

# STRATEGIC PLAN 2021–2026

Since 1959, the Geography Teachers' Association of Victoria has been guiding geography teaching in Victoria through the provision of professional development, advocacy and high-level resource generation. In 2021, the Management Committee endorsed the Mission Statement and guiding principles of the GTAV as well as the development of five Strategic Intents on which to focus our programs and projects over the next 3-5 years.

## PROVIDE VICTORIAN GEOGRAPHY TEACHERS AND STUDENTS WITH EXEMPLARY EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT

### MISSION STATEMENT

**Geography offers students the opportunity to:**

- experience a unique perspective on environments, people and their interaction
- develop knowledge, skills and values that enable them to explore and understand the world

**The GTAV is committed to excellence in geographical education in Victoria. We:**

- provide leadership in geographical education
- promote the value and place of Geography teaching and learning
- foster participation by, and collaboration between, students, teachers and the wider community
- provide quality services and support



GTAV

## GUIDING PRINCIPLES

# PROVIDE VICTORIAN GEOGRAPHY TEACHERS AND STUDENTS WITH EXEMPLARY EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT

## SUPPORT

Provide exemplar professional learning and quality resources in Geographical Education F–VCE.

- 1. Resources:** Produce quality resources F-VCE by outstanding Geographical educators.
- 2. Professional Learning:** Conduct programs by engaging capable and knowledgeable presenters across all facets of Geography curriculum – for Primary and Secondary teachers of Geography and for both experienced and out-of-field teachers.

## LEADERSHIP

Deliver a positive contribution to leadership in geographical education, including the role of geospatial technologies.

- 1. Inform:** Utilise diverse platforms to provide expert information and knowledge to practising and pre-services teachers.
- 2. Educate:** Facilitate the development of geographical perspectives and knowledge.
- 3. Connect and understand:** Provide opportunities to engage and share within the wider geographical education community.

## ADVOCACY

Increase awareness of the value and place of geographical education in a location-based society.

- 1. Awareness:** Clear, consistent communication about the value of Geography (including geospatial technology as part of STEAM) and its career pathways.
- 2. Collaboration:** Consolidate and expand partnerships across our body of supporters in government, education, industry and tertiary sectors.

### Best Practice Governance

... embedded within all aspects of our organisational culture, including policies and processes to support growth.

### Sustainable Finances

... growing our organisation through clearly defined goals, processes and strategic partnerships.

### Our Team

... a well-developed, motivated, passionate committee and staff, displaying pride in our organisation and awareness of contemporary geographical education.

# STRATEGIC PLAN

## 2021–2026

The Geography Teachers' Association of Victoria has identified five specific goals on which to focus programs and resource allocation over the next 3-5 years.

### To advocate for Geography's place in the curriculum.

Geography's place in the Victorian Curriculum has historically been strong, but some threats have developed through the increasing crowding of the curriculum and the varied perceptions of the importance of geography in a balanced educational experience for children K-12. Geography teachers can offer significant leadership in appropriate multi-disciplinary and specialist knowledge given the enormous importance of issues such as climate change, the spread of disease, travel and migration.

GTAV will continue to advocate strongly for Geography's place in the curriculum by ensuring that the case for core geography is critical, not only in Years 7 to 10, but also in the Primary Years.

The GTAV will identify opportunities to state publicly the case for geography in the curriculum and provide resources to this effect.

### To increase engagement with teachers through membership, professional learning and resource use.

The demands on teachers are increasing and strong relationships between the GTAV and Geography teachers of all backgrounds and experience has never been more important. The GTAV aims to increase access to, and involvement in, the organisation through increased opportunities and methods of engagement.

The GTAV will seek new member schools, develop strategies to communicate more effectively with teachers and engage them through the provision of Professional Learning and resources.

The GTAV will endeavour to foster more productive relationships with members making greater use of the significant skill base and experience of its membership.



## To provide opportunities for innovative professional development for members including Geospatial Technology, Fieldwork and Geography Curriculum.

Despite the wealth of professional learning and resources provided by the GTAV in the past, the need for updated and engaging resources and assistance has never been more important. The number of Out of Field teachers and the demands on the curriculum at a school level has increased the GTAV's role in educating and supporting teachers – both inexperienced and experienced.

Professional Learning has naturally moved to include more of Geospatial Technology as the need for upskilling is vital in this rapidly changing landscape. The GTAV will continue to strengthen our support of teachers in this and other specialist skill areas.

Fieldwork is one of the many important aspects that make the study of Geography distinctive. Providing resources, opportunities and training is a specific focus for the GTAV, as teachers find it increasingly difficult to find opportunities to truly engage students with the collection and analysis of spatial data.

The GTAV will focus on assisting teachers and their schools by offering innovative and effective approaches to Fieldwork.

## To ensure that resources are aligned with future needs and best practice in a changing educational environment.

COVID-19, the increased focus on STEAM and the acceptance of on-line and ICT resources in adapting pedagogy has increased the need for GTAV to develop resources accordingly.

The GTAV commits to the investigation of new delivery and student engagement styles that reflects these and other changes in the educational environment. This will include the broad adaptation of future resources and professional learning where appropriate.

## To ensure diverse and sustainable income streams.

The changing government and corporate funding landscapes create challenges for not-for-profit associations such as the GTAV. To ensure the sustainability of the organisation, a focus of GTAV will be to investigate appropriate new income streams where possible and to enhance and protect existing income streams.

