



Dr Grant Kleeman, Editor

Welcome to the first issue of the Geography Bulletin for 2014. In this edition we include AGTA's submission to the Review of the Australian Curriculum and three articles on tourism. The first of these provides a Global Tourism Update. The second takes a look at Las Vegas and how the city's economy has been affected by the Global Financial Crisis, or what the Americans call the Great Recession. The final article takes a look at the emergence of the global cruise industry. Also included is an article by Susan Caldis focusing on the Senior Geography Project.

GTA NSW HONOURS THE 2013 HSC GEOGRAPHY'S TOP10

At its Annual Awards Ceremony the GTA has recognised the achievements of the top geography students in the 2013 HSC examination and their teachers. The ceremony was held in the Murray Hall, Australian Catholic University, Strathfield, on Friday 4 April. Professor Deirdre Dragovich, of Sydney University presented the keynote address focusing on the role and value of Geography. Ms Susan Caldis, President GTA NSW, presented the awards.

The HSC Geography Award recipients were:

- Jonah Drummond Clarkson, SHORE
- Daniel Gorry, Sydney Grammar School
- Joel Raymond, Sydney Grammar School
- Daniel Chepurin, Sydney Grammar School
- Amanda Lopes, Domremy Catholic College
- Samuel William Michael Read, The King's School
- Aili Langford, Blue Mountains Grammar School
- Monique Masling, Pymble Ladies' College
- Cassandra Brigden, Newcastle Grammar School
- Sally Wong, Abbotsleigh

The GTA also recognised the important contribution made by the students' teachers. The recipients were:

- Nigel Scozzi, Head Teacher, SHORE
- Brett Marturia, Sydney Grammar School
- Richard Copeland, Sydney Grammar School
- Les Rozsnyoi, Domremy Catholic College
- Norm Webb, The King's School
- Andrew Steadman, Blue Mountains Grammar School
- Julie Gleeson, Pymble Ladies' College
- Georgina Roberts, Newcastle Grammar School
- Joanne Sarmiento, Abbotsleigh

Arthur Phillip Awards

The 2013 Arthur Phillip Fieldwork Competition Awards ceremony was held at the Murray Hall, Australian Catholic University, Strathfield, on Friday 4 April 2014.

The recipients of these awards were:

Fieldwork and Visual Presentation Award

Equal first place

Madeleine Brown, St. Columba Anglican School

Synopsis: Australian Environments Fieldwork was undertaken along the Hastings coast and at Dooragan National Park. Primary data was analysed and presented as a Google map using Google Photos and Skitch.

Teacher: Cheryl Dimmock

Equal first place

Abby Butler, Merewether High School

Synopsis: *Changing Australian Communities; A current affair style video report about the causes and impacts of change on the seaside suburb of Merewether in Newcastle.*

Teacher: Rob Berry

Second place

Jessica Tisdell, Merewether High School

Synopsis: *Changing Australian Communities; Thorton. Report includes factors causing change and the impacts and responses to change.*

Teacher: Rosemary Campbell

Third place

Sasha Edwards, Merewether High School

Synopsis: *Changing Australian Communities, Whitebridge. New developments and possible impacts on the community.*

Teacher: Cathy Donnelly

Highly commended

Angus Guihot, St Colombia Anglican School

Synopsis: *Australian Environments Fieldwork was undertaken along the Hastings coast and at Dooragan National Park. Primary data was analysed and presented as a Google map using Google Photos and Skitch.*

Teacher: Cheryl Dimmock

The Global Education Fieldwork and Research Award

First place

Georgia Bendall and Sabine Osmotherly, Merewether High School

Synopsis: *Human Rights Abuse due to Globalisation in Bangladesh. A description of the poor living and work conditions of garment workers in Bangladesh with case study on the collapse of the Rona Plaza in Savar.*

Teacher: Cathy Donnelly

Second place

Jonathon Clifford, Melanie Mitrevski and Matthew Russell, Merewether High School

Synopsis: *Women's rights in Afghanistan. An investigation into the abuse of human rights on women caused by various political events.*

Teacher: Cathy Donnelly

Third place

Emily Braga, Amanda de Havilland, Tayla Gabin, Marissa Sarkis and Madeleine Yeaman, Tara Anglican School for Girls

Synopsis: *Humanitarian Aid and Australia's role in assisting those that need help.*

Teacher: Heather Liney

The Dr Don Biddle Issues in Australian Environments Fieldwork Award

First place

Amanda de Havilland, Tara Anglican School for Girls

Synopsis: *To investigate the urban growth in the Camden area. A report based on fieldwork and an analysis of data.*

Teacher: Heather Liney

AWARD
WORTH
DEED

Equal second place

Sophia Berlyn, Calrossy Anglican School

Synopsis: *An investigation into the impact of human activities on the Peel River Catchment.*

Teachers: Sharon Draper and G. Thompson

Equal second place

Kate O’Gorman, Tara Anglican School for Girls

Synopsis: *An investigation into the urban growth in the Camden area. Based on fieldwork and analysis of primary and secondary information.*

Teacher: Heather Liney

Third place

Matthew Taylor, Wyong Christian Community School

Synopsis: *An investigation into the excessive sea grass and algal growth of Tuggerah Lake. The causes and possible solutions.*

Teacher: William Creanor

Highly commended

Ryan Lim, Calrossy Anglican School

Synopsis: *A Research Action Plan exploring damage to land and water resources and the possible solutions.*

Teachers: Jemima Bartlett and Gary Thompson

The Brock Rowe Senior Geography Project Fieldwork Award

First place

Madeleine Roustas, Meriden School

Synopsis: *The Future of Sydney’s train. The SGP explores and investigates the improvements made to trains and stadiums, customer satisfaction levels and future government responses. The strengths of the SGP included the depth of geographical knowledge and understanding, the selection and integration of both primary and secondary sources and the strong conclusions. The evaluation of the aims and hypotheses was equally of a high standard. Spatial analysis overwhelmingly comprehensive.*

Teacher: Claire Kinnane

Second place

Rebecca Pryor, Calrossy Anglican School

Synopsis: *The impact of feral pigs. The SGP is an investigation into the impacts and management of feral pigs on Be- Bara; a farm property near Boggabri in NSW. The research was of a high standard; of particular note was the attention to geographical methodologies such as observations, use of photography and clearly written annotations to support the conclusion and implications of the issue. Comprehensive appendix and professionally presented.*

Teacher: Gary Thompson

Equal third place

Anna Geason, Meriden School

Synopsis: *The SGP explores the impact of the Mungo Scott & Allied Flour Mills development on Summer Hill. This quality research focussed heavily on the use of primary and secondary sources. The conclusions were strong and well supported; these were arguably the strength of the project. The evaluation was deep and conclusive and complimented the project.*

Teacher: Clare Kinnane

Equal third place

Krystina Mullally, Meriden School

Synopsis: This SGP focussed on the Rhodes Community Reference Group. The research was a detailed and had a particular focus on data analysis. The use of primary and secondary data comprehensively supported by the aims and well tested hypotheses. The conclusions were consolidating and clearly linked to the focus area of the task.

Teacher: Clare Kinnane

Dr Maurine Goldston-Morris Civic and Citizenship Award

Ryan Upton, The Hills Grammar School

Synopsis: An excellent SGP that explored the environmental, social + economic changes from the construction of the West Ryde Urban Village. The SGP was well supported by the depth of analysis and compressive use of primary and secondary data. Both fully supporting the aims and hypotheses of the task. The research was professionally presented and fully integrated the materials gathered in the field. Highlighting this detailed research was a clear link to active citizenship. Ryan was able to evoke interest in the issue of lack of car parking to his State Member and the General Manager of Ryde Council. This resulted in a direct response from council to change the parking time from long term to short term parking to enable more turn around.

Teacher: Grace Larobina

Dr Maurine Goldston-Morris Teachers' Award for Excellence

Clare Kinnane of Meriden Anglican School for Girls. Clare has set a high standard for her students regarding the Senior Geography Project. This has inspired several of her students as demonstrated by the breadth and quality of work submitted.

Cathy Donnelly of Merewether High School. Cathy has engaged her students in active participation of Geography and has encouraged high standards of work as demonstrated by the quality and breadth of assessments submitted.



Arthur Phillip Awards Ceremony 2014

HSC MINI-CONFERENCE HUNTER VALLEY

GTA NSW held a very successful Professional Learning activity focused on the Stage 6 Geography Syllabus at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, Hunter Valley, on 19–20 March. Eighty-five teachers from across the state participated.

On the Wednesday evening Susan Caldis, GTA NSW President, provided an update on the *Australian Curriculum: Geography* (Years 7–10). She also provided a session on revitalising the Senior Geography Project and initiated a preliminary discussion on the establishment of a support network for early career HSC Geography teachers.

On the Thursday, Grant Kleeman provided an update on the *Australian Curriculum: Geography* (Senior Years) and topic updates on global tourism and the wine and viticulture industries. He also presented case studies on the global cruise industry and Las Vegas, both of which are featured in this issue of the *Geography Bulletin*.

David Hamper provided a session on Ecosystems at Risk with a focus on the application of environment systems thinking to studies of at risk ecosystems and Nick Hutchinson presented an Urban Places update with a focus on demographic and social change and their impact on urban processes/dynamics. David also conducted a session on collecting and presenting evidence for initial and advanced levels of professional accreditation.

It was great to see so many teachers passionate about the place of Geography in the secondary school. Many reported a growing interest in the subject among students.

REVIEW OF THE AUSTRALIAN CURRICULUM

As AGTA Chair I recently participated in an Australian Curriculum Review consultation meeting with Dr Kevin Donnelly and his secretariat. AGTA also took the opportunity to provide a written submission on behalf of its affiliates. Nick Hutchinson did an excellent job in putting the submission together. Most state and territory affiliates contributed to the final document. We have included a copy of the submission in this issue of the Bulletin for your information.

The Review has been asked to make recommendations regarding ACARA's curriculum development processes with the aim of ensuring that the curriculum is 'balanced' and offers students an appropriate degree of choice and diversity. It has also been asked to report on the content of learning areas, cross curriculum priorities and general capabilities of the Australian Curriculum; and the ongoing monitoring, evaluation and review of curriculum content used by ACARA to ensure independence, rigour and balance in curriculum development.

During our meeting I was specifically asked to comment on whether AGTA was satisfied with the process followed to develop and consult on the Australian Curriculum; any issues raised with ACARA, which were not subsequently addressed; my understanding of a balanced, robust curriculum and how does the *Australian Curriculum: Geography* measure up in this regard; whether the curriculum has the flexibility to address the needs of students during different learning stages; whether I considered the curriculum to be teacher friendly; the extent to which it supports student transition into higher schooling levels; the degree to which it allows choice and diversity; the extent to which the curriculum has been modified and reshaped by individual jurisdictions; and whether the curriculum documents produced by ACARA can be seen to be parent friendly.

Grant Kleeman