

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Welcome everyone to a new year of teaching Geography. I am sure that recent environmentally focused events occurring across Australia together with events focused on the human and more-than-human species have provided much to consider with our students in the context of appropriate action and possible, predicted and preferred futures.



As the incoming President for GTANSW&ACT in 2020, I would like to use this report to acknowledge key people and events, and to also set the scene for the year ahead with the Association.

The 2019 Annual General Meeting (AGM) occurred on 27 November and a couple of changes to the Executive and Council occurred. The full list is available within the Bulletin and on the Associations' website, however, there are some points requiring particular mention.

At the AGM, Lorraine Chaffer was constitutionally required to step down from her role as President, having completed a 3 year term (Oct 2016 – Nov 2019). Personally and professionally I'd like to thank Lorraine for her vision, leadership, and her tireless work in making the vision become a reality for the Association and for geography education in NSW. All on Council and all who are involved in the teaching of Geography have benefitted from Lorraine's wisdom and expertise regardless of our career stage and context.

It is a privilege to lead the Association as President and to do so for the second time (having previously held this role from Oct 2013 – Oct 2016). I am very much looking forward to the work ahead in progressing the profile of Geography within schools and beyond. It is exciting to be able to share this work with the GTA NSW&ACT Executive and Council who are an inspiring and hardworking group of Geography educators, held in high regard by their peers.

The GTA NSW&ACT Council remains strong with reach across the ACT and regional NSW, including the Far West, Riverina and Hunter regions. New Councillors were welcomed to the team for 2020, Katerina Stojanoski and David Proctor.

You may have noticed by now, the abbreviation used for the Association has changed slightly. In January, notification came through about the formal change of nomenclature for the Association: the *Geography*

Teachers Association of NSW and ACT (GTANSW&ACT). Michael da Roza is the ACT representative and work is underway to determine how the Association can more specifically cater for ACT members.

December and January also provided a key moment of consideration as to how best the Association can respond to and act upon the unprecedented bushfire activity occurring across Australia but particularly across NSW and ACT. On 16 January 2020, the Association released *A public statement of support to NSW and ACT Geography teachers in fire affected communities*; the statement is available from our website and was circulated via social media and email. Within the statement there is an outline of assistance the Association intends to provide throughout the year together with a reminder about how the study of geography contributes to a reasoned understanding about the occurrences of such events and their effects on communities. I would like to extend specific thanks to the Executive: Sharon MacLean, Louise Swanson, Lorraine Chaffer, Dr Grant Kleeman and Alexandria Warnock for working with me on this important piece during the holiday period.



The Hon. Sarah Mitchell, Minister for Education and Early Learning with Lorraine Chaffer, recipient of the prestigious PTC NSW Exceptional Service Award for 2019.

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Alexandria Warnock receives her Outstanding Professional Service Award from Dr Denis Mootz, President of PTCNSW

February marked a significant occasion for two members of our Council. At the Awards Night of the Professional Teachers Council of NSW (PTCNSW): Alexandria Warnock received an award from GTANSW&ACT for *Outstanding Service to the Profession*; and Lorraine Chaffer received an award from the Board of PTCNSW for *Exceptional Service to the Profession*. Both Alexandria and Lorraine have contributed their time and expertise to the Association and geography education within and beyond their school gates. Acknowledging and celebrating the success of colleagues is important and it is wonderful to see their work recognised.

In looking ahead, whilst it is important to ensure the Association caters specifically for the needs of Geography teachers in NSW and ACT, it is also important to ensure we do so in alignment with the bigger picture of and for the discipline of Geography. The Decadal Plan for Geography, *Geography: Shaping Australia's Future* released about 14 months ago by the National Committee of Geographical Sciences, offers a framework for engaging research, teaching and industry that aligns strategically with contemporary social, economic and environmental challenges of our region. Chapter 13 is targeted at Geography in Australian Schools and there are key recommendations to ensure the future of Geography flourishes within the school education context. A couple of the recommendations will become a particular focus for the Association over the next 12 months, and whilst I am not permitted to elaborate at the current time, I am hopeful to be able to provide further clarity and direction within the next issue of the



Geography Bulletin. In the meantime I encourage you to download and read *Geography: Shaping Australia's Future* <https://www.science.org.au/files/userfiles/support/reports-and-plans/2018/geography-decadal-plan.pdf> as part of your professional reading and if time is tight, please ensure you have a read through Chapters 1, 2 and 13.

Wishing you all an enjoyable Term 1 and I look forward to our paths crossing in various forms.

Susan Caldis
President, GTANSW&ACT



NESA ENDORSEMENT

Geography Teachers Association of NSW & ACT through the Professional Teachers' Council NSW – is endorsed to provide the NSW Education Standards Authority (NESA) Registered Professional Development for teachers accredited at Proficient, Highly Accomplished, and Lead levels.

Completing the **GTANSW & ACT Annual Conference 2020 Day 1**, on **21 May 2020** will contribute **5 hours 30 minutes** of NSW Education Standards Authority (NESA) Registered PD addressing **6.2.2; 7.4.2** from the Australian Professional Standards for Teachers towards maintaining Proficient Teacher Accreditation in NSW.

Completing the **GTANSW & ACT Annual Conference 2020 Day 2**, on **22 May 2020** will contribute **5 hours 30 minutes** of NSW Education Standards Authority (NESA) Registered PD addressing **6.2.2; 7.4.2** from the Australian Professional Standards for Teachers towards maintaining Proficient Teacher Accreditation in NSW.

Completing the **GTANSW & ACT Annual Conference 2020 Day 3 Stage 6**, on **23 May 2020** will contribute **5 hours** of NSW Education Standards Authority (NESA) Registered PD addressing **6.2.2; 7.4.2** from the Australian Professional Standards for Teachers towards maintaining Proficient Teacher Accreditation in NSW.



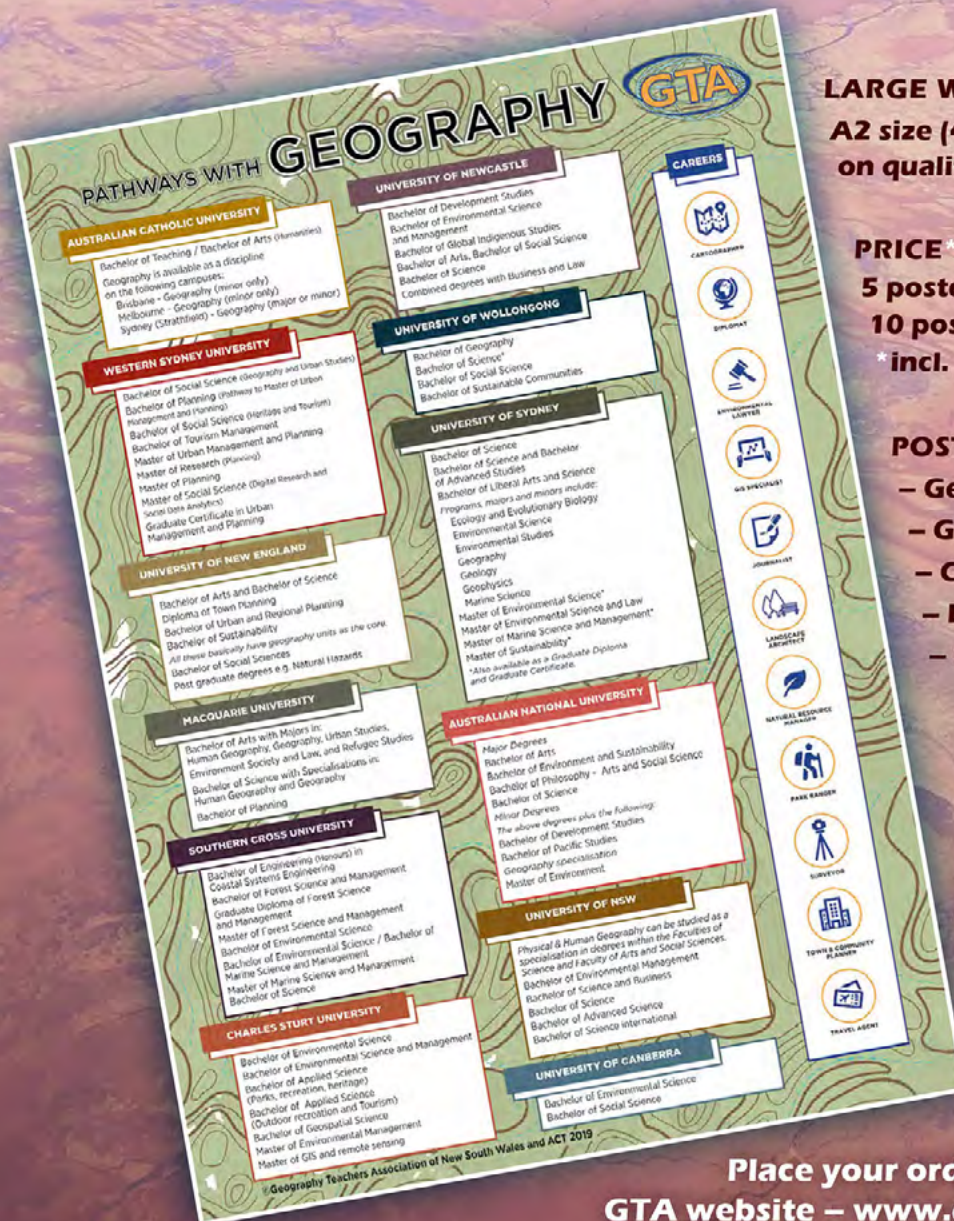
Geography Teachers Association of NSW & ACT

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