



President's Report

As we find our “new normal” after 2020, the extent to which human systems operate within the boundaries of biophysical systems has been repeatedly demonstrated. Time and again over the last 18 months, it has felt as though the importance of Geography has been demonstrated almost everyday through events such as bushfires, the Covid-19 pandemic and economic instability.

However, teachers have had to work harder than ever to incorporate new forms of teaching and technology into their repertoires. The need for the supporting role of professional associations, such as the GTA NSW & ACT is greater than ever.

This Bulletin edition comes recently after a very successful 2021 Annual Conference. The theme of our conference this year was “Shaping futures”. Our two keynote guest speakers spoke to the importance of narrative or storytelling in creating change in our world. Writer, Director and public speaker, Damon Gameau, spoke about the significant environmental crises facing humanity in decarbonising our lifestyles. Damon highlighted the opportunities to employ regenerative agriculture practices - a powerful vision of what he called “radical hope” looks like. While Ivan Motley, founder of .id Informed Decisions discussed the power of Geographers to use their unique forms of communication to tell engaging stories about the trends and changes underway. Throughout the remainder of the conference, 40 different presentations over two days helped Geography teachers to build their teaching practice with a range of classroom hacks, teaching strategies, new technologies and subject knowledge. An enormous thank you must be extended to Lorraine Chaffer for delivering yet another fabulous conference.

It has been my absolute pleasure to lead the Geography Teachers Association this year. As an organisation built to support our members, the councillors and executive have volunteered enormous time and effort to provide resources that support teachers in developing their Geography teaching practice. In response to Covid-19 a number of new forms of PD have been made available. The 2021 webinar series offers members access to both pedagogical and subject experts. Our new online courses allow Geography teachers to access high quality PD on demand. And lastly, the refreshed Young Geographer Awards have been developed to better engage students in inquiry based learning projects.

I wish you all the best in your powerfully transformative role as a shaper of futures (sometimes also called a Geography teacher), and hope you can find helpful resources in this edition of the GTA Bulletin.

David Latimer
Relieving President GTA NSW & ACT