

FROM THE 2019 ANNUAL CONFERENCE



Lorraine Chaffer, President GTANSW & ACT

I am very happy to report on the success of the GTANSW & ACT 2019 Annual Conference. This is the largest event in the GTA calendar each year made possible through many hours of hard work by GTA NSW & ACT Council volunteers and the Professional Teachers Council NSW (PTC NSW) administration. The venue at ANZ Stadium provided opportunities not available at previous venues as well as room for an increased variety of trade displays, many new for 2019. For the first time there were THREE EVENTS within the 2-day conference program, The Place of Geography two day 7–12 Conference, the Primary Twilight Workshop and the Awards Ceremony.

To our conference sponsors a big thank you for your generous financial support and contribution to the trade display and conference presentations. Sponsorship made it possible to invite presenters from across Australia including Keynote speakers Anika Molesworth (Broken Hill) and Dr. Karen Joyce (Townsville), TAFE NSW (Wagga), The Mulloon Institute (Braidwood) and Contour Education (Brisbane). Full and part day immersion courses such as Drones in Geography, A Day in the life of a Geospatial Scientist and The Mulloon Institute were made possible through sponsorship.

- GOLD sponsor LANDCOM
- BRONZE sponsor Sydney Olympic Park
- BRONZE sponsor NSW National Parks and Wildlife
- BRONZE sponsor Mobile Muster
- Teacher Scholarship sponsor Selective Tours.



Creating more affordable
and sustainable communities



Sydney Olympic Park



Selective Tours

FROM THE 2019 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Finally, a big thank you to all of the presenters who made for an interesting and varied program with a lot of choice for participants with 5 or 6 options in each session.

A special thank you to the presenters and participants who attended the Primary Twilight Workshop on Monday afternoon and the Awards ceremony on Tuesday.

Feedback from participants clearly showed appreciation for the selection of Keynote speakers on Monday and the Innovation and Sustainability panel on Tuesday. It is clear that NSW Geography teachers like listening to and discussing with practicing classroom teachers.



Tuesday's Innovation and Sustainability Panel. Presenters from the left Professor Alex McBratney (Sydney University and Sydney Institute of Agriculture), Dr. Maria Vozzo (Macquarie University) and SIMS, Dr. Louise Crabtree (University of Western Sydney and Hack4cities) and Cara Bingham (Landcom).

Feedback has been mostly very positive with an average score of 4.5 out of 5 on the venue, organisation, program, presentations and workshops.

A selection of participant highlights:

- The Welcome to Country and the two keynote speakers.
- Having a long time to learn some skills rather than only 1 hour sessions
- Keynotes and networking with colleagues
- One day sessions. In the past I have got a lot from the conference but then found it difficult to implement back at school. By focusing on one thing for the day (spatial technologies), I got a lot cemented in my mind and am planning to incorporate it next term.
- The AR/VR workshop was excellent – I could do that workshop easily for a whole day
- All the presenters on both days were excellent,
- The range of presenters and the workshops plus the addition of the get together opportunity at night (bar and restaurant) – nice to network socially as well
- The Sydney Water workshop was excellent in delivery, content and relevance. Louise is to be commended on her knowledge and ability to engage the audience as well providing practical ideas that can easily be transferred to the classroom.
- Flying Drones and learning how to incorporate them into our Geography Programs
- The full day Drone workshop was an excellent mix of information and practical
- Natural sequence farming presentation – The Mulloon Institute
- Keep up the good work and creatively seeking experts in the field and great workshops- the variety from year to year has been amazing and keeps it engaging and challenging.
- Meeting other teachers and gaining new skills and gathering and sharing resources

Suggestions for improvement

- Perhaps provide more networking opportunities to enable teachers to meet other teachers from their regions. As a first time attendee, from regional NSW I found it difficult to find the other regional teachers.
- More of the day long programs.
- Have some repeat workshops as I can only attend on the one day.
- Maybe move to an easily accessible location like Parramatta. Public transport to Homebush is hideous.
- More teachers presenting on what they are doing in class.
- During the Panel Q & A, could you have a microphone so the audience can hear the questions.
- No improvement necessary. Continue with a mix of presenters for a variety of interests
- Perhaps a resource swap or round tables to discuss successes and challenges of 7-10 concepts, topics and case studies.
- It would be helpful if the entrance was near the station and bus stops.
- Parking to be provided.

All suggestions will be considered when planning the 2020 conference.

FROM THE 2019 ANNUAL CONFERENCE



In the full day Immersion program run by TAFE NSW, Drones in Geography, participants learned to fly drones within ANZ stadium.



Luke Peel from The Mulloon Institute discussing Regenerative Farming, one of the very popular sessions

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

Anika Molesworth (Farmers for Climate Action)
"Cultivating bright futures"

As a farmer, Anika Molesworth understands many challenges facing farmers including increasing populations, ecosystem degradation and climate change. She is a passionate advocate for sustainable farming, environmental conservation and climate change action. Anika's achievements to date are admirable, including:

- 2015 Young Farmer of the Year,
- 2017 NSW Finalist for Young Australian of the Year, and most recently...
- The 2018 NSW Young Achiever Award for Environment and Sustainability
- Founder of Farmers for Climate Action and the platform Climate Wise Agriculture
- Manager of the International National Trusts Organisation's Sustainable Farms program

Feedback from participants:

- Great engaging speaker, encouraging to see the future generation as passionate about the future as we are
- Really excellent. So many good links with different parts of the curriculum.
- She was fantastic and inspiring, I hope to link in somehow with her organisation when I next teach Year 9 Sustainable Biomes
- Excellent, really found this interesting and engaging
- I loved this! Anika was an engaging speaker and I would love to have her speak to our students!

To learn more:

- Watch Anika's conference keynote presentation "Cultivating bright futures" using this link – <https://vimeo.com/334800840>
- Read the article in this edition 'Farming on thin ice'
- Visit the Farmers for climate Action website <https://www.farmersforclimateaction.org.au>



Anika Molesworth sees a positive future for Australian agriculture if climate changes is addressed.

Den Barber (Koori Country Firesticks)
"Aboriginal Cultural Burning"

Koori Country Firesticks Aboriginal Corporation (KCFSAC) strongly believe that the revival of Aboriginal Cultural Burning knowledge and practices can help us address some of the issues and threats that wildfires present in South East Australia. They believe that considering a community driven model that is founded on Aboriginal culture, knowledge and traditional practice has many multi layered benefits for both Country and people. In his presentation Den Barber explored what the term cultural fire actually means and how it may be incorporated into contemporary land and bushfire management practices.

FROM THE 2019 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Feedback from participants:

- Loved it – so much I didn't know – gave me info readily applicable to my classes.
- So interesting to see this in practice- I think we need to be more actively involved in supporting this on a national level so that the cultural knowledge is not lost.
- Den was amazing, he has already helped me with fine tuning my stage 6 management strategies in EAR.
- Great to see more discussion about cultural burning. Also fantastic to hear language
- Interesting.
- A fascinating talk!
- I liked this as it another example of how aboriginal knowledge can be used to solve today's issues
- Such an insightful presentation from a passionate speaker. The information he (Den) could provide on the actual process particularly the after fire effects was very insightful.
- Great to see aboriginal customary practices having such a positive impact on communities. I'm using in class already.

To learn more:

- Watch Den's conference keynote presentation "Aboriginal Cultural Burning" using this link <https://vimeo.com/334800905>
- Visit the Koori Country Firesticks website www.kooricountryfiresticks.com.au/home.html



Den Barber after a 'cool burning' event in NSW.
(Source: Den Barber PPT Presentation GTA NSW & ACT Website)



Participants coding devices to fly micro-drones over a disaster zone in the She Maps semi-immersion session by Dr. Karen Joyce.

Dr Karen Joyce (She Maps and James Cook University)

Dr Joyce gave the careers presentation "*The place of Geography in past, present and future careers*" and the practical workshop "*A Day in the life of a Geospatial Scientist*" in which participants learned how to fly micro drones and discuss how to incorporate drones into Geography classroom practice.

Dr Joyce has a PhD in Geographical Sciences (University of Queensland) where she focused on mapping live coral cover using remote sensing. Using her geographical and remote sensing expertise, Karen has worked in the Australian Army, developed models to map recreation opportunities across New Zealand's conservation estate, and integrated remote sensing into all phases of the disaster management cycle. She is heavily involved in integrating drone technology into remote sensing practice and tries to find ways to use remote sensing to make mapping easier. Karen is a Senior Lecturer in Remote Sensing and GIS at James Cook University in Cairns as well as the founder and Education Director of She Maps.

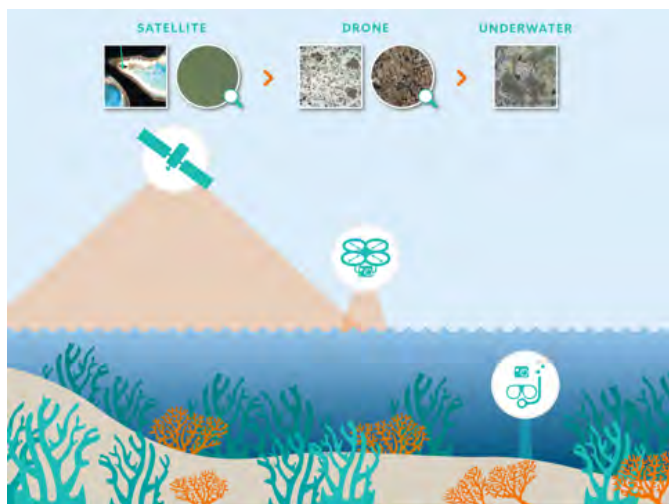
Feedback:

- I'm using in class already.
- Excellent, I amassed resources for the classroom
- Karen did a great job showing how drones are beneficial to geography, but the importance of data analysis and how geography relates to many careers.
- Interesting to find out more about 'She Maps' and how Karen is using drones for research as well as encouraging students in the classroom.
- Excellent
- Made me wish I could go back to Uni!
- Some great skills that students will be able to use.

To learn more:

- Watch Karen's Careers presentation using this link <https://vimeo.com/334800986>
- Read the report on "*A Day in the life of a Geospatial Scientist*" in this edition
- Visit the She Maps website <https://shemaps.com> and undertake online professional learning for integrating drones into the curriculum.

FROM THE 2019 ANNUAL CONFERENCE



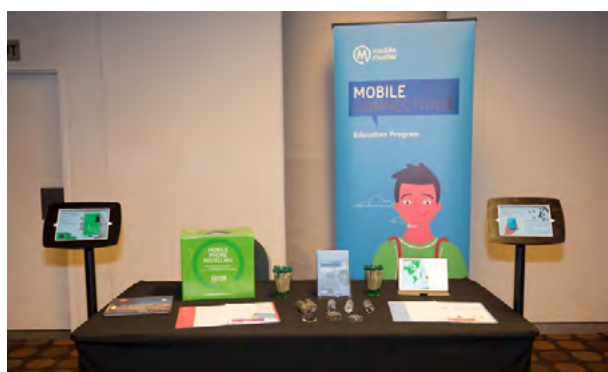
Dr. Joyce conducts research on Heron Reef where she works with satellites, drones and underwater imagery to map different habitats on the reef. Drones are the new tool helping in the translation of in-water to outer space photographs as seen in this image.



CONFERENCE SPONSORS AND EXHIBITORS



At left: New sponsors and exhibitors for 2019 – NPWS Education, Mobile Muster and Selective Tours



Above: One of the GTANSW & ACT / Selective Tours TWO Scholarship winners, Kay Dunbar at left.

FROM THE 2019 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

