



Geographical Association of Western Australia

Affiliates report to AGTA, October 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 127 members
Country 51 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

Reported on at previous May AGTA meeting

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|-------|---|-------------|
| 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 | 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 | Numbers: 51 |
| TPD 3 | Date & Event: 17 May Rottnest Island – geography skills day
Geography focus: Coastal studies: Rehabilitation and Sustainability; Skills focus mapping skills, sketch mapping, transect and planning effective fieldwork | Numbers: 21 |
| 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: 120 Friday and 81 Saturday | |
| 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

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|------|---|
| 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
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
Numbers: 67 Megacities New York (sell out); Megacities Tokyo 30 Biodiversity loss (sell out)

- **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 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: 24

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: 185 (this does not include students who turn up on the day).

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 622.
 - 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 2 752.
 - iii. ATAR Geography Skills Unlocked. Resource is still being promoted, however, more than likely peaked in sales as approx. 2 830 copies sold over years. Between July to September 2019 – 29 copies sold. 400 in stock as at 10th September 2019.
 - iv. AGTA Literacy skills Unlocked. This resource is still being promoted. 146 copies sold. 326 in stock. **28 returned to AGTA for their stock request.
- Examination packages
ATAR Yr 11 and Yr 12 Semester 1 and Semester 2 exams have been created. Use of experienced and competent classroom teachers when constructing exams ensures the reliability and quality.
Numbers sold so far Semester 1 = Year 11 sold 2,442; Year 12 sold 2,185.
Semester 2 = Yr 11 sold 2,435; Yr 12 sold 2,195.

5. Promotion of Geography

- **Website, Facebook and Twitter**

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

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

Facebook – 551 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 – 117 followers. Reasonably used as a social network for posting geography curriculum and event updates. WA audience is still growing.

- **Department of Education PD – GAWA involvement**

GAWA has not been required to present any additional PD since the 23rd February.

- **Geography Week 6th May – 10th May**

The concept and promotion of 'geography week' will continue in 2020.

Focus will be on classroom resources for teachers and connection between Geography, TAFE/Tertiary study and future employment.

Support material for each geography unit taught in Yr 7 to 10 is to include:

- A series of stickers
- Key terminology list / wordsleuth for each unit
- A crossword for each unit
- A kahoot quiz for each unit (total of 8 quizzes)
- A selection of relevant websites/youtube clips for each unit
- A class based activity worksheet for each unit (total of 8 worksheets)

For Year 10 subject selection – reference to Universities and TAFE courses involving geography.

- **HaSS Week 29th July – 2nd August**

This year, to mark this event, each of the WA HaSS related Associations – HTAWA; PLEAWA; ETAWA combined together and ran a HaSS Quiz Night that celebrated and promoted the importance and value of studying Humanities and Social Sciences.

Event occurred on Saturday 3rd August – attended by approx. 130 teachers from a variety of schools in the Perth Metro area.

Not sure when this will occur next year.

However, when event is advertised, GAWA will actively support.

- **Young Geographer of the Year Award**

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

Theme 'Explore an WA Challenge'

16 schools entered – 22 entries in total.

Winners were announced at GAWA Conference Day 2: Yr 5, Yr 7, Yr 8, Yr 9 and Yr 12.

Highly successful and very well profiled.

Display area – motivated teachers to be involved for 2020.

- **Joseph Gentilli Award**

GAWA received four nominations.

Quality of teachers was excellent.

Winner announced at GAWA Conference Day 1 – Susan Martin.

Announcement was included in the opening of the Conference – this set an excellent tone for the 2 day event.

- **AGTA bursaries**

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

Advertised widely and numerous times.

Three teachers applied.

- **AGTA Don Biddle award**

As stated at previous meeting, GAWA 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'.

GAWA committee teachers sent in their concerns and issues that needed to be addressed.

This was presented to the CAC committee.

As a result, changes (minor) are being implemented into the WA geography syllabus.

These will be in place as from 2020.

- **Yr 7 – 10 HaSS review**

The Yr 7 – 10 HaSS topics are currently still in review by the Curriculum Advisory Committee.

7. Future GAWA 2020 Geography Events

- Big Week Out 2020 – coordinator has been appointed.
Emails between Leo and WA coordinator and SA ? Queensland has occurred.
- New York Teacher Study Tour 2020 – two coordinators have been appointed.
Program reviewed and alterations made to improve event.
South Australia included in advertising, however, numbers are currently 16. To increase numbers the invitation is being extended to Eastern states teachers.

8. Feedback on AGTA request from previous meeting (May)

- AB7.0 AGTA News/Geographia Julie Hearnden/Anna Hind – GAWA advertised via email and Facebook on 4 separate occasions – no takers.
This is an area that GAWA will try and improve.
- AB10.0 Geography Inquiry Unlocked (Final edition) – publishing report Grant Kleeman – GAWA has already started advertising this via email and Facebook.
- AB15.0 Australian Competition by Bernard Anna Griffin – GAWA emailed results of the International Geography Olympiad to all delegates. Furthermore, winners were announced at Conference and competition was profiled and promoted in a very positive manner.
- AB16.0 Big Week Out by Bernard - GAWA commenced planning and communication in August this year. Coordinator is Lidia Di Giuseppe
- AB19.0 Conference feedback and then possible site – Rebecca Nichols – GAWA promoted AGTA Conference via emails, Facebook and encouraged teachers to attend via a \$750 subsidy.
- AB20.0 Geography Shaping Australia's future Trish Douglas – survey advertised by GAWA and completed.

9. 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 with activities vs content based student lecture style sessions.
- 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