



Dr Susan Bliss, Editor

The Geography Teachers' Association of NSW has had a successful and busy term. The annual conference was attended by 350 teachers from urban and rural areas, and Lorraine Chaffer was awarded the Brock Rowe Award and Martin Pluss the Geoff Connolly Award. All conference presentations were placed on the GTA website and evaluation of the conference via Survey Monkey created and published online surveys in minutes. Participants' tweeted comments as the day progressed.

This edition of the journal focuses on GeogSpace which provides resource materials for Geography teachers. The materials develop knowledge, skills and pedagogical capacity to enable teachers to effectively teach the subject. Over time it is anticipated GeogSpace will continue to grow and become more interactive.

The journal includes teaching material for topics in the Australian Curriculum: Geography:

- Geography of Stuff is a unit of work from the UK Royal Geographical society with IBG. The unit focuses on the *Geographies of Interconnections* (Year 9)
- Geography of Food is an excellent unit written by the UK Geographical Association appropriate for *Biomes and Food Security* (Year 9). It contains on-line courses for teachers to aid their teaching
- *Food* (Year 9) and *Human Wellbeing* (Year 10) resources are provided by World Vision
- *Hazards* covering atmospheric or hydrologic (Year 7) and geomorphic or biotic (Year 8) are studied
- *Geographical Skills* includes *Cartoon Analysis*, *Using ICT in Geography*, *Satellite Images and Maps*.

Key inquiry questions are articulated in articles. Seven geographical concepts are integrated within units of work, and ICT links are included.

Seven Geographical Concepts



Source: Malcolm McNerney

Former president of the Royal Geographical Society, Michael Palin noted: 'Geography explains the past, illuminates the present, and prepares us for the future. What could be more important than that?'

Tim Costello, chief executive officer of World Vision Australia and patron of the Australian Geography Teachers Association (AGTA) stated that 'over time and with experience we learn to make sense of the world, to understand the processes and systems that make it work the way it does. This learning is the accumulation of observation, measurement, mapping and analysis. We learn to perceive our space, and our sense of place in it, and to make judgments and take actions accordingly.'

As a member of GTA for over 52 years I have decided to retire from the Council and spend more time with family. I am proud to have met extraordinary and hard working geographers on my journey through life and how their love of the subject has been effectively transferred to future generations.

Susan Bliss

GEOGRAPHY TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION NSW AWARDS 2013

Brock Rowe Award 2013 to Lorraine Chaffer



Over 37 years Lorraine has consistently demonstrated excellence in the teaching of Geography in secondary schools.

Lorraine has been head teacher, head teacher administration and head teacher in teaching and learning. She developed fieldwork activities in collaboration with Rumbularra Environmental Education Centre, and was author of the Jacaranda Geoactive Series, Teachers Edition (Stages 4–5) and Macmillan Geoworld (7 – 10) for the Australian curriculum.

Lorraine has been a member of the School Certificate Exam Committee and participated in consultation forums for NSW DEC on the Australian Curriculum – Geography. Over the years she has been a presenter at conferences for HSC students and Geography teachers. Lorraine was presented with the Rotary Pride of Workmanship Award in 2013 and will assume the GTA NSW Presidency for 2013–2014.

Geoff Connolly Award 2013 to Martin Pluss

For his contribution to over 46 articles since 1983 to the Journal of the Geography Teachers' Association of NSW.

Martin is the Dean of Learning Technologies at an independent girls' school in Sydney. He has been a GTA NSW councillor for many years.

