

Geographical Society of NSW

93rd Annual Report: 2019-2020

1. President's Report 2019

The past 12 months has been an exceptional time for the GSNSW and its members. From a global pandemic that has radically changed how we live and work. To the unprecedented bushfire events that swept across the nation over the summer period; once again highlighting the consequences of anthropogenic climate change and the urgent need for action.

This period has also reinforced how important geographical research is to both understanding such events and their impacts, as well as providing insight into how to respond appropriately to these challenges. However, the sustainability of geographical research will face its own challenges over the coming years as the financial pressures being brought to bear on Australian higher education will place geography departments, academics and students under increasing pressures.

Yet, despite these circumstances, geography as a discipline is strong enough to weather these challenges – our research is world leading and our people are some of most collegial individuals in Australia. Australian geography and geographers will continue to achieve much over the next decade if we work collectively to support each other within and across institutions; especially those precarious geographers who stand to be most negatively impacted by current and future changes.

Given this context, the GSNSW objectives to encourage the growth and diffusion of geographical knowledge has never been more important. In the annual report that follows, members will see that the Society continues to be very active in fulfilling the objectives set out in the Constitution. I would personally like to thank all the GSNSW Council members who have worked so hard to make 2019/20 a success and to our Executive Officer, Bronwyn Bate, for her tireless efforts in supporting and progressing the work of the Society.

Associate Professor Rae Dufty-Jones; President

2. Awards Committee

2.1 Summary of committee activities in 2019

Following the 2019 Planning Day, the Awards Committee had three clear priorities: continue to review and award our funding schemes and Awards, update the Macdonald Holmes Medal and Geographical Society Griffith Taylor and Fellowship Committees, and review the

Awards. So far in 2020 we have reviewed applications for the Symposium Funding Scheme and Postdoctoral Awards and thereby funded several timely workshops and supported early career researchers to present their research. We are seeking greater accountability following these Awards, and so now request a 200-word report from each of the successful applicants of the schemes. In the future, we will need to update the application forms to provide greater guidance about eligibility, eligible expenditure, and so on. We have renewed the Macdonald Holmes and Griffith Taylor/Fellowship Committees. The Committee has also reviewed the Awards we currently offer and found that there is potential for them to have a greater impact by diversifying who receives awards and the contributions to geography that we are recognising. Council is currently reviewing recommendations of this review.

Dr Sophie Webber; Chair Awards Committee

2.2 McDonald Holmes Award

James Macdonald Holmes was McCaughey Professor of Geography at the University of Sydney during the period 1929 to 1961. To commemorate his achievements over these years, the Geographical Society together with the Geography Teachers' Association awards, biennially, a medal bearing his portrait and name, to a person deemed to have made a distinguished contribution in the field of geographical education in Australia.

In 2019, the Macdonald Holmes Medal was awarded to Professor Pauline McGuirk, University of Wollongong.

Professor Pauline McGuirk has made outstanding contributions to geographical research and education in Australia and internationally. Pauline was awarded a Bachelor of Arts (in Geography and History), a Higher Diploma in Education and a PhD (Thesis: Perspectives on the nature and role of urban planning in capitalism) from Trinity College, Dublin. She has taught geography at tertiary institutions in Australia for 27 years, including in a leadership role as Professor at the University of Newcastle and then the Wollongong University since 2007. Pauline has also contributed to geography as a discipline in Australia, and the Geographical Society of NSW through numerous roles including as President (2002–2005), Vice-President (1999–2002, 2005–2008) and a Council member (1997–1999).

With over 90 peer-reviewed publications, Professor McGuirk is an internationally recognised and widely cited expert in urban political geography. Her research and publications focus on cities and questions of politics and power in the creation of just and sustainable urban futures. Pauline's standing in and contribution to the Discipline internationally is, among many other things, evidenced by her role as co-editor of the leading international journal *Progress in Human Geography* since 2015. Beyond the academy, Professor McGuirk has contributed directly to policy development involvement in Federal government consultative panels and provided more than 40 reports to government, business and community groups as the result of her applied research with industry collaborators. Her research excellence was also recognised in 2016 with her appointment to the Australian Academy of Social Sciences.

Pauline has been awarded Vice Chancellor’s Awards for both Teaching and Supervision Excellence in recognition of her outstanding contributions in these areas. She has also produced widely acclaimed teaching resources, including *Introducing Human Geography: Globalisation, Difference, Inequality* (with Waitt G, McGuirk PM, Dunn KM, Hartig KV and Burnley I, (2000)). This text was the winner of The Australian Award for Excellence in Educational Publishing, Single Title (Wholly Australian). In addition to this work Pauline has advanced geographical education in Australia through designing and developing a new interdisciplinary undergraduate programme led by Geography at the University of Wollongong: The Bachelor of Sustainable Communities (launched in 2018).

Associate Professor Rae Dufty-Jones; President

2.3 University Student Prizes

The GSNSW commenced awarding a University Prize to outstanding geography students at the University of Sydney in the early 1940s. The number of prizes increased as new departments of geography opened throughout NSW after World War II and eventually, prizes were awarded annually to students from all nine NSW Universities who topped geography in their second year of University.

At the GSNSW’s 2016 Planning Day, Council proposed to increase the number of prizes so that a prize is given to the top student at each university in NSW in each of the following years; year 1, year 2 and year 3. The proposal was approved at a Council meeting held 20 February 2017.

Students receive a certificate, \$100 cheque, 12-month membership to the Society and an invitation to our Awards Night dinner.

Please see table 1 below for the 2018 award winners (awarded at the 2019 Awards Night).

Table 1: 2018 award winners. The top student at each university in NSW in each of the following years; year 1, year 2, year 3.

University	1st year winner	2nd year winner	3rd year winner
Australia Catholic University	Adrianna Cicchitell	Sophie Morgan	Anna Roberts
Macquarie University	Katherine Halliday	Alexandra Turner	Christian Marando
University of Newcastle	Mary-Anne Gooch	Sophie Pizzuto	Celeste Martin
University of New England	Sandra Leutwile		Matthew Thomson and Roshan Rai

University of New South Wales	Liam Houlihan	Seen Yee (Leanne) Lee	Ruby Caitlin Annand-Jones
University of Sydney	Fayanne Cui	Victoria Booth	Rachel Horwood
University of Wollongong	Mary Pilkinton	Vivienne Cooper	Matthew Jansch
Western Sydney University	Cassandra Leigh Farquharson	Madison Foster	Liam Leonard Mullens Moskvitch

Bronwyn Bate; Executive Officer

2.4 Post-Doctoral Geography Scholar Awards

The Award began in 2015. The aim of the awards is to support the research program of early career geographers in their efforts to maintain research momentum, post-doctorate. The Award winners receive between \$500 to \$1500 to support their attendance at a conference, at which the award winner presents a paper on a topic relating to geography. The Society would like to congratulate the following award recipients for 2019:

- Dr Philippa Chandler (University of Melbourne/Curtin University)
- Dr Yu Gao (University of Technology Sydney)
- Dr Marnie Graham (Macquarie University/Stockholm University)
- Dr. Denisse Rodriguez (University of Melbourne)
- Dr Peta Wolifson (University of NSW/University of Sydney)

Bronwyn Bate; Executive Officer

2.5 Symposium Funding

The GSNSW is pleased to provide financial support for a range of symposia that address important and timely issues, from within the discipline of geography. Funding is available to a maximum of \$5000 to support the convening of workshops, seminars or small conferences. The Society would like to congratulate the following award recipients for 2019:

- Dr Sophie Webber, Dr Naama Blatman-Thomas, Dr Marilu Melo and Associate Professor Kurt Iveson. Please refer to section 3.5 for information about this event.

Bronwyn Bate; Executive Officer

2.6 Photo Competition

In 2017, the GSNSW held its first photography competition which coincided with the Society's 90th Birthday Exhibition. Due to its success, the Society made the photography competition an annual event. In 2019, eligible participants were invited to submit digital

images taken 'in the field'. The field was broadly defined to encompass the spaces in which geographers undertake teaching and research related activities, outside their place of employment. Up to four photographs could be submitted for judging by each entrant. The Society would like to congratulate the following award recipients for 2019:

- First Prize: Dr Husnia Underabi
- Second Prize: Milena Bojovic
- Third Prize: Annie Wu

Bronwyn Bate; Executive Officer

3. Events Committee

3.1 Summary of committee activities in 2019-2020

Given the motion to cancel or postpone many of the planned events and the changing situation with Covid-19 the Society has not run many of its planned events for 2020. Those that have run include the Awards Night in late 2019, and the Writing Retreat in February. The Events Committee spent the year rethinking what the Society's events might look like moving forward. This includes moving the Awards Night and (postponed) Postgraduate Networking events to an online format.

The Committee reviewed the responses of the member survey to inform where we focus our attention. We plan to reinstate the Griffith Taylor Lecture as an annual public event in early 2021. At this stage the lecture will likely be online, with the possibility of an in-situ event if assessed as low risk.

Members of the Committee have also revised the terms and conditions of the Photography Competition to make it more robust and attract further entries. Many thanks to Emma Waterton, Garth Lean and Phil McManus (who provided comments) for their work on this.

Thank you also to Garth Lean for his service as inaugural Chair of the Events Committee, and Bronwyn Bate for her ongoing support.

Dr Susannah Clement; Chair Events Committee

3.2 Awards Night

The 2019 Awards Night was held at The Retreat Garden Bistro – 114 Church Street Croydon on 27 November 2020. Ninety-five people attended the event. GSNSW President Rae Dufty-Jones welcomed award recipients and their guests. Overall, the night was a huge success with many guests reporting that they had a great time. The presenting of the Awards was mixed with Trivia planned and presented by Kevin Dunn.

Bronwyn Bate; Executive Officer

3.3 Postgraduate events

Prior to the 2019 GSNSW Awards night, a workshop and facilitated discussion was held for HDR students. Titled “From labs to crews: Reclaiming collective thinking in the contemporary university,” the event was facilitated by Associate Professor Kurt Iveson and Dr Sophie Webber, from the School of Geosciences at the University of Sydney. The workshop explored ways that HDR students can push back against cultures of hierarchy, precarity, and overwork in order to reclaim space for collective inquiry in the contemporary university, and drew on Assoc Prof Iveson and Dr Webber’s experiences as members of the Urban Crew project, a weekly collaboration between urban researchers at the University of Sydney that emphasises horizontality, democracy, and diversity and works on collaborative and innovative research projects. The event was attended by about a dozen people, who enjoyed a generative discussion about the joys and challenges of creating these kinds of spaces for geographical thought.

Unfortunately, the HDR networking event scheduled for March has had to be postponed due to COVID-19 restrictions, but the GSNSW looks forward to resuming regular events for HDRs in the future, whether they be digitally mediated or face to face.

Craig Lyons; Postgraduate Student Representative

3.4 Writing Retreat

GSNSW held its second annual writing retreat from 17-20 February 2020. The retreat was held at The Carrington Hotel, Katoomba, Blue Mountains and was organized by GSNSW President Rae Dufty-Jones. The purpose of the retreat was to provide members of the Society with a dedicated block of time, as well as collegiate interaction, networking and support, for the development of focused advances in academic writing. With input and guidance from ‘expert’ facilitators, the retreat provided a collective opportunity for thinking through how to write both productively and in lively, engaging styles.

The following workshop sessions were provided to the 11 geographers who attended the retreat:

- ‘Writing with others’: Presented by *Australian Geographer* Editor-in-Chief, Associate Professor Kathy Mee,
- ‘Refining the argument’: Presented by GSNSW President, Dr Rae Dufty-Jones.

Associate Professor Rae Dufty-Jones; President

3.5 Symposiums

Common Infrastructures (Dr Sophie Webber, Dr Naama Blatman-Thomas, Dr Marilu Melo and Associate Professor Kurt Iveson)

With the support of the GSNSW Symposium Funding Scheme, we (Dr Sophie Webber, Dr Naama Blatman-Thomas, Dr Marilu Melo and A/Prof Kurt Iveson) hosted a collective of geographers, urban scholars, and other allies, at the University of Sydney for a workshop on

'Common Infrastructures'. The goal of the workshop was to grapple with Common Infrastructure, which is to say, the growing recognition of the interdependencies of physical and social forms of infrastructures; second, the blurring boundaries between state and market in producing and governing infrastructures, and; third, the relations between private and collective costs and benefits. Funding from the GSNSW allowed us to further secure support from the School of Geosciences (The University of Sydney), *Urban Geography* (the journal), and the Henry Halloran Trust.

To this end, we used the financial support of the GSNSW to bring Dr Theresa Enright (from the University of Toronto) to Sydney as a keynote speaker in the workshop. Her conceptually innovative and empirically rich presentation – entitled *Commotion!* – explored the progressive potentials of commoning transportation around the world (see also <https://cityroadpod.org/2020/07/12/transport-as-a-platform/>). Over 100 people attended the keynote lecture. Across the remainder of the workshop, we had over 20 presentations and 30-40 attendees, who brought case studies of diverse global experiments in infrastructural commoning. The conversations these theoretically rich and geographically distributed cases evoked were vibrant. Another highlight was our concluding panel which convened activists and practitioners from the Sydney Alliance, the Rail, Tram and Bus Union, Cooperative Power, the Tenants Union, and Deerubbin Local Aboriginal Land Council. While I had to leave for childcare duties, the debate and cross-pollination of tactics and outcomes across these infrastructural struggles continued in pubs and restaurants long after the conclusion of the workshop.

Dr Sophie Webber; Symposium Award recipient

3.6 Honours/Masters Conference

The 2019 GSNSW Honours/Masters Conference was held on November 13 at Western Sydney University's Liverpool Campus in the Ngara Ngura¹ Building. GSNSW President, Rae Dufty-Jones, and Executive Officer, Bronwyn Bate, organised the conference.

Out of the 15 registered, there were 12 presenters on the day. Presenters came from the following institutions: Macquarie University; University of New South Wales; University of Sydney; University of Wollongong; and, Western Sydney University. Both the research presented, and the delivery of the presentations maintained the high standard of excellence that has become a hallmark of this annual event².

The 2019 winners of the Jim Rose Awards³ were:

- **Best Paper** - Lillian Tait, Macquarie University
- **Highly Commended presentation on a Physical Geography topic** - Pana Panaretos, University of New South Wales
- **Highly Commended presentation on a Human Geography topic** - Crystal Arnold,

¹ Ngara Ngura loosely translates to "exchange knowledge by listening, by hearing and by thinking." The Ngara Ngura Building sits on the land of the Cabrogal Clan of the Darug Nation.

² The GSNSW Honours/Masters Conference began in 1997.

³ Jim Rose is remembered for his pastoral care of staff and students, his "whole of geography" passion and his support for Honours students, and it is particularly with the latter in mind that the Society annually makes awards in his name for the best papers at the Annual Honours Conference.

University of Wollongong

In 2019 the judges also decided to award a prize participation in recognition that the best research is a dialogue:

- **Highly Commended Participation** - Vikram Tyagi, University of Sydney

All presenters were given a free 1-year membership to the Society and were encouraged to submit a version of their presentations to the Society's journal, *Australian Geographer*.

The day also was marked by two new initiatives:

2. A presentation from past-Editor-in-Chief of *Australian Geographer*, Professor John Connell, on 'How to publish in Australian Geographer'. A podcast recording of this event can be found here:
<https://www.geogsoc.org.au/site/index.cfm?module=DOCUMENTS&leca=845>.
3. 'Bake Your Thesis'⁴ afternoon tea. Baking your thesis gives researchers the opportunity to present their research in a completely different way – in cake form! A delicious way to end an excellent day!



Associate Professor Rae Dufty-Jones; President

3.7 Travellers' Club

⁴ In recent years 'Bake Your Thesis' competitions have been adopted by a number of Universities around the world and grown to become a bit of a social media sensation under the #bakeyourthesis and #bakeyourphd hashtags

Like most other social groups, Travellers' program was severely disrupted from the beginning of calendar 2020 by the coronavirus pandemic. The meetings held at North's for financial year 2019/2020 were as follow.

2019

15th September: "Malta and Sicily" by Heather Rushton.

10th November: "Protecting sea turtles of the Coral Triangle and the long-term benefits of conservation tourism" by Dr Geoffrey Gearheart.

The program abandoned is listed below. Those talks (or possible alternatives) will be resurrected at Norths as soon as practicable, but not before 2021.

March: "Georgia, Azerbaijan and Armenia" by Prof John Connell

May: "South America" by Dr Bob Solomon

July: "Sri Lanka" by Heather Rushton

September: "subject to be decided" by Dr Terry Beed

November: "Madagascar" by Dr Stephen Codrington.

Dr Bob Solomon AM, Travellers Club Convenor

3.8 Study Tours

Operational Tours 2020

- No tours have taken place since the 2019 AGM. This has been due to a combination of factors, the most significant being the imposition of COVID 19 restrictions.

Non-operational Tours for 2020

- The planned tour to North East India in February 2020 did not eventuate due to insufficient numbers.
- The same was true of the proposed tour to Sicily and Malta in March/April. Had it operated, this tour would have been seriously impacted by COVID 19.
- The Caucasus tour, scheduled for May, had to be re-scheduled due to a ban on overseas travel imposed by the Federal Government
- The ban also led to the cancelation of the proposed tour to Cyprus, Israel and Jordan.

Proposed Tours for 2021

- The rescheduled Caucasus tour is due to depart in May 2021, but this date is now in doubt due to the continuation of the travel bans and the spread of the virus.
- Even when restrictions on overseas travel are lifted, choosing safe destinations for a mostly older clientele is going to be difficult.
- As recommended by the Geographical Society, the possibility of travel within Australia and New Zealand has been investigated. Via a Newsletter, clients were asked to nominate destinations they would like to visit. Responses favoured travel to the Northern Territory and to Western Australia. Organisation of tours to these

states has been impeded and sometimes thwarted by border closures.

Heather Rushton; Study Tours Convener

4. Promotion, Communication and Resources Committee

4.1 Summary of committee activities in 2019

The Promotion, Communication, and Resources Committee – formed following the 2019 planning day and have met twice in 2020. Within those meetings a number of priorities were identified:

1. Develop process for designing new logo
2. Provide support to ECR's, precariously employed, HDRs (especially in context of COVID)
3. Develop online communication strategy
4. Improve relevance of society to non-academic community
5. Membership drive
6. Actively promote the Society and the work of geographers in NSW
7. Establishing and maintaining relationships with external organizations (e.g. GTA NSW)

The committee unanimously identified the task of addressing the GSNSW logo as the top priority, recognising also the urgency in doing so. The committee outlined a number of reasons for the development and creation of a new survey – most notably, the numerous responses from the GSNSW member survey (March 2020) which expressed a variety of concerns over the existing logo. A background report was also developed by Davina Jackson and Stephen Codrington.

The committee developed a consultative process that invites both members and non-members of the Society to submit and provide feedback on ideas, concepts and designs. This proposal was presented to Council on July 24th. A motion was moved to approve the process (subject to minor amendments) for the development design and approval for a new logo for the GSNSW.

A sub-Committee including President, Vice Presidents (2) and Co-Chairs (2) of the Promotions, Communications and Resources Committee has since been developed to coordinate the development and design process of a new logo for the Society.

The committee endeavours to work closely with the President to develop ways to better support ECRs, precariously employed and HDR members of the society.

Dr Laura Hammersley and Dr Andrew Burridge; Chair Promotions, Communications and Resources Committee

4.2 Australian Geographer

4.2.1 Introduction

2020 has been a challenging year for *Australian Geographer*. COVID19, changes to University funding and restructuring have placed huge strain on the academic labour force in Australia. This has placed pressure on the journal to maintain its output of high quality journal articles. In response we have increased the time available for reviewers to provide their input and authors to revise their submissions. We have also provided additional extra time for those contributors facing additional challenges due to COVID 19. This, and some publishing challenges caused by the pandemic, has slowed production of the journal a little. However, the team will still be able to produce 4 issues of the journal in 2020 which we regard as a major achievement. The Editorial Team of the journal acknowledges the ongoing commitment of the Australian geographical community in supporting the journal. Highlights of the year include Eliza de Vet & Christine Eriksen's paper "When insurance and goodwill are not enough: Bushfire Attack Level (BAL) ratings, risk calculations and disaster resilience in Australia" which was published in the first issue this year. This timely paper has been viewed 2,169 times with an Altmetric score of 79. Issue 2 saw the publication of a special issue on *the politics of urban greening*. Huge thanks are due to special issue editor Ben Cooke who worked tirelessly with the authors in very difficult conditions to complete the final papers. So far papers in the special issue have been viewed a total of 5,248 times, with Ben Cooke's introduction having an Altmetric score of 16. Highlights of issue 3 include Maria de Lourdes Melo Zurita *Thinking space* paper "Challenging sub terra nullius: a critical underground urbanism project" which has been viewed 558 times and has an Altmetric score of 15. The piece by Liam Grealey and Kirsty Howey, "Securing supply: governing drinking water in the Northern Territory" has an Altmetric score of 37 on the back of significant public interest. Also in issue 3 the journal published a reflective piece on the role of reading groups for postgraduate education in geography, with 24 co-authors led by ECR Melina Ey. The paper so far has 1260 views and an Altmetric score of 21. These papers reflect the commitment of the journal to publish innovative work in geography and to support the scholarship of early career researchers.

4.2.2 Editorial Team

There has been a substantial change to the Editorial Team of *Australian Geographer* in 2020. Our thanks to the former Editor-In-Chief Chris Gibson and former Editor-Physical Geography Duncan Cook who have stepped down this year. Chris and Duncan provided wonder service to the journal over many years and continue to offer advice and support to the Editorial team.

Associate Professor Kathy Mee took up her position as Editor in Chief in January. Associate Professor Natascha Klocker has continued in her role as Editor-Human Geography. Dr Danielle Verdon-Kidd joined the Editorial team as Editor-Physical Geography. A new ECR position on the Editorial team, Associate Editor, has been created and Dr Ryan Jones of the University of Auckland was appointed as the first Associate Editor. The Associate Editor position will be available for 2 years and is designed to provide ECRs will valuable experience in publishing.

Kirstie Petrou continues her invaluable work as Editorial Assistant. Kirstie has been invaluable in helping the new Editors settle in and managing the increased number of questions from contributors arising from COVID19. Huge thanks to Kirstie from the Editorial team.

4.2.3 Editorial Board

The Editor in Chief secured permission from the Council of the Geographical Society of NSW to refresh the Editorial Board for 2021. Current members of the Editorial Board will be contacted to thank them for their service shortly, with potential new members of the Editorial Board also contacted to request their service on the Editorial Board.

4.2.4 Submissions

Despite the challenges of COVID19 we are on track to receive a similar number of submissions as 2019. We currently received 36 submission, close to the overall 41 submissions from 2019.

4.2.5 Taylor and Francis Report Highlights

1. Australian Geographer received 55,000 article downloads in 2020 YTD, which is 23% higher than downloads received in 2019 YTD.
2. The most downloaded article is 'A historical geography of housing crisis in Australia' by Rae Dufty-Jones, with 1,713 downloads.
3. The top Altmetric scoring article was 'Aboriginal Memories of Inundation of the Australian Coast Dating from More than 7000 Years Ago' by Patrick D. Nunn et al, with a score of 321.
4. The top cited article was 'From an urban country to urban Country: confronting the cult of denial in Australian cities' by Libby Porter, with 6 citations.
5. The journal's 2019 Impact Factor is 1.483, ranking 56/84 in the GEOGRAPHY - SSCI JCR category.
6. The journal's 2019 CiteScore is 2.7, ranking 50/142 in the Earth-Surface Processes Scopus category.
7. There were 44 publications in 2019.

4.2.6 Social Media

AG's Twitter (@austgeog) and Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/AustralianGeographer>) presences continue to grow. We now have 1242 followers on Twitter (up from 1011 last year), and 273 followers on Facebook (236 previously).

4.2.7 A Note of Thanks

Huge thanks to the team at Taylor and Francis for their support during the challenging times of 2020. Particular thanks to Ruga Lincy who we work closely with on the journal, Miki Quddus for Production Assistance and Alexandra Lazzari from production and marketing.

Associate Professor Kathleen Mee; Editor-in-Chief Australian Geographer

4.3 Social Media

Twitter

The Society's Twitter account (@GeogSocNSW) commenced in 2015. On the 20 August 2019 the Twitter account had 797 followers. This has grown to 880 followers on 24 August 2020.

Facebook

The Society's Facebook page: (www.facebook.com.au/geogsoc) has continued to grow over the past year. On 20 August 2019 the Society's Facebook page had 528 followers. This has grown to 579 followers on 24 August 2020.

5. General Society Information

5.1 Council Membership 2019-2020

PRESIDENT	
Associate Professor Rae Dufty-Jones	Senior Lecturer in Geography and Urban Studies, School of Social Sciences, Western Sydney University.
VICE PRESIDENT x 2	
Dr Garth Lean (President Elect)	Senior Lecturer in Tourism and Heritage Studies, School of Social Sciences, Western Sydney University.
Professor Phil McManus (Past President)	Professor of Urban and Environmental Geography, and the Head of School of Geosciences, University of Sydney.
HONORARY TREASURER	
Dr Stephen Codrington	Director of School Governance and Leadership Development, and Senior Lecturer in the Faculty of Business, Arts, Social Sciences and Education, Alphacrucis College, Parramatta, Sydney.
ASSISTANT TREASURER	
Professor Emma Waterton	Associate Dean - Research, and Professor in the Geographies of Heritage, School of Social Sciences, Western Sydney University.
HON SECRETARY	
Susan Caldis	Unit Convenor, Geography Methodology, Macquarie University.
COUNCILLORS x 8	
Dr Andrew Burridge	Lecturer in Human Geography, Department of Geography and Planning, Macquarie University.
Dr Susannah Clement	Honorary Associate Fellow, Australian Centre for Culture, Environment, Society and Space, University of Wollongong. Program Support Officer, NSW Biodiversity Conservation Trust.
Professor Kevin Dunn	Pro-Vice Chancellor (Research), Professor in Human Geography and Urban Studies, Western Sydney University.
Dr Josephine Gillespie	Senior Lecturer in the School of Geosciences, University of Sydney.
Dr Laura Hammersley	School of Geography and Sustainable Communities, University of Wollongong.

Professor Matthew Kearnes	School of Humanities and Languages, University of New South Wales.
Dr Meg Sherval	Senior Lecturer in Geography and Environmental Studies, School of Environmental and Life Sciences, University of Newcastle.
Dr Sophie Webber	Lecturer in Human Geography, School of Geosciences, University of Sydney.
STUDENT COUNCIL REP x 2	
Jesse Doolan	Masters Student in the School of Geosciences, University of Sydney.
Craig Lyons	PhD Candidate, School of Geography and Sustainable Communities, University of Wollongong.

Nominations for co-opted members to Council

- **Australian Geographer Editor:** Associate Professor Kathleen Mee; School of Environmental and Earth Sciences, University of Newcastle.
- **Convener Geographical Society of NSW Travellers Club:** Dr Robert Solomon.
- **Geographical Names Board:** Dr Alanna Kamp; Lecturer, Geography and Urban Studies, Western Sydney University.
- **Convenor Study Tours:** Heather Rushton.
- **GTANSW Representative:** Susan Caldis.
- **Councillor:** Dr Davina Jackson; Honorary Academic, Kent School of Architecture, University of Kent

Executive Officer

- Bronwyn Bate; PhD Candidate, School of Social Sciences, Western Sydney University.

Thank you to departing Councillors

- Dr Meg Sherval; Senior Lecturer in Geography and Environmental Studies, School of Environmental and Life Sciences, University of Newcastle.
- Dr Jo Gillespie; Senior Lecturer in the School of Geosciences, University of Sydney.
- Editor-in-Chief of Australian Geographer, Professor Chris Gibson; University of Wollongong

5.2 Society Membership

Table 2 presents an overview of membership trends from 1 July 2017 – 30 June 2020. Overall, memberships have increased over the past few years. There has been an increase in Associate Members and Ordinary Members however, there has been a decrease in Student Members.

Table 2: Overview of membership 1 July 2017 – 30 June 2020

Category	Cost 1-year membership	2017-2018		2018-2019		2019-2020	
		n	%	n	%	n	%
Ordinary	\$60.00	43	32.33	53	38.40	57	40.14
Retirees	\$30.00	28	21.05	26	18.84	19	13.38
Students	\$15.00	42	31.57	41	29.71	34	23.94
Associates	\$15.00	5	3.75	4	2.89	11	7.75

Life members	\$0.00	11	8.27	10	7.24	10	7.04
Free 12-month membership	\$0.00	4	3	4	2.89	11	7.75
Total		133	100	138	100	142	100

5.3 Planning Day 2019

The planning day was held Friday 11 October 2019, in Room 12, Level 9, Peter Shergold Building (1PSQ), Western Sydney University. The day resulted in the following primary goals/aims being adopted to guide the activities and priorities of the Council over 2020

1. Build connections with other professional associations
2. Improve relevance of Society to non-academic community
3. Actively support ECR and precariously employed geographers
4. Actively promote the Society and the work of geographers in NSW
5. Prepare for possible future disruptions to the Society's income

A new Committee structure was also developed and has been adopted in 2020, with four committees chaired by different members of Council.

1. Promotion, communication and resources
2. Awards
3. Events
4. Governance and administration (Executive)

Associate Professor Rae Dufty-Jones; President

Thank you to all those who contributed to the 93rd Annual Report