



## President's report

In commencing my term as President, I reflect on the significant influence the Geography Teachers Association of NSW has had and continues to have on my career. From the provision of teaching and learning resources, to the organisation and delivery of rich, relevant professional development and leadership opportunities; from enabling access to state, national and international networks of Geography experts, to encouraging a more localised group of like-minded colleagues and friends to regularly collaborate and discuss strategies that will make Geography live for their students; from the security of knowing the Council members are imminent NSW-based Geography educators who best know the needs of our Geography teachers and students, to wanting to know how one could contribute to and participate in this association – the GTANSW has a continual and evolving contribution to a journey in geographical education. This is only a snapshot of the effect the GTANSW has on me and how I believe this association benefits others. I sincerely hope all members can identify ways in which their connection to this professional association has shaped and enhanced their experience and growth as Geography educators.

Continuing the theme of connection and expertise, an icon of the GTANSW, Nick Hutchinson, has completed his term as President and now fulfils the role of Immediate Past President and AGTA Conference Convenor. Nick has lead the Association as President on several occasions and has maintained his involvement in other capacities when not serving in the presidential role. On behalf of the GTANSW I would like to thank Nick for his leadership, considered counsel, approachability and vision for Geography in schools. He has been at the forefront of leading us in to 21st Century Geography through his research in to and passion

for personal geographies and key conceptual analysis, particularly for place, space and interconnection. The GTANSW Council acknowledges and appreciates Nick's long-term commitment to the Association and looks forward to his continual involvement in our activities throughout 2014.

Having recently returned to a school-based leadership position from leading the development of the *Australian Curriculum: Geography* at ACARA, I am acutely aware about the level of salience a professional association can have in shaping and influencing the direction of curriculum documents. To that end I would like to encourage all members to maintain their membership to the GTANSW and constructively participate in consultation opportunities that will arise as the Office of the Board of Studies NSW develops the new NSW syllabus, incorporating Australian curriculum content, for K–10 Geography. Of course the association will be in regular communication with members about the progression of the new syllabus.

It is an honour and a privilege to have been elected to this role, particularly after the era of Nick Hutchison, and I am incredibly grateful and appreciative for the opportunity to work with an experienced, diligent and enthusiastic Council in leading NSW towards and through what will be significant change in Australian geographical education.

The GTANSW is looking forward to a productive and interesting 2014.

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