

## 2020 Arthur Phillip Awards

### David Latimer, Relieving President GTA NSW & ACT

*The Brock Rowe Senior Geography Fieldwork Competition is open to all Senior Geography Projects, International Baccalaureate Geography Internal Assessments or a Depth Study of similar size for ACT participants.*

*Unfortunately, due to the disruptions and restrictions of Covid-19, the Brock Rowe Award was the only category being considered for 2020. However, there were still approximately 60 entries and, as in previous years, they were all of a very high standard.*

*This year's first prize was awarded to Olivia Mosse. However, all the award recipients were thrilled with their selection. Below are some reflections from Olivia on the process of completing her SGP and the growth she was able to make during her SGP.*

#### Why did you select your chosen topic?

At the time of choosing my SGP, COVID-19 was a contemporary topic (and it still is!). As the coronavirus situation deepened globally and nationally, I was naturally curious about how it would affect people I knew in my local community. At the same time, I was also experiencing the impacts of the virus. I was also interested to see how the initiatives and safety measures that small business owners were practicing to 'flatten the curve' were working and at the same time reveal the effects of isolation on the elderly residents at the aged care facility where I am employed on a casual basis. I knew there would be extensive information to support a project of this size and the subject would be interesting from a range of perspectives.

#### What did you learn through the project about academic study, yourself and your community?

I learnt that it is important to consult and interpret a large range of information to support your topic. This enables you to make informed decisions and the assessments required to prove or disprove your hypothesis and draw conclusions. By reading a wide range of different source materials, you develop a broader understanding of the matter and can then filter out the most appropriate information for analysis. My Senior Geography Project challenged me to step out of my comfort zone as I had to initiate, prepare and record face-to-face interviews. I also had to seek out a variety of people to complete my survey in order to gain a broad variety of data. Interviewing local business owners and the General Manager of an aged care facility is not something you do everyday, but it helped to develop skills that I will no doubt need for the future beyond school. I also learnt that people are always willing to help if you communicate the value of



Matthew Bailey with Olivia Mosse

what and why you are doing something. Members of my local community were very supportive when I contacted them to be involved in my research. While it was important to share their own stories, it also became evident that businesses were doing what was required to 'survive' the pandemic and support the wider community.

#### What advice would you give future senior geography students?

To the upcoming senior geography students, my advice would be to choose an area that you are interested in. It makes completing the project more enjoyable and you will be more likely to put in the effort to achieve a great result. I would recommend selecting a topic which is not too broad, as this will make it easier to collect and analyse your data.

It is really important at the start of the project to create a detailed plan and break the assessment down into smaller pieces. It is a large project and it takes a lot of time but you can make it easier by working on it regularly. I would also recommend reading as much as you can about your topic from a range of different source materials, such as local newspapers or the news on TV. Organisation is key. If you plan ahead for primary data collection, such as conducting interviews, you will avoid any last-minute rush. Finally, teachers are there to help so if you have any questions, just ask!

*However, 2020 was the last year the prize will be run as the Arthur Phillip Award. Beginning from 2021, GTA NSW & ACT have recreated our geography competition to for the Young Geographer Awards.*

## Arthur Phillip Awards 2020 Senior Geography Projects

Congratulations to the winners of the 2020 Arthur Phillip Awards! Last year, due to the pandemic, the competition was open only to SGP entries. Yet despite the many restrictions and obstacles imposed by Covid-19, many excellent entries flooded in.

### First place

**Olivia Mosse, St John's College Woodlawn**

**Teacher: Matthew Bailey**

**The impact of Covid-19 on the township of Alstonville**

This SGP identifies the risks posed by community transmission of Coronavirus in the ageing population of Alstonville, NSW. It further investigates the local social and economic impacts of the global pandemic and evaluates the strategies implemented by local businesses to reduce public exposure to Covid-19.

### Equal Second place

**Claire Field, Roseville College**

**Teacher: Alex Pentz**

**A study of the impacts of the Empire Marina at Bobbin Head on the surrounding environment**

This SGP examined the impacts of the Empire Marina (Bobbin Head) on the surrounding environment through water testing, observation, surveys, interviews, and species identification. The study also investigated the ways in which the marina was used, and the effectiveness of management strategies that had been implemented by the local council to reduce environmental impacts.



LEFT: Claire Field, Erin Bortz & Alex Pentz



ABOVE: Drew Collin & Chantelle Pepper



LEFT: Ahmed Hassabalnaby

**Chantelle Pepper, Newcastle Grammar School**

**Teacher: Drew Collins**

**Stockton Beach Erosion and Surrounds**

This report is based upon a field investigation of the impacts of the establishment of the construction of breakwaters and a deep-water channel at the Port of Newcastle, the world's largest coal export port. In particular, this report focuses on the direct effects of the erosion at Stockton Beach, as well as the impacts on the social and economic structure of the local community. The erosion of Stockton Beach has had detrimental impacts on the surrounding area, and these have been felt by the community the most.

The local beach once served as a family location, in particular for surfing, fishing, and swimming. However, until now, the residents that live there are in danger, and the businesses which once thrived along the foreshore have been forced to close due to the devastating erosion of Stockton Beach.

### Equal Third place

**Erin Bortz, Roseville College**

**Teacher: Alex Pentz**

**A study of the impacts of young families on St Ives**

This study seeks to investigate the changing demographics of St Ives, the impacts it is having on current residents and facilities and the plans proposed or implemented to manage the challenges associated with population change.

**Ahmed Hassabalnaby, Hills Grammar**

**Teacher: Grace Larobina**

**A Study of the Water Quality in Sydney Harbour**

An exploration of the water quality in Sydney Harbour comparing sites that are exceeding water quality standards.

### Highly Commended

**Jayden Walsh, Edmund Rice College**

**Teacher: Steve Sunderland**

**The Purrungully Woodland**

An investigation on the abundance of rainforest species in Purrungully Woodland

# **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**