

EDITORIAL



Lorraine Chaffer, Editor

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I would like to thank all of those who contributed to the bulletin throughout 2016 and for the current edition. This final edition of the geography Bulletin for 2016 features articles on fieldwork, visual literacy and China. In *The Geography Bulletin* I have summarised material published since 2011 with links to the new Geography Syllabus K- 10 and current HSC syllabus and encourage K- 12 Geography teachers to contribute articles for publication or become actively involved in GTA by becoming a GTA council member.

In *Appreciating the visual in Geography*, Jaye Dunn presents a range of practical activities used at Epping Boys High School to engage students through visual literacy.

Fieldwork is an integral and mandatory part of the study of Geography. *Choosing a suitable fieldwork site* contains advice from the Geospace website, introduced and collated by Lorraine Chaffer. In *Investigating the Quarantine Station*, Susan Caldis demonstrates how to link fieldwork studies to key syllabus concepts and requirements for geographical inquiry when planning fieldwork activities for a unit of work. The example for Stage 1 is easily adapted to other stages.

Two articles on China will assist teachers looking for material to satisfy the Asia Cross Curriculum Priority. In *China: Urbanisation*, Steve Weingarh examines the causes and consequences of urbanisation for the unit Changing Places in Stage 5. Milton Brown's *The legend of the magic wind* relates the story of Milton's introduction to surfing in China and provides inquiry activities to deepen student knowledge and understanding. This article is relevant to Stage 4 Interconnections and Preliminary HSC: Cultural Integration.

Jill Summers from the University of Wollongong is our first contributor to University News with her article *A passion for Geography flourishes at the University of Wollongong* about the new Bachelor of Geography Course starting in 2017.

The resources section showcases books and online resources to support Stages 4 and 5 for the new syllabus recommended by the editor.

2016 a busy year

2016 has been a very busy year for GTANSW Council as outlined in the *President's Report* by Susan Caldis presented at the AGM on 25th October. Susan's report follows this editorial. On behalf of the GTA Council I thank Susan for three years of leadership and hard work that the position of president entails. We look forward to Susan's continued contribution to GTA as Vice president over the coming year.

Susan Caldis also attended the *Professional Teachers' Council NSW Presentation Evening* on 9th November 2016 to see GTA councillors Grace Larobina and John Lewis receive Outstanding Service Awards. The citations for these awards and an insight into the night by Susan follow the Presidents report.

A Big 2017 program

A brief summary of *planned events for 2017*.

- Skills Workshops for Teachers New to Geography (15th, 16th, 17th Feb): 3 Venues TBC
- Annual Conference (9th – 10th March): Sydney Olympic Park
- HSC Student Lectures (6th – 8th June): Three venues TBC
- Regional Conferences (August 3rd & 4th, 10th & 11th, 17th & 18th): Three venues TBC
- HSC Conference for Teachers 2nd – 3rd Nov: Venue TBC

On behalf of the Council of the Geography Teachers Association of NSW I would like to extend our best wishes for Christmas and the New Year to all our members.

Lorraine Chaffer
Editor