

GTANSW ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2013



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The Geography Teachers' Association of NSW held its annual conference on 30 August 2013 on the topic '*Geography – Making a difference for Australia.*' The conference was organised by Dr. Susan Bliss with the support of GTANSW councillors (in particular Martin Pluss) and the staff of PTC NSW (mainly Shreela Pradhan).

The conference was held at Rydges Hotel, World Square Sydney, and Global Kids Goals enabled a discount of \$9,000, which was the cost of hiring the Ballroom for the day. The popularity of the conference resulted in 350 teachers attending with registration closing two weeks before the event. The function was the most successful GTA conference held in terms of participants and profits.

Speakers included:

- * Susan Caldis – ACARA Geography Curriculum
- * Prof. Gordon Waitt, University of Wollongong – *Geographies of Interconnections* (Year 9)
- * Rebecca Nicholas – *Using Web 2 tools*
- * Dr Susan Bliss – *Hazards* (Years 7 and 8)
- * Dr Jennifer Curtis – *Global Education resources to support the Geography curriculum*
- * Lindsay Swan, NSW Board of Studies – *Implementation of Australian Geography Curriculum*
- * Dr Tracey McAskill, ACARA – *Achievement Standards and Work Sample Portfolios*
- * Lorraine Chaffer – *Place and liveability* (Year 7)
- * Malcolm McNerney – *AGTA web-based curriculum support materials*

- * Nick Hutchinson – *Personal geographies* (Year 9)
- * Milton Brown – *Geographies of interconnections* (Year 9) and *the role of NGO to improve human wellbeing* (Year 10)
- * Greg Reid – *Water in the world* (Year 7)
- * Dr Alison Gates – *Biomes and food security* (Year 9)
- * Debra Owens – *Geographies of interconnections* (Year 9)

Numerous door prizes included items from Billabong and a teacher-family tour to New Zealand.

The survey report indicated the program was well organised and topics relevant to the Australian Curriculum: Geography. The speakers were excellent, informative and well prepared, and presentations were available on GTA website. Many teachers used ipads and twitter during the conference to express their thoughts. The hotel layout was superb and food of a high quality. Registration was handled smoothly and response stated exhibits added value to the conference.

However most teachers were surprised to hear the timeline for Geography syllabus and its implementation in NSW will be 2016 – 2017. Some teachers suggested F-6 conference to ensure students entering Year 7 have sound geographical knowledge, understanding and skills, and skills workshops for new geography teachers.