

## Dr Paul Batten receives the 2020 PTC NSW Outstanding Professional Service Award



### About the Award

This award is made by the Professional Teachers' Council NSW on behalf of an association, in recognition of the voluntary work undertaken by committee members of the association. The award recognises an individual committee member's outstanding professional contribution to education in NSW made through their professional teachers' association.

PTC NSW Vice President, Karen Yager with award recipient Dr Paul Batten

### Citation

Dr Paul Batten is an outstanding Geography educator who actively and effectively involves himself in the development of teaching resources and co-ordinates online professional development courses for the Geography Teachers Association of NSW & ACT (GTA NSW&ACT). Dr Batten is also a proactive contributor to the community of Geography educators within and beyond the Association.

Since joining GTA NSW&ACT Council in 2017, Paul has been proactive in suggesting, and been instrumental in enacting, the ways in which technology can be used to enhance the activities and profile of the Association. Paul saw an opportunity for GTA NSW&ACT to develop NESA Accredited online learning courses through the Open Learning platform and volunteered to lead such a project. Paul also volunteered to be involved in the maintenance of the Association webpage and more recently to become one of the administrators for the Facebook page.

Dr Batten contributes immensely to the professional learning program of the Association through his conceptualisation, design, implementation, coordination and monitoring of online learning courses. During 2020, in the uncertain pandemic-related times, several online course participants indicated the accessibility and rigour of the online learning courses for Geography provided much needed stability and reassurance in being able to accrue the necessary hours in a meaningful way.

The online learning courses for Geography commenced with a target audience of those new to teaching Geography. Over time, the online learning courses have been expanded to include a series of 'extension' courses targeted at those who have been teaching Geography for a number of years. Dr Batten also trains and mentors fellow Councillors to work alongside him in the development of online learning courses for Geography.

Within the geography education community more broadly, Paul has demonstrated a sustained contribution to assessment for Stage 6 Geography through his active involvement in the HSC Marking process for Geography. Within the Association, Paul contributed Stage 6 related articles for the Association journal and assisted with the delivery of sessions at a Stage 6 focused conference. Furthermore, Dr Batten makes a point of attending annual events with the Geographical Society of NSW as an avenue for maintaining important links with the community of academic Geographers.

The GTA NSW & ACT Council believe Dr Paul Batten to be a most worthy recipient of the PTC NSW Outstanding Professional Service Award.