



Lorraine Chaffer, Editor

EDITORIAL

Many thanks to those who contributed articles for this edition.

- ***A river is a person*** by Dr Susan Bliss has contemporary relevance for Stage 4 Landscapes and Landforms and Stage 5 Environmental Change & Management.
- ***Where is the "G" in STEM?*** by Louise Swanson examines links between STEM subjects and Geography using examples from NSW schools.
- ***In Place and Liveability: Some teaching ideas*** I have provided some different approaches to introducing this interesting topic in Stage 4.
- For primary teachers ***Discover, Share, Create*** examines place based outdoor learning at the Blue Mountains Botanical Gardens Mount Tomah.
- ***Visual Literacy*** by Dr Susan Bliss highlights the importance of visual resources to geographical inquiry.

Historical reflections

One of my self-appointed roles as president of GTANSW for 2017 was to record information on the early history of GTANSW.

Using documents loaned to me by renowned Geographer Dr. Don Biddle I am including two articles that examine the formation of GTANSW and a history of Geography teaching in NSW. ***Reflections on Geography in Schools*** was written by Dr. Biddle. This was Don's address to the Awards ceremony for the Geography Fieldwork Awards in 2001 and is a timely piece considering the current implementation of the new Geography Syllabus K–10 in 2017 and the recent Arthur Phillip Fieldwork Awards Ceremony at the GTA Annual Conference. ***Belated 80th Birthday GTANSW*** gives some insight into the formation and changing roles of GTANSW over the past 80 years.

Annual Conference

The GTANSW Annual Conference was held at Sydney Olympic Park on March 9th and 10th, 2017.

A big thank you goes to those involved in organisation and administration; the presentation of keynote addresses, masterclasses and workshops and the display of Geography related products and services. The success of the conference can be attributed to many people working together to promote the teaching of Geography in schools. Special thanks must go to the hard working GTANSW Councillors making up the conference committee – Sharon McLean, Grace Larobina, John Lewis, Catherine Donnelly, Milton Brown and Paul Alger, without whom I could not have coordinated a program that contained three keynote addresses, eight masterclasses, 49 workshops, a 2016 HSC review event and an Awards Ceremony. Bernadette Motulalo and Jill Sillar from the Professional Teachers' Council also deserve special credit for their administration of the event and preparation of support materials such as award certificates, flyers and programs.



Luke Peel and Dr. John Broughton presenting at the Mulloon Institute workshop on landscape rehydration and sustainable agriculture. Photos L Chaffer





Ready for a big day at the GTANSW 2017 Annual Conference

Conference presentations online

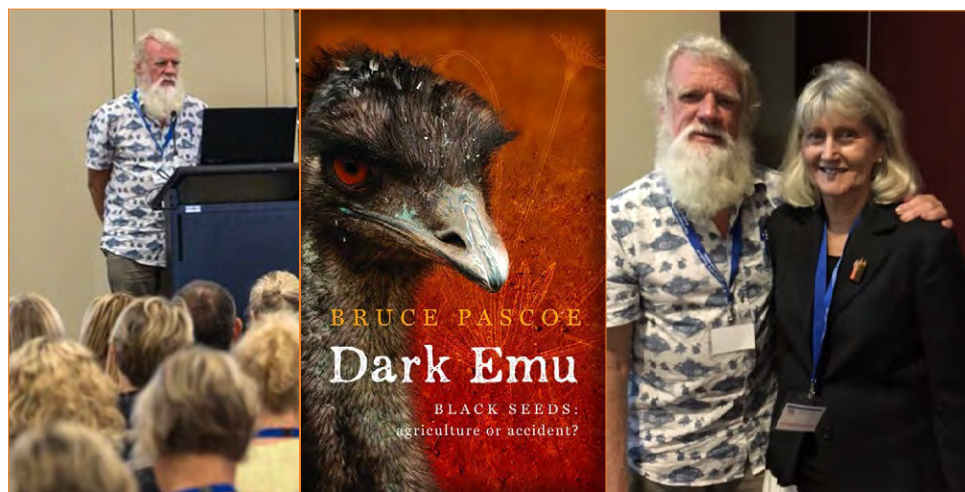
Presentations from the conference are available to all GTANSW members through links on the GTANSW website homepage.

Video recordings of the eight masterclasses, as well as access to other conference presentations, are available to conference delegates via a code sent by email.

Conference sponsorship

This year GTANSW was fortunate to gain sponsorship from UrbanGrowth NSW, Sydney Olympic Park, The Murray Darling Basin Authority and Magabala books. This sponsorship covered the costs of releasing teachers from schools to present workshops and enabled GTANSW to bring presenters from interstate and increase the number of workshops and exhibitors at the conference.

Magabala Books sponsorship facilitated the attendance of author Bruce Pascoe who presented a workshop on his research findings into Aboriginal pre-colonial landuse. Bruce made himself available in a "Meet the author" session during morning tea.



GTANSW President Lorraine Chaffer with Dark Emu author Bruce Pascoe.. Photo L Chaffer

EDITORIAL



**Urban
Growth
NSW**

SydneyOlympicPark 



Australian Government



Sponsorship also supported the attendance of five Geography teachers by covering registration, travel and accommodation expenses through a bursary and scholarship application process. Thank you **UrbanGrowth NSW** for providing a bursary to three primary teachers from Sydney – Rebecca Pierpoint from Waverley Public School, Vanessa Simpson from the Sydney Japanese School and Amber Fuller from Harbord Public School.

Fiona Nicholson from Karabar Distance Education Centre and Averil Keen from Dubbo School of Distance Education attended the conference with the support of the **Murray Darling Basin Scholarship** for teachers within the Murray Darling Basin.

GTANSW also provided two bursaries to individual GTA members. Tiffeny Cox from East Lismore and Betty Steele-Smith from Cundletown were the successful applicants.

All bursary and scholarship winners were most grateful for the opportunity to attend the 2017 Conference to enhance their teaching of the new Geography Syllabus K–10. We look forward to reading their feedback in the coming editions of the bulletin.



Belinda Thompson, Schools and TAFE Manager UrbanGrowth NSW with bursary winners Rebecca Pierpoint, Vanessa Simpson and Amber Fuller. Photo B. Thompson:

Awards Ceremonies

This year four awards ceremonies were held in one event during the conference. Many thanks go to Grace Larobina for her organisation.

- 2016 HSC Top Achievers Awards for students and their teachers
- Arthur Philip Awards for students
- Life Membership Awards for outstanding contributions to GTANSW Council.
- GTANSW Geoff Conolly Award for contributions to the Geography Bulletin

The program and citations for these awards can be found within this Bulletin.

COMING EVENTS

GTANSW has several events planned for 2017

These include:

- Two WEBINARS per term – following two successful webinars held in Term 1. Thanks to Sharon McLean for her work on this initiative.
- HSC Student lectures in June for Wollongong, Sydney and Newcastle. These events will be organised by Catherine Donnelly and Susan Caldis.

Dates to be confirmed.

- Skills workshops later in the year organised by Dr. Grant Kleeman
- HSC Conference for teachers in term 4.
- Regional conferences
- Arthur Phillip Fieldwork Competition

Lorraine Chaffer

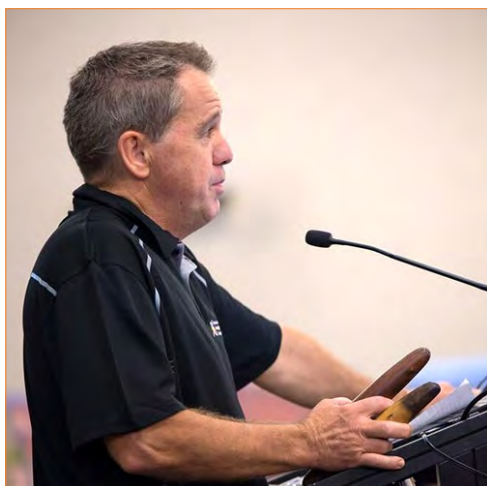
GTANSW President & Editor



UrbanGrowth NSW's Sharyn Lindtner



Lorraine Chaffer welcoming delegates to the conference opening address



Dave Lardner from AECG gives the Acknowledgement of Country



Sharon McLean opening the awards ceremony

EDITORIAL