



GEOGRAPHICAL ASSOCIATION OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA Inc

Since its formation in the early 1970s, the ***Geographical Association of Western Australia (GAWA)*** has been serving secondary students, pre-service teachers at Universities, and teachers of Geography throughout Western Australia.

GAWA's main objective is to encourage, in various ways, the advancement, education, promotion and practice of the science of geography in Western Australia. It does this by providing an organisation and forum for students, teachers and practitioners of geography to share knowledge, ideas, opinions and activities about the science of geography and geographical education.

GAWA organises and provides a variety of activities including:

For Students:

- **Geography Awareness Week** – each year, as part of an annual, national action/awareness week, GAWA distributes a package of learning and teaching resources to its teacher members.
- **Geography TEE Revision Sessions** – half-day enrichment and revision sessions for prospective Geography Tertiary Entrance Examination candidates. A number of local experts provide input on a range of topics. In recent years, approximately 600 students have attended these sessions which are conducted in Perth (south & north of Swan River locations) and Bunbury.
- **Awards/Competitions**
 1. *Australian Geography Competition* - this national competition, which in 2008, attracted over 8,000 WA entrants from over 90 schools and over 90,000 entries nationwide, is a joint initiative of the *Australian Geography Teachers' Association* and the *Royal Geographical Society of Queensland*.
 2. *John Forrest Award* – a geography skills-based competition for both lower and upper secondary Geography, and Society and Environment students in WA with cash prizes for winners in each section.
 3. *Spatial Technology in Schools Competition* – GAWA facilitates the running in WA of this annual, national competition.
- **Geography Learning and Teaching Resources**
 1. *Year 11 and Year 12 Geography Texts* – GAWA regularly produces a range of textbooks and other resources for students studying the Year 11 and Year 12 Geography courses. New publications are regularly published with GAWA's new skills text: *The Geographer's Toolkit* and together with its companion *Student Activity Book* as well as the annual "*Student's Guide to the TEE*" being very popular texts.

In 2009, GAWA published two new textbooks for the new Geography Course. *Hazards, Impacts and Responses* addresses the Learning Contexts and Content requirements of the **GEO 2A Unit**, while *Sustainable Planet* addresses the Learning Contexts and Content requirements of the **GEO 2B Unit**.

2. *GeoFlight* software - A joint development between GAWA and MAPS (McMullen Nolan and Partners Surveyors) which has produced a totally new visual teaching and learning resource. These innovative and exciting CD ROM packages add a 3rd dimension to the learning and teaching of geography. Released in November 2002, already over 60 WA schools and over 100 nation-wide are using this software (refer www.geoflight.com.au).
3. *The Student's Guide to the 2009 Geography TEE* – This is an annual publication for Year 12 Geography TEE candidates. The book includes helpful hints and strategies for the Geography TEE, a discussion of last year's examination and exemplar answers from 2008 TEE candidates. The 2009 edition will be available in early April from the GAWA Office, the Curriculum Council or leading secondary textbook booksellers.
4. *Trial Examination Papers* – beginning in 2009, GAWA will produce trial (“mock”) examination papers for use by schools for their end-of-year examinations in Geography.
5. *Topographic Map Broadsheets* – GAWA has published a series of topographic map broadsheets which can be used to help reinforce the application of geographic map and aerial photograph reading and interpretation skills (the new **Lake Grace Broadsheet** released in 2002 and the **Harvey Broadsheet** released in 2004 and updated to a double-sided sheet, have proved very popular).
6. *Other Resources* - GAWA is continually involved, in various ways, in the development and distribution of new teaching-learning resources. These new resources will cater for both lower and upper secondary students of Geography and Society & Environment courses. GAWA is currently involved in the planning of new resources for the new **Geography Course of Study** that is planned to be introduced in 2009.
7. *Publishers* – Most of the major Geography textbook publishers are members of GAWA and market their products at our annual conference

For Teachers:

Currently, GAWA has approximately 300 members. Teachers, who are GAWA Members either as Individual Members, or through their Institution's Membership, are able to enjoy considerable subsidies and discounts for the following:

- **Annual State Conference** – In August each year, GAWA organises a weekend conference with professional input from national and state experts in geography, geographical education, curriculum development and other fields. To cater for country teachers, the conference is regularly held at a non-metropolitan location

(e.g. Bunbury in 2007). The 2009 Conference, will be held at the Esplanade River Suites in Como during the weekend 7th - 9th August.

- **Professional Development Workshops** – each year GAWA organises a number of professional development activities for upper secondary geography teachers. Including our popular PD workshop for beginning/inexperienced teachers in early March.
- **The Joseph Gentilli Memorial Geography Award for Teacher Excellence** – The 2009 award will be awarded to an individual who has made an outstanding contribution to Geographical Education – currently, this award is valued at \$2,000.
- **GAWA *Bulletin*** – GAWA publishes a regular (four issues a year) Bulletin/Newsletter for members. The publication provides an important vehicle for informing geography teachers and other members of GAWA about activities, curriculum developments and other geographical education information.
- **National Representation** - GAWA is affiliated with a number of national and 'peak' geography and social science bodies.

Public Access

- **Gawa Office** – GAWA maintains an office at the Crossways Centre in Subiaco that is open to the public and handles numerous public inquiries concerning upper secondary geography syllabuses, student resources and general geographical information. GAWA welcomes and encourages its members to access the Office for assistance.
- **Website** - GAWA maintains a public website at: www.gawa.asn.au
- **Parent Information Nights** – GAWA provides speakers and career brochures for school parent information activities to explain geography courses and geography-based employment prospects.
- **Professional Liaison** - GAWA maintains contact and networks with a wide range of professional associations, commercial organisations and non-profit groups both with respect to geography and other related fields (e.g. cartography, environment, GIS, global education, planning,).

New Members are very welcome. Contact the Geographical Association of WA by:

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