



Dr Grant Kleeman, Editor

This issue of the *Geography Bulletin* features another of Nick Hutchinson's 'big ideas' in Geography articles. In this contribution, '*Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon*': *Uncovering some questions about sustainable livelihoods in Southeast Asia*, Nick argues that the study of livelihoods informs our understanding of the relationship between human and physical Geography and breaks down the quite artificial distinction made between culture and nature. Nick's article will help inform our understanding of the *Australian Curriculum: Geography* which is now published online for public viewing. If all goes to plan, the Ministers of Education will endorse the new curriculum in December 2012.

Also featured in this issue is an introduction to the *Geography Challenge* – a new online interactive program from the NSW Curriculum and Learning Innovation Centre. Designed for Years 9–10, the resource supports an examination of environmental issues affecting the Narawang wetland. It also introduces students to virtual fieldwork; carry out a Research Action Plan; apply geographical skills such as using interactive maps and Geographic Information Systems; and apply a range of research techniques to a geographical investigation. The resource also enables students to examine the broader context of Homebush Bay and nearby communities.

## AGTA Conference, January 7–10, 2013, Perth

Registrations are now open for the 2013 AGTA Conference to be held in Perth next January [<http://www.agta.asn.au/conf2013/index.htm>]. Professors **David Lambert** and **Simon Catling** from the United Kingdom and Professors **Peter Newman** and **Lyn Beasley** from Australia have accepted AGTA's invitation to be keynote speakers at the Conference. Simon Catling's experience with primary Geography implementation in particular ensures that this conference will appeal to primary school teachers as well as secondary school teachers.

- Professor David Lambert was a comprehensive school Geography teacher before joining the Institute of Education in 1987. In 2002 he became Chief Executive of the Geographical Association, helping guide its development as a significant provider of professional development and a leader in funded curriculum development activity. From September 2007, he has combined this role with a return to the Institute of Education as Professor of Geography Education. His writing and research are concerned with curriculum development and assessment, and his overarching goal is to advance understanding of the role of Geography in schools in relation to broad educational purposes.
- Professor Simon Catling is the Professor in Primary Education in the School of Education - Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Oxford Brookes University Oxford.
- Peter Newman is the Professor of Sustainability at Curtin University



*Aerial view of central Rottnest Island WA, looking west towards Wadjemup Lighthouse and Cape Vlamingh. Visible in the foreground are the golf course, wind turbine, salt lakes and Mt Herschell. Source: Wikimedia Commons*

and the Director of the Curtin University Sustainability Policy Institute. He has recently been appointed as Chief Writer – Transport for the UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, (IPCC).

- Professor Lyn Beasley. Professor Beasley is the West Australian Chief Scientist and patron of the Australian Sustainable Schools Initiative, WA. Her address on Western Australia an Ancient Land is sure to be informative and entertaining.

In addition to these keynotes there will be a comprehensive program of workshop presentations and ample opportunities for fieldwork. The latter includes a visit to Rottnest Island. Details of the workshop and fieldwork program can be found on the Conference website.

## 2012 Arthur Phillip Awards

The issue of the *Geography Bulletin* contains information about the GTA's 2012 Arthur Phillip Awards. The competitions provide a great opportunity for schools to promote Geography and gain recognition for the achievements of their students.

Grant Kleeman