



Brock Rowe Award 2019

Presented to Glen Halliday,
Observatory Hill Environmental
Education Centre

The Brock Rowe Award, an annual award for excellence in teaching geography in schools, is granted jointly by the Councils of the Geography Teachers' Association of NSW & ACT (GTANSW & ACT) and the Geographical Society of New South Wales Inc. (GSNSW), biennially, to persons who have demonstrated consistently, over a period, excellence in the teaching of geography in schools. Our congratulations to Glen Halliday from Observatory Hill Environmental Education Centre, a worthy recipient of the 2019 Brock Rowe Award.

Award citation

Glen Halliday has been an inspiration to many teachers and students of Geography from regional and metropolitan New South Wales, across primary and secondary stages of schooling.

For almost two decades, Glen has led and modelled change in the development of teaching practice, resources, and fieldwork focused case-studies at Observatory Hill Environmental Education Centre. Within the last five years, Glens' excellence in the teaching of Geography has been acknowledged through his promotion from Teacher to Principal of the Centre, and through his active involvement in multiple programs across the network of Environmental and Zoo Education Centres including leading teacher professional learning around Sustainability and mentoring students who are participating in Environmental Leadership workshops.

Glen has a deep knowledge about the processes which shape the urban environment, and he actively seeks to extend this understanding through his personal interest in history and civic responsibility evidenced by a love of visiting museums and art exhibitions, participating in community round-table discussions, and engaging in dialogue with government, community and business stakeholders. Glen draws on his knowledge and experience to purposefully construct and build on student and teacher understanding about the real-world urban context, and in so doing brings urban environments to life by emphasising the importance of perspective and encouraging the development of a personal appreciation for individual and collective roles in shaping the physical urban surrounds and sense of community. Glen also focuses on extending student and teacher understanding about urban environments through the development of meaningful and authentic fieldwork which utilises a range of geographic tools and skills, industry experts, and literacy and numeracy strategies. The Stage 6 Geography case-studies of Pyrmont, Green Square and Barangaroo are exemplar models of the rich learning experiences and set of supporting resources that Glen has developed throughout his time at Observatory Hill Environmental Education Centre.

Glen generously and regularly shares his knowledge through school and classroom visits, presentations at GTANSW and CoLab conferences, and through collaboration and research across Science, History and Technology learning areas to develop Kindergarten to Year 12 active learning, in-the-field experiences.

Amongst his peers, Glen is known for his ability to adapt programs to cater for a diverse range of students and teachers. He is highly regarded within the community of Geography teachers and has consistently demonstrated excellence in the teaching of Geography across a variety of contexts.

Congratulations to Glen Halliday, Principal of Observatory Hill Environmental Education Centre, a worthy recipient of the 2019 Brock Rowe Award.



Geoff Conolly Award 2018

Presented to Lynne Acworth,
for her meritorious contribution
to the GTA NSW & ACT *Geography
Bulletin*, Vol 50 Issue 4 2018

Article entitled: An Australian NGO:
The Catherine Hamlin Fistula Hospital

Lynne recently returned from a visit to Ethiopia to visit
the Catherine Hamlin Fistula Foundation.



Above: Lynne with patients

'I was struck by the friendliness of the patients and it was easy to forget the trauma they had faced and most probably the death of their baby. They were so grateful for everything that was done to heal them and enthusiastically posed for photographs. We heard from the Acting CEO that there is a clear vision for the future, including an extension to the hospital building which has already been started. There was a class in progress where patients were being taught how to make bags for sale in the hospital shop. It was here that we bought so many of the patients' handmade products, which included pottery, embroidered cloth and scarves.

At the rehabilitation centre, Desta Mender, we learnt of the impressive program whereby longer-term patients are helped to put together a business plan and receive a one-off grant. They are mentored and have continuing support with their venture. The practicalities of restoring their dignity were inspirational.

Perhaps the most heart wrenching yet heart-warming visit was to a rural clinic. These clinics are government owned but now over sixty are staffed by a Hamlin midwife. There were two mattresses in the labour waiting area. In the main clinic, two beds, a birthing bed, no running water and only rudimentary medicine. Yet there was a woman who had given birth the day before and needed intervention with a vacuum suction machine. The fact that she was attended by a Hamlin midwife and that the instrument had been bought by Hamlin probably saved the life of her baby and prevented an obstetric fistula.'

Lynne Acworth



Above: Student midwives