

EDITORIAL

Welcome to the first Stage 6 Geography Case Studies Special Edition for 2021.

Many thanks to the authors who have generously shared case studies and teaching resources.

This edition has a focus on the connected topics Biophysical Interactions (Year 11) and Ecosystems at Risk (Year 12).

Some exciting news for 2021 is the new Young Geographer Awards – replacing the old Arthur Phillip Awards (APA) for students. Use the link in the following flyer to learn more about the new awards and register your students for FREE.

There are three articles that relate to the HSC Examination.

- In ***How to get the answer: Section 1 – 2020 HSC Exam*** a team of GTA teachers led by John Lewis have provided answers to the 20 multiple choice questions with short explanations for how answers were determined.
- ***Selected HSC Map skills for Year 11*** is an overview of some examinable mapping skills that year 11 should be able to master. Integrating these skills across all topics through Year 11 is an important teaching strategy.
- In ***Geography HSC and Scaling 2020*** Graham Wright has analysed the contribution of HSIE subjects, including Geography to student ATAR scores. According to Graham,
'For students with high aspirations when it comes to their HSC studies, Geography is a good option for students with an interest in its content.'

Under **Professional Reading** is an interesting article on 'digital volunteerism', that links to topics across years 11 and 12 including Global Challenges (Development, Population) and Urban Places (Megacities).

- ***Missing Maps*** by Jeana Kriewaldt and Shu Jun Lee

Experienced HSC teachers know that the Year 11 Biophysical Interactions topic is foundational learning for Ecosystems at Risk in Year 12. It is important that students understand, and can explain, processes in the biophysical environment that make up Earth's complex natural systems and the impacts of human change.

I have provided three linked resources relating to the Carbon Cycle.

- ***Understanding the Carbon Cycle*** by Lorraine Chaffer consists of student activities using the GTANSW & ACT Carbon Cycle Poster Pack 1
- ***The Carbon Cycle Game***, a game modified and shared by Jennifer Ceven, from the USA.
- ***Guided Reading: The Carbon Cycle*** is a literacy focused activity most suited to students where differentiation is required. This was sourced from the twitter account of @MrHand_.

Note: These resources could also be used in Year 10 for Environmental Change and Management and in Year 12 for HSC Exam preparation.



Lorraine Chaffer, Editor

Dr Susan Bliss explains a little-known phenomenon that influences global weather and climate. The article is a good summary of the phenomenon and is accompanied by student activities and a resource list.

- ***Madden-Julian Oscillation (MJO) Pulse Circles Globe***

The following detailed case studies have been generously shared by Stage 6 teachers for Year 12 Ecosystems at Risk.

NOTE: The biophysical interaction components and human impacts on these ecosystem case studies could be used in Year 11 for a study of an issue in the biosphere. . . . deforestation – Sumatra rainforest and introduced species – Kakadu wetlands.

- ***Going Global with Case Studies: Tropical Rainforest Heritage of Sumatra*** by David Latimer
- ***Kakadu Wetlands*** by Kate Watson

Note: Two appendices providing stimulus material and student activities for the Kakadu Wetlands will be on the GTA website with this edition of the Geography Bulletin.

To end this edition, I have created several activities for building Visual Literacy. The activities in ***Deforestation and Natural Cycles*** are linked to the Biophysical Interactions and Ecosystems at Risk material in this edition but can be used independently of those and for Stage 5 where appropriate.

COMING SOON

- **PROFESSIONAL LEARNING PACKAGE**

A digital Professional Learning resource containing recordings of selected sessions from the 2021 Annual Conference will be available to participants after the conference and will be on sale to schools unable to attend. Some of these presentations will relate to Stage 6.

- **HSC STUDENT EXAM PREPARATION PACKAGE**

The package will contain:

- a. Recorded advice on each topic from the 2020 package
- b. New material prepared for 2021.

Schools can purchase the entire package (a plus b) OR only the 2021 additional material.

A flyer will be sent to member schools soon.

The package will be available for viewing from June to October 2021.

ANNOUNCING

The 2021 GTA NSW & ACT Young Geographer Awards

The Young Geographer Awards invites students in NSW and the ACT to demonstrate engagement with Geography, the discipline and with the tools and skills of Geography through the creation and conduct of an inquiry-based research project. Although it is not essential, teachers are encouraged to incorporate the research and construction of the project into their teaching programs to help support students.



Prizes for the winning entries in the Young Geographer Award prizes, in any category are:

- ★ First Prize \$500
- ★ Second Prize \$250
- ★ Third Prize \$100

FOR MORE DETAILS CLICK HERE