



89th Annual Report

Geographical Society of New South Wales 2015-2016

1. Australian Geographer

1.1 Changes in editorial roles

Chris Gibson took over from John Connell as Editor of Australian Geographer in May 2015. In 2016 the editorial team expanded to include Dr. Natascha Klocker as Associate Editor (with Dr. Mel Neave continuing as Assoc. Editor for physical geography submissions). The expanded editorial team, consistent with most other journals in the field, enables the journal's activities to continue during periods of absence (such as Gibson's May-June Long Service Leave in 2016), widens the expertise informing referee recommendations, and provides a research leadership opportunity for mid-career geographers to gain editorial experience. Prof. Gibson would like to record formal acknowledgement of Dr. Klocker's hard work and high standards in keeping the journal going during May-June 2016, as well her work on special issues (see below).

1.2 Changes in process, design etc

1.2.1 Online submission:

AG will shift to an online submission system imminently. The Editor has been trained in the back-office management online submission. Final deliberations on whether to adopt Scholar One or Editorial Manager as the preferred platform are due to take place in late August 2016, with the rollout of online submission expected in approx. 8 weeks' time.

1.2.2 Online first publishing:

In July 2015 AG shifted to online first publishing. Articles 'in queue' now appear online before they appear in the print edition of the journal. This guarantees authors a fast track to publication, but also enables the journal to promote new research findings and 'Thinking Space' commentaries in a timely

fashion, around public debates relevant to geography. Pieces by Gordon Waitt (marriage equality), Natascha Klocker (10th anniversary of the Cronulla riots), Nunn and Reid (Aboriginal memories of coastal inundation), Danielle Drozdewski (ANZAC) and Lauren Rickards (Tasmanian bushfires) were promoted to great effect during 2015-2016 using the online first publication feature.

1.2.3 Journal cover and page design:

From the first issue of 2016, AG's page design shifted to 'Interact', a new look, 'cleaner' format. The new page format enables authors to link to their social media accounts within .pdfs – to help with online promotion. The new cover design also featured in the first issue of 2016. A compromise of sorts, the new cover design prioritises clarity and simplicity, especially important online.

1.3 Submissions

Submission rates were up in 2015-2016, totaling 63 full research papers and Thinking Space essays, up from approx. 35 in 2014-2015.

Notwithstanding increased submissions, three cautionary trends are worth noting. One is that the above increase in submissions is largely due to special issues being commissioned during this period (see below). Without these, the journal would be struggling to fill its pages with papers of sufficient quality. Second, of those regular papers not commissioned for special issues, approximately half come from authors outside the discipline of geography (especially applied economics and demography). Arguably, this is a sign of the discipline's cosmopolitan, outward-looking and inclusive nature. However, such papers typically require much more work from referees and the editor to 'get over the line', usually because they do not demonstrate sufficient knowledge of the key debates within the discipline to warrant publication. The third trend is the continued low rate of submissions from physical geographers. A key challenge for the journal continues to be to attract papers from 'card-carrying' geographers of both human and physical persuasions, working in named geography (or similar) departments.

1.4 Special issues

The journal looks very favourably upon special issues. Average impact factor per issue shows that special issues (e.g. 41/1, 42/2, 43/2) deliver much higher than average cites per paper. Special issues help catalyse 'cascading' citations (where multiple papers from a given special issue are cited in a single paper).

Unfortunately, there was no special issue published during 2015, under the previous Editor's tenure. Concerned that that may impact downstream on our overall impact factor scores for 2016-2017, and also seeking to attract more papers from geographers (see above), the current Editor commissioned two special issues during 2015-2016. These were The Geographies of Everyday Muslim Life in the West, edited by Kevin Dunn (WSU), and papers in memory of Graeme Hugo (edited by Natascha Klocker, Wollongong and Olivia Dun, Melbourne). The former, originally scheduled for v47n2, was delayed slightly and subsequently appeared as v47n3. Initial download rates have been very encouraging, suggesting widespread appeal and timeliness of the special issue theme. After a phenomenal response to the circular advertising the Graeme Hugo special issue, the decision was made to dedicate two issues of AG to his legacy, organised around separate geographic areas and research themes (Australian migration and social justice in v47n4; southeast Asian migration and

development in v48n1). Included in both the Hugo special issues is Thinking Space essays and full research papers by Hugo's own colleagues and collaborators across Australia, as well as very eminent researchers in the fields of geography, demography and sociology, reflecting on his legacy.

Discussions are underway for further special issues, tentatively scheduled for late 2017 and early 2018, on Australian historical geographies (edited by Andrew Gorman-Murray, WSU) and revisiting economic geographies of restructuring (edited by Kirsten Martinez, UWA and Thomas Sigler, UQ).

Although this may seem that the journal is being 'congested' by many special issues, this year was unusual in that the Everyday Muslim Life special issue was delayed, while the Hugo special issues could not be pushed back for reasons of timeliness and sensitivity to Graeme's family and colleagues. It is highly unlikely that three special issues will appear in a row again in the journal in the foreseeable future.

Moreover, it is increasingly apparent that special issues are the most effective vehicles to attract higher quality papers by geographers. Space has been set aside after the papers that make up each special issue, to publish regular research papers. This will avoid long queues forming around regular research papers appearing in their final print form.

1.5 Impact factor, downloads etc

AG's JCR impact factor is again up a touch for 2015, to 1.193. AG is above most other regional / national journals, and about on par with many international sub-disciplinary journals.

Downloads are also up – led by Nunn and Reid's spectacular success with their paper in v47n1, which at the time of writing had been downloaded nearly 20,000 times, had featured in worldwide press, and with an Altmetric score of 178, remains AG's most successful ever paper in terms of readership. Cross-promotion via social media and companion pieces in *The Conversation* and *The Guardian* sat behind the success of this piece.

1.6 Social media

AG's Twitter account (@austgeog) and Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/AustralianGeographer>) commenced in 2015. The Twitter account is already approaching 500 followers. Currently, Kirstie Petrou, who also assists the editor in corresponding with referees, is managing the Twitter and Facebook accounts.

Authors are strongly encouraged to share/like/link to AG posts on these platforms, to use social media personally to share their articles, and to share those of others. Social media use has a proven effect on article downloads and citation rates. See: <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3278109/>

Authors wishing to promote their articles through dedicated social media campaigns should contact Kirstie Petrou directly via the AG email address (austgeog@gmail.com).

Chris Gibson, Editor, Australian Geographer

2. Program of Society Activities

2.1 2015 Awards Night

The 2015 Awards Night was held at Club Burwood RSL, Monday 30 November. It was our biggest Awards Night to date with close to 100 guests. GSNSW President Phil McManus welcomed award recipients and their guests. Overall, the night was a huge success with many of our guests reporting that they had a great time. The presenting of Awards was mixed with Trivia planned and presented by Kevin Dunn. Awards presented on the night include:

2.1.1 MacDonalld Holmes Medal

Awarded for significant contribution to geography and one's professional organisation/s. The Macdonald Holmes Medal is a joint award of the GSNSW and GTANSW Inc.

The 2015 MacDonalld Holmes Medal was awarded to Professor Phillip O'Neill (Geography and Urban Studies, Western Sydney University).

2.1.2 Life Membership

Awarded to a member or benefactor who has provided exceptional support to the Society.

The 2015 Life Membership was awarded to Mr. Malcolm Barlow.

2.1.3 Australian Geographer Best Paper Prize for Early Career Researcher

2013 Timothy Frewer (PhD Candidate, School of Geosciences, University of Sydney)

2014 Jonathon Collins (Environment Officer at News Corp Australia)

2015 Andonea Dickson (PhD Candidate, School of Geosciences, University of Sydney)

2.1.4 Post-Doctoral Geography Scholar Awards

This is a new Award that began in 2015. The aim of these Awards is to support the research program of early career geographers in their efforts to maintain research momentum, post-doctorate. Each Award recipient was given a \$1500 cheque to support their attendance at a conference, at which the award winner presents a paper on a topic relating to geography. For more information please see: http://www.geogsoc.org.au/client_images/1817567.pdf

Dr Theresa Harada (Australian Centre for Cultural and Environmental Research, University of

Wollongong).

Dr Ju-Han Zoe Wang (School of Geosciences, University of Sydney)

Dr Ann El Khoury (Department of Planning, Macquarie University)

2.1.5 2nd year prize winners from nine institutions throughout NSW and ACT in 2014

Katherine Easey (Australian Catholic University)

Bethany Slough (Macquarie University)

Nicola Michelle Warton (University of NSW)

Sarah Eileen Moriarty (University of NSW ADFA)

Jasmine Horrocks (University of Newcastle)

Jasmine Marie Bidois (Western Sydney University)

Karen Cassidy (University of New England)

Serena Yeung (University of Sydney)

Rebecca Lee Williams (University of Wollongong)

Bronwyn Bate, Executive Officer

2.2 Honours/ Masters Conference, 2015

The 2015 Geographical Society of New South Wales Honours/ Masters Conference was held at the University of Wollongong, Friday 13 November. The conference was organised by Dr Leah Gibbs, Australian Centre for Cultural and Environmental Research (AUSCCER), University of Wollongong and the Society's Executive Officer, Bronwyn Bate. 14 presenters attended, with contributions from the Universities of Wollongong, New South Wales, Sydney, and Western Sydney University. The quality and diversity in the papers was high, as is the norm at this conference and a tribute to the discipline.

Professor Phil McManus from the School of Geosciences, University of Sydney, presented the Jim Rose awards. 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. The awardees were:

Best Paper (\$250 cheque) - Charishma Ratnam, University of NSW, "Placing Home: how assemblages of place through mobility, materiality and nature influence attachment and risk in the Blue Mountains, NSW".

Highly Commended presentation on a Physical Geography topic (\$100 cheque) - Natalie Tan,

University of NSW, “Methane oxidation by microbial processes within Wombeyan Caves, NSW”.

Highly Commended presentation on a Human Geography topic (\$100 cheque) - Elizabeth Oliver, University of Wollongong, “Exploring the everyday performances of white anti-racists in Camden, NSW”.

Presenters were also given a free 1 year membership to the Society, and encouraged to submit a version of their presentations to the Society’s journal Australian Geographer.

Bronwyn Bate, Executive Officer

2.3 Study Tours

The following Study Tours took place in the year 2015-2016

2.3.1 The North Korea Study Tour

Organised and led by Stephen Codrington in September 2015. There were 12 participants, and it was highly successful, with participants rating the trip 4.9 on a scale of 5.0 in the post-trip survey. The tour earned the Society commission of \$1,650 (11 x \$150). An illustrated trip report and evaluation is available on the Society’s website.

2.3.2 The Japan Study Tour

Organised and ably led by Heather Rushton with 21 participants travelling with her in November 2015. Commission earned by the Society amounted to \$3,150 (21 x \$150). An illustrated trip report and evaluation appears on the Society’s website.

2.3.4 The Tropical South America & Cuba Study Tour

Organised by Colin Sale and Heather Rushton, with Heather as its leader in April/May 2016. It consisted of three parts which could be booked separately or all together as one tour of 29 days.

1. **Ecuador & the Galapagos Islands** – 9 to 17 April - with 11 participants.
2. **MS Expedition Cruise – Coastal Ecuador, Panama & Colombia** –17 to 29 April – with 11 participants
3. **Cuba** – 29 April to 7 May – with 13 participants

All three parts were outstandingly successful, and earned the Society total commission of \$1800 (12 X \$150). An illustrated report and evaluation summary is being prepared for the Society’s website.

The following additional Study Tours were planned and advertised but had to be cancelled because they were not viable on numbers.

1. **In Search of the Queen of Sheeba in Ethiopia & Oman** – September 2015, was to have been led by Heather.
2. **North Korea repeated, with an optional highlight extension tour** - September 2016, was to have been led by Stephen.
3. **Taiwan and South Korea** (which could be booked together or separately) – Nov. 2016, was to have been led by Heather.

2.3.5 Future Study Tours proposed, and soon to be advertised:

1. **Arctic - Spitsbergen, Greenland and Iceland** – August 31 to 28 September, 2017. It has two parts which can be booked together or separately, and will be led by Heather.
 - a. **Cruise on MS Expedition** from Longyearbyen (Svalbard, Spitsbergen) to Reykjavik (Iceland) – via the east coast of Greenland – 16 days.
 - b. **Land tour of Iceland** from Reykjavik - 12 days.
2. **Japan** repeated – October/November 2017 – to be led by Heather.

Colin Sale, Study Tour Committee Convener

2.4 The Travellers Club

For about 20 years the club has met at St Ignatius College, Riverview, and for much of that time our program has been five talks a year from March to November. Early this year we were notified informally that from the end of 2016 the school had other uses in mind for our space. A recent detrimental change of caterer suggested that moving early was the sensible way to go. Society Executive Officer, Bronwyn Bate sought alternative sites, among them North Sydney Leagues Club. I had previous experience of that venue, the club offered room discount for repeat use, and its location just off the Harbour Bridge behind the Cammeray shopping strip seemed more convenient than most for our audience.

I consulted the Society's Treasurer, Stephen Codrington, and Bronwyn made arrangements to move for the June talk. The club's organisation was efficient, the catering adequate and the theatre decidedly superior to the Riverview classroom. The whole set-up was user-friendly and universally approved by a bigger than average attendance. We have now had a second talk at Norths and our first experience has been confirmed. The cost is a bit higher than for Riverview, but there is less demand upon Bronwyn and indeed on me. We could if necessary raise the nominal charge for attendance, but as many of the audience take the Society's profitable tours, the talks are in the nature of an investment. We continue to present each speaker with a \$60 book voucher (the same amount as previously split between the speaker and a somewhat old-fashioned lucky door prize). Club member Christine Edwards has gracefully checked in the arrivals on most occasions.

The talks since mid-2015 have been:

12th July: “Serendipitous Sri Lanka” by John Bliss

13th September: “The new Newcastle” by Graeme McIntyre.

15th November: “Tunisia and Algeria” by Stephen Codrington

6th March 2016: “The American Southwest” by Stuart Semple

(a former colleague of Stephen Codrington’s, visiting from Canada)

15th May: “North Korea” by Bob Solomon

10th July: “Monuments and markers as travel guides” by Bruce Ryan

Talks to complete the year will be:

11th September: “Mongolia” by Heather Rushton

20th November: “The African Sahel” by Stephen Codrington.

Bob Solomon (Dr Robert Solomon AM) Convener

2.5 Postgraduate Events

The Society has been looking for ways to offer more to Postgraduate students and subsequently increase student membership. During the 2015-2016 financial year the society held two events targeted at Postgrad students.

2.5.1 Workshop: Media Engagement in a Digital World a Conversation about the Conversation by Dallas Rogers.

The Society asked Dr Dallas Rogers (Lecturer in Urban Studies, Western Sydney University) to run a workshop that focused on Publishing in the Conversation prior to the 2015 Awards Night. 27 people attended the event, most of whom were Postgraduate students. Workshop attendees were invited to stay afterwards and attend the Awards Night. The workshop covered:

- Digital media and the new opportunities
- How does The Conversation work?
 - The platform and audience
- Some tips for pitching a piece to The Conversation
 - Pitch to the editors
- Converting your research into an easy-to-read 800-word piece

- The dangers of dumbing down your work
- Co-publishing in The Conversation
 - Working with colleagues to publish
- Promoting your The Conversation piece (and other work) through social media
- Setting personal media targets.

2.5.2 Postgraduate Q and A

On Monday 11th April 2016, the Geographic Society of New South Wales hosted an Academic Q&A for Postgraduate geography students and ECRs. The panel consisted of Professor Noel Castree, Professor Pauline McGuirk, Professor Phil McManus and Dr Danielle Drozdewski.

Over 40 students from various NSW universities attended. As well as a great turn out on the day, the event also sparked the interest of several other academics who joined in the conversation via twitter. The discussion was focused on three main topics: publishing, life after the PhD and the future of geography in academia.

Student feedback regarding this event was very positive with most of the attendees stating they learnt a lot from the Q and A. This is something that the Society is considering holding again next year.

Sophie-May Kerr, Student Representative

Bronwyn Bate, Executive Officer

3. GENERAL SOCIETY INFORMATION

3.1 Council Membership 2015- 2016

PRESIDENT	
Professor Phil McManus	Professor of Urban and Environmental Geography, School of Geosciences, University of Sydney
VICE PRESIDENT x 4	
Professor Kevin Dunn	Professor of Human Geography and Urban Studies, School of Social Sciences and Psychology, Western Sydney University
Dr Emma Power (see note 1)	Senior Lecturer in Geography and Urban Studies, School of Social Sciences and Psychology, Western Sydney University
Associate Professor Wendy Shaw	Associate Professor of Human Geography, School of Biological, Earth and Environmental Sciences, University of New South Wales
Dr Josephine Gillespie	Lecturer in Geography, School of Geosciences, University of Sydney
HON TREASURERS x 2	
Dr Stephen Codrington	Education Consultant / Study Tour Organiser and Leader / Book Author
Associate Professor Jim Forrest	Department of Human Geography, Macquarie University
HON SECRETARIES x 2	
Dr Duncan Cook	Lecturer in Geography, School of Arts and Sciences, Australian Catholic University
Mr Martin Plüss	Geography Teacher and Dean of Learning, Loreto Normanhurst
COUNCILLORS x 8	
Professor Carolyn Cartier	Professor of Human Geography and China Studies, School of International Studies, University of Technology Sydney

Dr Natascha Klocker	Senior Lecturer in Geography, Department of Geography and Sustainable Communities, University of Wollongong
Dr Jessica McLean	Lecturer in Geography, Department of Geography and Planning, Macquarie University
Dr Fiona McKenzie	Honorary Associate, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, La Trobe University / Policy Director, Australian Futures Project
Mr Colin Sale	Educational Consultant
Dr Meg Sherval	Senior lecturer in Geography and Environmental Studies, School of Environmental and Life Sciences, University of Newcastle
Dr Krishna Shrestha	Senior Lecturer in Development Studies, School of Social Sciences, University of New South Wales
Dr Garth Lean (see note 1)	Lecturer in Geography and Urban Studies, School of Social Sciences and Psychology, Western Sydney University
STUDENT COUNCIL REP	
Sophie-May Kerr	PhD Candidate, Department of Geography and Sustainable Communities, University of Wollongong

Note 1: Dr Garth Lean was nominated as a Vice President in a Council meeting held 22nd February 2016.

Thanks to Departing Councillors

- Dr Emma Power, Senior Lecturer in Geography and Urban Studies, School of Social Sciences and Psychology, Western Sydney University
- Associate Professor Jim Forrest, Department of Human Geography, Macquarie University

Nomination for co-opted Members to Council

- Mr John Bliss, Website Convenor. John Bliss will continue to manage the website until the end of 2016. Unfortunately, he will then be stepping down from his role as Website convenor. John has been a valuable member of the marketing and promotions committee and the Society would like to thank him for all his hard work over the past 10 years. John will be replaced by a website committee comprising of the following:
 - Phil McManus (Society President)
 - Stephen Codrington (Honorary Treasurer)
 - Jessica McLean (Councillor)
 - Bronwyn Bate (Executive Officer)
- Dr Bob Solomon, Convener, Geographical Society of NSW Travellers' Club
- Professor Chris Gibson, AG editor, Professor of Human Geography and Director UOW Global Challenges

Executive Officer

- Bronwyn Bate

3.2 Society Membership

There was a significant increase in student members during 2015-2016, compared to previous years. The Society has been looking for ways to increase student members by offering half price membership at various Society events targeted at students and by increasing events targeted at Postgrad students (see 2.5 above). Other membership types remained constant. Please see table 1 below.

A full review of membership categories and price of membership was conducted at the 2015 AGM. The Council chose to reduce and merge its categories commencing 2016-2017 financial year. Furthermore, the Council decided to no longer offer half price membership for new members and instead, wants to reduce the cost of membership for all its members. The Council believes (based on

the number of new members gained from half price memberships, implemented 2013-2014) that by reducing the cost of membership, they will draw a wider audience of Geographers across NSW into the Society. See table 2 for an overview of proposed new membership categories and prices commencing 2016-2017.

Table 1: Membership trends from 1st July 2011 – 30th June 2015

Rank	Membership Type	Year							
		2012-2013		2013-2014		2014-2015		2015-2016	
		n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
1	Ordinary	37	45.7	41	30.4	37	31	34	27.2
2	Retired	13	16.0	29	21.5	29	24	23	18.4
3	Student	7	8.6	18	13.3	18	15	30	24
4	Honours Conference Participant	3	3.7	13	9.6	9	7	14	11.2
5	Student Prize	2	2.5	10	7.4	6	5	9	7.2
6	Life	6	7.4	6	4.4	7	6	7	5.6
7	Fellow	3	3.7	4	3.7	4	3	3	2.4
8	Retired Fellow	3	3.7	5	3.7	5	4	3	2.4
9	Associate	2	2.5	4	3.0	3	3	2	1.6
10	Corporate	5	6.2	4	3.0	2	2	0	0
Totals		81	100	135	100	120	100%	125	100%
11	AG Supply Members (formerly 'life members')	2	2.4	2	1.5	2	1.6	2	1.5
Totals		83	102	137	101	122	102	127	102

Table 2: Overview of proposed new membership categories and prices commencing 2016-2017

Category	Cost 1 year membership
Ordinary/Corporate/Fellow	\$60.00
Retirees	\$30.00
Students/ Associates/Travellers Club	\$15.00

Bronwyn Bate, Executive Officer

3.3 Planning Day 2015

The planning day was held Thursday 29 October 2015, in Conference room 449, Level 4, Madsen Building, University of Sydney. The aim of the 2015 Planning Day was to build on the momentum gained in 2014 in terms of thinking about the role of a Geographical Society in the 21st Century. In particular, the Council aims to use Planning Day as a forum to continue to think of new and interesting ways to engage and connect with members to promote geography, both to members and to a wider audience. The agenda was structured into three sessions: (1) Review of 2014 Planning Day Notes and Action Items, (2) SWOT/ Blue Sky Thinking Session (3) SWOT/ Blue Sky Integration –

Priority Issues.

(1) Review of 2013 Planning Day Notes and Action Items

The starting point for this discussion was the 2014 Action Item table that documented action items outlined at the 2014 planning day. The 2015 Planning Day minutes include a table that details each action item, if it has been achieved and (where necessary) any future recommendations for the improvement of the action item.

(2) SWOT/ Blue Sky thinking session

The aim of the SWOT/ Blue Sky Thinking Session was to allow Council members to brainstorm any ideas they have for the Society. All ideas are recorded in the 2015 Planning Day notes. These notes have been revisited at various Council meetings throughout the year and will again be revisited at the 2016 Planning Day, which will be held Friday, 4 November 2016.

(3) SWOT/ Blue Sky Integration – Priority Issues

This session was based on the SWOT/ Blue Sky thinking session however, the discussion was more in-depth, with specific action items being decided. The discussion was structured into 9 parts.

1. Promoting Australian Geographer
2. Change the look and ‘feel’ of the Society’s promotional materials including their website
3. Council
4. Patron
5. 2015 Award Night preparations
6. Society’s 90th Birthday
7. Public Officer
8. Planning Day attendance
9. Council attendance at meetings

Table 3 below provides a brief summary of action items that resulted from the 2015 Planning Day.

Table 3: 2015 Planning Day action items

Action No.	Area	Action	Future Direction
1	Social Media	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bronwyn to continue with regular posts and tweets 2 x per week.• Give several council members (President plus M&P committee) access to the twitter account so we share the tweeting load.	BB, SC, PM, FM, WS, DC, KS, GL, JB, SMK

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stephen to talk to Martin about setting up LinkedIn. Bronwyn, Stephen and Martin to see if it is worthwhile doing. 	
2	Changes to website.	<p>The Council has identified four areas of the website that need changing.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Member access through a formal login process on the GSNSW website. This will allow members to access the Australian Geographer dating back to 1928 and digitised records of the society archives. 2. Updates to the online membership form and payment process, including greater credit card security when members sign up and an automated sign up process (as opposed to the Executive Officer processing each membership form and payment manually). 3. Website to become a meeting place that links people that are interested in similar research topics. LinkedIn might also be good for this. 4. Change the look and 'feel' of the Society's promotional materials including their website. Please see no. 2 above under "SWOT/ Blue Sky Integration – Priority Issues". 	<p>PM, SC, BB (items 1, 2 and 3)</p> <p>PM, BB, FM, WS, DC, KS, GL, JB, SMK (Item 4)</p>
3	Strengthen the link between GSNSW and GTANSW	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Society should make a presence at the GTANSW conference and also promote the Australian Geographer. Society to sponsor a 	SC, BB, JG, PM, CG

		<p>table for the GTANSW for the 2016 Awards Night and make this a yearly commitment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Could offer concessional membership to GTANSW members. • T&F give access to other journals, as well as Australian Geographer, to entice GTANSW members to join. Possibly access to an education journal? • Teacher led publications: concerns about not competing with GTANSW but enhancing. Make a joint project with GTANSW. Ask Joe Gillespie if interested. 	
4	Getting “Big name” Geographers to become Society Members.	Phil to send a letter asking “Big name” Geographers to become members of the society and these letters should then be followed with requests by Council Members, who are colleagues of such “big name” geographers.	PM and all Council Members
5	Post Doc Awards	Needs to be a discussion about the limits to the Post Doc Awards.	WS, MS, JF
6	Future of Study Tours	Stephen and Colin should have a talk to the GTANSW and together, set-up a small working party with the GTANSW.	SC, CS
7	Society 90 th Birthday	Exhibition and Gala Ball to celebrate Society’s 90 th Birthday.	PM, BB, and either the Marketing and promotions committee (FM, WS, DC, KS, GL, JB, SMK) or Council puts together a Committee that focuses specifically on the 90 th Birthday event.

Bronwyn Bate, Executive Officer

3.5 Marketing and Promotions Sub-Committee

The Committee remained active during the year, continuing to think of new and interesting ways to engage and connect with members to promote geography, both to members and to a wider audience. The main focus of the sub-committee for 2015-2016 was to begin negotiations to update the Society's website. The Council has identified four areas of the website that need changing.

1. The website should include member access through a formal login process. This will allow members to access the Australian Geographer dating back to 1928 and digitised records of the society archives. Furthermore, working in co-operation with Taylor and Francis, the organisation that distributes The Australian Geographer on behalf of the Geographical Society, it was agreed that Taylor and Francis would provide online access to three of their geography journals (in addition to The Australian Geographer) to all the Society's members as part of their membership. The formal login process will allow members to gain access to these journals via our website.
2. Updates to the online membership form and payment process, including greater credit card security when members sign up and an automated sign up process (as opposed to the Executive Officer processing each membership form and payment manually).
3. Website to become a meeting place that links people that are interested in similar research topics. LinkedIn might also be good for this.
4. Change the look and 'feel' of the Society's promotional materials including their website.

Four quotes were obtained from different website companies and a proposal was presented to Council. Council decided to remain with their current website host Telligence because they (1) offer the most competitive quote (2) the Society has been using Telligence for 10 years.

John Bliss will continue to manage the website until the end of 2016. Unfortunately, he will then be stepping down from his role as Website convener. John has been a valuable member of the marketing and promotions committee and the Society would like to thank him for all his hard work over the past 10 years. John will be replaced by a website committee comprising of the following:

- Phil McManus (Society President)
- Stephen Codrington (Honorary Treasurer)
- Jessica McLean (Councillor)
- Bronwyn Bate (Executive Officer)

The Society's Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/geogsoc>) has continued to grow over the past year. On the 13/08/2015 the Society's Facebook page had 167 likes and this has grown to 258 likes as of 15/08/2016.

The Society's Twitter account (@GeogSocNSW) commenced in 2015. As of 15/08/2016 the Twitter account has 291 followers.

Bronwyn Bate, Executive Officer