

# PRESIDENT'S REPORT

**Welcome everyone to a new year of teaching Geography. Hopefully our experience of adapting to and working with a range of uncertainties during last year will instil confidence in ourselves as responsive practitioners.**

As I commence my second year as President, I would like to use this report to firstly set the scene for the year ahead, and secondly to acknowledge both recent and upcoming events for the Association.

GTA NSW & ACT is a known and effective leader in advocacy for decisions affecting the quality of Geography education in schools. There is an advocacy section on the Association website <https://www.gtansw.org.au/about-gta-nsw/advocacy/>. During mid-December 2020, in support of PTC NSW and to protect the integrity of GTA NSW&ACT developed professional learning events, we released a Council-endorsed response to NESAs and the Minister of Education about proposed changes to accreditation of professional learning providers [https://www.gtansw.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/Final\\_GTANSWACT-Response-to-NESA-about-changes-to-accreditation-fo-professional-learning-providers.pdf](https://www.gtansw.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/Final_GTANSWACT-Response-to-NESA-about-changes-to-accreditation-fo-professional-learning-providers.pdf). As appropriate we will continue to keep you updated about accreditation of Association events.



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 continue to ensure we do so in alignment with the bigger picture of and for the discipline of Geography. During last year I spoke many times about the Decadal Plan for Geography, *Geography: Shaping Australia's Future* (National Committee of Geographical Sciences, 2018). This document 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. The recommendations of Chapter 13 continue to frame the focus for Association activities over the next 12 months, particularly around Geography and STEM, and collaboration between school and university geographers. If you have not yet had the opportunity to do so, 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.

The 2020 Annual General Meeting (AGM) occurred on 5 December 2020 in blended form; hosted on Eora Nation, the unceded lands of the Cammeraygal People. I verbally presented the Annual Report of the Association to those in attendance. The full written report is available in this edition and I encourage you to read through the activities we were able to adopt and adapt during extraordinary times. The attributes of agility, care and responsiveness were at the forefront of our thinking as we worked together to make decisions about how to best respond to the challenges of teaching in a pandemic-era. The AGM confirmed the fee structure for the Association will remain the same for 2020 - 2021 as for previous years. However, the AGM also brought some changes to our Council for the year ahead, and we both farewell and welcome Councillors. For 2020 – 2021 the governance of Council is shown in Table 1 and this information will also be available on the Association website.

**Table 1: Governance of GTANSW&ACT Council for 2020 – 2021**

Name	Position
Susan Caldis	President
Lorraine Chaffer	Vice President (Immediate Past); Journal Editor
Dr Grant Kleeman	Honorary Treasurer; Public Officer
Dr Paul Batten	Vice President
David Latimer	Vice President
Alexandria Warnock	Vice President
Katerina Stojanovski	Minutes Secretary
Michael Da Roza	ACT representative; Councillor
Catherine Donnelly	Councillor
Keith Hopkins	Councillor

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Grace Larobina	Councillor
John Lewis	Councillor
Sharon McLean	Councillor
Alexandra Pentz	Councillor
Martin Pluss	Councillor
Rebecca Sutcliffe	Councillor
Paul Alger	Co-opted
Karen Bowden	Co-opted
Drew Collins	Co-opted
Adrian Harrison	Co-opted
John Petts	Co-opted
Katherine Simpson	Co-opted (February 2021)

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The GTA NSW & ACT Council for 2020 – 2021 remains strong with reach across the ACT and regional NSW, including the Riverina and Hunter regions. I would like to take the opportunity to thank David Proctor and Louise Swanson for their time and contribution to the Association and work of Council. We know our paths will continue to cross and we wish you both the very best in your endeavours beyond GTA NSW & ACT. I would also like to acknowledge the sustained contribution of Sharon McLean as Vice President and coordinator of the webinar program for several years. Sharon will remain on Council as a Councillor and the webinar program continues, however, the enactment of both will occur in a different form for 2021. Sharon, thank you for your wisdom and caring ways, and for your contribution to the Executive group. The Executive group changes slightly for 2020 – 2021 with Dr Paul Batten and David Latimer being new to the Vice President roles. I would also like to welcome two new members, Rebecca Sutcliffe (Councillor) and Katherine Simpson (Co-opted), we have much to learn from your recent entry into the profession and we look forward to you both sharing your insights during the year.

There is much to look forward to in our program for 2021. A couple of examples are identified below:

- the Annual Conference
- the introduction of the Young Geographer Award
- new online learning courses
- plans for more purposeful collaboration with academic geographers, for example with the Council and membership of the Geographical Society of NSW, via the introduction of an academic Geography stream to the webinar series, and when COVID-safe restrictions are more stable, the establishment of localised fieldwork and study tours.

In closing, I would like to let you know that until August I will be stepping back from some President responsibilities to concentrate on completion and submission of my doctoral thesis. During this time, I'm delighted to let you know David Latimer will fulfil the role of Relieving President. David brings with him a wealth of experience in leadership and geography teaching together with important ideas about how the Association can continue to evolve and meet the needs of our membership.

Susan Caldis  
President, GTA NSW & ACT

# GTA NSW & ACT Webinars in 2021



In 2021 the webinars will be co-ordinated by a small team: Susan Caldis, David Latimer, Alex Pentz and Beck Sutcliffe.

Due to recent changes in accreditation processes, the webinars will be available as 'Elective PD' to complete as part of your ongoing professional learning. As greater clarity and certainty emerges about accreditation of professional learning, the webinar team will take steps to ensure accreditation of the program is possible.

Webinars will operate in Terms 2, 3 and 4, between 4.30pm – 5.30pm and cost \$20 (members and non-members).

The webinar team are excited to announce two concurrent themes to the webinar program:

- **From the Academy**, where Geographers from universities around Australia will present their research, with pre-reading, in alignment with a syllabus focus; and
- **From the classroom**, where Geography teachers (and perhaps their students!) will share their practice, spark curiosity, and prompt dialogue amongst practitioners. A call for presenters was issued recently via social media

## Coming soon!

Although dates are to be confirmed and further information will be available shortly, we are delighted to announce the following program so far:

- Chris Betcher, Program Manager, Google for Education, will be the first presenter for the 'From the Classroom' series, and he will present about Google's Geo tools.

Presenters for the 'From the Academy' program will include:

- Professor Sue Jackson and Dr Lana Hartwig, from the Australian Rivers Institute, Griffith University, QLD will share their research findings about Indigenous water management in south-eastern Australia (April 22, registrations to open soon)
- Dr Susannah Clement and Dr Carrie Wilkinson, Australian Centre for Culture, Environment, Society and Space (ACCESS), University of Wollongong, NSW; Founder of 'Geographers Declare...A climate emergency?'
- Dr Dallas Rogers, School of Architecture, Design and Planning, University of Sydney, NSW; Founder of City Road Podcast
- Associate Professor Fiona Miller, Associate Professor Donna Houston, Dr Jessica McLean, Discipline of Geography and Planning, Macquarie University, NSW; Shadow Places Network

An exciting year is ahead for the webinar program and we look forward to your participation.



The Geography Teachers' Association of NSW & ACT

# GEOGRAPHY POSTERS FOR SALE

**GTA NSW & ACT has printed a number of infographic posters for classroom use.**

Posters are linked to topics studied in Geography K–12 for the Australian Curriculum and NSW Syllabuses.

- A **bank of questions** for individual and groupwork will be accessible via Google Drive to all schools /teachers purchasing posters.
- Posters can be purchased in **pre-packaged sets** or as **individual posters**.
- **New posters** will be added to the website throughout the year.

## SOURCES AND PRICING

Posters have been sourced from organisations including the Geological Society (UK), Visual Capitalist and Graphic News. GTA NSW & ACT has also commissioned some posters. Posters are being sold in sets of 4 or 5 to make postage viable. Affordability was a key consideration when determining pricing. Administration, printing and distribution, licensing and design costs where relevant are incorporated into the cost of each pack. Postage includes the cost of cylinders. A maximum of 5 posters will be packaged in any postage cylinder.

### PACK 1: THE CARBON CYCLE – \$70 includes p/h

Contents:

[Click here to order Pack 1](#)

1 x A1 poster: **The Carbon Cycle**

4 x A2 posters: **Carbon Set**

- Carbon & the Greenhouse Effect
- Carbon Reservoirs
- Hydrocarbon Formation
- Carbon & Climate Change



