



# GTAV NEWS

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Newsletter of the Geography Teachers' Association of Victoria Inc.

February 2012

**GREAT NEWS TO START 2012!**

- More editions of GTAV News on offer for 2012.  
To keep our members in touch with all the latest information for the teaching of Geography, the GTAV intends to publish *GTAV News* **TWICE** per term.
- After much discussion, it has been decided that the GTAV will trial the publication of *GTAV News* in online format **ONLY** via the GTAV website. [www.gtav.asn.au](http://www.gtav.asn.au)  
This will be the final print edition of *GTAV News*.
- To register for full member website access, ensure that you are a current GTAV member either through your School or Individual Membership.  
**Individual members:** go to the GTAV web page, register with your email and we will email you a password.  
**School members:** each teacher should register online via the website with their email to receive their individual password and access.
- Your feedback would be much appreciated so we can provide you with the best access to up to date material that you can use with your students. Send your comments to Steve (GTAV Education Officer) [eo@gtav.edu.au](mailto:eo@gtav.edu.au)

## **Welcome from Education Officer**

Welcome to a new year, fresh with ideas and enthusiasm. I am most fortunate to be appointed to the Education Officer position and intend to support you in any way I can to advance geography teaching and learning. I have taught Geography at both urban and rural schools and have been involved with the subject at many levels. Terry has done a wonderful job as E.O. and has provided me with much advice. I have already found the team in the GTAV office and the Global Education Project (GEP) staff to be incredibly supportive and professional and I urge you to contact us or drop by to sample our resources and hospitality. Our Annual Conference theme is **New Directions** in reference to the new Australian Curriculum, our brilliant new senior text books and also developments in learning technologies and perspectives in global education. It will be held from Sunday August 26 to Tuesday August 28 at CQ Functions, 113 Queen St in the city. Please consider presenting a workshop or fieldwork. I look forward to working with you this year.

**Steve Latham**

## Term 1 Professional Learning Calendar

The GTAV is keen to support both experienced and inexperienced teachers of Geography. A number of excellent professional learning opportunities are available in Term 1.

**New to VCE Geography teachers** on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> February at Graduate House

**Help, How do I teach Geography?** on Wednesday 7 March at the Law Courts in Lonsdale St

**Meet the examiners/Increasing your VCE student numbers** on 23 March at Graduate House.

See the GTAV website for details and enrol early to ensure your place.

### Feedback for the Australian Curriculum

Check the GTAV website for information about how you can give feedback to the writers of the new Australian Geography Curriculum. VCAA and the GTAV will be running joint consultation sessions. Keep informed and have your say! Afternoon tea will be provided at 4.00PM

Sessions will be held from 4.30 to 6.30 PM at  
**Ballarat 16 February**  
**Drouin 21 February**  
**Templestowe 23 February**  
**Tarneit 28 February**

If you cannot attend any of these sessions, please provide your feedback by completing the survey on the GTAV website.

The date of the final release of the Australian Geography Curriculum should be October 2012.

## VCE

### VCE Student Lectures

The first of three lectures this year for Unit 3 & 4 students will be on the Murray-Darling Basin and held at 'The Spot' University of Melbourne on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> March. Full details are on the website. Please encourage student attendance.

## New to teaching VCE Geography

The following program is on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> February at Graduate House, Carlton. If you missed out on the 2011 VCE teachers Conference or if you are new to teaching VCE Geography in 2012, this professional learning is a must. Please note: most sessions are significantly different from those offered at the 2011 VCE Teachers Conference. See the GTAV website for full registration details.

Time	Units 1 & 2	Units 3 & 4
10.00am - 11.00am	Introduction to Units 1 & 2  The nuts and bolts of getting organised  <i>Gail Munro:</i>  <i>Koonung SC</i>	Unit 3: Water as a Resource in the Murray-Darling Basin integrating Spatial Concepts  <i>Mandy Fraser-Jones:</i>  <i>Haileybury</i>
11.00am - 12.00pm	Teaching Spatial Concepts  <i>Margaret Bourke:</i>  <i>McKinnon SC</i>	Unit 3: Teaching Tara Bulga National Park as a local resource.  <i>Daniel Blackmore:</i>  <i>McKinnon SC</i>
12.00pm - 12.30pm	Lunch provided	Lunch provided
12.30pm - 1.30pm	Teaching Unit 1 Geography  <i>Terry McMeekin</i>	Unit 4: Teaching Population  <i>Kelli Ashton</i>  <i>Luther College</i>
1.30pm - 2.30pm	Teaching Unit 2 Geography  <i>Anne Allan</i> <i>Haileybury and Haileybury Girls College</i>	Unit 4: Teaching Malaria as a global phenomenon  <i>Kelli Ashton</i>  <i>Luther College</i>

## New VCE Textbooks



The GTAV has published two exciting new textbooks to replace *New Perspectives* and *New Perspectives Supplement* which are **now out of print**. The changes and new material take into account the many suggestions and ideas provided by VCE Geography teachers.



Titles are:

***Geography Environments VCE Units 1 & 2 (New Perspectives)*** \$54.95

***Resources and Perspectives VCE Units 3 & 4 (New Perspectives)*** \$79.95.

Orders may be placed directly with the GTAV office via email ([office@gtav.asn.au](mailto:office@gtav.asn.au)) or fax (9824 8295).

## VCE Teacher's Conference 2011

Location: **Como House**

The 2011 Conference was very successful. There were 80 participants, many of whom were about to teach VCE Geography in 2012 for the first time. The conference resources were distributed on a USB flash drive. The popularity of the conference in 2011 indicates that it is important for you to register for professional learning opportunities well in advance.



MDB Update in the ballroom at Como House

Several presentations, including the Murray Darling Basin (MDB) Update, were filmed. They are available for you to view by following these links or through the GTAV website.

Unit 1 Natural Environments Coasts fieldwork by Paul Cross:

<http://vimeo.com/33687390>

Teaching Spatial Concepts by Margaret Bourke:

<http://vimeo.com/33623357> and

Unit 3 MDB update by Jason Alexandra:

<http://vimeo.com/33182947>

The GTAV would like to thank the National Trust and Christine Lowry for facilitating our use of this great venue in 2011. Even though the rain pelted down for most of the day we all learned something new to use in our VCE classes in 2012!

## Proposed Basin Plan

It is important that students are aware of the diverse views on the Murray-Darling Basin Authority's proposed Plan which has been produced for consultation purposes. Print copies of the *Guide to the proposed Basin Plan Overview Volume 1* are available at the GTAV. To borrow one please contact the GTAV librarian at [librarian@gtav.asn.au](mailto:librarian@gtav.asn.au)

Environment Victoria Healthy Rivers Campaigner, Dominica Settle would like you to read and comment on the Proposed Basin Plan. Her press release gives you some relevant detail: *'The Basin Plan is bad news for the mighty Murray, but you can help change that. The mighty Murray - and the rivers that flow into it - have been teetering on the brink of collapse. For far too long, we've been taking too much water out of them. Now there's a national plan to turn things around for our rivers – the Murray-Darling Basin Plan. But instead of looking after our rivers for the long term, the draft Basin Plan condemns our rivers to a slow death. The good news is that the draft plan is only a draft. Speak up for a plan which looks after Australia's lifblood properly at [www.environmentvictoria.org.au/Save-the-Murray](http://www.environmentvictoria.org.au/Save-the-Murray).'*

### Murray Darling Basin updates

To get the most up to date information about water levels within the MDB, check out this web site:

<http://www.mdba.gov.au/water/live-river-data>

## VCE Fieldtrip – Water use and management in Shepparton Irrigation Region

LandLearn, the education program familiar to and used by many teachers, has closed because of changes to the priorities and delivery model of Department of Primary Industries. Elements of LandLearn will be incorporated into a new DPI rural education program<sup>#</sup>. LandLearn provided support and resources around the themes of agriculture, food production, land management and sustainability. These resources can still be downloaded and the CDs ordered from the website <http://www.landlearn.net.au>

The fieldtrip and associated resources used by many VCE teachers are still available on the LandLearn CD **Water and Food: futures thinking**. There are 14 sites between Nagambie and Barmah Forest so two days are required to complete the full trip (for schools outside the region). However, students can gain an overview of regulation of the Goulburn River, an insight into irrigation systems and environmental water use in a one day fieldtrip, visiting several sites between Nagambie and a wetland just north of Shepparton. Support for running the fieldtrip with students is provided by Ann Fagan (now self-employed) who wrote the resources and fieldtrip notes. Former LandLearn staff, now working in rural education, may also be able to provide support. Contact Sherin Halliday on 5482 0453 or email [sherin.halliday@dpi.vic.gov.au](mailto:sherin.halliday@dpi.vic.gov.au)

Staff assistance is necessary because groups are met at Goulburn Weir (Site 2) and are escorted to several sites, subject to learning focus and available time. Cost is \$175 for up to 4½ hours and up to 25 participants. March to mid May are the best months for the fieldtrip and places are limited so interested teachers are advised to express interest early in the year. Booking information and dates available will be emailed on request. Contact Ann via email [alfagan@mcmmedia.com.au](mailto:alfagan@mcmmedia.com.au)

A parliamentary inquiry into agricultural education is underway. Teachers and relevant education organisations are invited to make submissions to the Victorian Parliament's Education and Training Committee. For more information about the Committee or to make a submission, visit [www.parliament.vic.gov.au](http://www.parliament.vic.gov.au).

## Field Naturalists Club of Victoria Geology Excursion

Dr Eric Bird, Geostudies University of Melbourne, will lead an excursion on the Geology and Geomorphology of Westernport Bay on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> March from Flinders to Lang Lang and Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> March from San Remo to Lang Lang. GTAV members welcome. \$12.50 a day. Details and bookings, please contact FNCV: Kaye Oddie 9329 0635, email [koddie@bigpond.com](mailto:koddie@bigpond.com)

## Geography Student Competitions

Competitions are fun for students and raise the profile of the subject in the school and broader community.

## National Geographic Channel Australian Geography Competition

This terrific competition is open to students studying Geography (or an integrated social science that includes Geography) in all levels of secondary school. Primary students are also welcome to enter. The Competition dates for 2012 are from: Monday 26<sup>th</sup> March 2012 - Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> April. Cost per student is \$3.00. Competition details were sent to schools on 17<sup>th</sup> January. Full details are on the web site.

<http://www.geographycompetition.org.au/>

**The entry deadline is Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> February.**

Prizes range from certificates, books and medals to overseas trips representing Australia at the National Geographic World Championships or the International Geography Olympiads. The top male and female Year 11 or lower student in each state and combined territory is selected for Geography's Big Week Out from which Australia's representatives for the International Geography Olympiads are selected.

Geography's Big Week Out (GBWO) was hosted by the GTAV in 2011. It was a brilliant week of fieldwork and fun activities.

GBWO 2011 student Lucinda:

*'A very stimulating and fulfilling week of Geography with a number of activities, such as sailing and cycling, evening games and competitions which provided us with opportunities to unwind and bond with the*

*group. Truly an amazing experience which I will never forget. I have learnt so much and met some amazing people. I would also like to thank Kath Berg, the teachers from the Victorian Geography Teachers' Association and all the helpers for their enthusiasm, commitment and their obvious passion for the discipline of Geography'.*

The Council of Professional Teaching Associations of Victoria (CPTAV) recognised the great achievement and hard work of Pat Beeson related to the running of Geography's Big Week Out in 2011 at the December 2011 meeting.



Congratulations Pat! Pat is pictured here with Trish Douglas the President of the GTAV.

**Perhaps you may be interested in joining Pat Beeson and her team when they run the GBWO in 2012 on the Mornington Peninsula. Email the education officer to express your interest. [eo@gtav.asn.au](mailto:eo@gtav.asn.au)**

## **Australia Post Kids Teaching Kids Week**

This takes place from 27-31 August 2012. Students often incorporate Geography in their presentations. The free 2012 Australia Post Kids Teaching Kids Week program supports schools and students as they develop workshops to find solutions to environmental problems. ***In 2012, \$330 Teacher Relief Funding grants and \$550 Cluster Event grants are available*** to financially assist schools involved in the program. For further information the website is: <http://www.kidsteachingkids.com.au>

This free program inspires young people to learn about and care for their environment.

## **Resources**

### **Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS)**

New resources for geography teachers have been added to the ABS web page. Updates to the very popular **Geography Activities** section have been made. They contain student worksheets, an outline of the activity for teachers including answers where appropriate, and assessment rubrics. The updated activities are:

Geo\_03- *Population distribution*,  
Geo\_04- *Population density*,  
Geo\_05- *Capital cities*,  
Geo\_07- *Population structure and drawing of population pyramids* and  
Geog\_08- *Interpreting population pyramids*.

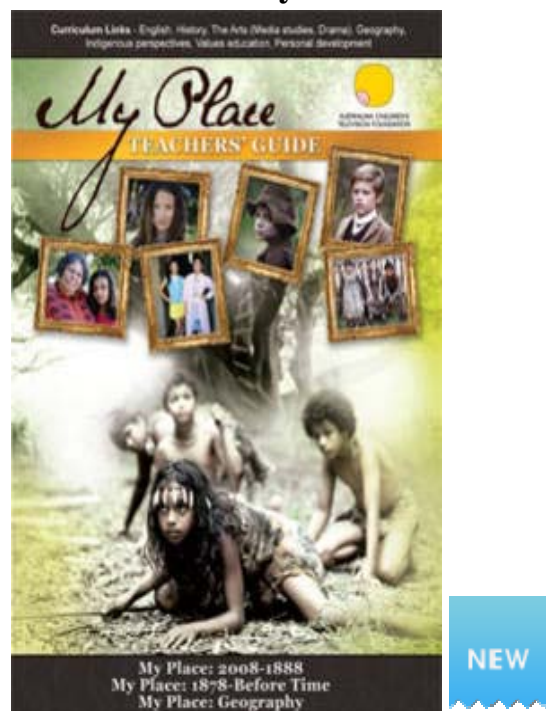
More **Quick Geography** activities designed as short introductions to topics or quick revision activities have also been added. These include:  
GeoQ\_09- *Representing population distribution*,  
GeoQ\_10- *Indigenous population distribution*  
GeoQ\_11- *Population pyramids for Australian States and Territories* and  
GeoQ\_12- *Natural increase of population around Australia*.

To find these and other great resources go to [www.abs.gov.au](http://www.abs.gov.au) home page and click the Education tab.

### **The Age Natural Disasters poster series**

Bring the awesome power of nature to your classroom. Following a year of many natural disasters, The Age has produced a special poster series designed to help students develop an understanding of the cause and effects of these events. The pack includes a teacher guide and five A1 gloss posters exploring Bushfire, Earthquakes & Tsunamis, Wild weather, Volcanoes and Famine. Cost is \$30 for 15 papers or \$40 for 30 Sunday Age papers over four weeks in March. Orders close February 24, 2012. Call 1800 633 766 or order online.

## My Place - Series 1 & 2 plus Teachers' Guide v.2 and My Place book



The My Place Teachers' Guide (DVD-ROM) supports primary and lower secondary teachers using *My Place* in the classroom.

The advice to teachers included in the DVD-ROM v.2 includes Geography related materials and printable maps so that this series will be much more useful than the previous versions, to teachers of junior Geography, both primary and junior secondary levels.

### Annual Conference 2011 Keynotes

Last year the conference keynotes were filmed. They are available on vimeo. Follow these links:

<http://www.vimeo.com/28444529>

- Rob Gell

<http://www.vimeo.com/28475350>

- Dr Paul Mees

<http://www.vimeo.com/28486106>

- Cleo Westhorpe

<http://www.vimeo.com/28588497>

- Roger Herbert

<http://www.vimeo.com/28590231>

- Elida Brereton

<http://www.vimeo.com/28643151>

- Arthur Burch

<http://www.vimeo.com/28742005>

-Jon Faine

## Facebook

Join the 200 plus GTAV Facebook online community for a wonderful collection of shared web resources and ideas. Some recent examples:

### Using Google Earth

[http://www.earthblog.com/blog/archives/2011/12/using\\_google\\_earth\\_in\\_the\\_classroom.html](http://www.earthblog.com/blog/archives/2011/12/using_google_earth_in_the_classroom.html)

### Japan Earthquake change over time images

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/specials/japan-quake-2011/panoramas/>

## Year of the Farmer

2012 is Australian Year of the Farmer (AYOF) and plans are underway for many events. Keep up to date with the latest events and view a video about AYOF :

<http://www.yearofthefarmer.com.au/>

The Primary Industries Education Foundation website [www.primezone.edu.au](http://www.primezone.edu.au) aims to provide a single entry point for teachers to a range of primary industries education resources. Of interest on this site for geographers is the Virtual Farm section where videos and factsheets on farms in the Kimberley, Gippsland, Central Western NSW can be viewed.

## GTAV Membership Update

To continue to receive all of the benefits of GTAV membership, please ensure that the GTAV has received your 2012 renewal.

All **2011 member schools** should have received their 2012 membership renewal invoice prior to the end of the 2011 school year. All teachers in a member school can register for individual log on to the GTAV website. This provides the back issues of *Interaction* and GTAV News as well as teaching resources and much more.

**Individual GTAV members**, including GTAV 'friends', should have received a 2012 membership form with their copy of the December *Interaction*. Membership forms are also available on the GTAV website. Individual Online Membership, where members do not receive hard copies but still get all of the other benefits, are available at a reduced rate.



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## Geography Networks 2012

The teachers listed below have volunteered to be a point of contact for colleagues in 2012. Contact your network leader to be included on their email list.

Geography Network	Network Leader	School	School phone	Email
North Central	Alan Boddy	Bendigo Senior SC	5443 4522	<a href="mailto:boddy.alan@bssc.edu.au">boddy.alan@bssc.edu.au</a>
Berwick	Fiona Tonizzo	Pakenham SC	5941 4133	<a href="mailto:tonizzo.fiona.f@edumail.vic.gov.au">tonizzo.fiona.f@edumail.vic.gov.au</a>
East Gippsland	Tim Clemens	Gippsland Grammar	5143 6388	<a href="mailto:tim.clemens@gippslandgs.vic.edu.au">tim.clemens@gippslandgs.vic.edu.au</a>
Geelong, Ballarat	Richard Schomburgk	Ballarat & Clarendon College	5366 8200	<a href="mailto:schombri@bcc.clarendon.vic.edu.au">schombri@bcc.clarendon.vic.edu.au</a>
Western District	Paul Walsh	Bainbridge College	5572 2788	<a href="mailto:walsh.paul.f@edumail.vic.gov.au">walsh.paul.f@edumail.vic.gov.au</a>
Eastern Metro	Heather Ruckert	Tintern	9845 7777	<a href="mailto:hrucket@tintern.vic.edu.au">hrucket@tintern.vic.edu.au</a>
Horsham	Neil King	Horsham College	5382 0499	<a href="mailto:king.neil.a@edumail.vic.gov.au">king.neil.a@edumail.vic.gov.au</a>
Inner East	Vanessa Reynolds	Box Hill High School	9877 1177	<a href="mailto:rn@boxhillhs.vic.edu.au">rn@boxhillhs.vic.edu.au</a>
Mildura	Rebecca McClure	Irymple Secondary College	5024 5407	<a href="mailto:mccclure.rebecca.a@edumail.vic.gov.au">mccclure.rebecca.a@edumail.vic.gov.au</a>
North Eastern Metro	Trish Douglas	Eltham College	9437 1421	<a href="mailto:tdouglas@elthamcollege.vic.edu.au">tdouglas@elthamcollege.vic.edu.au</a>
Prahan Bayside	Margaret Bourke	McKinnon Secondary College	8520 9000	<a href="mailto:bou@mckinnonsc.vic.edu.au">bou@mckinnonsc.vic.edu.au</a> <b>Website:</b> <a href="http://groups.yahoo.com/group/pbgeog/">http://groups.yahoo.com/group/pbgeog/</a>
Western Suburbs	John Minett	Gilson College	9365 9365	<a href="mailto:john.minett@gilsoncollege.com">john.minett@gilsoncollege.com</a>
Spatial technologies	Pat Beeson	Teaching GIS	9870 0852	<a href="mailto:pabeeson@bigpond.net.au">pabeeson@bigpond.net.au</a>

### **Geography Teachers' Association of Victoria Inc (GTAV)**

503 Burke Road, Camberwell South Vic 3124

PO Box 2066, Camberwell West Vic 3124

Email: [office@gtav.asn.au](mailto:office@gtav.asn.au) website: [www.gtav.asn.au](http://www.gtav.asn.au)

Ph: (03) 9824 8355 Fax: (03) 9824 8295

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