

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2020



The
Geography Teachers' Association
of NSW & ACT Inc

ABN: 59 246 850 128

November 2019 – December 2020 Annual Report Presented by Susan Caldis (President)

I am delighted to present the 2019 - 2020 Annual Report for the Geography Teachers Association of NSW and ACT (GTA NSW&ACT). In a year full of extraordinary and challenging circumstances, I am proud to say the Council have been agile, adaptive and responsive to unexpected change.

Let me start by Acknowledging Country. In our work as geographers and geography educators it is crucial to understand our connections to place and people across time – and to share such understanding with our students and colleagues. I would like to respectfully acknowledge all of the Aboriginal Countries that we are residing and working on today. For me, I would like to acknowledge Darug Country and Eora nation, the lands and their waterways to which I am connected through work, study and residence. I would like to pay my respect to the traditional custodians of Darug Country and Eora Nation, the Wattamattagal clan and the Cammeraygal People respectively. I would also like to pay my respect to all Elders and knowledge-holders who have and continue to pass on their knowledges and wisdom for the sustainability of our environments, our education and our communities. I would like to extend my respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples present today.

At the time of reporting, membership of the Association was 647 and fees remained the same as for 2018 – 2019 and 2019 – 2020. Membership categories are identified in Table 1.

Table 1: Membership categories for GTA NSW & ACT

Category	Fee	Number of members in the category
Concessional	\$40	35
Personal	\$90	119
School	\$200	356 Each school can have up to six teacher emails to ensure wide distribution of correspondence
Primary School or teacher	No charge	21
Teacher Education Student	No charge when sign-up occurs with a university email	110
Life members	No charge	6

Before I do present the activities of the Association enacted by Council between November 2019 – December 2020, I would like to thank Council for their endless support together with their tireless work and enthusiasm for what it is we stand for as an Association leading geography education in NSW and ACT. Whilst there are honorariums available for selected projects and activities, we are a volunteer Council. All projects we design, deliver, evaluate and refine occur beyond the demands of our 'day-job'. The year of 2020 continued to present

circumstances that forced an adjustment to familiar practice. Leadership in turbulent times is particularly tricky, however, with clear vision and care for each other, what seems daunting and perhaps impossible becomes achievable and actioned. I would also like to thank colleagues from the Professional Teachers Council of NSW who provide continued and wonderful support with our administrative workload.

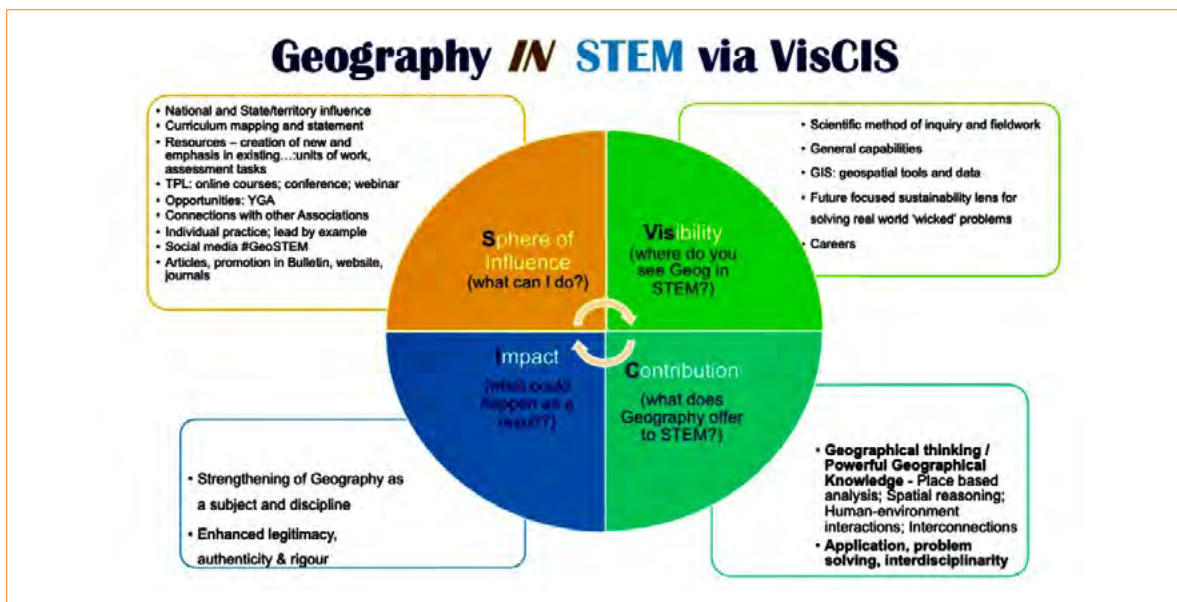
GTA NSW&ACT are successful at both state and national scales for meeting our four key enduring goals:

- advocacy for, and recommendations about, issues and policies affecting education for Geography;
- connecting the work of the Association to an evidence base and current developments in education for Geography;
- designing and delivering evidence-informed, timely, accredited professional learning events and materials; and
- maintaining a close relationship with organisations such as the Professional Teachers' Council of NSW (PTC NSW), the New South Wales Education Standards Authority (NESA) and the Geographical Society of NSW (GSNSW).

As President it was particularly important to me to ensure GTA NSW&ACT made significant progress during 2020 to ensure the Association strategy and action were grounded in key evidence-based recommendations from the Decadal Plan for the discipline, Geography: Shaping Australia's Future (National Committee for Geographical Sciences, 2018) <https://www.science.org.au/files/userfiles/support/reports-and-plans/2018/geography-decadal-plan.pdf> The recommendations were from Chapter 13, Geography in Australian Schools and the focus was on two recommendations:

- **Geography being recognised as a partial STEM subject in policy and practice.** In 2020, the President was appointed on merit by Science & Technology Australia as a STEM Ambassador for geography education. The GTA NSW&ACT Council collaboratively developed a Geography IN STEM strategy for 2020-2021 (see Figure 1). Six GTA NSW&ACT representatives attended a national symposium about Geography and STEM to advocate for the strategy.
- **Increase collaboration between school and university** geographers continued with TAFE and universities; professional associations; fieldwork providers e.g. Environmental Education Centres; resource developers e.g. Urban Growth and the Rural Fire Service. Universities operated trade tables at the 2019 Conference to promote careers links with Geography. TAFE teachers presented a full day drone course at the 2019 Annual Conference. Invitations to events e.g. 2018 COLAB (Urban Growth/Landcom) reflected and broadened our public exposure.

Figure 1: *Geography IN STEM via VISCIS*



Now to present the activities of the Association for 2020.

In January, Australia faced devastating bushfires. Much of the fire activity and destruction occurred in NSW and ACT; consequently, members of Council felt compelled to develop, endorse and release a public **Statement of Support for Geography Teachers in Fire Affected Communities** https://drive.google.com/file/d/1GZs_Cmqy49xs_dand_4URnbx5fqjZALC/view to:

- offer support to NSW and ACT Geography teachers working in fire-affected schools and communities; and
- outline the importance of Geography as a school subject in helping students to develop an understanding and make decisions about the big issues affecting the quality of their lives and environments, such as climate change, coping with fires, floods and droughts, and engaging with our neighbours in the Asia-Pacific region and beyond.

The statement was available on the GTANSW&ACT website, and a similar statement was drafted by colleagues in Western Australia directed at their membership and communities.

In February, the GTA NSW&ACT Executive confirmed the professional learning plan for 2020 based on discussions from the planning day at the end of 2019. In February there was also the Award Ceremony hosted by the Professional Teachers Council of NSW (PTCNSW) to celebrate the work of Associations during 2019. It was delightful to see two awards be presented to those on GTA NSW&ACT Council:

- Vice President, Alexandria Warnock who received an award for Outstanding Professional Service to the Association for her services to GTA NSW&ACT.
- Immediate Past President, Lorraine Chaffer who received the PTCNSW Award for Exceptional Service to the Profession for her services to geography education.

By the time the first Council meeting was due to occur the COVID-10 pandemic had arrived and lockdown had commenced. Meetings which had operated in blended form from the PTCNSW Offices and via zoom were now moved to a zoom-only format. During 2020, confidentiality of meeting documents was retained through file storage in Google Drive with access restricted link. During 2020, for each General Meeting, all agenda items had an accompanying report where possible and were made available in the relevant Google Drive folder before the General Meeting. This process will continue in 2021. Since 2017, General Council meetings have been conducted in the blended form: zoom and face to face. This allows for flexibility in attendance as some Council members travel from the Central Coast and Hunter region, the Illawarra region, and across the Sydney metropolitan region. During 2020, in response to the pandemic, all meetings occurred via zoom and for a shorter period with a more targeted focus or theme than in previous years. The Executive took the lead in decision-making and development of events to recognize the competing timelines and responsibilities during lockdown and zoom fatigue of many Councillors. Periods of lockdown and the continuation of COVID-safe restrictions meant our professional learning program needed to be adjusted.

GTANSW&ACT is a highly regarded provider of timely, quality, evidence-informed professional learning initiatives suitable for uptake within and beyond the NSW context; and Council seamlessly reimagined and adapted our 'planned for' professional learning program in response to constraints of the COVID-19 era. The clearest way to demonstrate such adjustment is in a table. Please see Table 2.

Table 2: Planned for and Actioned in 2020 as a result of COVID-19

Planned for 2020	Actioned in 2020
NESA Accredited Annual Conference and the ceremony for the recipient of the Arthur Phillip Award and 2019 HSC High Achievers (two-day event, April 2020)	2020 Conference program rolled over to 2021 (13–14 May 2021) Certificates for recipients of the Arthur Phillip Award and 2019 HSC High Achievers were distributed via mail (April 2020) Keynote speakers and targeted presentations curated as an online TPL package (October 2020)
NESA Accredited Study Tour to China (April school holidays 2020)	Postponed until further notice and for review as a TPL offering at the planning day
Senior Geography Conference (one-day event, April 2020)	Postponed until October 2020 pending COVID-19 restrictions and release of the new stage 6 Geography syllabus. Postponed until 2021 upon non-release of the new Stage 6 Geography syllabus
NESA Accredited Webinars (two per Term 1 – 3)	Webinars (two per Term 1 – 3)
	Café Conversations online networking opportunities (during lockdown and re-entry into schools Terms 1, 2)
NESA Accredited Regional Conferences (two x one-day events; May, June 2020)	Postponed until 2021
HSC Student Lectures (three x one-day event; June 2020)	Curated into a fully resourced online package suitable for teacher professional learning and student learning (August 2020)
NESA Accredited Online learning courses via Open Learning for Geography Concepts; Intro to Topographic Mapping Skills (during 2020)	Geography Concepts; Intro to Mapping; Intro to Topographic Mapping Skills; Place and Liveability; Landscapes and Landforms (throughout 2020 until current time)
Geography Bulletin (one per Term plus one special editions for Senior Geography)	Geography Bulletin (one per Term plus special editions for Senior Geography)
Reworking the Arthur Phillip Award to become the Young Geographer Award (to be launched during Term 4 2020)	On schedule (Term 4 2020)

During the year there are opportunities for celebrate the contribution our Council and membership. Awards have a peer review and merit selection process. For 2020, the following Awards were:

- Brock Rowe Award, for excellence in the teaching of Geography in schools: Samantha Coburn, Maitland Grossmann High School
- Geoff Connolly Award for outstanding contribution to the Geography Bulletin, journal of the Association: Fleur Farah and Sharon McLean
- Outstanding Professional Service to the Association, for services to GTANSW&ACT: Dr Paul Batten
- Life membership to the Association: John Lewis

For 2019 – 2020, the governance of Council is identified in Table 3

Table 3: Governance of GTANSW&ACT Council for 2019 – 2020

Name	Position
Susan Caldis	President
Lorraine Chaffer	Vice President (Immediate Past); Editor
Dr Grant Kleeman	Honorary Treasurer; Vice President and Public Officer (from July 2020)
Sharon McLean	Vice President
Louise Swanson	Vice President (until June 2019); Public Officer (until June 2019)
Alexandria Warnock	Vice President
Katerina Stojanovski	Minutes Secretary (from March 2019)
Dr Paul Batten	Councillor
Karen Bowden	Councillor
Drew Collins	Councillor
Michael Da Roza	ACT representative; Councillor
Catherine Donnelly	Councillor
Adrian Harrison	Councillor
Keith Hopkins	Councillor
David Latimer	Councillor
John Lewis	Councillor
Alexandra Pentz	Councillor
Martin Pluss	Councillor
David Proctor	Councillor
Paul Alger	Co-opted
Grace Larobina	Co-opted
John Petts	Co-opted

In closing I would like to thank again each member of Council for their contribution to the Association and their enthusiasm for geography education. I would also like to extend particular thanks and appreciation to the Executive group of 2019 – 2020 for their wise counsel, support, and good humour: Lorraine Chaffer, Dr Grant Kleeman, Sharon McLean, Katerina Stojanovski, Louise Swanson, and Alexandria Warnock.

As a collective, and through dedicating our own time to the work of the Association for its members, we achieved the milestones planned for 2020 despite the extraordinary times.

As a Council, we actively demonstrate care and support for each other as much as we actively demonstrate care for our subject, Geography, and the work of the Association. We are a collaborative, hard-working, innovative Council who generously donate our time and willingly share our expertise for the greater good of Geography education in NSW and ACT.

Throughout 2020, the GTA NSW&ACT Council drew on their attributes of agility, care and responsiveness to effectively adapt our 'planned for' program during the COVID-19 era and maintain a close relationship with organisations of importance.

I end by commending to you the Annual Report for 2019 – 2020, and I look forward to what lies ahead for 2021.

Susan Caldis,
President GTA NSW&ACT

GTA NSW & ACT FINANCIAL STATEMENT

GEOGRAPHY TEACHERS ASSOCIATION OF NSW SOUTH WALES INC A.B.N. 59 246 850 128

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020

	Note	2020 \$	2019 \$
Revenue			
Conference		-	123,227
Copyright		4,389	4,407
Regional conference		2,091	25,559
Event		41,653	60,165
Grant		500	500
Interest income		319	324
Membership		82,181	75,583
Sponsorship		(1,974)	9,875
Development of new resource income		13,500	-
Other		2,291	4,123
Sales		22,254	17,828
Total income		<u>167,204</u>	<u>321,591</u>
Administration Expenses			
Audit fee		2,000	1,708
Bank fee		984	932
Bookkeeper		7,460	8,428
Capitation		2,928	-
Conference		-	94,761
Conference - AGTA		15,272	3,842
Courier		-	452
Depreciation		932	251
Filing fee		300	194
Gifts		505	-
Graphic design		19,467	24,878
Insurance		320	571
Membership		-	5,856
Postage		3,313	3,313
Printing & stationery		2,055	1,271
Rent		15,913	15,634
Secretariat		25,241	28,884
Subscription		4,534	5,819
Stock		27,312	29,760
Travel		3,329	3,955
Website		9,119	10,093
Workshop		20,484	66,592
Total administration expenses		<u>161,468</u>	<u>307,194</u>
Profit (Loss) from ordinary activities before income tax		5,736	14,397
Income tax benefit (expense)		-	-
Profit (Loss) from ordinary activities after income tax		<u>5,736</u>	<u>14,397</u>

The accompanying notes form part of this financial report.

GEOGRAPHY TEACHERS ASSOCIATION OF NSW SOUTH WALES INC
A.B.N. 59 246 850 128

BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 30 JUNE 2020

	Note	2020	2019
		\$	\$
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash	2	320,735	340,754
Receivables	3	11,241	6,723
Prepayments		<u>16,794</u>	<u>5,863</u>
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS		<u>348,770</u>	<u>353,340</u>
NON-CURRENT ASSETS			
Plant	4	<u>2,795</u>	-
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS		<u>2,795</u>	-
TOTAL ASSETS		<u>351,565</u>	<u>353,340</u>
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Creditors & Accruals	5	7,693	26,505
Income received in advance		<u>11,301</u>	-
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES		<u>18,994</u>	<u>26,505</u>
NET ASSETS		<u>332,571</u>	<u>326,835</u>
MEMBERS' FUNDS			
Retained profits	6	<u>332,571</u>	<u>326,835</u>
TOTAL MEMBERS' FUNDS		<u>332,571</u>	<u>326,835</u>

The accompanying notes form part of this financial report.