

Editorial

Featured in this edition of the *Geography Bulletin* is the GTA's submission to the Draft K–10 NSW Geography Syllabus and three related articles on deserts and desertification by Nick Hutchinson. In the first of these articles, Nick looks at the process of desertification through a variety of lenses. In his second article Nick looks at *Desertification and Environmental Geography*. Nick's central thesis is that geographers should study human uses and abuses of the environment in order to develop and implement more effective conservation and restoration projects. In his third article Nick examines *Desertification and the Social Sciences*. In doing so, he notes that there are several prevailing 'myths' surrounding desertification. Some are expressed as narratives, some as prevailing discourses. Old paradigms have been defended and new paradigms have been developed about desertification.

Also included in this edition is an article by Susan Caldis – *Assessment for Learning in the Geography Classroom*. In the article Susan poses the question whether we can bring about change to reflect evidence-based practice? Susan concludes that the priorities should be a focus on effective planning and organisation by the teacher and on the importance attached to the provision and quality of feedback. She also notes the need to build AfL culture through the provision of professional development opportunities for staff; the need for importance to be placed on the role and implementation of self and peer assessment; and there is a need for importance to be given to the role of student-centred learning and learner autonomy.

Finally, we showcase a new education program – *FastTracking the Future*. The program provides lessons and resources for primary HSIE and secondary Geography teachers. The secondary materials address key topics covered at Stages 4 and 5 concerning community development and change. Both the primary and secondary lessons offer students the opportunity to explore features of planned change in their local area while developing an understanding of what the North West Rail Link will mean for the people and communities of Sydney's North West region. Lessons focus on building geographical literacy skills, engage students with a wide range of sources and scaffold enquiry-based approaches to teaching and learning.

Coming soon! Discover Barangaroo



Discover Barangaroo is an exciting new interactive educational resource developed by Lend Lease, the Australian construction giant responsible for the redevelopment of Barangaroo South. The site will go live in early 2015 and focus on the urban dynamics of urban decay and renewal, environmental and social sustainability, and liveability.



Dr Grant Kleeman, Editor



Barangaroo

Barangaroo is Australia's largest and most ambitious urban renewal project. When complete, more than \$6 billion will have been spent transforming the former container terminal into a vast parkland, a vibrant new entertainment and cultural precinct, and an extension of the city's financial district. More than 23,000 people will work in the precinct and 2,000 will call it home. Millions of Sydneysiders and tourists will visit the area and it will become a focal point for many of Sydney's great celebrations.

Barangaroo also aims to be Australia's first large-scale carbon neutral community and a showcase for environmental and social sustainability.

Barangaroo has three distinct development precincts – the Headland Park at the northern end of the site, Central Barangaroo and Barangaroo South. The 5.7-hectare Headland Park, will host largely recreational and cultural land-uses. Central Barangaroo (5.2 hectares in area) will combine civic and cultural attractions with open space and low-rise commercial and residential land-uses. Barangaroo South will feature high-rise commercial office towers and apartment buildings, a hotel resort complex and a variety of retail outlets, restaurants, cafes and bars.



Barangaroo South

The Barangaroo South development precinct lies at the southern end of the Barangaroo site. At its heart of the precinct will be three office towers to be known as *International Towers Sydney*. The towers will accommodate a new financial and professional services hub for Sydney. The other components of the Barangaroo South include the Crown Hotel and Resort complex, residential apartments, community facilities, retail outlets, restaurants and cafes.



Barangaroo South's International Towers Sydney



Artist's impression – Barangaroo South streetscape



Artist's impression – Barangaroo South's waterfront promenade

Features of the resource

The content of the site is organised into a number of discrete entities. These include:

- An overview of the Barangaroo transformation – its development precincts and features;
- The biophysical environment of Barangaroo – including its location and physical setting and the geomorphology of the Sydney basin;
- Barangaroo's indigenous past;
- The historical geography of Barangaroo and how this reflected changes in the technology of shipping and cargo handling;
- The urban dynamics shaping Sydney with a focus on the impacts of technological, economic and demographic and social change;
- The transformation taking place at Barangaroo South with a focus on the development of the public domain and the commercial elements of the site;
- The strategies pursued to ensure the long-term environmental and social sustainability of the precinct;
- The liveability of cities and how it can be enhanced; and
- The role of Lend Lease in the transformation of Sydney.

Each section of the site includes a diverse range of stimulus material including ground level, oblique and aerial photographs showing change over time; maps; computer generated images indicative of a redeveloped Barangaroo; animated flythroughs; and live webcams and video links.

An activity sheet featuring a comprehensive range of questions and activities, including tasks that promote critical thinking and conceptual enhancement, accompanies each section of the site.

The site's teacher resource includes curriculum mapping for the existing **NSW Geography Syllabus (Stages 4–5 and 6)**, the **NSW Syllabus for the Australian Curriculum – Geography K–10 (Draft)** and the **Australian Curriculum: Geography**. The teacher resource also includes a number of virtual fieldwork activities.

In its totality, the website provides students with an outstanding case study of the processes shaping urban environments.

Dr Grant Kleeman
Editor