

Welcome to the Term 3 edition of the Geography Bulletin

Thank you to Vice President, Katerina Stojanovski for conceptualising the theme and taking on the guest editor role. A focus on developing pedagogical practice around outdoor geographies, such as through the Senior Geography Project, and sharing activities suitable for adaptation into a range of classrooms will provide inspiration for many across all career stages. There is also the bonus of getting to know a bit more about what makes us tick as a Council – we hope you enjoy reading the Councillor biographies!

This will be my last report for the Bulletin as President. The Annual General Meeting will be held on 31 October via zoom at 5.30pm (information to be distributed to members shortly) and this will conclude my three-year term. Obviously, I will remain involved in the work of Council, and I look forward to supporting the vision and strategy of the incoming President and Executive team for 2023 and beyond.

In the last week of September, the Australian Geography Teachers Association Conference will be held in Hobart. There are several from GTANSW&ACT Council and many from our membership who are participating in the conference which is terrific for collegiality and strengthening relationships across NSW schools and across states and territories. We look forward to hearing about the experience from our conference scholarship awardees, and we are excited to see NSW & ACT representatives feature in the conference program. This year, GTANSW&ACT had responsibility for managing the AGTA Awards process and I would like to thank Vice Presidents Alexandria Warnock and Lorraine Chaffer for co-ordinating and leading a small team through the judging process to determine quality learning and teaching resources for geography produced across Australia.

I speak often with Council about the importance of explicitly grounding our planning and activity around an evidence base. We need clear reasoning and evidence to empower us and to be embedded in our thinking, planning and practice. I hold up high the GEOGStandards for personal reflective practice and as a tool for developing shared understanding amongst colleagues about effective, impactful geography teaching. I also hold up high *Geography: Shaping Australia's Future* to help develop our practice, prompt thinking, and encourage action. As a Council, we have made good progress this year in advancing dialogue around geography as a STEM subject through the symposium and associated e-learning portal; promoting awareness about, responses to, and implications of out-of-field teaching in geography through the provision of scholarly readings, careful responses on social media platforms and offering conference scholarships targeted at out-of-field teachers; strengthening collaboration with academic geographers and the Geographical Society of NSW through the co-badged webinars and in-person social networking events; developing clarity around connections with geography-centric careers through the careers posters initiative, and having input into the GoWithGeo <https://www.gowithgeo.com.au/> careers website; and advocating overall for quality geography education in school settings through writing submissions to NESAs, having a range of representative roles on various stakeholder committees, gaining NESAs accreditation for e-learning, and being willing to share practice in the Geography Bulletin.

The theme and contents of this edition of the Geography Bulletin clearly connect into Understanding Geography and the curriculum (GeogStandard 1) and Developing geographical thinking and communication (GeogStandard 3). The nature and purpose of the Geography Bulletin provides an opportunity to also connect into Progressing professional growth and development (GeogStandard 8) and Learning and working collegially (GeogStandard 9). I hope you enjoy reading through and reflecting on this edition of the journal. GTANSW&ACT Council do important work in connecting theory to practice, sharing ideas from their lived experience, and extending their sphere of influence from their own classroom up to the state and also national scale. I would like to extend my appreciation to each member of Council for the role they play in shaping the future of geography education in Australia.