Welcome to 2008

The GTAV is looking forward to another year of geographical enlightenment. There are many current issues that will benefit from a geographical perspective and we have an opportunity to guide our students to be responsible global citizens. How can the GTAV help you?

- Work on your behalf to 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

GTAV annual conference 2008

The date has been set for the 42nd annual conference. The dates for your diary are Sunday 10th – Tuesday 12th August at Camberwell High. The theme is Planet Earth to mark the International Year of Planet Earth.

Presenters at the conference

The GTAV Annual Conference has always benefited from the wonderful contributions of practising teachers. Presenting a session at conference is excellent personal learning. The GTAV is now calling for offers of workshops. Each session is one hour on Sunday and Monday with Tuesday being the day for fieldwork visits.

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

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.

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<th>Term one 29/1 – 20/3</th>
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<td>Sun 17 Feb</td>
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<th>Term two 7/4 – 27/6</th>
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<td>Mon 21 Apr</td>
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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.

**Individual assistance**

Please remember that the Education Officer can be contacted for help with specific requests. Contact Anne Dempster at eo@gtav.asn.au or phone 9824 8355.

**Pdi**

The *Victorian Institute of Teaching* is establishing a database of professional learning opportunities and you will also be able to access the GTAV offerings from the *Pdi* page, which will come on-line in March this year.

**The GTAV is turning 50!**

In 2009 the GTAV will celebrate its 50th birthday and we want you to be part of the celebrations. Register your details on our 50th anniversary web page www.gtav.asn.au/anniversary/ and ensure that you are invited to the party.

**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 add you to their list. The leaders are listed on the back of this newsletter and on our website.

**GTAV forum**

GTAV now has an online discussion forum where you can raise issues, contribute to discussion, share resources and seek advice. To join the GTAV forum

1. Go to the GTAV website www.gtav.asn.au
2. Go to Support and select forum
3. Register by creating a new profile
4. Post messages

If you would like to receive email notification when new posts are uploaded, choose RSS feed and follow the prompts to register for this service.

**VCE Geography Accreditation**

Accreditation for the current VCE Geography course has been extended until the end of 2010.

Check page 4 of the VCAA Bulletin of November 2007 for confirmation.

**Support Material – Unit 3**

In response to feed back gained through consultation sessions held in 2007, VCAA has commissioned the GTAV to gather support material for unit 3, area of study one (Water in the Murray-Darling). Samples of tasks have been gathered from a range of teachers and they will be placed on the GTAV website. The GTAV thanks those on the advisory group and those who have been happy to share their work. Contributions are still welcome.

**Fieldtrip to the Murray-Darling**

Taking your students to the basin is extremely valuable.

- The Murray-Darling Association may be able to help you. We have received glowing feedback from those who have worked with the MDA. Contact Jo Haw johaw@mda.asn.au or Adrian Wells awells47@bigpond.net.au
- Landlearn is publishing a fieldwork guide along with case studies early this term. Teachers who attended the fieldtrip in December 2007 were unanimous in recommending this resource. Contact Sherin Halliday at sherin.halliday@dpi.vic.gov.au

**Fieldwork**

The new *Safety Guidelines for Education Outdoors* is in place to support the planning and approval of overnight excursions, camps, interstate and overseas visits, excursions requiring sea or air travel, excursions involving weekends or vacations, and adventure activities. These excursions all require the approval of the school council. To read the guidelines go to www.education.vic.gov.au/ and choose Management, School operations and Safety guidelines for education outdoors. You can also access the information through the *Victorian Outdoor Education Association* who ran in-services about the new guidelines. See www.voea.vic.edu.au

**IAG 50th conference**

The Institute of Australian Geographers is holdings its 50th annual conference from Sunday 30th June to Thursday 4th July at the University of Tasmania in Hobart. If you are
interested in presenting a paper or attending contact J.Kirkpatrick@utas.edu.au)

**AGTA biennial national conference**

The biennial conference of *Australian Geography Teachers’ Association* will be held from 29 September - 2 October 2008 at the University of the Sunshine Coast Queensland. The theme is *Taking geography above and beyond*. The conference program includes pre and post conference tours, a wide range of workshops, social events and fieldtrips. For more details check the link to the AGTA conference website from the GTAV website.

**AGTA Geographia**

The December 2007 newsletter of AGTA, *Geographia*, can be accessed from the GTAV web site. AGTA (Australian Geography Teachers’ Association) promotes the teaching of geography and its newsletter is full of excellent information. There is a report from each state organization, examples of the work of AGTA and a new careers website [www.geocareers.net.au](http://www.geocareers.net.au) This site is looking for contributions and feedback.

**The Michael Achurch Memorial Trust**

In 1980, *The Michael Achurch Memorial Trust* was established to commemorate Michael’s sixteen-year teaching career and wonderful contribution to geographic education. This trust is managed by Scotch College and it supports projects based on geography, outdoor education, scouting, community service and Christian education. Information about the trust can be gained from Hugh Wilson at Scotch College, secretary of the Michael Achurch Memorial Trust.

**Beijing Olympics**

Planning for 2008 could well include a topic about the Beijing Olympics. This amazing event can provide a basis for much geographical learning. AGTA is producing a project to complement your teaching. It incorporates an enquiry approach and caters for a range of learning styles and thinking skills. Keep your eyes open for the project, which will be available in April/May.

You may wish to visit the AFSSSE site [www.afssse.asn.au](http://www.afssse.asn.au/) for work that has been already organized for you.

**Resources for Global Education**

*The Global Education Project* is managed by the GTAV. This project has a wonderful array of resources for topics with a global perspective (eg. water, poverty, urbanization, sanitation, human rights, globalisation). Given that we are becoming a world community a global perspective is certainly worth incorporating into your program. You may wish to pick up on the *International Year of Sanitation in 2008* and the project is an excellent source of information. Furthermore the project can provide strategies to help with all year levels, including material about the Pacific. Their website is packed with information and ideas: [www.globaleducation.edna.edu.au/](http://www.globaleducation.edna.edu.au/)

**Refugee Realities**

Refugee Realities is an interactive simulation exercise that puts visitors in the position of a refugee or internally displaced person trying to find safety and a permanent home. The event will be held at *Gasworks Arts Park* in Melbourne between 22nd February and 13th March 2008. To find out more or to book an educational group tour visit [www.oxfam.org.au/refugee-realities/](http://www.oxfam.org.au/refugee-realities/).

**World Environment Day Awards**

Nominations close 5pm, Friday 2 May. Many schools undertake projects to foster greater understanding of the environment. If you include such a project consider entering the *World Environment Day Awards*. Information can be obtained at [www.unaavictoria.org.au](http://www.unaavictoria.org.au)

World Environment Day is 5th June 2008.

**Australian Geography Competition**

*The National Geographic Channel* is again sponsoring the *Australian Geography Competition*. Information about the competition is on the next page and there is also a poster with this mailout to advertise the event. 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 the Australian Big Week Out. For all details see [www.rgsq.org.au/agc.htm](http://www.rgsq.org.au/agc.htm) Details about the 2007 competition winners were provided in the December *Interaction*.
QuickTime™ and a TIFF (LZW) decompressor are needed to see this picture.
We Are the Weather Makers
A free climate change guide, based on Tim Flannery's book *We Are the Weather Makers*, was sent out to schools across Australia in November. The guide, *Thinking About Climate Change: A Guide for Teachers and Students*, includes lesson plans, research aids and discussion suggestions to allow teachers and students to explore the implications and complexities of climate change and to learn and practice relevant skills.
A high resolution PDF is available at www.theweathermakers.com

Eyes on Earth
An exhibition at Scienceworks lets you see how satellites track weather, monitor pollution, create maps and help predict storms. Support material is available to enhance a visit. This exhibition may complement many of your courses, which include wild weather and increasingly GIS. Visit the website at www.museumvictoria.com.au/scienceworks or phone 03 9392 4819

Packaging Council of Australia
A free booklet – *Real examples of change and innovation* - outlines examples of packaging that demonstrate change and innovation when looking at the environmental footprint of the package and the processes used throughout its lifecycle.
The PCA runs a Package Design Challenge and entries close on May 30th.
The PCA is also publishing a secondary teachers guide, which will include ideas for Geography. To order or find out about any of these resources contact:
Prudence Frost at prudence@pca.org.au
T: (03) 9690 1955

Clean up Australia Day
The next *Clean up Australia Day* is Sunday 2nd March. Schools Clean up Day is Friday 29th February. To find out details go to http://www.cleanup.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.

CensusAtSchool new 2008 Questionnaire and Information Pack
*CensusAtSchool* forms part of a larger, very popular, international project. The Australian project brings some exciting twists in 2008. This year, students will be able to make international comparisons from a set of common questions. Do students from New Zealand eat the same food for breakfast as Australians? Is their internet use similar? New questions have been added this year to broaden the scope for student investigations and problem solving.
The *CensusAtSchool Information Pack* has been sent to your school Principal. It includes the registration form required for students to submit their responses to the new questionnaire. Schools new to the project will need to complete the registration form and send or fax it back to the *CensusAtSchool* team. Once you are registered, you will be able to set-up an online *CensusAtSchool* account, ready for your students to complete the 2008 questionnaire.
Schools, who participated last year, will need to set up a new account using their school participation number. If you do not know your school participation number, contact the *CensusAtSchool* team on 1800 623 273 or email to censusatschool@abs.gov.au.
To introduce students to the resource you can access www.abs.gov.au/censusatschool
Registration is not required to do this. From here your students can answer the 2006 questionnaire and take a random sample for analysis. This resource is FREE to all schools.

Overlay maps
Useful sites to find overlay maps and develop and understanding of spatial concepts.
www.dse.vic.gov.au select About Us, Interactive Maps and Forest explorer to use map layers to describe distribution and spatial association.
www.dse.vic.gov.au select About Us, Interactive maps and Interactive Map to see layers of information about the areas you select in Victoria. This is particularly good for urban locations.
www.hydro.com.au select Education and Where can you build a wind farm? to use a number of map layers to choose the best option
www.ga.gov.au/mapconnet to use a number of maps from any where within Australia
Geography Networks 2008
The teachers listed below have volunteered to be a point of contact for colleagues in 2008. Contact your network leader to be included on their email list.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Geography Network</th>
<th>Network Leader</th>
<th>School</th>
<th>School phone</th>
<th>Email</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>North West</td>
<td>Stuart Potter</td>
<td>Donald High</td>
<td>5497 1205</td>
<td><a href="mailto:potter.stuart.j@edumail.vic.gov.au">potter.stuart.j@edumail.vic.gov.au</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Berwick</td>
<td>Terry McMeekin</td>
<td>Berwick Sec. College</td>
<td>9707 2859</td>
<td><a href="mailto:terryMcM@bigpond.com">terryMcM@bigpond.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East Gippsland</td>
<td>Sarah Carter</td>
<td>Catholic College Sale</td>
<td>5144 2177</td>
<td><a href="mailto:scarter@cc.sale.catholic.edu.au">scarter@cc.sale.catholic.edu.au</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geelong, Ballarat</td>
<td>Leonie Brown</td>
<td>Bacchus Marsh Grammar</td>
<td>5367 4744</td>
<td><a href="mailto:brownl@bmg.vic.edu.au">brownl@bmg.vic.edu.au</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Western Dist.</td>
<td>Doug Ward</td>
<td>Baimbridge College</td>
<td>5572 2788</td>
<td><a href="mailto:ward.douglas.h@edumail.vic.gov.au">ward.douglas.h@edumail.vic.gov.au</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Western Dist.</td>
<td>Paul Walsh</td>
<td>Baimbridge 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>
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<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>
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<tr>
<td>Horsham</td>
<td>Gayle Thomas</td>
<td>Horsham College</td>
<td>5382 0499</td>
<td><a href="mailto:thomas@netcall.com.au">thomas@netcall.com.au</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Kew</td>
<td>Adriana Abels</td>
<td>Carey Grammar</td>
<td>9816 1222</td>
<td><a href="mailto:adriana.abels@carey.com.au">adriana.abels@carey.com.au</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Mildura</td>
<td>Chris Andrews</td>
<td>Irymple</td>
<td>5024 5407</td>
<td><a href="mailto:andrews.christopher.n@edumail.vic.gov.au">andrews.christopher.n@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>
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<tr>
<td>Prahran Bayside</td>
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<td>Prahran Bayside</td>
<td>Andrew Chisholm</td>
<td>McKinnon Sec. College</td>
<td>9578 0844</td>
<td><a href="mailto:chi@mckinnonsc.vic.edu.au">chi@mckinnonsc.vic.edu.au</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Prahran Bayside</td>
<td>Joy Mawbey</td>
<td>Melbourne Girls Grammar</td>
<td>9862 9200</td>
<td><a href="mailto:joy.mawbey@mggs.vic.edu.au">joy.mawbey@mggs.vic.edu.au</a></td>
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<td>Prahran Bayside</td>
<td>Geoffrey Paterson</td>
<td>Distance Education Centre</td>
<td>8480 0155</td>
<td><a href="mailto:gpaterson@distance.vic.edu.au">gpaterson@distance.vic.edu.au</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Western Suburbs</td>
<td>Georgina Birch</td>
<td>Penleigh and Essendon Grammar</td>
<td>9336 1855</td>
<td><a href="mailto:georgina.birch@pegs.vic.edu.au">georgina.birch@pegs.vic.edu.au</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Spatial technologies</td>
<td>Pat Beeson</td>
<td>Australian Bureau of Statistics</td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:pat.beeson@abs.gov.au">pat.beeson@abs.gov.au</a></td>
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2008 Sub-committee Conveners

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>CONFERENCE</th>
<th>Maree Boyle / Dominique Wiegand</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT</td>
<td>Anne Dempster</td>
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<td>CURRICULUM</td>
<td>Neil King</td>
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<td>INTERACTION</td>
<td>Denise Miles / Judy Mraz</td>
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<td>MEMBERSHIP &amp; MARKETING</td>
<td>Jeana Kriewaldt</td>
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<td>INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY</td>
<td>Rob Berry</td>
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<td>STUDY TOUR</td>
<td>Barrie Jones</td>
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<td>50TH BIRTHDAY</td>
<td>Rob Berry</td>
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<tr>
<td>GEOGRAPHY ISSUES GROUP</td>
<td>Susy Puszka</td>
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<tr>
<td>GIS STEERING GROUP</td>
<td>Peter Wheeler</td>
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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.

www.gtav.asn.au