



## Geography Teachers Association of South Australia

AGM - May, 2014      Presidents Report

The last twelve months has seen growing interest in Geography from school communities and teachers across South Australia and the other states that have adopted or are adapting Australian Curriculum – Geography F-10.

Assistance from CEASA staff has been wonderful this year. Sarah Warner and Jessica Green in particular have dealt with GTASA matters and finances very efficiently. They have been great to work with.

Membership- In 2013/14 we had 88 financial members. For 2014 membership changed to a January to December cycle to make it more efficient to manage for individuals, schools and CEASA who deal with the payments.

Committee/Staff –most current members of the GTASA executive have indicated that they are prepared to remain on the committee for the next twelve months. Many have been actively involved this year across a range of projects. An IT savvy sub-committee led by Peter Mann has been working on the new more user friendly GTASA website. Peter Melnyk as Treasurer has continued to manage our finances carefully. Yolanda Hyde has been diligent and efficient in dealing with correspondence and organizing our meetings in her role as Secretary. Alexandra Piggott represents GTASA with me on the AGTA Board and is responsible for the AGTA Newsletter ‘*Geographia*’. Many of the Executive have organized workshops and field trips for the Conference. We are looking for more primary and middle years teachers to become involved at this level.

Professional Development- conference convener Ian Johnson and his sub-committee have done a great job organising this year’s ‘Place, Space and Interconnections’ two-day conference. The number of attendees is well up on recent years with many new faces joining old hands for the excellent key note addresses, workshops and field trips on offer. Publishers have been very keen to be involved again this year and have created a great opportunity for attendees to see the range of resources that are about. Malcolm McInerney and John Butler have continued to fly the flag for GTASA again this year presenting at sector-based professional learning workshops as well as combined association Australian Curriculum Conferences. They have been tremendous stalwarts and have been very well received by Geography teachers in attendance.

Publications and Projects-

Roger Smith continued his role as Editor of *SA Geographer*. It has been delivered on CD throughout the year. Our next step is to have the journal lodged and accessed from the ‘Members Only’ section of the new website as an interactive pdf.

Malcolm McInerney has continued his pivotal role as website manager in disseminating information. We are very grateful to him for fitting this into his busy schedule.

Our Year 12 Study guide has been produced on CD and is available at the Conference along with our other products. Thanks to Andrew Penny and Sandy Stuart for their work again this year.

Action for Promotion of Geography- GTASA in association with The School of Social Sciences hosted a Year 12 Geography Night at Adelaide University last August and it will be happening again this year. Rita Shepherd and her helpers make these nights rewarding experiences for students and teachers alike.

Issues or Problems- there has certainly been significant interest in Australian Curriculum: Geography from primary and lower secondary teachers this year. I hope this translates into more commitment from South Australian schools to offer Geography to students at Years 9 & 10 so that we continue to see Senior Geography classes returning. Primary school engagement is being encouraged but there needs to be ongoing support.

Greg Way