

2021 CONFERENCE REVIEWS

Conference report

Scholarship winner – Kieran Bonin

I was fortunate enough to receive a scholarship last year for the GTA conference. As someone who was only two years into teaching the conference shaped the way I now teach.

The first thing I did when I got back to Orange High was print off and make MUAC bracelets (pictured right) for my year 10 Geography class thanks to David Procter and his session on 'Human Wellbeing for Kinaesthetic Learners'. I was fascinated by how simple hands on objects can be used and implemented into classroom pedagogy. One example I implemented was the use of play-dough for physical geography lessons. Inspired by the session I have created kinaesthetic lessons for other topics like landscapes and landforms where students create different landforms and in Ecosystems at Risk where students have created different types of reefs (pictured below). These have been some of the best lessons I now have up my sleeve which students always remember.



Another session which gave me inspiration was run by Sydney Water which focused on the year 8 topic Water in the World. Some of their surveying techniques for the pollution of waterways gave me great knowledge to help students with their Senior Geography Projects. In addition, the session inspired me to make my own infiltrimeters (pictured at left) which I developed into an incursion for year 8 students.



A session run by 'She Maps' which looked at drones in the classroom was super helpful, their lesson on Healthcare in the Himalayas for Human Wellbeing (pictured at left) is now always a hit with my year 10's.

Overall, the greatest part of the conference was meeting up with the Geography community. Everyone was very welcoming and kind, the warmth I felt from the conference led me to join the GTA as councillor this year. A year down the track and it's safe to say that the GTA conference was very beneficial to my teaching and I am still very grateful for the scholarship..

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**Scholarship winner – Denna Purton, HSIE Teacher
Melville High School**

I attended the 2021 conference as a scholarship recipient, and I am grateful for the opportunity to attend.

The many workshop options on offer allowed me to effectively select a combination suited to my personal development and allowed me to take a wealth of knowledge back to my school community.

At the conference I attended many valuable workshops from Fieldwork in the Urban and Natural environment at Sydney Olympic Park, using Geospatial Tools at regional and global scale to engage Stage 4 with Geographic skills. I found the Fieldwork workshop to be incredibly valuable. The workshop was engaging and provided me the opportunity to learn the skill and apply it practically with support. As a result, I have since taken this back to my school and incorporated more fieldwork activities into teaching and learning programs and had the confidence to deliver professional learning to colleagues.

I would recommend attending the conference to new and experienced teachers. The combination of professional learning on offer allows every educator to develop a skill and leave more motivated than ever. I left the 2021 conference with more passion and innovative ideas to improve my teaching practice to ensure my students are engaging meaningfully with Geography.



Keynote presentation at the 2021 GTA NSW & ACT Conference