



Lorraine Chaffer, Editor

EDITORIAL

Welcome to the first edition of the Geography Bulletin for 2017. This edition contains two lengthy articles by Susan Bliss linked to topics in the 7-10 Geography syllabus – *Chocolate* and *Sharks in Hot Soup*. Both articles contain a wealth of information and visuals, links to other sources and a range of teaching activities to engage students in geographical inquiry. In *Teaching out of field: Teachers having to know what they do not know* Susan Caldis examines the dilemma facing many schools, a lack of trained Geography teachers to teach Geography classes.

The **2017 GTANSW Annual Conference** program was developed in response to the results of a survey conducted among participants of the 2016 Annual Conference. The inclusion of over 40 workshops, eight master classes and three keynote addresses reflects the professional learning preferences of teachers in this survey. Sharon McLean has summarised the survey results succinctly in the article *GTANSW Professional Learning Survey 2016*.

The conference flyer and program summary are included in this edition for any teachers wishing to attend. Details of workshops are on the GTANSW website. Registration is online or, if closed, by contacting GTA by phone to see if places are available.

Supporting K–6 teachers

A special effort has been made to provide workshops for primary teachers on Thursday 9th March. Supporting our primary colleagues and building networks between primary and secondary Geography teachers is an ongoing priority for GTANSW in 2017.

An inclusive event

The *HSC Exam Review*, *2016 HSC High Achievers Awards* and *Arthur Phillip Fieldwork Awards* have been incorporated into the conference program after a successful trial in 2016.

Sponsorship

In 2017, GTANSW are grateful for the support of the following conference sponsors

- UrbanGrowth NSW (Platinum sponsor)
- Sydney Olympic Park Authority (Bronze sponsor)
- The Murray Darling Basin Authority (Bronze sponsor)
- Magabala Books.



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Sponsorship has enable GTANSW to

- reduce registration costs from previous years
- obtain a range of experienced and engaging presenters from across Australia
- provide participants with a copy of the *Geography Skills Unlocked* book produced by the Australian Geography Teachers Association

- provide generous bursaries and scholarship to assist teachers wishing to attend the conference. These are the **Urban Growth Conference Bursary** for Primary Teachers, **GTANSW Conference Bursary** and the **Murray Darling Basin Conference Scholarship**.

UrbanGrowth has worked with GTANSW to secure **Dr Chris Sarra**, a renowned educator and founder of the Stronger Smarter program to open the conference. Quite a coup.

Conference Exhibitors

The 2017 conference will have a wide range of exhibitors to support the new K–10 Geography Syllabus. These include:

Publishers

- Macmillan
- Cambridge
- Jacaranda
- Oxford
- Pearson and
- Five Senses Education

Government and Non Government Organisations

- Primary Industries Education Foundation Australia(FIEFA)
- UrbanGrowth NSW
- Murray Darling Basin (MDBA)
- Sydney Water
- Mulloon Institute
- Didi Foundation Inc.
- Cool Australia
- The Big Issue
- Oxfam
- Aboriginal Education Consultative Group (AECG)
- Tribal Warriors
- Bookminders (HSC Resources)

Experts in spatial technologies and fieldwork

- Contour Education
- NSW Environmental and Zoo Education Centres (EZEC's)
- Sydney Olympic Park
- Action Learning Initiatives



Online registration [HERE](#) before 6.00pm Wednesday 1 March

Other professional learning opportunities offered by GTANSW in 2017 will include

- Webinars (accredited hours)
- Regional Conferences
- Skills Workshops
- HSC Teachers Conference
- HSC editions of the *Geography Bulletin* in late Semester 1 and Semester 2

In an effort to increase GTANSW's online presence Sharon McLean, GTANSW Vic President has organised two webinars for term 1. The first webinar, *Information Technology for the NSW Geography Curriculum* with Clare Kinnane on February 21st, was highly successful. The second *Developing a Summative Assessment task* with Sharon McLean is on February 28th.

The **HSC Student lectures** will continue as in previous years at three venues (Sydney, Newcastle and Wollongong) in June. Efforts will continue to bring support to HSC students across regional NSW where feasible.

Building networks 2017 and beyond

GTANSW is increasing efforts to build stronger networks to other Geography education providers during 2017 and beyond. Already this year, as GTANSW president, I have attended the Environmental and Zoo Education Centres Conference (EZEC's) in Bowral and worked with the National Parks and Wildlife teacher Lee Middleton in Byron Bay. Adjusting fieldwork programs to better reflect the new Geography K–10 Syllabus and developing pre and post fieldwork activities were among the presentations and discussions. With other GTANSW members I have also worked with UrbanGrowth NSW and Sydney Olympic Park to secure sponsorship and develop partnerships that are mutually beneficial to teachers and enable greater teacher input into programs developed for teachers by these organisations.

Establishing stronger links with universities is another priority area. This will help teachers and students make the link between school Geography, university courses and careers.

Lorraine Chaffer
GTANW President

Right: Lee Middleton with one of the colourful banners used in the NPWS programs at Byron Bay

