‘Geography maps life in an era of global turmoil’

Australia needs to be educating a generation who will be informed and active citizens engaged with our democratic processes. We need a generation who will have a passion to see our governments implement policies for sustainable development and a real concern for the needs of the poor.

One of the most significant education initiatives in recent years is the Australian School Curriculum. The draft curriculum for geography argues that: "Geography answers our questions about why places are like they are and how they are connected to other places … encouraging students to be thoughtful local and global citizens when making decisions that affect their lives and the lives of others."

It is a subject that deals head-on with the globally integrated world we live in and the big issues of sustainability, migration, refugees and asylum seekers, global inequalities, population and climate change - some of the hot topics of the (2010) election.

A thoughtful student of geography would appreciate that people seeking asylum in Australia are fleeing some of the worst humanitarian situations you can imagine. A generation of informed, educated Australians would know that Australia takes about 13,500 refugees as part of its overall immigration intake and that Australia is not "being flooded" with asylum seekers.

Geography is not just about reading maps and the learning of capital cities. Geography involves hard, critical thinking and the development of important knowledge and skills. Geography's outward disposition also encourages an engaged, involved outlook; a desire not merely to observe the world but to change it for the better.

Our children need a great education that equips them to be global citizens in an increasingly globalised world - and our world needs engaged and well-educated Australians with a global ethic. From an article by Tim Costello (World Vision Australia), published in the Sydney Morning Herald on 6 September 2010.

The Australian Geography Teachers Association (AGTA) Board is pleased to announce that Tim Costello has agreed to be the AGTA Patron for the next three years. Tim Costello in his position as the chief executive officer of World Vision Australia is well qualified to speak on the role and value of Geography. As a student he excelled in Geography and his outstanding work in the field of social justice makes him well qualified to represent the voice of Australian Geography Teachers.

Tim Costello officially became the AGTA Patron at the AGTA Conference in January 2011 when he presented his keynote on the role of geography in modern Australia.

Tim Costello with Malcolm McInerney at the AGTA conference in January 2011.
Conference 2011
The GTAV Annual Conference has always benefited from the contributions of our most accomplished practising teachers. Presenting a session at conference is excellent personal and professional learning. The GTAV will be calling for workshop presenters early this year. As usual the Conference will be held in August and will run on a Sunday and Monday with Tuesday being a day for fieldwork visits. As the Conference will again be held in the CBD it is hoped that some presenters may wish to use the city location for fieldwork tasters and activities that may be used to introduce students to the city of Melbourne. Watch the website and facebook to see the actual conference dates, location and theme for 2011.

Annual General Meeting of GTAV
The AGM will be held on Friday 13 May. Look out for details closer to this date.

GTAV is now on Facebook
The GTAV has a facebook page. The GTAV has over 70 current members. The site has a terrific list of links to wonderful and relevant websites which will be useful to you in your classroom. We welcome you to share interesting and useful Geography resources with fellow members. The Discussion tab is one that we would like to make use of in 2011. Perhaps you could start a topic link!! If you feel that you do not find out about Professional Learning opportunities as quickly as you would like, check out our facebook page or the GTAV website to be the first to know! Once we reach 75 members there will be a second prize draw open to all existing members.

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 to 8/4 2011 |  |
|-------------------------|--|------------------|-----------------|
| Sun 20 Feb              | New teachers to VCE Geography | Holmesglen Conference Centre |
| Sun 27 Feb              | MBD Student Lecture for VCE Unit 3 | ‘The Spot’ at Melbourne University |
| Fri 18 March            | Meet the Examiners | Graduate House 220 Leicester St Carlton |
| Tue 29 March            | Help, How do I teach Geography? | Holmesglen Conference Centre |

The year’s program is available and updated at www.gtav.asn.au under Teaching Geography - Professional Learning. Registration forms are mailed to schools and can also be accessed from our website.

**Registration procedure:**
**This procedure is now online.**
To access events you go online to the events calendar click on the event link and then fill in the online registration form. You will receive an email which is both your confirmation and taxation invoice. Closer to the date of the event you will also receive details about the day and a relevant map or building access instructions. If this information does not arrive, contact the office immediately: office@gtav.asn.au.
Membership for 2011

Have you renewed your membership for 2011? Membership entitles you to Interaction, access to the members only section of the website, the Orbis library, resources, professional advice and a cheaper cost for professional learning activities. Please check that your faculty/school has renewed its membership for the 2011 calendar year. Why not become an individual member? Membership forms are available on our website.

If you registered to use the website last year, to register for use in 2011 your school or individual membership must be paid in full. To reactivate your membership go to MyGTAV tab, click on update membership details, complete the update requested… this will activate your membership for 2011, for which you will use the same password as 2010. If you are a new registration/teacher at an existing member school go to the My GTAV tab and follow the register link. Fill in the registration form and your password will be emailed to you.

For new members (school or individual) click on the become a member tab, this will link you to the online registration process. Complete the form and you will be emailed confirmation and a tax invoice.

Asia Wise – a case study from Upwey High School

Problem 1...Several years ago our faculty recognised that research skills was a key area which lacked focus in our curriculum. While students could go to Google and run a normal search, they were not good at selecting key words and had no idea about how use any advanced search techniques. We felt that improving their research skills was a key to improving their ability to operate in modern society and would provide benefits throughout their academic lives. It has been pleasing to see the emphasis placed on these key skills in the Australian Curriculum.

Our solution To tackle this problem the first step was to improve our teacher’s skills in web-based search techniques. This was quite easy as Infoseek provides guidelines on how to improve search efficiency on its website at www.infoseek.com/help . With this improved knowledge our teachers felt more comfortable showing students how to search more efficiently.

Problem 2 ... How to fit it in the curriculum? To make the idea of researching more attractive to the students we now enter our whole year 7 and 8 cohort in the Asia Wise Competition every year. The Asia Wise fits very well with the Geography VELs level 5 Asia Pacific focus. The Asia Wise acts as a capstone to the lessons on research skills and Asia and the Pacific. It also provides us with an opportunity to recognise our students’ performance. This has been very successful because the research nature of the Asia Wise means that all students can perform well. In particular, those diligent students who sometimes don’t shine now get an opportunity to excel and be rewarded for their efforts.

The program has now become a small but vital unit in our teaching program. We believe the development of research skills is so fundamental to student performance that we enrol the whole year group. It takes us about two lessons in class to teach the research skills and then we allow one lesson in class for students to begin the Asia Wise Competition. Over the next fortnight they complete the Asia Wise for homework.

Outcomes....Overall we have found the research unit very empowering for our students. The combination with the Asia Wise Competition is quite a powerful motivator for students as well. It is such a flexible program that teachers can use it in a variety of ways and as a fun exercise. It also provides a reliable set of results that teachers don’t have to mark.

From a faculty perspective we get the additional benefits of having a program that provides comparative results for students right across our year 8 cohort, and we have an excellent way of building Asia into our curriculum. With the added emphasis on Asia coming from the national curriculum we will consider including Asia Wise into our year 9 program as well.

We first found out about Asia Wise at www.GiantClassroom.com.au

Matt Lucas  HOD  Upwey High School
Landcare Photography Competition
Readers are invited to enter our 2011 Landcare Photography Competition. Entries are invited in three categories: sustainability, water and ‘what Landcare means to me’. There will be a general prize in each category and prizes for primary and secondary students.
Each prize winner will receive $150 for their school, Landcare group, or charity of choice. The winning entries will be published in the magazine. To enter, send a low resolution jpg (under 200KB) to landcare.magazine@dse.vic.gov.au with your name, contact details and a caption. Prints and CDs will also be accepted and should be posted to: Project Officer, Victorian Landcare & Catchment Management Magazine, DSE, PO Box 500, East Melbourne VIC 8002.
You will need to gain the permission of anyone who is recognisable in your photographs. A high resolution file (over 1MB) will be required if your photograph is to be published. The competition closes on 10 June, 2011.

The Big Issue in Geography classrooms
Geography students at Timboon SC now have a better understanding of inequality in our communities, thanks to The Big Issue Classroom, a new social enterprise run by The Big Issue Australia. As part of a unit on local and international poverty, students heard from vendor Andrew about his experiences of homelessness, addiction, exclusion from mainstream work, and eventual recovery. Students learned about the important role that The Big Issue plays in helping people regain stability and confidence in their lives.
Teacher Denise said, ‘This program was a highlight of my unit on poverty in Australia and overseas. International resources were pretty easy to find, but The Big Issue Classroom really got students thinking about our own society. The Big Issue Classroom shows empowerment and positive change, and students were really inspired and amazed by the guest speaker’s story.’
The Big Issue Classroom’s interactive workshops are co-presented by a specialist facilitator and a guest speaker who has experienced homelessness and marginalisation. Workshops have relevance across the high school curriculum, working well in a city experience program, geography units, and with other social sciences.
A participating year 9 student said, ‘I think The Big Issue is really important. It gives dignity back to people, as well as giving them an income.’
The Big Issue Classroom is a social enterprise, an independent business that provides financial income and personal development opportunities for homeless and marginalised participants. Involvement provides a sense of empowerment to guest speakers, who are paid for the work that they do.
‘Talking to school kids – it’s more than just the cash why I like it. Talking to kids makes me feel like I’m making a difference, like my story’s important. It feels great,’ Andrew, vendor and guest speaker.
Workshops in Melbourne are held at our CBD Classroom or your school, with delivery options available for regional Victoria.

What is The Big Issue Australia?
The Big Issue Australia is an independent social enterprise that creates opportunities for disadvantaged Australians – allowing them to earn an income, reconnect with society, and regain their sense of confidence.
We produce The Big Issue magazine, a high-quality general interest publication that is available fortnightly. Buy a magazine from your local vendor, or support disadvantaged women by subscribing to the magazine.
Schools can subscribe for a discounted price – for more information call (02) 8877 0374
For more information, please contact Danya Sterling, the national program coordinator, on 03 9663 9136 or dsterling@bigissue.org.au
New or interesting Websites:
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jbkSRLYSojo Hans Rosling's 200 countries, 200 years, 4 minutes; 'The Joy of Stats' from BBC Four. A terrific clip which shows the relative wealth of 200 countries and how their wealth has changed over time. A great resource for VCE Unit 4!

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=86tx93ZQcOc&NR=1 Water...should we be drinking 8 glasses per day?? Interesting!!

http://www.youtube.com/user/greenman3610#p/u/18/uE6at2IEUOU I just found this channel on youtube, it relates to climate change scepticism myths and responses. Having watched several of the videos, I definitely plan to use these in my teaching this year, and recommend it to others planning to teach about Climate Change. Very clear, well-presented and convincing. Thanks Daniel!!

http://www.contoureducation.com/archives/368 Queensland flood maps

http://www.abc.net.au/news/infographics/qld-floods/beforeafter.htm Another great QLD Floods webpage... make sure that you look at the second page.

http://www.karmacurrency.com.au/ Do you need some karma or want to give some away?? This is an interesting way to gift/donate money to a huge variety of charities.

If you find a great web site and would like to share it, please let me know or link it to our facebook page... regards Terry EO

New Resources:
Price $18.50
This reprint of the popular guide to intertidal life is now in full colour. The small pocket sized guide is a valuable resource for schools to take on coastal fieldwork trips. Students will be able to identify many of the common plants and animals that live on rocky shores.
It is available at www.books.vnpa.org.au

## For resources relevant to Geography and may other KLAs, suitable for all reading levels between junior primary and lower secondary, and great for ESL students or poor readers.

www.lioncrest.com.au
Distributors for a wide range of Educational Publishers. 100% Australian owned.
To contact your Educational Consultant ring Julie at Lioncrest on 1800 249 727 or Louise Ryan 9435 5370

## Geospatial Skills Activity Book Level 6
Cost: $14.95 available from the GTAV or through booksellers.
This is the companion to Geospatial Skills Activity Book Level 5. It revises and extends the Geospatial skills your students should acquire in Yrs 9 and 10. It would also be a great way for VCE students who have studied little Geography in previous years to prepare for the geospatial skills required during Units 1-4.

## Sustainability in the 21st Century (part1) published by Michael P Mardel.
Cost $45 for e-book.
It is available from www.downunderonline.org as an e-book or as a hard copy. It includes lesson plans which are aimed at senior primary and junior secondary students related to topics such as food, transport, water, energy etc… There are a number of interesting and up to date activities which you and your faculty may find useful.
Just over one year since the devastating earthquake struck Haiti on 12 January 2010

From a Médecins Sans Frontières email update regarding Haiti…we will be making a substantial commitment to Haiti in the months and years to come. As I'm sure you will have heard, our teams are currently responding to a ferocious outbreak of cholera. In the twelve months since the quake, the people of Haiti have been battling against appalling sanitation conditions across the country, which has allowed cholera to spread at an alarming pace. The epidemic is now nationwide.

http://www.msf.org.au/

It has also been reported in the press over the summer, that many billions of dollars promised to assist with the rebuilding of Haiti have not been delivered by the international community. This may be a cause that you, your school/students may be able to support in 2011…

Individual Assistance from the Education Officer
Contact Terry McMeekin, Education officer, for help with specific requests. This may be individual issues or to help with school based PL sessions. GTAV can...

- Organise professional learning opportunities
- Produce quality teaching resources
- Provide opportunities for you to share ideas with your colleagues
- Coordinate regional networks and online forums.
- Suggest resources and arrange for you to access our library.

Contact details eo@gtav.asn.au or phone 98248355.

Extra new website:
This great website shows very clearly the flow of refugees around the world in a historical context. It comes from Flowing Data. Good for VCE or Middle Years Geography units.
http://www.niceone.org/lab/refugees/

VCE Geography a possible field work site.
Christine Lower is now the volunteer dealing with VCE geography use of Como. The VCE fieldwork activity at Como is on the National Trust Como Website, in PDF format, and can be downloaded. Students can also download selected pages from it and there are pre-visit preparation suggestions. At Como, the specific site data needed for answering the questions can be studied in a dedicated VCE study room, which students can use as a base during their visit. It is all set up ready for teachers and their students. In 2010 it was used by a number of schools, who also appreciated the ease of accessibility by public transport. For more information and entry costs...

Reduce your plastic bag use...
A great gift idea...
Super thin, transparent net bags, contained within a pouch; ensure a guilt free trip down the fruit and veg aisle or to the farmers’ markets. Dry within seconds, wash the goods within the bag and store until your next shopping mission
http://www.onyabags.com.au

GTAV produced resources:
See our website for the full range of our resources. Most resources that we produce are supported by lesson plans and student activities.

Topographic Maps
Geospatial Skills Posters
VCE Unit 3 & 4 Supplement
The 2009 update to New Perspectives this is the updated information that you need for the MDB and for Population...
Geospatial Skills Activity Book Levels 5 & 6
Terrific as homework skills texts, for class use to practise skills, to use as part of a head start program at the end of the year and as skills acquisition/revision for students who have spent little previous time in a Geography classroom.
Fieldwork guide
The Achurch Trust is a small but appropriate way to remember and continue the work of Michael Achurch after whom it was named. It is not a huge trust, far from it. It disperses a total of about $4000 to $6000 each year and the Trustees decided right from the start, that this Trust would be a low-key affair that quietly helped all sorts of young people to take on all sorts of challenges. Over the past twenty five years, the Trust has helped an amazing array of young people to do all sorts of things. Applications have been made for individual students to attend camps, for outdoor education faculties, geography research equipment etc... Applications can be made directly via the attached website http://www.achurchtrust.org.au/index.html

Geography Networks
There are a number of networks operating throughout Victoria. They are a fantastic opportunity for you to share ideas and access assistance. The network leaders have information to pass on to network members. To become a member, contact the relevant leader from your region and they will include you in their network. The leaders are listed on the last page of this newsletter and on our website. The contact list should now be current.
We are currently looking for a network leader in the Western Suburbs. Many thanks to John for being the Network Leader last year, but as he has now moved to WA we need a new person.
Is anyone interested to take this role for 2011?
### Geography Network Leaders for 2011
The teachers listed below have volunteered to be a point of contact for colleagues in 2011

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Geography Network</th>
<th>Network Leader</th>
<th>School</th>
<th>School phone</th>
<th>Email</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>North Central</td>
<td>Alan Boddy</td>
<td>Bendigo Senior Sec College</td>
<td>5443 4522</td>
<td><a href="mailto:boddy.alan@bssc.edu.au">boddy.alan@bssc.edu.au</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Berwick</td>
<td>Fiona Tonizzo</td>
<td>Pakenham Sec College</td>
<td>5941 4133</td>
<td><a href="mailto:tonizzo.fiona.f@edumail.vic.gov.au">tonizzo.fiona.f@edumail.vic.gov.au</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East Gippsland</td>
<td>Tim Clemens</td>
<td>Gippsland Grammar</td>
<td>5143 6388</td>
<td><a href="mailto:tim.clemens@gippslandgs.vic.edu.au">tim.clemens@gippslandgs.vic.edu.au</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geelong, Ballarat</td>
<td>Richard Schomburgk</td>
<td>Ballarat &amp; Clarendon College</td>
<td>5366 8200</td>
<td><a href="mailto:schombri@bcc.clarendon.vic.edu.au">schombri@bcc.clarendon.vic.edu.au</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Western District</td>
<td>Paul Walsh</td>
<td>Bainbridge College</td>
<td>5572 2788</td>
<td><a href="mailto:walsh.paul.f@edumail.vic.gov.au">walsh.paul.f@edumail.vic.gov.au</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eastern Metro</td>
<td>Heather Ruckert</td>
<td>Tintern</td>
<td>9845 7777</td>
<td><a href="mailto:hrucket@tintern.vic.edu.au">hrucket@tintern.vic.edu.au</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Horsham</td>
<td>Neil King</td>
<td>Horsham College</td>
<td>5382 0499</td>
<td><a href="mailto:king.neil.a@edumail.vic.gov.au">king.neil.a@edumail.vic.gov.au</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inner East</td>
<td>Vanessa Reynolds</td>
<td>Box Hill High School</td>
<td>9877 1177</td>
<td><a href="mailto:rn@boxhillhs.vic.edu.au">rn@boxhillhs.vic.edu.au</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Mildura</td>
<td>Rebecca McClure</td>
<td>Irymple Secondary College</td>
<td>5024 5407</td>
<td><a href="mailto:mccclure.rebecca.a@edumail.vic.gov.au">mccclure.rebecca.a@edumail.vic.gov.au</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>North Eastern Metro</td>
<td>Trish Douglas</td>
<td>Eltham College</td>
<td>9437 1421</td>
<td><a href="mailto:tdouglas@elthamcollege.vic.edu.au">tdouglas@elthamcollege.vic.edu.au</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prahran Bayside</td>
<td>Geoffrey Paterson</td>
<td>Distance Education Centre</td>
<td>8480 0155</td>
<td><a href="mailto:gpaterso@distance.vic.edu.au">gpaterso@distance.vic.edu.au</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Prahran Bayside</td>
<td>Margaret Bourke</td>
<td>McKinnon Secondary College</td>
<td>8520 9000</td>
<td><a href="mailto:bou@mckinnonsc.vic.edu.au">bou@mckinnonsc.vic.edu.au</a></td>
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<td>Prahran Bayside</td>
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<tr>
<td>Western Suburbs</td>
<td>Vacant position</td>
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<tr>
<td>Spatial technologies</td>
<td>Pat Beeson</td>
<td>Teaching GIS</td>
<td>9870 0852</td>
<td><a href="mailto:pabeeson@bigpond.net.au">pabeeson@bigpond.net.au</a></td>
</tr>
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