



# Geographical Association of Western Australia

## Affiliates report to AGTA, May 2019

2019 Vision and Operational procedures: **Three themes** for 2019:

- Service to the classroom Geography teacher
- Support to the Yr 7 – 12 geography students
- Strengthen Geography profile discipline and connection to future careers

Each GAWA event needs to have these 3 core principles imbedded and transparent.

### 1. Membership

Memberships for AGTA report 2019:      Metropolitan 119 members  
Country 38 members

### 2. GAWA Committee 2019

#### GAWA Executive

**President** Leo Conti  
**Vice President** Laura Billington  
**Vice President** Peggy Bakalis  
**Treasurer** Tracy Smith  
**Secretary** Lidia de Giuseppe

**Immediate Past President**  
Anna Griffin

#### GAWA Committee

Kalo Bell  
Rosemary Cawley  
Ben Curtis  
Charissa Efthymoulos  
Kristy Gamble  
Angela Jones  
Rick McMahon  
Roger Mellor  
Darryl Michie  
Rachel Scott  
Jon Wyllie

#### GAWA Staff

Business manager Alan May  
Admin officer Lorrie Smith

### 3. Professional Development

- **Teacher PD – total of 5**

- TPD 1    Date & Event: 1 March Unpacking and teaching the Year 11 and 12 Courses  
Geography curriculum focus: ATAR Yr 11 & Yr 12; Case studies: Bushfires; Malaria  
Target audience: New, Inexperienced and Returning Upper school teachers  
Participant numbers: 54
- TPD 2    Date & Event: 5 March Unpacking and teaching the Years 7 – 10  
Geography curriculum focus: Yr 7 Water in the world – Water Authority; Yr 10 Environ change & management – Agri & human environments  
Target audience: New, Inexperienced and Returning Upper school teachers  
Participant numbers: 51
- TPD 3    Date & Event: 17 May Rottneest Island – geography skills day  
Geography curriculum focus: Coastal studies: Rehabilitation and Sustainability; Skills focus mapping skills, sketch mapping, transect and planning effective fieldwork  
Target audience: All Lower school HaSS and Upper school teachers  
Participant numbers: 19
- TPD 4    Date & Event: 16 & 17 August GAWA Conference 'Enriching geography knowledge & understandings'  
Geography curriculum focus: Yr 7 10 HaSS 'geography' topics and Yr 11 and Yr 12 Geography  
Target audience: All Lower school HaSS and Upper school teachers  
Participant numbers: 21 booked so far

TPD 5 Date & Event: 4 November Australian Geography Teachers Association Roadshow  
Geography curriculum focus: Geographical concepts, skills and fieldwork  
Target audience: All Lower school HaSS and Upper school teachers  
Participant numbers: N/A

- **Student Professional Learning Seminars – Extra help with ATAR Geography – total of 2**

SPL1 Date & Event: 3 April Year 12 Geography Unit 3 Student Depth Study Seminar 1  
Geography curriculum focus: ATAR Yr 12 Unit 3 Depth study – Climate Change; Biodiversity Loss  
Target audience: All Yr 12 ATAR Geography students and teachers  
Participant numbers: 63 Climate change (sell out); 30 Biodiversity loss (sell out)

SPL2 Date & Event: 7 August Year 12 Geography Unit 4 Student Depth Study Seminar 2  
Geography curriculum focus: ATAR Yr 12 Unit 4 Depth study – Megacities New York; Tokyo  
Target audience: All Yr 12 ATAR Geography students and teachers  
Participant numbers: N/A

- **Student Revision Seminar – total of 3**

SRS 1 Date & Event: 19 May  
Event: Year 12 ATAR Geography Student Revision Seminar 1 (Perth Metro area)  
Geography curriculum focus: Year 12 Unit 3 Global environmental change; Geographical inquiry skills  
Target audience: All Yr 12 ATAR Geography students and teachers  
Participant numbers: 61 students; 5 teachers so far

SRS 2 Date & Event: 15 September Yr 12 ATAR Geography Student Revision Seminar 2 (Country s-w area Bunbury)  
Geography curriculum focus: Year 12 Unit 3 Global environmental change; Unit 4 Planning sustainable places; Geographical inquiry skills  
Target audience: All Yr 12 ATAR Geography students and teachers  
Participant numbers: N/A

SRS 3 Date & Event: 21 September Year 12 ATAR Geography Student Revision Seminar 3 (Perth Metro area)  
Geography curriculum focus: Year 12 Unit 3 Global environmental change; Unit 4 Planning sustainable places; Geographical inquiry skills  
Target audience: All Yr 12 ATAR Geography students and teachers  
Participant numbers: N/A

## 4. Publication and Projects

- Textbooks
  - i. 2019 Year 12 revision Guide has been published with current geography data reflecting the 208 ATAR Exam. This publication is well received by both students and teachers as it is used as a learning-teaching resource. Numbers sold so far 533.
  - ii. WA ATAR Geography Units 1 & 2. Written, produced and published by GAWA. Addresses geographical knowledge, skills and understandings of the Yr 11 ATAR and Yr 12 General geography courses. Sales are 'sound'. Use of local teacher-authors is an advantage. Numbers sold so far 2 264
  - iii. ATAR Geography Skills Unlocked. Resource is still being promoted, however, more than likely peaked in sales as approx. 2395 (including 74 complimentary copies provided at 2017 AGTA Roadshow) teacher copies sold over years. July to Sept 123 copies sold. 431 in stock.
  - iv. AGTA Literacy skills Unlocked. This resource is still being promoted. 144 copies sold. 356 in stock.
- Examination packages  
ATAR Yr 11 and Yr 12 Semester 1 exams have been created and orders are currently being fulfilled. Use of experienced and competent classroom teachers when constructing exams ensures the reliability and quality. Numbers sold so far Year 11 2 439; year 12 2 183

## 5. Promotion of Geography

- **Website, Facebook and Twitter**

Website manager appointed to coordinate the 'redesigning and rebuilding' of GAWA website. Currently in the tendering phase.

Website is still a very effective form of communicating information to members.

Facebook – 547 follower. Use is growing and becoming an effective tool. Good platform to communicate to non-GAWA teachers.

Connect is being used to promote 'geography' resources, support materials and updates to Dept of Ed teachers.

Twitter – 110 followers. Reasonably used as a social network for posting geography curriculum and event updates. WA audience is still growing.

- **Department of Education PD – Teachers new to HaSS 23 February**

Two GAWA committee members attended. Purpose was to:

- i. Outline Yr 7 – 10 'geography' aspect of the HaSS curriculum
- ii. Demonstrate class activities that elaborated on the content descriptors
- iii. Promote GAWA and show case support materials and resources available to teachers.

- **Geography Week 6<sup>th</sup> May – 10<sup>th</sup> May**

The direct promotion of 'geography week' was re-introduced this year. The aim was to provide further classroom resources for teachers to use to make geography fun and also to highlight the connection between our discipline and Tertiary study/employment.

All schools were sent a package promoting 'Geography'. Package included electronic resources, kahoot quizzes, relevant websites, suggested class activities and links to 'geography' related careers.

Committee Review – create more support material for Year 10 subject selection – reference to Universities and Tafe courses involving geography.

- **HaSS Week 29<sup>th</sup> July – 2<sup>nd</sup> August**

To mark this event, each of the WA HaSS related Associations – HTAWA; PLEAWA; ETAWA are combining together to celebrate and promote the importance and value of studying Humanities and Social Sciences.

A HaSS Quiz Night has been arranged for Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> August.

Schools are invited to provide teams – student and/or staff.

Each Association will provide sets of questions based on their discipline.

- **Young Geographer of the Year Award**

Competition categories Grade 5 – 6; Yr 7 – 10; Yr 11 – 12

One nomination per year group per school only. Theme 'Explore an WA Challenge'

Winners announced at GAWA Conference. Expressions of interest are still open.

- **Joseph Gentilli Award**

GAWA has received one nomination – it has fulfilled requirements thus is eligible to be 'considered'.

Winner announced at GAWA Conference.

Expressions of interest are still open.

- **AGTA bursaries**

GAWA is allocating up to \$4000.00 towards attending the 2019 AGTA Conference. A maximum of \$750 per person will be provided.

- **AGTA Don Biddle award**

Intension was to nominate two people, however, unable to acquire information by due deadline. Committee Review – Will make this a priority for 2020.

## **6. Schools Curriculum and standards Authority**

SCSA has two Course Advisory committees (CAC). A syllabus review of HaSS 7 – 10 and ATAR Geography 11 & 12 courses will occur.

- **Yr 11 and 12 Geography review**

The approach to the Yr 11 & 12 ATAR syllabus review is 'evolution' NOT 'revolution'. Opportunity to identify changes required has been extended to GAWA, some 'select' teachers and CAC members. The aim is to make minor adjustments so as to clarify and simplify BOTH syllabuses. GAWA is well represented on the CAC committee.

- **Yr 7 – 10 HaSS review**

Similar approach is occurring with the Yr 7 – 10 HaSS topics.

## **7. Future GAWA 2020 Geography Events**

- Big Week Out 2020 – coordinator has been appointed.
- New York Teacher Study Tour 2020 – two coordinators have been appointed. Program has been reviewed and alterations made to improve event. Flyer completed. Promotion will occur in June.

## **8. Issues and challenges**

- i. Increasing ATAR results and popularity of selecting geography as an upper school subject
- ii. Webinars – how to structure? How to retain 'physical attendance' of students and teachers whilst provide service to outlying areas throughout the WA State.
- iii. Revision style seminars vs content based student sessions. Is there a need for change?
- iv. Promoting geography in Primary schools – resource creation and attracting Primary school teachers to be part of GAWA committee.

Leo Conti

President of the Geographical Association of Western Australia