



Lorraine Chaffer, Editor

In this second edition of the Geography Bulletin for 2015 the focus is on the Geography classroom. The issue features articles on the use of technology in Geography from Clare Kinane, *Geography in the Reality World*; Patricia Smith and Vanessa Sefton, *Drones: ICT in Action* and Lorraine Chaffer *Integrating Spatial Technologies into the Geography Classroom*. Alexandra Lucas has written about her experience using Detroit as a case study of a large city in the developed world study for HSC Geography.

## Significant Events in Semester 1 2015

### *Dubbo Conference "Geography from the ground up"*

Highlights of the conference included:

- an overview of GIS applications relevant to the Geography classroom with Mick Law from Contour Education, follow-up fieldwork on the Macquarie River and a GIS workshop to map fieldwork data.
- skills workshops presented by Lorraine Chaffer and Dr Grant Kleeman
- the provision of a Stimulus Booklet for the Dubbo Region with questions and answers
- an exam setting / assessment workshop presented by Sharon McLean



*Teachers undertaking fieldwork activities on the Macquarie River, Dubbo*

### *Geography Skills Workshops for Teachers New to the Teaching of Geography*

Workshops on interpreting topographic maps, synoptic charts and climatic graphs were the focus of professional development days held in Parramatta and Potts Point, presented by Lorraine Chaffer and Dr Grant Kleeman. Many participants were inexperienced geographers or with little or no Geography training, keen to develop their own skills and to get advice on teaching those skills to students. Surprisingly, synoptic charts were a bigger challenge for many participants than topographic mapping.

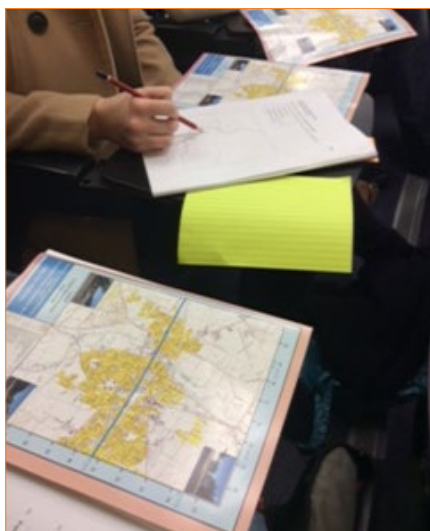
### *HSC Lectures in Wollongong, Sydney and Newcastle*

Over 200 students and 25 teachers attended the HSC lectures organised by Lorraine Chaffer. Many thanks to Susan Caldis (Urban Places), David Hamper (Ecosystems at Risk), Chris Tanna (Skills and Urban Places), Sharon McLean (Skills and exam advice) and Dr Grant Kleeman (People and Economic Activity) who presented lectures across the three venues. Participants journeyed from as far away as Murwillumbah and Bateman's Bay and left with greater confidence and a variety of valuable resources including:

- copies of the presentations
- up to date statistical data and examples
- skills how-to tables with examples and practice questions
- worked answers to all HSC skills questions since 2001
- analysis of past HSC questions
- weblinks to relevant videos and media articles
- excellent advice on how to maximise HSC Geography results.

*"Going to Sydney was the best professional development I have done this year"*

*"I would like to personally thank the GTA and the 4 presenters for an informative and well organised lecture. I am currently teaching Year 11 Geo for the first time in a school that has never taught Geo before which is one crazy but super fun adventure. All four presenters were inspiring, knowledgeable and gave practical and relevant advice for which I'm grateful. Within the first 10 mins I messaged my Head Teacher and told him 'this is already the best!' A huge thank you also for the USB of resources. I can't wait to tell my students about it on Monday and take them with me next year."*



*HSC students at Wollongong University lectures practice important skills*

Collage of materials presented at the HSC Lectures



## Collage of materials presented at the HSC Lectures



## Significant Events in Semester 2 2015

### Release of the NSW K-10 Geography Syllabus in August

For many teachers, the implementation timeline was the most important aspect of the syllabus release at this time.

#### Implementation

**2016** – Familiarisation and planning, optional to teach K–6

**2017** – Start teaching K–6, Years 7 and 9

**2018** – Start teaching Years 8 and 10

GTANSW is planning a professional development conference for Semester 1 2016.

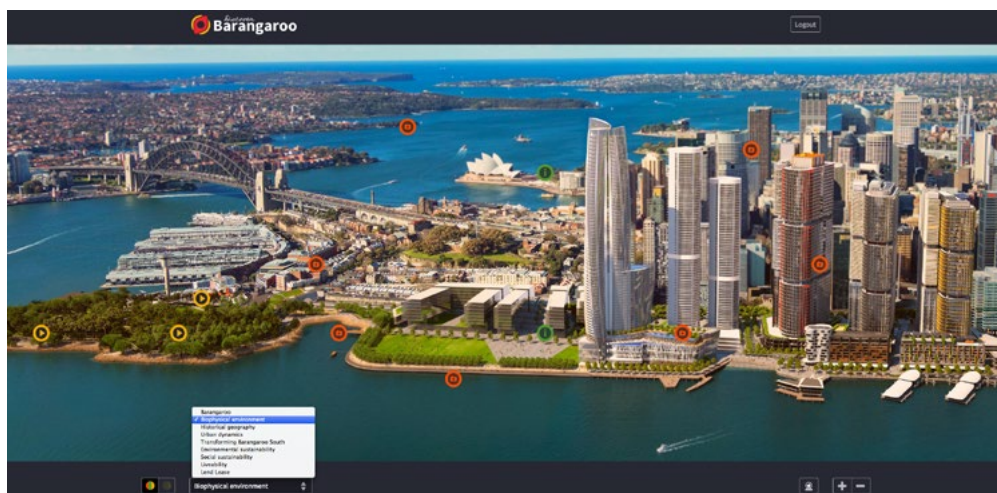
Teachers are advised to familiarise themselves with the syllabus and to start before looking at the large variety of resources that are available during the remainder of 2015.

BOSTES will provide support materials and professional development so watch the website and updates for news.

### Launch of Discover Barrangaroo Learning Portal

This interactive online resource, launched in June provides an in-depth case study about the \$6 billion urban regeneration project, Barrangaroo.





Sample page from the Discover Barrangaroo website:

<http://discoverbarangaroo.com.au>



### iGEO Olympiad

Milton Brown, GTANSW council member is accompanying winners of the Australian Geography Competition to Russia for the iGEO Olympiad. We look forward to Milton's report in the next bulletin. Congratulations to the student winners and to Milton and wish them a wonderful experience.

### GTANSW Annual Conference: Sustainable futures: our place, our subject

The GTANSW Annual Conference will be held on Thursday 5 November 2015 at Novotel Central.

Registration will commence at 8.15am and the conference will open at 8am and conclude at 5.30pm.

The conference theme is 'Sustainable futures: our places, our subject' in the context of the new K-10 Geography syllabus and evidence based best-practice geography teaching methodology

The cost will be \$260 for GTA members and \$300 for non members.

Sessions will be lead by a range of representatives including those from BOSTES, universities, GTANSW Council and World Vision

The conference flyer has been sent to schools and conference details and updates will be posted to the GTA website.

### Condolences

GTA NSW extends its condolences to the family and friends of respected Geography educator and past GTANSW executive member Robyn Greene who passed away in July.

EDITORIAL