



MARTIN PLUSS Life Membership

Citation

Martin Pluss has been involved with GTANSW (Now GTANSW & ACT) since 1983 when he joined as a university student. At this time, he contributed *The Evolution of Strathfield* for the association journal, the Geography Bulletin. Martin became a GTA Councillor in 1995 and has been involved in the association ever since, freely giving his time and sharing his expertise to support the work of the Association. Martin created and managed GTA's first website, held the executive position of Vice President, has presented at GTA conferences and events, represented GTANSW & ACT on NESA committees and played the very important liaison role between GTANSW & ACT and The Geographical Society of NSW for over 20 years.

Martin has been a prolific writer of materials for the Geography Bulletin with over 50 published pieces and he continues to contribute, helping to fulfil one of the main aims of GTANSW & ACT in supporting the professional learning of teachers. Martin generously shares his thoughts on geographical education and trends, such as his commentary on HSC candidature in *Geography Effect: Two Decades of Change* (2021) as well as sharing his classroom practices for other teachers to use or adapt in pieces such as *A framework for learning about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders in the Geography classroom* (2021).

A passion for the integration of ICT and local geographies have been a focus of Martin's contribution to the professional learning of Geography teachers in NSW. As the demand for teachers to integrate digital technologies and platforms into their pedagogical practice increased, particularly during the 2000's, Martin provided support in areas such as using the Internet, Google, Twitter, Augmented Reality, and blogs through articles in the Geography Bulletin, conference presentations and workshops. His passion for local geography and using personal experiences is reflected in *Unleashing our inner geographer: Sharing your stories and building a geographical narrative* (2020) and sharing his experiences at both regional and Sydney based events.

Martin's exemplary classroom practice was recognised through his involvement in Strengthening Standards Research GeogStandards Project, by Melbourne University (2008) in which his lessons were videoed as examples of exemplar teaching.

Martin's achievements and service have been recognised through several awards including the meritorious McDonald Holmes Medal awarded by the Geographical Society of NSW and GTANSW to acknowledge ongoing and distinguished contribution to geographical education in Australia. He has also been awarded

- Fellowship of GTANSW (2005), the highest recognition given to a GTA councillor
- the Outstanding Professional Service Award from the Professional Teachers Council NSW in recognition of voluntary work undertaken for GTANSW
- the Geoff Conolly Award for contributions to the Geography Bulletin (2013)
- at a national level, the Australian Geography Teachers Association Website Award for Global Education (2004).

Martin's carefully considered, experiential and data based contributions to Association meetings, his good humour and his passion for Geography education have made him a pleasure to work alongside. The length of time Martin has fulfilled the role of Councillor, along with his level of active involvement is a testament to his commitment to the Association overall and the Council of GTANSW & ACT.

In recognition of this significant and continuous contribution it is with great pleasure that the GTA NSW & ACT Council awards Martin Pluss with Life Membership to the Association in 2022.