

Editorial



Diana Gearside

Welcome to Edition 1 of the Geography Bulletin for 2024. In this issue, we celebrate passionate geography educators and high achieving students, provide feedback on consultation into the future direction of geography education K-10 and focus on fascinating projects that have successfully connected students to real geographical issues in their local community.

Look further inside this edition for more information, resources, inspiration and teaching and learning ideas.

- The recipients of prestigious excellence [teaching awards](#) from the Professional Teachers' Council NSW and the GTA NSW & ACT are profiled, [Top 10 HSC 2023](#) students who achieved outstanding results celebrated, and the [Young Geographers Awards](#) recognised.
- Louise Swanson, James Heafey and a team from Sydney Secondary College, Balmain campus present [The Balmain Foreshore Project](#), an initiative to provide a specialised program involving more challenge and highly differentiated learning to extend and engage high potential and gifted students in Year 10.

It involves the development of a cross-curriculum unit of work, incorporating critical thinking and focusing on research and hands-on application of research to plan to rehabilitate a section of Balmain foreshore on school grounds.

This is a very exciting project that allows the collaboration of students, teachers and external stakeholders, like Transurban, in a real-world project with real-world, measurable outcomes and promotes a sense of active citizenship in the local area.
- Bianca Mangioni and Sophie Robb generously share another engaging hands-on learning experience [Changing Places: Green Space Enhancement Project](#), this time for Year 9. In their words "creating a project where theoretical knowledge collides with the real world, sparking curiosity and excitement."
- Martin Pluss provides a second article in a series [Place-Based Geography: Hornsby](#) that explores ways of engaging students in their local area to enhance understanding of Geography in their local context.
- Kathy Jones from Fieldwork Connections examines the pros and cons of the use of [smartphones in fieldwork](#).
- Catch up on feedback from Alaric Maude and the GTA NSW & ACT on the [Draft HSIE syllabus K-6 and 7-10](#) resulting from the NESAC Consultation Round 1 and 2.

Thank you, again, to all the authors for kindly contributing their articles, resources and activities which will support geography teachers.

GTA is grateful for all contributions to the Geography Bulletin. If you have an article, resource, activity that you would like published please submit your contribution to the GTA NSW & ACT Office by email gta.admin@ptc.nsw.edu.au. The Guidelines for Contributors can be found on page 73.

Editorial

I am delighted to be appointed the Executive Officer GTA NSW & ACT and look forward to engaging in many wonderful ways with the Association's members. My life's work has been primarily education and I have a genuine soft spot for Geography. I have a Human Geography degree, have taught senior Geography and I have also been an HSC marker. I deviated a little by becoming a Learning and Support teacher in both primary and secondary schools as I witnessed students struggling to engage with learning and wanted to support them to develop life-long skills and capability.

I have also held administrative and management positions, most recently with a Not-for-Profit organisation managing the delivery of a literacy program to students in disadvantaged schools. I have led professional learning for educators too and hope to combine all my skills in my new exciting role. I am looking forward to becoming an efficient and valuable asset to the GTA team.

Diana Gearside
Executive Officer – GTANSW & ACT



Katerina Stojanovski

Presidents Report

Dear Members,

Welcome to 2024. Our focus for this year is to strengthen our Governance and focus on the sustainability of the Association in the future. This year we welcome our new Executive Officer, Diana Gearside and graphic designer, Rachel Peddar. We say farewell Jill Sillar, our graphic designer for many years.

Welcome Diana Gearside

I am delighted to introduce to you Diana Gearside, Executive Officer GTA NSW & ACT. Diana has a wealth of experience in Geography Education. She is a qualified Geography Teacher, HSC marker and she has a degree in Human Geography. More recently Diana held management positions leading professional learning. Diana is a capable and efficient Administrator. Since her commencement in the April school holidays, Diana has immersed herself in GTA activities learning how the Association operates while at the same time getting to know Councillors and learning about Association business. Diana is a valuable asset to our team and membership.

Farewell Jill Sillar

I would like to take this opportunity to farewell Jill Sillar who has been our graphic designer for many years. Jill has designed many of our promotional materials including, professional learning flyers, banners, webpages, certificates etc. Jill's creativity has ensured The Bulletin is always well received by our members. On behalf of GTANSW & ACT we thank Jill for her many years of dedication, work and support of GTANSW & ACT. We wish you all the best in the next chapter of your life.

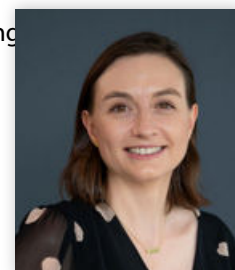


Jill Sillar

Welcome Rachel Peddar

I would like to introduce to you Rachel Peddar our new Graphic Designer. Rachel has seamlessly taken the task of adding her creativity to redesign our Bulletin and update our promotional materials. We look forward to a continuing productive relationship as you familiarise yourself with all things Geography.

Katerina Stojanovski
President GTANSW & ACT



Rachel Peddar