



The
Geography Teachers' Association
of New South Wales

ABN: 59 246 850 128

GTANSW Annual Report, October 2017

Submitted by Lorraine Chaffer

President GTANSW, October 2016 – October 2017

I am pleased to report that The Geography Teacher's Association of NSW (GTANSW) has had a highly successful year providing professional support for Geography teachers and students across NSW and the ACT. GTSA NSW professional learning events have been inclusive of all sectors and continue to actively promote engagement with primary, secondary and preservice teachers. Professional Learning activities have been open to both members and non-members, except for one GIS training workshop with very limited numbers. Fees for non-members remain higher to encourage membership.

Membership has grown slightly, with concessional and personal memberships increasing at the expense of corporate memberships. Five long standing, past and current members of GTA Council were presented with Life Membership at the Annual Conference in March 2016 in recognition of their years of service. DR Susan Bliss, Nick Hutchinson, DR Grant Kleeman, Barbara Heath and Paul Alger. GTS will continue to build membership to previously higher levels – in 2014 membership was 428.

2016 Membership Total: 353

Concessional: 28
Corporate: 250
Personal: 71
Life: 4

2017 Membership Total: 375

Concessional: 41
Corporate: 239
Personal: 86
Life: 9 (4 unknown)

GTA Council

At the 2016 AGM GTA Council has 16 elected councilors including a president and four Vice Presidents. Michael Da Roza, Adrian Harrison, and Alexandria Lucas joined as co-opted members before the AGM in October. In March 2017 Sarah Menassa resigned from Council due to work commitments. A thank you email was sent by the President on behalf of Council thanking Sarah for her services over many years, including positions of responsibility including secretary. Karen Bowden also joined as a co-opted member bringing the current membership in October 2017 to 19.

At the Professional Teachers Council Presentation Night, **John Lewis** and **Grace Larobina** were presented with PTC Outstanding Achievement Awards for their ongoing efforts for GTANSW. Congratulations to both John and Grace.

GTA Council as of October 18th 2017 before the Annual General Meeting.

Office Support

The GTA NSW Office remains in the new location at 25 Nyrang Street, Lidcombe where it shares a space with the Professional Teachers Council and other teachers Associations. Monthly meetings are held in the boardroom and resources stored in an office and warehouse at the location.

The Professional Teachers Council play a big role in the day to day administration of GTA activities including administrative, financial, publishing and organizational tasks. This work load increases before major events such as conferences. David Brown, Bernadette Motulalo, Julie Pham, Shreela Pradhan, Jill Sillar, Mai Mai Lin and Beryl Mitchell. An invitation has been extended to PTC staff to join GTA Councillors for lunch during their planning Day on October 18th in recognition of the support they provide.

Council activities and events.

GTA Council is run by volunteers whose hard work and commitment of GTA councilors is responsible for the large number of successful events held in 2017. Many thanks go to the conveners', presenters and helpers who contributed to their success.

Events have included:

- **2017 GTANSW Annual Conference** held over two days at Novotel, Sydney Olympic Park with an extended program of 48 workshops covering syllabus content, pedagogy, skills and tools for teachers from K-10. The convenor was Lorraine Chaffer, heavily supported by **Sharon McLean, John Lewis, Paul Alger and Bernadette Motulalo** and most other councilors at the event Thanks also to **Grant Kleeman, Louise Swanson, Alexandria Lucas, Susan Caldis** and **Lorraine Chaffer** for also presenting workshops and masterclasses. The masterclasses were videotaped and made available to conference participants and GTANSW members. The highest achievers in the HSC examination in 2016 and their teachers were also recognised at the Conference Awards Ceremony.

- A trial of **online registration** for participants, linked to invoicing, despite teething problems, has this practice now well established for all GTA professional Learning events. Many thanks to Bernadette Motulalo, Julie Pham and Shreela Pradhan for their persistence in supporting this initiative.

- As in 2016, the **Arthur Phillip Fieldwork Awards** and **2016 HSC Review** were incorporated into the Annual Conference Program. Many thanks to **Grace Larobina** for coordinating the marking of Fieldwork entries and presentation ceremony as well as the HSC Review. Thank

you also to those councilors who provided their time to mark the Fieldwork entries and support GTA during the two events during the conference.

- A very successful, highly regarded **Webinar program** was organised and run by **Sharon McLean** at St Ignatius Riverview. Many thanks to Sharon and the school for giving their time and resources to establish a new event the success of which will lead to a continuation of the program in 2018.

- Two **Regional Conferences**, at Tamworth and Wagga Wagga were also organised by Sharon Mclean. Than you to Sharon and the other GTA Councillors who gave up their time to travel to these venues to support regional teachers. Grant Kleeman, Lorraine Chaffer, Susan Caldis, David Latimer and Martin Pluss.

- **HSC Student Lectures** were coordinated by Catherine Donnelly and Susan Caldis. Many thanks to Cath and Susan for the organisation of these events and the GTA Councilors who presented including Grant Kleeman, Susan Caldis and Alex Lucas. A declining attendance over recent years will be addressed with some revamping of this series for 2018.

- **GIS Workshop** in association with Esri Australia, to support now available ArcGIS Software available to schools. The event was fortunate to have Dr. Joseph Kesri and Tash Dascious from Esri Australia demonstrating the use of the software and giving participants hands on learning to do.

- **AGTA / GTA Skills Roadshows** held in Sydney and Newcastle to support both experience and those new to teaching Geography as well as primary teachers. Many thanks to **Dr. Grant Kleeman** for organising these very successful events and for **Grant, Sharon McLean, Susan Caldis** and **Lorraine Chaffer** for presenting. GTANSW Councillors also assisted with the roadshows held in other states, also organised by Grant.

Other activities involving GTA Councillors

- **AGTA Board.** GTANSW representative on the Board include **Susan Caldis** – Secretary; **Grant Kleeman** – Immediate past President; **Lorraine Chaffer** – Board member as GTANSW President; **Michael Do Roza** - Observer as ACT representative through GTANSW.

- Represent GTANSW at events during the year with a link to Geography education. These have included

- DoE HSIE Cross curriculum meeting attended by Lorraine Chaffer in 2016
- GTAV Annual Conference in Melbourne in August 2017
- AGTA Conference in Melbourne in January 2017
- meetings with RFS re potential primary Fieldwork
- UWS HSC Enrichment Day
-

Special thanks

Thank you to **Martin Pluss** for his continued liaison with the **Geographical Society of NSW.**

GTANSW Annual Report 2017

Thank you to **Rob Berry** for working with NSWPTC staff and executive in maintaining and updating the GTANSW website as required.

Planning for 2018 has begun with dates set for the Annual Conference (April 2018) and HSC Student Lectures (June 2018).

Publications and projects

Dr. Grant Kleeman has been very busy with the development of **AGTA resources** – Geography Skills Unlocked and geography Literacy Unlocked which are now in print and providing a source of income for AGTA and members Associations, these books have been included in the conference packages at GTA events during 2017.

Grant Kleeman has also started work on a **Geography teaching resource for K-6 teachers**. This will be a free resource available through the GTA website.

Lorraine Chaffer has been Editors of the *Geography Bulletin*. There were 4 issues produced in 2017 and one *special Edition for Senior Geography Teachers with a second to come*. The electronic journal is available to members online.

Social media

Overall, 2016-2017 was a busy, productive and successful year for the GTANSW, achieved through the enthusiasm and commitment from Council members; the interest and support from association members; and the efficient, ongoing administrative support from the NSWPTC office. I look forward to working with all of you in 2017 and wish you happy holiday break and festive season.

GTANSW Council will have their final meeting for 2016 in early December and are also delighted to receive a repeat invitation from the Geographical Society of NSW to attend their awards night.

Lorraine Chaffer
GTANSW President,
Editor Geography Bulletin
Geography Education Consultant.