

# PRESIDENT'S REPORT

## GTA Secretariat

The Professional Teachers' Council NSW has had to move from its premises at Leichhardt Public School. The postal address for PTC NSW is the same i.e. PO Box 577 Leichhardt NSW 2040. The new site address is 56 Bland Street, Ashfield NSW 2131. Ph: 02 9716 0378, Fax: 02 95642342.

Shreela Pradhan is our administrative officer [shreela.pradhan@ptc.nsw.edu.au](mailto:shreela.pradhan@ptc.nsw.edu.au).

56 Bland Street is an attractive two-storey Victorian villa, fairly close to Ashfield station. GTA material is housed in a tiny storeroom and there is a small meeting room available to us that would seat ten to twelve people. Parking is available in surrounding streets.

## 2012 HSC exam reviews

Thanks to Keith Hopkins and his assistants, Cath Donnelly, John Lewis, Rex Cooke, Terry McCann, Jane Rees, Lesley Miller, Sharon McLean, Martin, Pluss, David Latimer, Peter Stefan, Kerrie Goonan, Lyn Wood and Christine Meharg for the conduct of the annual HSC review lectures in Newcastle (19 February 2013), Sydney (26 February 2013) and Wollongong (5 March 2013). The relevant presentations appear on the website <http://www.gtansw.org.au>.

The Geography candidates for HSC exams were:

- 2012 – 4297
- 2011 – 4431
- 2010 – 4621
- 2009 – 4572
- 2008 – 4314

## New geographer from the UK

Welcome to Paula Cooper, who has recently moved to Sydney with her family, to a place on GTA Council. Paula has been involved in UK Geography curriculum work and comes to us with high recommendations.

## Global education

Kim Tsolakis, Manager of the GEPNSW Project has encouraged us to apply for funding from GEPNSW to support the production of the Geography Bulletin, conferences and the Arthur Phillip Awards.

The Global Perspectives Framework document can be accessed through the GEPNSW icon at: [www.ptc.nsw.edu.au](http://www.ptc.nsw.edu.au)

## Graduate certificates in Geography Curriculum

Associate Professor Neil Argent has proposed the UNE will develop a Graduate Certificate in Geography Curriculum to help new and more experienced teachers come to grips with the new national curriculum. The university plans to introduce the course in 2014.

## MA Geography Education

### MA Geography Education at the Institute of Education, London

"You can study it from virtually anywhere in the world" says Professor David Lambert. Refer to the website <http://www.mageoged.webs.com>.

## AGTA

AGTA is contemplating our next Australian Geography conference in January 2015, GTANSW is the host affiliate and I have volunteered as conference convener. AGTA is expected to give its approval for the conference organisation on May 11-12 2013. Nick Hutchinson and Carol Pogson (ACT) are our representatives at the meeting.

At the meeting Rod Yule from World Vision will be presenting on the new Indonesian resources designed to support the Australian Curriculum: Geography.

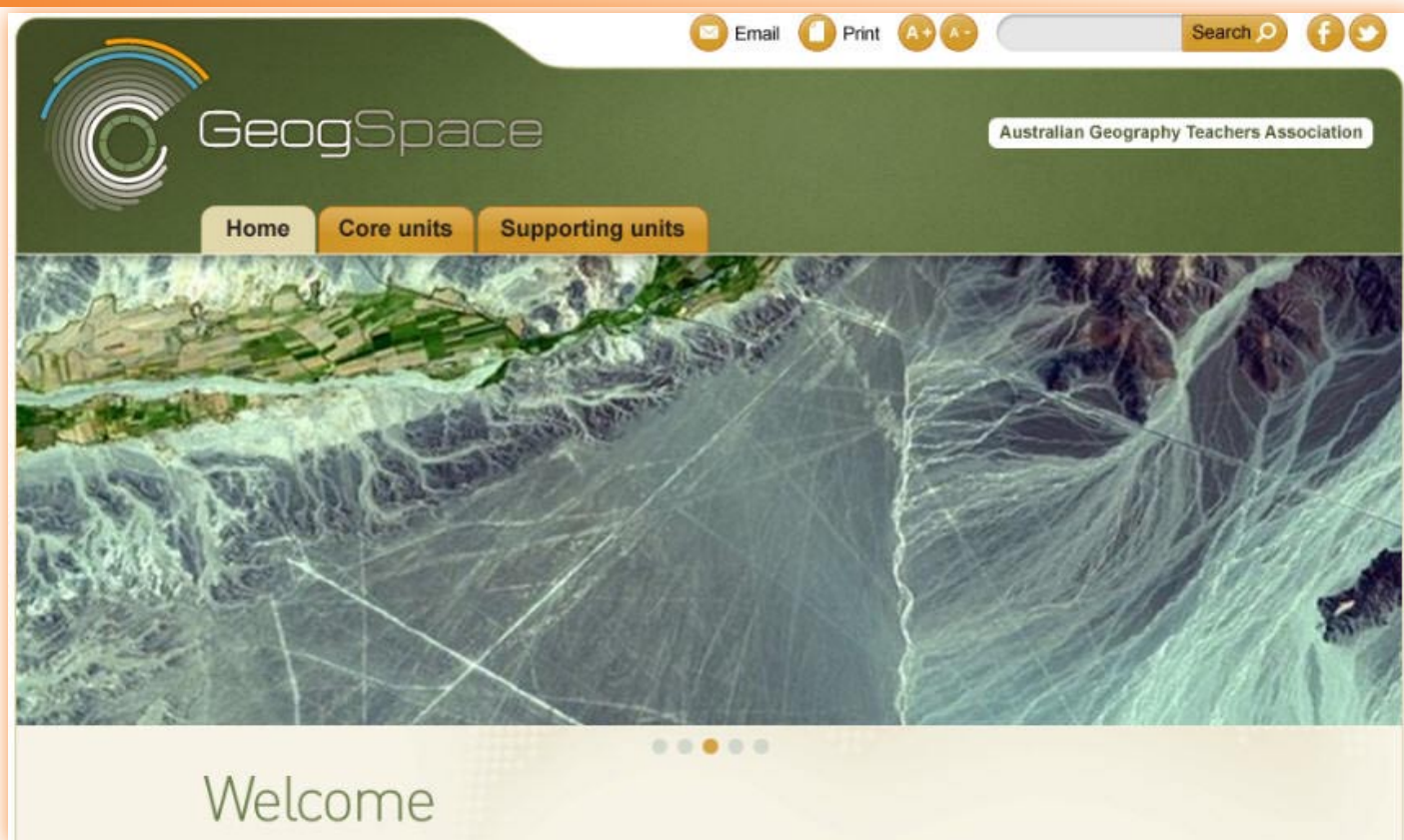
## Geospace will be launched soon

The GeoSpace website provides materials to support primary and secondary teachers implement the Australian Curriculum: Geography. GeoSpace is an initiative of the Australian Geography Teachers Association (AGTA) supported by the resources of Education Services Australia (ESA).

## GTANSW website

Thanks to Rob Berry, from AGTA, the website is regularly refreshed. Thanks to Brett Jackson who has reported on potential problems. Should you wish to post items that are of interest to Geography teachers, or volunteer to manage a twitter, scoop it or Facebook site on behalf of GTA, which could be linked to the website, please contact Nick Hutchinson [nhut1001@bigpond.net.au](mailto:nhut1001@bigpond.net.au).

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## Hunter Valley Geography teachers

Thanks to Steven Newman who wants to establish closer connections with GTA Council. We welcome this initiative.



## ACARA update

Susan Caldis reported to Council as follows: Since December 2012, ACARA has been working with states and territories, and AGTA to see if greater agreement can be reached about the scope of Geography being proposed in the F-10 Australian Curriculum: Geography. Pending approval from the ACARA Board at the upcoming March meeting, it is anticipated that the F-10 Australian Curriculum: Geography and Senior Secondary Geography will be presented to the Standing Council on School Education and Early Childhood (formerly the Ministerial Council for Education, Early Childhood Development and Youth Affairs [MCEECDYA]) at their May meeting. When the curriculum is available for publication, it can be accessed from the Australian Curriculum website.

Please contact Susan Caldis, Senior Project Officer Humanities and Social Sciences (Geography, Economics and Business via email ([susan.caldis@acara.edu.au](mailto:susan.caldis@acara.edu.au)) or telephone 02 8098 3150 if you require further information.

As of March 25 Susan provided the following update: 'Last week, the revised Foundation to Year 10 *Australian Curriculum: Geography* was endorsed by the ACARA Board and will be considered by AEEYSOC (Australian Education, Early Childhood Development and Youth Affairs Senior Officials Committee) in April and SCSEEC (Standing Council on School Education and Early Childhood) in May. The Deputy Chair of ACARA requested that this curriculum be approved with a 'special commendation' for the way in which the cross-curriculum priorities and general capabilities are represented across the year levels.

The senior secondary Australian Curriculum: Geography is undergoing further discussion with states and territories and AGTA over the next month. It is anticipated that the senior secondary Australian Curriculum: Geography will be presented to the ACARA Board for approval at the May meeting.'

On April 3 I represented GTANSW on an AGTA teleconference that gave feedback to ACARA on the Senior Curriculum.

## HSC Enrichment Day for students

Dr Garth Lean from Geography and Urban Studies, UWS, is planning an enrichment day scheduled for August 16. The day aims to provide supplementary material to year 12 Geography students to help in their preparation for the HSC examination. It also provides a way for them to understand how their geography studies relate to the degree programs offered by the school to help in considering future tertiary study.

## Annual Conference 30 August 2013

Thanks to Susan Bliss for undertaking to organise the annual conferment to be held at the ACCOR Hotel World Square Sydney. Short presentations will be given on topics relevant to the Australian Curriculum: Geography and using achievement standards and work units. Rebecca Nicholas, from AGTA, will present on Using web 2 tools for Geography.

## Arthur Philip Awards Ceremony May 10 2013

Thanks to Grace Larobina who has organised the ceremony to be held at The Auditorium Sydney College of the Arts, Rozelle, Sydney, 4pm – 6pm. <http://sydney.edu.au/sca/about/index.shtml> . There are awards for the top ten HSC achievers and their teachers [http://www.boardofstudies.nsw.edu.au/ebos/static/TAINC\\_2012\\_12.html](http://www.boardofstudies.nsw.edu.au/ebos/static/TAINC_2012_12.html) , as well as the various Arthur Philip awards.

## Forthcoming events

- Geography's Big Week Out <http://www.rgsq.org.au/rgsqsite/gbwo.htm> is to be hosted by NSW this year. Thanks to Milton Brown for offering to organize this event.



Geography Teachers' Association of NSW

## 2012 ARTHUR PHILLIP

FIELDWORK COMPETITION



### AWARDS CEREMONY

Sydney College of the Arts Auditorium  
Friday 10 May 2013

- HSC Student Lectures. Thanks to Grant Kleeman who has offered to organize these presentations in June, July this year.
- Regional conferences. Steven Newman has offered to assist with a Hunter Valley conference.

## Council meetings

The last Council meeting, in March was successfully conducted online. A F2F meeting is scheduled for May 1 at Bland Street, Ashfield. Our AGM is planned for Wednesday 16 October 2013.

Nick Hutchinson  
11 April 2013