



*Western Beach, Kooljaman at Cape Leveque. Western Australia. Image Source:*

The Council of the Geography Teachers Association NSW & ACT (GTA NSW & ACT) is New South Wales (NSW) and the Australian Capital Territory's (ACT)'s professional association for teachers of geography across sectors and across primary, secondary, and initial teacher education contexts. The Association aims to support its members in their teaching, learning and assessment of Geography through active advocacy for our subject, membership engagement strategies, provision of professional learning opportunities and materials, and the development of classroom-ready resources.

The GTA's Mission is to represent the professional interests of Geography teachers in NSW and ACT and enrich geographical education more broadly in society. Our vision is to enhance geography education in NSW and ACT by providing advocacy, professional learning, resources and support.

The Association is led by a dynamic, passionate and committed team of Councillors who advocate for a future-focused approach towards geographical education. I would like to thank the GTA Council for their support throughout the year. It is through the generosity and goodwill of volunteer work that enables our core activities to be delivered. This year was my fourth year on Council and first year as President. It was a steep learning curve. This was made easier through the support and guidance that I received from all Councillors. I was fortunate to work with an experienced executive team and, by effectively collaborating, we were able to deliver a comprehensive program for our members this year. I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to Dr Susan Caldis, Lorraine Chaffer, Dr Grant Kleeman, and Rebecca Sutcliffe for your guidance, support and mentoring this year. I appreciate your positive energy and quick responses to all my questions while I was navigating through my first year leading Council. Thank you for the time that you spent listening, advising and guiding me as I learnt the ropes of how things were done.

Each Councillor has made a positive contribution to our program this year. I would like to thank the following Councillors for their work this year:

- **Stephanie Boden** – HSC Exam package and conference support
- **Kieran Bonin** – Young Geographer Awards, delivering the keynote at the Google Spatial Technologies Conference, conference support and contribution to the Bulletin
- **Dr Susan Caldis** – Mentoring, advocacy, delivered keynote at the Google Spatial Technologies Conference and conference support, AGTA Chair

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- **Lorraine Chaffer** – Stage 6 Conference, Regional Conversations, Coordinator and lead author Stage 6 Writing Project, *Geography Bulletin*, posters, advocacy and consultation for the Stage 6 syllabus with key stakeholders including EECs, AIS, and Catholic Schools Offices
- **Drew Collins** – Stage 6 Writing Project, membership engagement and conference support
- **Michael Da Roza** – ACT Representative at AGTA meetings, Geography Big Week Out
- **Amy Freshwater** – Social Media
- **James Harte** – Two HSC live events, writing the Open Learning Course for the 2022 HSC exam and attending the Geography Big Week Out
- **Chris Jenkins** – Conference support and contribution to the *Geography Bulletin*
- **Dr Grant Kleeman** – Honorary Treasurer, conference support, financial advice and AGTA Treasurer
- **John Lewis** – Conference support
- **Alex Pentz** – HSC webinar, conference support and Geography Big Week Out
- **Martin Plüss** – Ongoing contribution to the *Geography Bulletin* and conference support
- **Rebecca Sutcliffe** – Minutes Secretary, conference support, recruiting executive assistant, GTA AGTA Representative and webinars
- **Ben Terrell** – First year at being co-opted – attending meetings and understanding Council operations
- **Stephanie Vardas** – First year at being co-opted, attending meeting and understanding Council operations.

The following Councillors have resigned from Council; Dr Paul Batten, Stephanie Vardas, John Lewis, Amy Freshwater and Christopher Jenkins. Thank you for your expertise and commitment to the vision and mission of the GTA. Dr Paul Batten has stepped away from Council this year, however he continues to run the E-Learning courses. We appreciate that Paul continues to be involved in the management of these courses. John Lewis has been on Council for 20 years and has been present for many conferences and events to ensure they have run smoothly. We wish you well in the future.

The Association works in partnership with the Professional Teachers' Council of NSW (PTC NSW) to provide member services. The PTC NSW team have been a tremendous support to Council by organising conferences and webinars, *Geography Bulletin*, awards, providing virtual treasurer services and the sale of resources etc. The partnership with PTC NSW is pivotal in being able to deliver our programs to members. Thank you to Holly Challenger, Malynda Price, Jill Sillar, Ashleigh Reborado, Mai Mai Lin and David Browne for your tireless work, assistance and ongoing advice throughout this year.

Core business for GTANSW & ACT Council continues to be focused on:

- Supporting NSW and ACT geography teachers, including out-of-field, early career, teachers new to geography, and experienced specialist geography teachers.
- Supporting recommendations from '[Geography: Shaping Australia's Future 2018](#) (Decadal Plan) at a state and territory scale which is part of a national agenda for geography education in Australian schools. Examples of these recommendations include:
  - To better support and prepare out-of-field teachers of geography;
  - To demonstrate how Geography can be recognised as a partial STEM subject;
  - To actively collaborate with academic geographers in universities and professional associations such as the Geographical Society of NSW and
  - strengthen connections between school geography, university study and career pathways.

During our Annual Planning Day for 2023, Council mapped out the events for the year ahead. The professional learning activities designed and delivered by the Association for 2023 and the Councillors involved in the projects are listed below.

- (i) Stage 6 Conference for the new Geography Syllabus in metropolitan Sydney – Two days (Lorraine Chaffer, Conference Convenor). Approximately 200 teachers attended each day at the Aerial Function Centre, Sydney.

Each participant received a printed copy of the Geography Bulletin. Eleven guest speakers presented and there was a GTA speaker for each session analysis (Lorraine Chaffer and Kieran Bonin). The program included a mix of analysis of key syllabus information and Content Focus Areas across Years 11 and 12 supported by 11 expert presenters.

- (ii) GTA Stage 6 Regional Conversations across eight venues included Wagga Wagga, Nowra, Bowral, Pambula Beach, Bellingen, Ballina, Wallsend, Tamworth. Participants were 87 teachers from across 50 schools. Venues were provided free by teachers who had attended the conference and were keen to get local networks established. Attendees received access to the Stage 6 Conference Vimeo recordings and resources via a Google Drive (Lorraine Chaffer).
- (iii) E-learning short courses (online); 12 courses in total (Dr Paul Batten and James Harte). Courses include concepts, mapping, Place and Liveability, Landscapes and Landforms, Understanding the HSC 2021 and 2022.

## List of Open Learning courses

- Integrating Maps
- Concepts Part1
- Concepts Part2
- Intro to Maps
- Intro to Topo Skills
- Showcasing STEM in Geography
- Teaching *Place & Liveability* (Geo 141)
- Teaching *Place and Liveability (experienced)* (Geo 241)
- Teaching Landscapes & Landforms (Geo 142)
- Teaching Landscapes & Landforms (*experienced*) (Geo 242).

## Senior geography courses

- Analysing the 2022 HSC Geography Exam
- Understanding the HSC Geography Exam
- Unpacking the HSC Geography Exam for Students.

## (iv) Other consultation days: Lorraine Chaffer represented GTA as a presenter

- 1 x day NSW EEC State Conference Dorrigo February (80 EEC teachers)
- 2 x full days Illawarra EEC (12 hours) Stage 6 planning days (30 teachers)
- 1 x day Rumbalara EEC Stage 6 planning day (20 teachers)
- 1 x day AIS State Conference – workshop session x 2 (80 teachers)
- 1 x day CEO State Conference (40 teachers)
- 2 x full day consultations with Catholic teachers
- Bathurst (February) x 12 teachers
- Wagga (November) x 12 teachers.

## (v) Webinars presented by GTA NSW & ACT Councillors for the new Stage 6 Geography syllabus

- People, Patterns and Processes – Alex Pentz (planned for Term 4)
- Geographical Investigations – Kieran Bonin (planned for Term 4)
- Earth's Natural Systems – Lorraine Chaffer (planned for Term 4).

## (vi) Other professional learning

- Stage 6 Regional conversations for Stage 6 syllabus implementation (Lorraine Chaffer)
- Members-only event hosted by and at Google Sydney focused on the use of geospatial technologies (Katerina Stojanovski)
- Webinars presented by external providers such as Cura Education (Katerina Stojanovski).

## (vii) Resources

- Careers Posters (Lorraine Chaffer) – Sets of posters continue to be sold through the website. Posters are distributed to GTA Conference and professional learning events as a thank you bonus to participants. The posters support Geography 7–12 syllabus content areas and careers. The latest addition was an A1 careers poster QR coded to the AGTA Careers website
- HSC Exam Resource Package (Stephanie Boden)
- Downloadable 2020–2022 HSC lecture videos by topic
- Geography Bulletin
  - Bulletin 4 2022 Theme: Hopeful Geography – Editor Lorraine Chaffer. Articles were based on Hopeful Geography – moving students beyond feelings of anxiety and despair to giving them hope for the future and career opportunities using Geography.
  - Bulletin 1 2023 Theme: Spatial Technologies – Editor Lorraine Chaffer. Several articles on spatial technologies use in the geography classroom as well as other resources for 7–10.
  - Bulletin 2 2023 Theme: Stage 6 Geography. Plan Early, Plan well, Plan Together – Editor Lorraine Chaffer. This edition was a journal for the Stage 6 conference where participants could take notes and access summaries of key information from the conference. After the conference, the edition was populated with notes from expert speakers and distributed to members to use for planning.
  - Bulletin 3 2023 Theme: Resources – Editor Katerina Stojanovski. This edition had a feature article on the Mystery of Blood Falls, various resources for 7–10 to support the teaching of Geography skills and Local Geographies.

## (viii) Stage 6 Geography Text Books

- The case-studies text books *Powerful Geography 1* and *Powerful Geography 2* are currently under development. They are funded and self-published by GTA NSW & ACT. The Year 11 book will be ready for 2024 and the Year 12 book will be ready for 2025. This project is led by Lorraine Chaffer, Lead Author, Series Editor and Coordinator. Lorraine is assisted by Louise Swanson. The Author team are Lorraine Chaffer, Louise Swanson, Karen Bowden, Khya Brooks, and Matt Carroll.

## (ix) ABC Digibook

- GTA NSW & ACT consulted with ABC and provided advice in the initial stages of the development of the Landscapes and Landforms Digibook.

## Open Learning – Dr Paul Batten and James Harte

The GTA NSW & ACT's Online learning continues to support teachers with quality, anytime, anywhere, NESA-accredited professional development. The highlight of the year was another hugely successful *Unpacking the HSC Exam* series, which was fully subscribed with over a hundred participants. Around 10 other courses are running, including an HSC exam course for students, Stage 4 support courses, Geographical concept courses, and skills courses, including one co-developed with AGTA. These courses are both good value and highly successful with very positive participant feedback.

## Young Geographer Award 2022/2023 – Kieran Bonin

The 2022 Young Geographer Award was successful with a wide range of schools across the sector. Prizes were awarded in the following categories:

- NESAs Senior Geography Project (SGP)/ international baccalaureate (IB) Internal Assessment Award/ACT Equivalent Project
- Geographical Research Award
- Geography in STEM Award.

## Geography Big Week Out – Michael Da Roza, James Harte and Alex Pentz

The 2023 Geography's Big Week Out (GBWO) was held from 25 to 29 September in Darwin and Litchfield National Park. Sixteen Year 11 students from around Australia were invited to participate, based on their outstanding performances in the Australian Geography Competition. This program is a mix of stimulating and hands-on geography activities, focusing on fieldwork and an application of geographic knowledge. The GBWO is designed to challenge and extend high-performing senior students, whilst also providing them with a week of engaging and enjoyable activities with like-minded individuals who share a passion and enthusiasm for Geography. The purpose of this week was also to select four finalists to represent Australia in Dublin, Ireland, as competitors in the International Geography Olympiad, an annual competition for 16- to 19-year-old geography students from all over the world. Geography Councillors Michael, James, and Alex were supervising this program in preparation for hosting the 2024 event in New South Wales and the ACT. All information on the National Geography Competition can be found at this website: <https://geographycompetition.org.au/>

# GTA NSW & ACT Support for Teachers and Students



## Professional Learning events in Semester 2

- **Online Learning courses** – Anytime PL
- **Webinars**
- **HSC Exam Prep** – Resource package for members
- **Google Tools in the Geography classroom** – Members only

## Online Social Media Support

- **Facebook page**
- **HSC Teachers Group**
- **Primary Teachers Group**
- **Twitter @gtanswact**

## Resources

- **Geography Bulletin**
- **Geography Bulletin Guide** (Find any article)
- **Classroom Posters**
- **Scoop.it** media curation site. Topics K–12

Keep up to date with upcoming events.

Visit the GTA website **HERE**

# GTA NSW & ACT FINANCIAL REPORT 2023

## GTA NSW & ACT Annual Financial Report

GTA NSW & ACT finished the 2022-23 financial year with a small surplus of **\$86,284.00** (a modest increase on the previous year's surplus of \$73,722.00).

### Major sources of income:

• Conference	\$120,110.00
• CAL	\$12,273.00
• Event	\$59,740.00
• Grant	\$500.00
• Resource income	\$928.00
• Membership	\$109,130.00
• Sales (textbooks & posters)	\$25,344.00
• Other	\$790.00

**TOTAL** **\$328,815.00**

### Major areas of expenditure:

• COGS	\$35,444.00
• Audit	\$2,000.00
• Bookkeeping	\$9,460.00
• Capitation (AGTA)	\$7,085.00
• Conference costs	\$83,867.00
• Graphic design	\$20,954.00
• Rent	\$16,783.00
• Postage	\$1,639.00
• Secretariat	\$12,783.00
• Subscriptions	\$9750.00
• Website	\$1,894.00
• Travel	\$3,424.00
• Workshop and events	\$33,790.00
• Other	\$3,599.00

**TOTAL** **\$242,531.00**

**Total current assets: \$469,091.00**

**Total members funds: \$464,229.00**