



GTAV NEWS

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Newsletter of the Geography Teachers' Association of Victoria Inc.

February 2010

Welcome to 2010

The GTAV looks forward to working with and supporting members during the coming year.

How can the GTAV help you?

- Promote the teaching of Geography
- Organize professional learning opportunities
- Respond to individual requests
- Provide the *Global Education Project*
- Publish a quarterly journal, *Interaction*
- Publish a quarterly newsletter, *GTAV News*
- Maintain a library of up to date resources
- Produce teaching resources
- Maintain a website
- Provide opportunities for you to share ideas with your colleagues
- Coordinate regional networks and online forums.

The GTAV would like to publicly thank Adriana for all the great work that she undertook for the GTAV as our Education Officer last year. There are a great number of Victorian Geographers both students and teachers who have been personally and very capably assisted by her and who will join in wishing her much success with her new role at John Monash Science School in 2010. She is quite excited about her new job and the new challenges she will face this year.

My name is Terry McMeekin and I will be the Education Officer for 2010. I am trying to fill some very big shoes left by the previous incumbents and hope that I will be up to this challenge. For those who do not know who I am, I taught Geography in Victorian Government schools for over 30 years until I retired about 18 months ago. I have marked and reviewed and written for the VCE, I have taught Geography to all year levels and have written or adapted curriculum for

VELS and the many other curriculum changes which pre-dated it.

I will be in the GTAV office on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday each week and am available on email at eo@gtav.asn.au. or by phone on **9824 8355**.

If you require help with the implementation of your Geography programs in 2010 feel free to contact me for assistance.

If I cannot help you I am sure that I will be able to find someone who can!

GTAV Annual Conference 2010

The date has been set for the 44th Annual Conference. The dates for your diary are Monday 16th and Tuesday 17th August. The conference will be for just one day (Monday) with a fieldwork day on the Tuesday. It will be held at Clifton's Training Rooms at 440 Collins Street, Melbourne. So we will all be able to try using public transport access to the city rather than relying on our less sustainable but much loved cars.

Presenters at the Conference

The GTAV Annual Conference has always benefited from the brilliant contributions of our most accomplished practising teachers.

Presenting a session at conference is excellent personal and professional learning.

The GTAV is now calling for offers of workshops. Each session is of one hour duration on the Monday with Tuesday being a day for fieldwork visits. I would like to suggest that some presenters may wish to use the city location for fieldwork tasters and activities that may be used to introduce students to the CBD. This year's conference venue has 4 computer rooms available so IT rich topics will be well resourced and I am sure popular with teachers.

A *Call for Presenters* form is available on our website and with this mail out.

Presenting has its rewards...

The *Victorian Institute of Teaching* has made it a requirement that to maintain registration teachers must undertake Professional Learning. Teachers are required to be active members of their profession.

VIT says...*It is important that professional development activities are provided for teachers which allow access to research and knowledge sourced from outside the immediate school environment. This allows teachers to remain up-to-date and assess the value of new research and knowledge as it relates to their practice. It also emphasizes the importance of connecting with the broader educational community. 50% of the required hours should be activities with a relationship to research and knowledge sourced from outside the immediate school or work environment.*

This includes attendance at conferences and PL sessions run outside your school or may include teachers from a school working with facilitators from outside their workplace.

Semester 1 Professional Learning

The GTAV program provides opportunities to enhance your Geography teaching and build your love of the subject while at the same time satisfying the *Standards of Professional Practice*.

Term one 1/2 – 26/3		
Sun 7 Feb	<i>Inexperienced VCE teachers</i>	Hawthorn
Fri 12 Feb	<i>Meet the Examiners</i>	Hawthorn
Sun 21Feb	<i>MDB student lecture and Get Set for VCE workshops</i>	Melb Uni
Mon 22 Feb	<i>Basic geospatial skills and knowledge for Geography</i>	Holmesglen TAFE
Mon 1 Mar	<i>Geography 7-10 relevant and fun</i>	Holmesglen TAFE
Tues 16 Mar	<i>Using GTAV resources in the Geography Classroom</i>	GTAV office
Term two 12/4 – 25/6		
Mon 17 Apr	<i>Fieldwork – ideas and strategies</i>	tba
Mon 3 May	<i>Using GTAV resources in the Geography Classroom</i>	GTAV office
Mon 29 – Tues 30 June Vacation	<i>GIS task development</i>	Monash

The year's program is available and updated at www.gtav.asn.au under *Support and Professional Development*. Registration forms will be mailed to schools and can also be downloaded from the website.

Registration procedure

On receipt of your registration, the GTAV will send a confirmation email. An accurate email address helps this process. If you don't receive a confirmation email, please check with the GTAV office at office@gtav.asn.au Closer to the date of the event you will also receive details about the day and a relevant map or building access instructions.

Geography Networks

There are a number of networks operating throughout Victoria. This is a fantastic opportunity to share ideas and find help. The network leaders are sent information to pass on to network members. To be in this information loop contact the relevant leader and they will be happy to include you in their group. The leaders are listed on the back of this newsletter and on our website.

Interaction 2010

The planned themes for Interaction this year are Biodiversity, Global Geography and Enhancing Cultural Understanding. I am sure that we all look forward to the coverage of these very relevant issues in our journal this year.

Australian Geography Competition

The National Geographic Channel is again sponsoring the *Australian Geography Competition*. Information about the competition has been included with this newsletter. The competition is an opportunity to promote Geography and recognize the talents of your keen students who may win a place in the international competition and Geography's Big Week Out.

The date by which to register your school is February 26th so don't forget!!

The competition is to be run in schools between Monday 22 and Wednesday 31 March this year. For all details see www.rgsq.org.au/agc.htm

VCE Geography Accreditation

As Geography is in the second round of National Curriculum development, accreditation for the current VCE Geography course has been extended until the end of 2011 and may well be extended beyond this time.

National Curriculum

The current plan for development is that drafts of the Australian curriculum for English, Mathematics, the Sciences and History for Years P–10 and 11–12 will be made available for consultation in February and May 2010 respectively for a period of about three months. It is expected that the Australian curriculum for the P-10 years will be available from 2011.

If this timeline is met, it is expected that the new Australian curriculum for English, Mathematics, the Sciences and History will then be introduced in all Victorian schools and providers for students in P–10 in 2012. This includes the new content and achievement standards and associated reporting of student achievement.

For Years 11 and 12, it is expected that new Australian curriculum-based VCE courses in the subject areas of English, Mathematics, the Sciences and History will be introduced in Units 1 and 2 in 2013 and Units 3 and 4 in 2014.

The new subjects will follow the structure and format of existing Victorian Certificate of Education (VCE) study designs. Assessment arrangements will be detailed in the study designs as is the case at present.

Professional development programs for the new subjects will be provided for Units 1-2 and 3-4 in 2012 and 2013 respectively.

The important bit for us...

Information about the implementation of the second group of Australian curriculum subjects (Geography, LOTE and The Arts) and other subjects will be provided early in 2010.

This means that VCE Geography is unlikely to change significantly before the National Curriculum of the first round of subjects has been implemented.

Membership for 2010

Have you renewed your membership for 2010? Membership entitles you to Interaction, access to the *Orbis* library, many resources, advice and cheaper cost for professional learning activities. Please check that your faculty has renewed its membership for the 2010 calendar year.

Why not become an individual member?

This means you will receive your own copy of Interaction, GTAV News and other information.

A membership form is available on the GTAV web site.

Vanuatu Study Tour 2010

A special GTAV Study Tour to Vanuatu will be held during the July School Holidays this year.

The 11 day tour will be jointly organized by Barrie Jones (GTAV Study Tours Co-ordinator) and Denise Miles (Interaction Joint Editor, who is currently living in Vanuatu).

Apart from the normal tourist related activities around Vila and the island of Efate (e.g. City Tour, Around Island Tour, swimming/snorkelling at Hideaway Island), the tour will also include a talk about expat life in Vila by Denise, a visit to a local school, an address by local tourism representatives, a meteorologist and a vulcanologist, and a visit to Vila's alternative energy generation supplier. A highlight of the tour should be our two day side-trip to the island of Tanna, where we will have the opportunity to stand on the rim of the world's most active volcano and to observe the traditional lifestyle of the island people.

Approximate price for the 11 day tour (including all air fares, accommodation with daily breakfast, various other meals, all sightseeing tours and presentations), will be about \$2500 per person twin share.

Please e-mail Barrie at barriemjones@hotmail.com or call him on his mobile 0406716182, for more details. Places are limited to a maximum of 20, so please contact Barrie as soon as possible, if you are interested in participating.

Museum Victoria

Museum Victoria provides a wide range of educational material and programs for teachers and students of all ages.

There are two planetarium shows which would be interesting for junior Geographers. One aimed at Years 3-8 is called 'Spinning Out', it covers the Earth from space, seasons and day/night. The second for Years 5-10 is called 'Our Living Climate', it covers the climate/seasons and life on Earth.

Topics which have educational programs available are Forests, the Melbourne Story, wild biodiversity, immigration and investigating the past through a study of rubbish. These programs are aimed at students in Years 7-9. For further details refer to the Museum's website:

<http://museumvictoria.com.au/education/>

Some Dates for term 1:

World Wetlands Day

Tuesday 2 February

I know that this will have passed by the time that you get this GTAV News but the website is quite good and the slogan for this year is relevant for VCE Units 3 & 4. The slogan is: *Caring for wetlands – an answer to climate change*

http://www.ramsar.org/cda/ramsar/display/main/main.jsp?zn=ramsar&cp=1-63-78^24106_4000_0

Clean up Australia Day

Sunday 7 March 2010

Schools Clean Up Day: Friday 5 March 2010

To find out details go to...

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

The site has much valuable information including how to live greener, phone recycling, fact sheets, careful water use and an ecological footprint calculator.

International Women's Day

Monday 8 March

This is always a day worth celebrating!

World Water Day

Monday 22 March 2010

Every year, 1,500 cubic kilometres of wastewater are produced globally. While waste and wastewater can be reused productively for energy and irrigation, it usually is not. In developing countries 80 percent of all waste is being discharged untreated, because of lack of regulations and resources. Population and industrial growth add new sources of pollution and increased demand for clean water to the equation. Human and environmental health, drinking and agricultural water supplies for the present and future are at stake. However water pollution rarely warrants mention as a pressing issue. To do something about that UN-Water has chosen *Communicating Water Quality: Challenges and Opportunities* as its theme for World Water Day 2010. The overall goal is to raise the profile of water quality at the political level so that water quality considerations are made alongside those of water quantity.

<http://www.unwater.org/worldwaterday/flashindex.html>

World Health Day

Wednesday 7 April

World Health Day 2010 will focus on urbanization and health. With the campaign "1000 cities - 1000 lives", events will be organized worldwide calling on cities to open up streets for health activities. Stories of urban health champions will be gathered to illustrate what people are doing to improve health in their cities.

<http://www.who.int/world-health-day/en/>

Freerice... An online game.

This is an online game that gives away rice to the needy. Log on to www.freerice.com and test your vocabulary with their automated quiz. For each word definition you get right, the site's sponsors will give 20 grains of rice to the United Nations World Food Program. FreeRice is similar to sites such as <http://www.care2.com/> but with the major difference: that it openly markets the benefits for you. The more you play, the more your intelligence and the world's hungry will benefit.

New Resources in the Orbis Library

A DVD produced by VEA titled 'Ageing Populations. A European Case Study'. It is a 2005 production which uses the ageing population in the UK as a case study. It may be a good resource to use with your VCE students.

The DVD advertised in the December 2009 edition of Interaction 'The Murray Darling Basin: a system in crisis' has now been released. It is available to order at www.reesfilms.com and its price is \$198. The DVD covers most of the VCE study design points and has some terrific clear explanations and images of the geographic characteristics of the basin. The history of water use is illustrated with some wonderful old photos which clearly show many of the water issues that have always been present within the Murray Darling Basin. The chapter headings are clear and easy to use. I think that any Unit 3 VCE class would benefit from viewing this DVD.

Some Interesting Web Sites

- Will it blow? An activity which monitors Yellowstone volcanic activity. Students interpret historical and real-time monitoring data for Yellowstone NP to determine if there is a space suitable for building a golf resort in the park

<http://cws.unavco.org:8080/cws/modules/yellowstone/>

- Some Haiti earthquake information.

<http://www.unavco.org/support/event-response/event-response.html>

- Play Virtual Pilot 11: The next challenge sweepstakes has ended, but you can keep playing! Try to beat your high score and be a Virtual Pilot pro!

<http://www.lufthansa-vp.com/>

A Possible Fieldwork Site

Eco Centre in St Kilda

Provides education about sustainability. Student programs are designed so that they can learn by doing. The EcoCentre works with schools and community groups to improve sustainable living and the environment through education.

http://www.ecocentre.com/edu_school_programs.html

GIS jobs info:

This web site has great marketing material for careers opportunities in Spatial Science for use with students, careers advisors and parents.

<http://www.destinationspatial.org/home.aspx>

This is a link to a US employment agency article which shows why using GIS and training our students in its use is a good idea!

<http://www.gisuser.com/content/view/18778/2/>

GTAV Resources Update – Geospatial Skills Activity Book Level 5



Available from booksellers and the GTAV is the *Geospatial Skills Activity Book* for VELS Level 5. The activities in this 76-page book complement the geospatial skills being taught in the classroom. Topics include earthquakes, bushfires, Antarctica, national parks and surf lifesaving. The exercises refer to both black and white data and 20 pages of colour data in the centre of the book.

These activities can either be used as additional activities at school or as homework tasks.

This is available at cost of \$14.95

New Perspectives Supplement for Units 3&4

This supplementary booklet to the *New Perspectives* text book published by the GTAV is now available. It includes data and information on the two mandated topics for Unit 3 and 4 – the Murray-Darling Basin and Human Population.

This is available at a cost of \$24.95

A Request...

We are looking for some new resources to add to our web site. If you have some skills tasks or great ideas for using an interactive white board, units of work, fieldwork or prac tasks to share please forward them to eo@gtav.asn.au

Geography Networks 2010

The teachers listed below have volunteered to be a point of contact for colleagues in 2010. Contact your network leader to be included on their email list.

Geography Network	Network Leader	School	School phone	Email
North Central	Alan Boddy	Bendigo South East S C	5336 7200	boddy.alan@bssc.edu.au
Berwick	Fiona Tonizzo	Kambrya College	9702 6266	tonizzo.fiona.f@edumail.vic.gov.au
East Gippsland	Tim Clemens	Gippsland Grammar	5143 6388	scarter@cc.sale.catholic.edu.au
Geelong, Ballarat	Richard Schomburgk	Ballarat & Clarendon College	5366 4800	schombri@bcc.clarendon.vic.edu.au
Western District	Paul Walsh	Baimbridge College	5572 2788	walsh.paul.f@edumail.vic.gov.au
Eastern Metro	Heather Ruckert	Tintern		hrocket@tintern.vic.edu.au
Horsham	Neil King	Horsham College	5382 0499	king.neil.a@edumail.vic.gov.au
Horsham	Gayle Thomas	Horsham College	5382 0499	thomas@netcall.com.au
Kew*				
Mildura	Chris Andrews	Irymple	5024 5407	andrews.christopher.n@edumail.vic.gov.au
North Eastern Metro	Trish Douglas	Eltham College	9437 1421	tdouglas@elthamcollege.vic.edu.au
Prahran Bayside	Website http://group.yahoo.com/group/pbgeog			
Prahran Bayside	Geoffrey Paterson	Distance Education Centre	8480 0155	gpaterso@distance.vic.edu.au
Western Suburbs	Kylie-Ann Walsh	Bayside College, Newport	9393 5800	walsh.kylie-ann@edumail.vic.gov.au
Spatial technologies	Pat Beeson	Australian Bureau of Statistics		pat.beeson@abs.gov.au

2009-10 Sub-committee Conveners

CONFERENCE	Maree Boyle
PROFESSIONAL LEARNING	Terry McMeekin
CURRICULUM	Neil King
INTERACTION	Denise Miles / Judy Mraz
MEMBERSHIP & MARKETING	Jeana Kriewaldt
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY	Rob Berry
STUDY TOUR	Barrie Jones
50 th BIRTHDAY	Rob Berry
GEOGRAPHY ISSUES GROUP	Susy Puszka
GIS STEERING GROUP	Pat Beeson

www.gtav.asn.au

Help us help you

Are you on our email list?
Is someone from your school on our email list?

Help us get information to you.
Simply contact the GTAV at
office@gtav.asn.au

Fieldwork data bank

The GTAV is putting together a bank of ideas for fieldwork. Are you happy to share an example of your work? Do you know of a terrific location? Do you know of a wonderful contact? Do you have advice? Contact the GTAV.



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