

## IT'S ON – THE 2017 AUSTRALIAN GEOGRAPHY COMPETITION ENTRIES ARE NOW OPEN, CLOSING 1 MARCH

Established in 1995, the Australian Geography Competition encourages young Australians to pursue excellence in geographical fields. More than 66,000 students from over 670 schools entered the Competition last year. The Competition is organized by the Australian Geography Teachers' Association and the Royal Geographical Society of Queensland.



This year, the Competition will be held in schools between 26 April and 9 May. Students from Year 7 or younger to Year 12 can take part in this national geographical challenge.

Outstanding Year 11 students are in the running for a place in Australia's team to the International Geography Olympiad (iGeo) to be held in Quebec City, Canada, in 2018.

Two Year 11 students, female and male, from each state and the combined territories will be selected to take part in Geography's Big Week Out (GBWO) – an intensive six-day residential program with challenging geographical activities. "Geography's Big Week Out was an amazing experience! If you have the opportunity to participate in the Australian Geography Competition and you receive a place in the Big Week Out, I assure you that the opportunity is one not to be missed!", said one

of the students at the 2016 Geography's Big Week Out.

The 2017 GBWO will be hosted by the Geography Teachers' Association of SA on Kangaroo Island, later this year.

From that event, Australia's team for the 2018 International Geography Olympiad will be chosen. This year, four students from the 2016 GBWO will represent Australia in Belgrade, Serbia. At the 2016 event, in Beijing, China, the four Australian students took out the top spot ahead of teams from 44 nations in this highly contested international challenge.

Margaret McIvor, Australian Team Leader at the 2016 iGeo, said that "this result reinforces the value of our geography curriculum in teaching students to understand, analyze and evaluate information".

"The Australian and international competitions help enthuse students about geography, and we need young people to want to study geography. The structured way of understanding the world that geography gives us is vital if we are to develop innovative responses to issues such as climate change, food security, land degradation or population shifts," said Bernard Fitzpatrick, the Competition Coordinator.

"Aligned with the Australian Curriculum: Geography, the Competition questions address both local and global geographical challenges. Plus, according to their teachers, students actually enjoy it", added Mr Fitzpatrick.

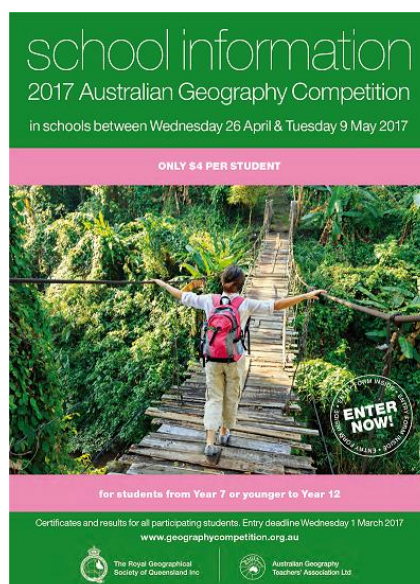
The top 10 schools in Australia will be announced and the top school in each state and combined territories will receive a prize.

All costs of participation in the GBWO and iGeo are covered by the organizers and Competition supporters – the Australian Department of Education and Training and the University of Queensland School of Earth and Environmental Sciences.

Look out for the Information brochures which have been posted to all secondary schools around the country.

To find out more and to enter, visit <http://www.geographycompetition.org.au/>.

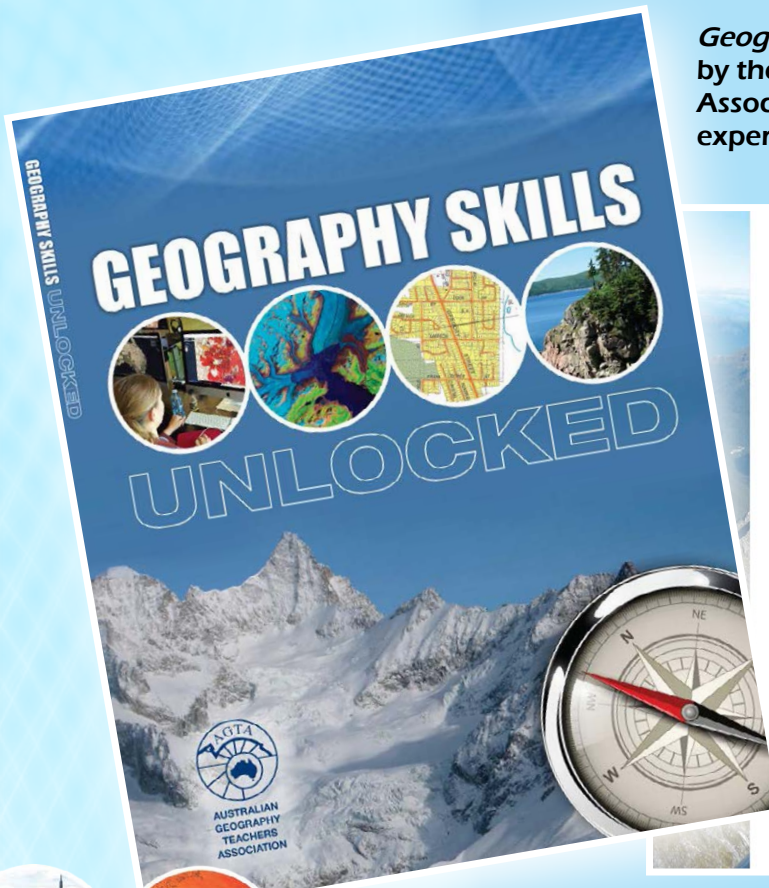
Bernard Fitzpatrick, [competition@rgsq.org.au](mailto:competition@rgsq.org.au).



## AGTA ANNOUNCES AN ESSENTIAL NEW GEOGRAPHY RESOURCE

# Geography Skills Unlocked is an exciting new skills book for Australian secondary schools

*Geography Skills Unlocked* is published by the Australian Geography Teachers Association and written by a team of experienced Geography teachers.



## Contents

### Preface

#### 1 Inquiring, questioning, investigating

Inquiring  
Investigating in geography  
What kinds of inquiries do geographers make?  
The links between inquiries and skills

#### 2 Geographic inquiry – the stages

Observing, questioning and planning  
Collecting, recording, evaluating and representing  
Interpreting, analysing and concluding  
Communicating  
Reflecting and responding  
Organising data in an inquiry  
Mind mapping  
Concept diagrams

#### 3 Thinking Skills

A list of thinking skills  
A classification of skills  
A hierarchy of thinking skills  
Creative thinking  
Future thinking  
Thinking skills in inquiry

#### 4 The elements of maps

Map symbols  
Direction and bearings  
Scale  
Distance  
Locating features with grid coordinates  
Latitude and longitude  
Time zones

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Atlas maps  
Dot maps  
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Proportional symbol maps  
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Conceptual representations

#### 6 Digital Maps

Geospatial technologies  
Processes of digital maps  
The future of digital maps

#### 7 Working with topographic maps

Topographic maps as tools  
Representing topography  
Relief and gradient  
Locating features  
Measuring distance and area  
Cross-sections  
Mileage – how useful is it?  
Costs – what's the story?  
City layout – what's the story?  
Coastal features – what's the story?  
Other geographical maps

#### 8 Working with photographs

Photos as tools  
Ground photos  
Aerial photos  
Use of aerial photographs

#### 9 Working with statistics and graphs

Taken and graphs as tools  
Bar charts  
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Cumulative line graphs

#### 10 Working with diagrams

Diagrams as tools  
Spatial diagrams  
Population pyramids  
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Flow diagrams  
Conceptual diagrams  
Flow diagrams  
Conceptual diagrams

#### 11 Using technology

Techniques as tools  
The internet  
Geospatial technologies  
Applications of spatial technologies  
The future of geographic tools  
A technoscape in action

#### 12 Fieldwork

A feedback action plan

#### 13 Using visual field trips

Importance of fieldwork

#### 14 Putting inquiry and skills together

Developing and evaluating multiple questions  
Using inquiry and skills  
Areas of inquiry for 100% in the Australian Curriculum: Geography

## KEY FEATURES:

- ➔ Contents aligned to the inquiry and skills-based requirements of *Australian Curriculum: Geography*
- ➔ An engaging, easy to navigate design
- ➔ A student friendly approach with step-by-step explanations, descriptions and worked examples
- ➔ A focus on emerging technologies used to gather, analyse and present geographical data
- ➔ *GeoSkills* and *GeoInquiry* activities that scaffold student learning
- ➔ A wealth of stimulus material including a diverse range of maps, graphs, aerial photographs, satellite images, diagrams and photographs
- ➔ Examples drawn from each Australian state and territory with additional international material
- ➔ Key terms explained in embedded glossary boxes

*Geography Skills Unlocked* will be published mid 2016 and will be available for purchase via the AGTA website: [www.agta.asn.au/Products](http://www.agta.asn.au/Products)

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Membership is for twelve months commencing in January. A reminder notice will be sent in December.

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The Geography Teachers' Association of NSW respects your privacy. Any data collected is for the purpose of membership registration and communicating with you.

# ADVICE TO CONTRIBUTORS

## Editorial policy attempts to:

- promote material which will assist the study and teaching of geography
- encourage teachers to share their ideas on teaching geography
- provide a means by which teachers can publish articles
- inform readers of developments in geographical education

Articles are sought reflecting research and innovations in teaching practices in schools. From time to time issues of the Bulletin address specific themes.

## Refereeing

All suitable manuscripts submitted to the Geography Bulletin are subject to the process of review. The authors and contributors alone are responsible for the opinions expressed in their articles and while reasonable checks are made to ensure the accuracy of all statements, neither the editor nor the Geography Teachers' Association of New South Wales Inc accepts responsibility for statements or opinions expressed herein.

## Books for review should be sent to:

The GTA NSW Council  
PO Box 699  
Lidcombe NSW 1825

## Editions

There are four bulletins each year – two published each semester.

## Notice to Advertisers

'Geography Bulletin' welcomes advertisements concerning publications, resources, workshops, etc. relevant to geography education.

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1. **Objective:** The Geography Bulletin is the quarterly journal of the New South Wales Geography Teachers' Association, Inc. The role of the Geography Bulletin is to disseminate up-to-date geographical information and to widen access to new geographic teaching ideas and methods. Articles of interest to teachers and students of geography in both secondary and tertiary institutions are invited, and contributions of factually correct, informed analyses, and case studies suitable for use in secondary schools are particularly welcomed.
2. **Content:** Articles, not normally exceeding 5000 words (no minimum specification), should be submitted to the GTANSW Office [gta.admin@ptc.nsw.edu.au](mailto:gta.admin@ptc.nsw.edu.au) or by mail to: **PO Box 699, Lidcombe, NSW 1825** who will forward to the editor: Submissions can also be sent directly to the editor: Lorraine Chaffer ([lchaffer@tpg.com.au](mailto:lchaffer@tpg.com.au))  
Articles are welcomed from tertiary and secondary teachers, students, business and government representatives. Articles may also be solicited from time to time. Articles submitted will be evaluated according to their ability to meet the objectives outlined above.
3. **Format:** Digital submission in Word format. Tables should be on separate pages, one per page, and figures should be clearly drawn, one per page, in black on opaque paper suitable for reproduction. Photographs should be in high resolution digital format. An indication should be given in the text of approximate location of tables, figures and photographs. Every illustration needs a caption. Photographs, tables and illustrations sourced from the internet must acknowledge the source and have a URL link to the original context.
4. **Title:** The title should be short, yet clear and descriptive. The author's name should appear in full, together with a full title of position held and location of employment.
5. **Covering Letter:** As email with submitted articles. If the manuscript has been submitted to another journal, this should be stated clearly.
6. **Photo of Contributor:** Contributors may enclose a passport-type photograph and a brief biographical statement as part of their article.
7. **References:** References should follow the conventional author-date format:  
Abbott, B. K. (1980) *The Historical and Geographical Development of Muswellbrook* Newcastle: Hunter Valley Press.  
Harrison, T. L. (1973a) *Railway to Jugiong* Adelaide: The Rosebud Press. (2nd Ed.)  
Harrison, T. L. (1973b) The Spatial Distribution of Macadamia Plantations on the Far North Coast of New South Wales, *Journal of Rural and Agricultural Problems*, 13, 4, Oct. pp. 347–359.  
O'Donovan, M. J., *et. al.* (1980) "Animal life in the North Star District of New South Wales". In W.W. Murphy, (Ed.) *Readings in Regional Geography (Vol. 2)*, Sydney: Williams and Sons.
8. **Spelling** should follow the Macquarie Dictionary, and Australian place names should follow the Geographical Place Names Board for the appropriate state.





The  
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