

This issue is the *Geography Bulletin* is first for 2012 and the first to be published electronically. The shift to electronic publishing has a number of advantages. These include:

- significant savings, especially in terms of the resources devoted to printing and postage. This will enable the Association to hold membership fees at the current level for a number of years;
- reduced the Association's carbon and water footprints;
- the ability to increase the extent of each issue;
- the ability to publish every edition in full colour; and
- issues can be published in a way that facilitates the downloading of specific articles.

We hope you find the new publishing format convenient. Your feedback is welcome.

In this issue we feature two scholarly articles by Nick Hutchinson. These have been written to inform the development and implementation of the *Australian Geography Curriculum*. Nick has examined two of the geographical concepts central to the new curriculum – space and place.

In the first of these articles, *Space: Moving Beyond the Spatial*, Nick examines the concept of relational space and capacity to liberate geography teachers in their quest to better understand the relationship between people and the environment. In the second, *Place Writing: Narratives, Experience and Identity*, Nick explores the complexity of place.

Nick argues that place is a rich geographical concept that “fires the geographical imagination”. He explores the concept's complexity by examining theory, or ‘grand narratives’, as well as stories that people tell about place; the experience of place; and place and identity as people invest their surroundings with meaning and can develop a sense of place.

Also featured in this issue are articles by Susan Bliss and David Hamper. Sue contributes an article *Gender Equality: Women's Rights* while David looks at *Regional Economies and the Place of Tourism*.

2012 Institute of Australian Geographers Conference



The IAG's 2012 Conference is being held at Macquarie University, Sydney, on 2–4 July. This is a great opportunity for Geography teachers to engage with Australia's leading academic geographers. The Conference program is designed to encourage wide participation from secondary Geography teachers. It will feature a number of education-focused sessions.

The Conference's theme, *Inspiring Connections*, encourages participants to focus on both existing connections that inspire their work, and the ways in which geographical research, education and engagement inspires new connections of value to society and the planet.



Grant Kleeman, Editor

The Conference program will include opportunities to make connections between Geography and education, Geography and the arts (with keynote performances and events) and Geography and others (with an invitation for sessions and papers that step outside the conventional frames of academic Geography to consider connections across boundaries in various ways).

Participation from academic and professional geographers, Geography teachers and graduate students is encouraged.

IAG Study Groups and others will host themed sessions. A draft program will be available early May and updated regularly.

Registration: Early-bird registration will close Friday April 27, and full conference registration will close Monday June 25.

Submission of abstracts for papers to be presented must be completed online no later than Friday March 30.

Conference Program

Sunday July 1 Pre-conference workshops and fieldtrips

Monday July 2 Conference welcome; paper sessions and plenaries; evening reception

Tuesday July 3 Paper sessions and plenaries; conference dinner

Wednesday July 4 Paper sessions and plenaries

Thursday July 5 Post-conference fieldtrips

Enquiries can be directed to:

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For more information go to: <http://www.iag2012.com.au/>

