Melbourne High School (VIC)
WA	Eve Fleming	Carine Senior High School (WA)
	Quinlan Arundel	Scotch College (WA)

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The Competition covers expenses for students participating at GBWO and is financially supported by the Australian Department of Education and Training.

Thanks goes to the Geography Association of Western Australia (GAWA) for volunteering to coordinate the 2020 and 2021 GBWOs.

## International Geography Olympiad (iGeo)

The Australian students competed against 42 other countries at the **16<sup>th</sup> International Geography Olympiad (iGeo)** held in **Hong Kong, China** from 30 July to 5 August 2019. The team performed well.



The four-member Australian Team performed well at the iGeo; each bring home a medal:

- Jacob Thai from Sydney Grammar School, NSW, Gold Medal
- Stefan Simic from McKinnon Secondary College, Vic, Bronze Medal
- Alex Shierlaw from St Peter's College, Hackney, SA, Bronze Medal
- Eleanor Smith from Kilvington Grammar School, Vic, Bronze Medal

The Australian Team was placed 11th overall by a matter of decimals. Indonesia came first. These four students were chosen to represent Australia based on their performances in the Year 11 level of the 2018 Australian Geography Competition and the 2018 Geography's Big Week Out.

The two 2019 Australian Team Leaders were Simon Roos-Freeman, 2017 and 2018 GBWO Teacher and GTASA member, and Kath Berg, Australian Geography Competition Committee member.

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## Important 2020 Competition Dates

### COMPETITION IN SCHOOLS

**Monday 2 March**

**Thursday 2 April**

**Monday 20 April**

**Friday 15 May**

**Tuesday 9 June**

**Tuesday 11 to Monday 17 August**

**Sunday 27 September to Friday 2 October**

### Wednesday 18 March – Wednesday 1 April 2020

Entry and payment deadline. Entry fees to the 2020 Competition will remain at \$4 per Question Booklet (student)

Schools post completed answer sheets

Completed answer sheets must be received by the Competition Office.  
*Note: Answer sheets received after Mon 20 April, may not be eligible for prizes, but will be accepted and students' answers will be graded and receive certificates.*

Prize-winners notified via their school

Certificates and results posted to schools

International Geography Olympiad (iGeo)

Geography's Big Week Out

The Competition organisers appreciate the support of New South Wales and Australian Capital Territory teachers in entering their students in the Competition and welcome feedback teachers may have. Please do not hesitate to contact the Competition Office if you have any queries.

## Australian Geography Competition: Background

The Australian Geography Competition is a joint initiative of the Australian Geography Teachers' Association Limited (AGTA) and the Royal Geographical Society of Queensland Incorporated (RGSQ) and is currently managed and run by the RGSQ under a Memorandum of Understanding between both parties. The AGC is overseen by a committee of five voting members: two from AGTA; two from RGSQ; and, one independent approved by both AGTA and RGSQ. The Committee is chaired by the AGC Coordinator who is not a voting member of the Committee.

There are three AGC associated events:

- The **School Round** is school based with the AGC Office providing both question booklets and answer sheets as ordered by the school. Completed answer sheets are returned to the AGC Office where they are scanned, converted to text files, pre-processed and analysed. All legible returned answer sheets are marked and categorised (top 1% in Australia, high distinction, distinction, credit and participated). The AGC Office has the certificates and results for each student printed and returned to the school for distribution to their students.

Students sit the 35-minute Competition within a two-week period. One Question booklet with 50 questions is provided. Students in Years 7 and 8 answer the first 30 questions; Year 9 and 10 students answer the first 40 questions; and, Year 11 and 12 students answer questions 16 to 50.

- **Geography's Big Week Out** (GBWO) is a six-day field-based event focusing on fieldwork and spatial technologies. Sixteen high performing Year 11 students who have sat the Competition are selected to participate in the week. The Competition covers expenses for student participating at GBWO and is financially supported by the Australian Department of Education and Training.

GBWO is circulated between States/Territories generally on a two-year bases through the generosity of the local Geography Teachers Association organising and coordinating the activities.

- Australia's team to the **International Geography Olympiad (iGeo)**. Four students from the GBWO are selected to represent Australia at the iGeo. The AGC covers expenses for student participating at iGeo and is financially supported by the Australian Department of Education and Training.

Organised by the International Geographical Union's (IGU) Olympiad Task Force, the iGeo is a prestigious annual competition for 16 to 19-year-old students selected through a national geography competition. To challenge the best-performing geography students from around the world, the iGeo program involves three tests - a written response test, a multi-media test and a substantial fieldwork exercise requiring observation, cartographic representation and geographical analysis. The program also included poster presentations by teams and a cultural session.

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