



Life Membership awarded to Lorraine Chaffer

Citation

Lorraine provided transformative leadership of Geography Teachers Association NSW & ACT. She has greatly enhanced the professional standing of the Association and the quality and scope of its support for geographical education in NSW and the ACT.

Lorraine joined the Geography Teachers Association of NSW and ACT as a councillor in 2006. As a member of Council and, especially during her term as President, Lorraine's focus has been directed towards the provision of Teacher Professional Learning events that reach across career-stage requirements. She has also demonstrated a passion for the creation of quality teaching resources.

Lorraine immersed herself into the activities of the Association and has taken on several roles including Vice President (2010–2016); and Co-Editor and Editor of the Journal (from 2014 until the present time). She is a prolific contributor of articles to the journal in addition to her editor roles. Most recently, Lorraine held the role of President (for 2017, 2018 and 2019). Even though Lorraine was constitutionally required to step down from her Presidency after a three-year term, she retained the responsibilities of Journal Editor and until recently Convenor of the Annual Conference.

Lorraine's endless pursuit of enabling quality teaching, learning and assessment of Geography, for all students, by all teachers, is thoroughly documented and widely acknowledged within the geography education community. In recognition of her contribution Lorraine been awarded a Fellowship to the Association (2009); Rotary Pride of Workmanship Award (2013); the Brock Rowe Award for excellence in the teaching of Geography (2013); Geoff Connolly Award for an outstanding contribution to the journal (2016); and the PTC NSW Outstanding Service Award (2017). Lorraine was the recipient of 2020 PTC NSW Exceptional Service to the Profession Award

Lorraine's tenure as President of the Association was characterised by her tremendous vision for what geography education could become in NSW. The vision became reality as she worked tirelessly and collaboratively to develop buy-in from Councillors and advance the profile and reputation of the Association. The inspiring way in which Lorraine encouraged Councillors to develop their leadership skills by taking responsibility for various programs provided by the Association is also a distinctive feature of Lorraine's governance. Two significant projects undertaken by Lorraine as President include:

- Leading the development of a new website and the introduction of a banner as the public face of the Association which underpins the framing of professional learning – Collaborate, Inspire and Learn
- Leading constitutional change to formally and legally incorporate the ACT into GTA NSW so that the Association became GTANSW&ACT.

Lorraine's vision for quality geography education in schools has been realised in various ways. She has tremendous passion for enriching and including primary teachers in professional learning for and engagement with geography; and she helped successfully steer many geography teachers through their navigation of a new syllabus. Perhaps the most notable of these is the introduction of a two-day Annual Conference program of technology-enhanced geographical learning experiences, which span keynote sessions to interactive workshops to fieldwork participation to structured networking.

Pre-COVID-19, Lorraine was instrumental in working with the Executive at the time to spiral out the Annual Conference program into a Regional Conference or Roadshow. Lorraine joined a core group of presenters who take the key messages and activities from the Annual Conference to areas of NSW where Geography teachers are often working in isolation and are not always able to access professional learning in metropolitan areas.

Lorraine's contribution to the Geography Teachers' Association of NSW and ACT, and to geography education is immense and exemplary. The extensive array of peer-nominated awards and appointments within geography education which have been achieved by Lorraine, demonstrate the high esteem in which she is held. Her reach spans from curriculum directorates to the classroom, from the broader community to the Council of the Geography Teachers Association of NSW and ACT.

Lorraine's work ethic, productivity and ideation for geography education is held in high esteem by all on Council. She is responsive to needs of teachers across all career stages, and also responsive to needs of the time. Lorraine's passionate, evidence-informed, professional and service-oriented approach towards developing understanding about the importance of geography education is inspirational.

In recognition of Lorraine's significant and continuous contribution to the Geography Teachers Association of NSW & ACT it is deemed appropriate for her to be awarded the honour of Lifetime Membership to the Association.

Susan Caldis
President GTA NSW & ACT

GEOGRAPHY 2021 HSC ACHIEVEMENTS

The Geography Teachers Association of NSW & ACT recognises the hard work and achievements of all Geography students and their teachers in 2021. We hope that the knowledge, understanding, skills and capabilities developed studying Geography to the end of stage 6 will assist students in their future careers.

The GTA Council congratulates the top ten students and their teachers for outstanding results achieved in the 2021 HSC Examination. The dedication needed to achieve at the highest level is a credit to each student and those who provided guidance and support in what was a year of unprecedented challenges and interruptions. Well done.



1. Sarah Wilson, The Hills Grammar School
Teacher: Helen Laidler
2. Kepei Tan, Merewether High School
Teacher: Rachael Tonks
3. Phillip Ma, Sydney Grammar School
Teacher: Brett Marturia
4. Heidi Elizabeth Shaw, Abbotsleigh
Teacher: Sean Kelleher.
5. Vivien Kuru, Newcastle Grammar School
Teacher: Kirsten Williams
6. Callum Berry, Sydney Grammar School
Teacher: Chloe Robson
7. Harrison Hardge, Sydney Grammar School
Teacher: Shona Newall
8. Oscar Tilden, Edmund Rice College
Teacher: Steven Sunderland
9. Tom Bell Bird, Sydney Grammar School
Teacher: Annabel Furley
10. Max Hawkins, Sydney Grammar School
Teacher: Chloe Robson

Source: <https://educationstandards.nsw.edu.au/wps/portal/nesa/about/events/merit-lists/top-achievers-in-course>



Life Membership awarded to Sharon McLean

Citation

Sharon McLean has been a member of the Geography Teachers Association of NSW & ACT (GTA NSW&ACT) Council since 2000. Sharon's insightful observations about research and practice in geography education, and her caring ways extended to all, have enabled Sharon to have immense impact in developing the work of Council and the practice of those around her. During these 21 years of service to the Association, Sharon held the roles of Councillor and Vice President; she generously gave her time and shared her experiences and expertise to support the work of Council and develop the profile of geography education in NSW schools. To do so Sharon devised new initiatives for Council to consider, was involved in the revisioning of existing initiatives, and was willing to travel around Sydney and NSW as required. Now, in the era of zoom, Sharon still prioritises her attendance at GTA NSW&ACT meetings, events, and planning sessions.

Sharon is known for offering and enacting generous, extensive support to multiple Association events including:

- active involvement in the planning and development of the Annual Conference, including the set-up, preparation, and MC'ing duties of multiple conferences especially those at Parliament House, and the conduct of presentations at each Annual Conference over the years;
- convening and leadership of the regional conference program;
- introduction of a webinar program;
- hosting HSC Review afternoons for markers and teachers and the provision of lectures for HSC Exam Preparation events;
- co-ordination of geography skills focused workshops
- marking of entries for Fieldwork Awards during school-holidays;
- regular contributions to the *Geography Bulletin*
- contributing to Association responses around curriculum reviews.

Sharon continues to shape the important work of Council. Four areas in which Sharon's ideation and action over time has enabled the teacher professional learning program to remain responsive and adaptive to needs of membership and time are:

- introduction and convening of our first and early blended form meetings to enable regional Councillors to attend and participate in Council meetings prior to the pandemic
- organisation of videographer for selected Annual Conference sessions and HSC Student Lectures
- the coordination of accreditation paperwork and active seeking of a research informed evidence base so that teacher participation in professional learning is duly recognised
- the introduction of Café Conversations as a free of charge, dialogic space of care during the 2020 lockdown, additional to the scheduled webinar program

Sharon's reputation as a transformative and influential Councillor has been recognised within and beyond the Association:

- Sharon was awarded the Brock Rowe Award for exceptional geography teaching in 2006;
- Sharon was one of the first recipients from GTA NSW & ACT of the PTC NSW Outstanding Service to the Profession Award;
- Sharon was appointed on multiple occasions by the New South Wales Education Standards Authority as the GTA NSW & ACT representative on the syllabus development and review committee
- Sharon was awarded the prestigious Geoff Connolly Memorial Award in 2019 for her article *Is Sydney's 'Central District City' a liveable and sustainable city?*, published in Volume 51, No 2. 2019. Peer reviewers noted the paper as one of most relevant articles to teachers of geography due to its quality of writing and use of an evidence-base, its ease of implementation 'as-is', and the overall transferability of ideas to different city or suburb contexts which will greatly assist teachers in targeting fieldwork activities to their local context.

Sharon is held in high esteem by all on Council. Her work ethic, considered and calm responses, care for others, and capacity to reimagine existing items on the professional learning program which responsive to needs of the time are regularly acknowledged by all who know and are fortunate to work with Sharon. Sharon's outstanding active and sustained contribution to meetings, conferences, workshops, and the *Geography Bulletin* for almost two decades demonstrates Sharon's passionate, evidence-informed, professional and service-oriented approach towards developing the importance of geography education in the hearts and minds of both teachers and students.

In recognition of Sharon's significant and continuous contribution to the Geography Teachers Association of NSW & ACT it is deemed appropriate for her to be awarded the honour of Lifetime Membership to the Association.

Susan Caldis
President GTA NSW & ACT

GTA NSW & ACT Support for Teachers and Students in 2022

Professional Learning events

- **Semester 1** – HSC Meet the Marker
 - Symposium
 - GeoNight social events
- **Webinar Program** – Terms 2 to 4
- **Online learning courses** – Anytime PL
- **Semester 2** – Potential Stage 6 Conference



Keep up to date with upcoming events. Visit the GTA website [HERE](#)

Online Social Media Support

- [Facebook page](#)
- [HSC Teachers Group](#)
- [Primary Teachers Group](#)
- [Twitter @gtanswact](#)

Resources

- [Geography Bulletin](#)
- [Geography Bulletin Guide](#) (Find any article)
- [Classroom Posters](#)
- [Scoop.it](#) media curation site. Topics K–12

For Students

- [HSC Exam preparation support](#)
- [Young Geographer Awards](#)



PTC NSW Outstanding Professional Service Award – Catherine Donnelly

Catherine has been an active member of the Geography Teachers Association of NSW and ACT (GTA NSW & ACT) since 2015. In this time Cath has contributed to:

- the effective functioning of the association
- the professional learning of teachers of Geography in NSW / ACT and other states
- the association's advocacy for geography in critical state and national forums through her active involvement in state and national level meetings and consultations.

Cath has given generously of her time, expertise, and resources to help grow the association and maintain the high-quality professional learning of teachers for which the association is known. Cath was promoting the value of GTANSW & ACT membership and services such as the HSC Examination Review in the Newcastle and broader Hunter region long before seeking election to the GTA Council.

Cath has taken on significant roles as a GTA councillor that have included co-ordinating the HSC Exam Preparation lecture series; creating and managing the associations social media profile through the GTA Facebook Page and associated groups and presenting at GTA NSW & ACT Annual Conferences, The Australian Geography Teachers Association Biannual Conference, GTA NSW & ACT Senior Geography Conference, and regional events, particularly those held in Newcastle. Cath's presentations have been extremely popular thanks to her down to earth, practical and relevant advice on topics as wide ranging as organising environmental days, whole year fieldwork, fieldwork on school premises, summative and formative assessment and the Senior Geography Project.

Cath's expertise in the teaching of Geography, her deep knowledge about NESA assessment requirements and ability to evaluate assessment schedules and advise teachers on best practice plus her capacity to lead teachers in the use of effective literacy and numeracy strategies have made Cath's contribution to GTA NSW & ACT invaluable.

In addition to her work with GTANSW & ACT Cath has been an association representative on the Professional Teachers Council NSW (PTC NSW) Board of Directors since 2017. She has used this position to promote the work of professional associations and to keep GTANSW & ACT Council connected to the work of the PTC NSW and broader professional associations. Cath's work in this space culminated in the position of Honorary Secretary in 2021. This role is further testament to Cath's belief in the power and importance of all Professional Teacher Associations as well as GTANSW & ACT.

Overall, Cath has made a sustained and outstanding contribution to the association's support of teachers and education in NSW over an extended period of time through her coordination of association Awards, administration of our social media channels, regular contribution to the *Geography Bulletin*, coordination of events and also through her contribution to the PTC NSW Board.

Cath's commitment to, and work for, GTANSW & ACT makes her a very worthy recipient of the 2021 Professional Teachers Council NSW Outstanding Professional Service Award.