

GTANSW Councillors Honoured

PTCNSW Presentation Evening 2016

"On Wednesday 9 November 2016, I had the privilege of attending the Professional Teachers' Council of NSW (PTC NSW) Presentation Evening. In previous years there had been two separate events to recognise the achievements of various groups and individuals within professional associations via the Presidents' Dinner and the Awards Nights. In 2016 the achievements of everyone connected with a professional association were combined into one event, the PTC NSW Presentation Evening held at Doltone House, Hyde Park.

GTANSW had two very worthy nominees accepted for the Outstanding Professional Service to the Association Award: John Lewis and Grace Larobina. The GTANSW Council congratulate John and Grace on their receipt of this award and formally thank them for their sustained contributions to the Association over the years.

Joe Alvaro, Secretary of PTC NSW read the citations and awards were presented by Tom Alegounarias the President of BOSTES



Professor Dame Marie Bashir with Nerina Pretlove

In 2016 Professor Dame Marie Bashir accepted the role of patron for PTC NSW. At the Awards ceremony Professor Bashir joined in the celebrations, delivered an inspirational and encouraging speech and presented the inaugural 2016 Professor Dame Marie Bashir Medal to Nerina Pretlove for her outstanding and sustained commitment to education through her involvement with PTC NSW. Professor Bashir was more than willing to be adopted as a proxy Geographer and celebrate with the GTANSW representatives who were attending the evening". Susan Caldis



Grace Larobina with Tom Alegounarias the President of BOSTES

Grace Larobina: Citation

In recognition of her significant and continuous contribution to the support of Geography teachers and education in NSW through her involvement with the Geography Teachers Association: Grace had been a committee member since 2010 and the key organiser of the Arthur Phillip Fieldwork Awards (marking of projects and presentation ceremony) since 2011. Grace's passion for geography, its teachers and students will ensure her continued involvement on GTANSW Council in 2017 and beyond.

Grace is currently Geography Coordinator at Hills Grammar School and has taught Geography for almost 30 years. Since joining the Geography Teachers Association she has freely and regularly shared her expertise as an HSC Geography marker with regional and metropolitan teachers at the annual HSC Geography in Review event. For five years Grace has organised the Arthur Phillip Awards; this involves liaising with schools across NSW, leading a team of markers

from GTANSW Council to assess the fieldwork projects, providing written feedback to all participants and organising the Award Ceremony. She is a contributing author to a national and NSW focused series of textbooks to support the **Australian Curriculum: Geography**. Grace's experience and esteem within which she is held in the geography teaching community has been reflected through her representative roles for the Association of Independent Schools on BOSTES and ACARA panels related to the development of the Australian Curriculum: Geography. Grace is admired for her calm demeanour, work ethic and attention to detail. GTANSW Council very much value her contribution to the Association and to the teaching of Geography.



John Lewis with Tom Alegounarias the President of BOSTES

John Lewis: Citation

In recognition of his significant and continuous contribution to the support of teachers and education in NSW through the Geography Teachers Association as a long-term committee member: John's passion for Geography, its teachers and students will ensure his continued involvement on GTANSW Council in 2017 and beyond.

John Lewis has been a member of GTANSW Council since 2003. During the past 14 years, John has freely given his time and expertise to support the work of the Association, travelling from the Central Coast of NSW to do so. John provides unending support to GTA's annual events including the Annual Conference, HSC Lecture series, Arthur Phillip Fieldwork Awards (marking and presentation ceremony) and the HSC Review. Preferring to work quietly behind the scenes, John liaises with the Professional Teachers' Council NSW in all matters to do with registration, the coordination of conference resources and awards, function room set up, and meeting and greeting participants at events. He attends Council

meetings regularly, providing a valuable contribution to the agenda, presenting ideas and opinions, locating important information and ensuring important matters are not forgotten. John has assisted GTANSW relocation of premises on several occasions from Leichhardt to Ashfield and then to Lidcombe – each move involving the packing, sorting, relocation and reorganisation of GTA's office and resources.

John's attention to detail, work ethic and good humour have made him a pleasure to work with and the length of time he has fulfilled the role of Councillor, along with his level of involvement is testament to his commitment to the Association overall and the GTANSW Council.

Susan Caldis, John Lewis, Grace and Patrick Larobina

