



Dr Grant Kleeman, Editor

Welcome to the final issue of the *Geography Bulletin* for 2013. Featured articles are: Implementing the *Australian Curriculum: Geography and the GeogSpace resources*, by Malcolm McInerney, and *Geography in the Primary Curriculum – The new Australian Curriculum*, by John Butler, OAM. Susan Bliss contributes an article, *Year 7 Three Gorges Dam, China*. The GTA thanks these contributors.

As 2013 draws to a close we would like to wish you all the best for the festive season and New Year.

Martin Pluss honoured

Martin Pluss has been awarded the Macdonald Holmes Medal* for his outstanding contribution to geographical education in Australia.

The Macdonald Holmes Medal is awarded jointly by the Councils of the Geographical Society of New South Wales Inc (GSNSW Inc) and the Geography Teachers' Association of New South Wales Inc (GTANSW Inc), to persons who have made a distinguished contribution to the field of geographical education in Australia.

Upon entering university Martin's goal was to be a Geography teacher. He completed an Honours degree at the University of Sydney under the supervision of Dr Dennis Jeans on the Historical Geography of 19th Century Strathfield. Martin then completed a Masters of Education, keeping Geography close to the core of his research, completing a dissertation on Non-formal Education in South East Asia and the Pacific.

Martin participated in the Honours Conference and was given the opportunity to publish a summary of his thesis in Dr Ian Burnley and Dr James Forest's *Living in Cities*. This started the journey of publishing up to 50 articles on Geography, Geographical Education and more recently the integration of learning technologies into the teaching of Geography. Since 1984, Martin has been employed and held various positions as and Geography teacher, Head of Department and Dean of Learning Technologies in four independent schools: Oxley College (Bowral), Northholm Grammar (Arcadia), Tara School and currently, Loreto Normanhurst.

Once he returned to Sydney in 1990 Martin joined the Council of the Geography Teachers Association of NSW and soon after the Geographical Society of NSW. He has continued this association to date with a few "sabbaticals" coinciding with the birth of Nick and Ali and to enable him to settle into new schools.

The GTANSW has enabled Martin to meet wonderful teachers and to share ideas and practices in Geography consultations, publications, workshops and lectures. He created and managed the GTANSW web page for 15 years. Martin is somewhat of an "academic groupie" when it comes to his involvement with Geographical Society of NSW, enjoying the meetings and learning about the latest developments in academic Geography.

Martin believes Geography has provided him with much more than he has given Geography including lifelong friends, shared learning experiences and the ability to see the world with a geographer's eyes. His journey as a geographical educator continues in his life beyond the school gate. As a runner he explores the natural and built environments observing patterns and wondering why.

* James Macdonald Holmes was McCaughey Professor of Geography at the University of Sydney during the period of 1929-1961. To commemorate his achievements over these years, the Geographical Society together with the Geography Teachers' Association decided to award, biennially, a medal bearing his portrait and name, to a person deemed to have made a distinguished contribution in the field of geographical education in Australia.

Past recipients of the Macdonald Holmes Medal are:

1977	Edgar Ford	1995	Bruce G Thom
	James B Rowe	1997	Geoffrey K Connolly
1979	Donald Biddle		Colin Davey
1981	John Shaw	1999	Joseph M Powell
1983	Alan Tweedie	2001	Robert Fagan
1985	Sr Gonzaga Stanley	2003	Nick Hutchinson
1987	Gilbert J Butland	2005	Deirdre Dragovich
1989	Peter G Irwin	2007	John Connell
	Trevor Langford-Smith		Grant Kleeman
1991	Malcolm Barlow	2009	Susan Bliss
	John S Emery		Gordon Waitt
1993	John H Holmes	2011	Richie Howitt



Photograph: Martin receives his medal from Mr Iain Macdonald Holmes (right), son of James Macdonald Holmes.

EDITORIAL

GTA Writes to the Board of Studies seeking an acceleration of the Geography Syllabus development timeline

The GTA has written to the Board of Studies advocating an accelerated timeline for the development and implementation of the new Australian Curriculum based NSW Geography Syllabus. The GTA's letter and the Board's response is included below for your information.



**The
Geography Teachers' Association**
of New South Wales

ABN: 59 249 850 128

Mr Tom Alegounarias
President, NSW Board of Studies
GPO Box 5300, Sydney NSW 2001

At the recent Annual Conference of the Geography Teachers Association (GTA) of New South Wales the Board's Inspector for Human Society and Its Environment (Mr Lindsay Swan) outlined the Board's NSW K–10 syllabus for an Australian Curriculum in Geography development timeline.

The 350 teachers present were somewhat surprised at the length of time involved to develop and implement the document. As you might appreciate, teachers are keen to embrace the new curriculum. The existing 7–10 document, while subject to minor revision on at least two occasions, dates from 1990 and embeds a test-driven division between Global and Australian Geography. This division is not appropriate for a number of reasons, not the least of which is the abandonment of the School Certificate test. The GTA finds it disappointing that the students of NSW will be required to study a syllabus document which will be at least a quarter of a century old before it is replaced by a more contemporary study of Geography.

Additionally, the current Years 11 and 12 Geography Syllabus is now more than a decade old. We would urge the Board to put in train a revision of this document in light of the approval of the Senior Years Geography Curriculum. Developing the syllabuses in tandem makes sense both in terms of scope and sequence and resourcing.

The GTA requests that the Board expedite the development and implementation of the NSW Geography Syllabuses with a target date of 2015 for Year 7–10 and 2016 for Years 11–12.

The GTA also stands ready to assist in any way the Boards deems appropriate.

Yours sincerely

Ms Susan Caldis
President, GTA NSW

Mr Nick Hutchinson
Immediate Past President

Dr Grant Kleeman
Vice President