



90th Annual Report

Geographical Society of New South Wales 2016-2017

1. Australian Geographer

2016-2017 has been a busy year for Australian Geographer. We are publishing more articles than ever, and gaining wider readerships for them, through special issues, open source promotions, and social media. Beyond the off-the-chart success of Nunn and Reid's essay, 'Aboriginal Memories of Inundation of the Australian Coast Dating from More than 7000 Years Ago', which has been downloaded more than 24,000 times, our average quarterly downloads are consistently increasing.

1.1 Physical geography editor

Mel Neave suffered serious personal health and family problems in the first half of 2016, prompting the recruitment of Dr. Duncan Cook as (Acting) Editor, Physical Geography. The Society and journal extends its thanks to Duncan for filling Mel's shoes at short notice. In due course, it may be that the role becomes on-going, depending on Mel's recovery and plans.

1.2 Online submissions

After a lengthy preparation, training and website redesigning, the journal has shifted to an online submission system, through Editorial Manager. There have been a few bugs behind the scenes that needed fixing, but by and large the online system is up and running smoothly.

1.3 Impact factor

AG's impact factor dropped a touch for 2016, from 1.193 to 1.115. This was a disappointing result given that much effort has gone into revamping the journal, shifting to online first, and publishing several high-profile pieces that have had widespread readerships and impressive downloads.

A query was forwarded to Taylor and Francis regarding this, and they note that this drop can be explained by AG having published more articles per annum in the past couple of years. Our total citations are steady from 2015, and actually up considerably in the long run, since 2011. Also up is the number of papers published – from 50 in 2014 to 61 in 2016. The difference between the two is what explains the slight drop in IF.

Behind the growth in papers published annually, is that we have shifted to Online First for papers. Rather than papers waiting in queue before appearing in print, they are appearing online immediately, adding to the total annual stock of papers published (because papers published online in 2016 might take until 2017 to appear in hard copy; they technically 'appear' in addition to 2016's in-print articles). I anticipate, therefore, that there may be a bounce in the IF in 2017, once online first articles find their way through the system and the annual number of papers published settles down into a consistent average.

Taylor and Francis also note that 'journals with Impact Factors up to the 2.0 mark are extremely susceptible to fluctuations in citations, since they are significantly affected by even the smallest variation in citations against the previous year(s)'.

1.4 Special Issues

In the past twelve months AG has published two special issues (back to back) in memory of Graeme Hugo, co-edited by Natascha Klocker and Olivia Dun. With high profile commentaries from the likes of Ruth Fincher, Jane McAdam and Stephen Castles, as well as substantive and topical full research articles, the downloads for articles in these two SIs (ranging from approx. 200-800) are much higher than the averages for the journal (typically 100 downloads). The hope is that these downloads lead to increased citations in the next 12-24 months. More to the point, the two SIs do justice to Graeme's legacy and commitment to geography engaging deeply with public debate and issues of societal importance. Graeme Hugo's two special issues and obituary come out as a book next year. Natascha and Olivia are due a special note of thanks for the enormous amount of work that went into these special issues, bringing together papers by a who's-who of Australian demography, social geography and development studies.

1.5 'Open Source' promotions

AG Editor, social media and Taylor and Francis editorial staff worked together to promote articles of relevant public interest, making them freely available from the website, and scheduling articles in The Conversation to coincide with their release. Two prominent cases were:

Jim Forrest and colleagues' paper, 'Are Australia's suburbs swamped by Asians and Muslims? Countering political claims with data' (<http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/00049182.2017.1329383>), which has had 335 downloads from the AG website since it was published in early June (more than triple the expected rate). Jim reported that within a week his piece on The Conversation, arising from and linking readers to the AG piece, had garnered 16,009 readers (incl. 9866 from The Conversation and 5450 from the SBS download onto their website); 753 Facebook shares and 59 on Twitter.

Dallas Rogers and colleagues' paper, 'Public perceptions of foreign and Chinese real estate investment: intercultural relations in Global Sydney'; 921 downloads from the AG website, with an exceptionally high altmetric score of 49 (altmetrics captures the extent of sharing/liking/tweeting of a paper via social media).

1.6 Social Media

AG's Twitter (@austgeog) and Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/AustralianGeographer>) presence are growing from strength to strength. We now have 667 followers on Twitter, and 171 followers on facebook. Since the accounts began, more than 600 tweets have been made from the @austgeog Twitter account, promoting content. Posts are made to facebook daily, reaching between 50-90 people per post, on average. Kirstie Petrou, who also assists the editor in corresponding with referees, is managing the Twitter and Facebook accounts, with aplomb.

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).

1.7 2017-2018 Plans

To coincide with the 90th anniversary of Australian Geographer in 2018, a series of special issues and retrospective essays is planned. Two special issues nearing completion revisit Australian historical geographies (scheduled for 2018, Issue 1, edited by Andrew Gorman-Murray, Alanna Kamp and Scott McKinnon) and economic geographies of global restructuring (scheduled for 2018, Issue 3 or 4, edited by Kirsten Martinus, Thomas Siegler and Matthew Tonts). Planning is underway to dedicate part of Issue 2 (July) to a series of short retrospectives on Australian Geographers and Geography, spearheaded by an essay from Emeritus Professor Bruce Thom. Further ideas on how to recognise the 90th anniversary of Australian Geographer in 2018 are very welcome.

Chris Gibson, Editor, Australian Geographer, cgibson@uow.edu.au

2. Program of Society Activities

2.1 2016 Awards Night

The 2016 Awards Night was held at Club Burwood RSL, Monday 5 December. We had approximately 80 people attend. 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 Fellowship Award

The Geographical Society of New South Wales awards Fellowships to members who have made a significant contribution to geography and to the work of their professional organisation.

The 2016 Fellowship award was given to Professor Chris Gibson (University of Wollongong, Editor of Australian Geographer).

2.1.2 Life Membership

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

In 2016, two people were nominated for Life Membership; (1) Associate Professor Deirdre Dragovich and (2) Associate Professor Jim Forrest.

2.1.3 Australian Geographer Best Paper Prize

Professor Patrick D. Nunn and Associate Professor Nicholas Reid

2.1.4 Australian Geographer Best Paper Prize for Early Career Researcher

Rhonda Itaoui

2.1.5 Post-Doctoral Geography Scholar Awards

This Award began in 2015. The aim of the award is to support the research program of early career geographers in their efforts to maintain research momentum, post-doctorate. In 2016, two recipients were awarded \$1500 and two recipients were awarded \$500 to support their attendance at a conference, at which the award winner presents a paper on a topic relating to geography.

Dr Rebecca Hamilton (School of Geosciences, University of Sydney). Awarded \$1500

Dr Olivia Dun (School of Geography, University of Melbourne). Awarded \$1500

Dr Todd Walton (University of New South Wales). Awarded \$500

Ellen Van Holstein (Australian Centre for Cultural Environmental Research, University of Wollongong). Awarded \$500

2.1.6 2nd year prize winners from nine institutions throughout NSW and ACT in 2015

The Geographical Society commenced awarding a University Prize to the outstanding geography students at the University of Sydney in the early 1940s. The number of prizes increased as new departments of geography opened throughout New South Wales after World War II. There are now nine University Prizes awarded annually. Prizes are awarded to students from all NSW Universities who topped geography in second year. Students receive a certificate, \$100 cheque and membership of the Society for one year. The 2015 Prize winners (awarded at the 2016 Awards Night) are:

Bree Fuller (Australian Catholic University)

Ryan White (Macquarie University)

Erin Richmond (University of New England)

Natascha Arndt (University of New South Wales)

Bethany Butchers (University of Newcastle)

Rachel Horwood (University of Sydney)

Alyce Noney (Western Sydney University)

Sally Shanahan (University of New South Wales ADFA)

Carly May Boag (University of Wollongong)

At the 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. A proposal was put together by Garth Lean and a motion to “offer a prize to 1st 2nd and 3rd year geography students in NSW who top their geography program” was approved by Council at a Council meeting held 20 February 2017. Each prize winner will receive a \$100 cheque, 12-month membership with GSNSW and an invitation to our Awards Night.

Bronwyn Bate, Executive Officer

2.2 Honours/ Masters Conference, 2016

The 2016 Geographical Society of New South Wales Honours/ Masters Conference was held at Macquarie University, Friday 11 November. The conference was organised by Dr Jessica McLean (Department of Geography and Planning, Macquarie University) and the Society’s Executive Officer, Bronwyn Bate. There were 10 presenters, with contributions from the Universities of New South Wales, Sydney, Macquarie, and Newcastle. 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) – Jasmine Horrocks (University of Newcastle) for her paper “The Road Home: Older tenants’ housing pathways and making home in community housing”.

Highly Commended presentation on a Physical Geography topic (\$100 cheque) – Alexandra Jones (University of Sydney) for her paper “Examining the potential environmental influences on killer whale (*Orcinus orca*) distribution patterns in the Bremer Canyon, southwest Australia”.

Highly Commended presentation on a Human Geography topic (\$100 cheque) – Sara Judge (Macquarie University) for her paper “Languages of sensing: bringing neurodiversity into more-than-human geography research”.

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

2.3.1 Current Study Tour: Arctic – Spitsbergen, Greenland & Iceland

- This was the only one successfully taking place in 2017; it is taking place from 31 August to 28 September and includes the cruise on MS Expedition from Loneyarbyen (Spitsbergen) to Reykjavik (Iceland) with on-board professional Naturalists, and a guided coach tour of Iceland.
- It is being led by Heather Rushton, who has travelled on the cruise ship twice previously, and had also undertaken a planning tour of Iceland, and found a suitable tour operator.
- There are 13 participants, plus the tour leader, and all are frequent Study Tour participants, well-known to Heather and to all or most others.
- The Study Tour has earned the Society a commission from the travel agent of \$3,250 (13 x \$250).

2.3.2 Study Tours cancelled due to insufficient numbers

- Taiwan & South Korea – November 2016
- Japan – A repeat tour to Honshu, and/or Hokaido – November, 2017

2.3.3 Proposed future Study Tours

- Northeast India – February, 2018. To be led by Heather Rushton who made a planning tour to this region in early 2017. Brochure available, but being slightly revised.
- Namibia & Botswana – April 2018. To be led by Heather Rushton who made a planning tour to this region in mid-2017. Brochure available.
- Central Europe – Romania, Hungary & Slovenia – September, 2018. To be led by Heather Rushton who made a planning tour in Romania in August 2017, and has previously travelled in Hungary & Slovenia.
- The Caucasus Mountains – Armenia, Georgia & Azerbaijan – in 2019. To be led by Heather Rushton who will make a planning tour to the region in 2018

Colin Sale, Study Tour Committee Convener

2.4 The Travellers Club

Norths (North Sydney Leagues Club) near the Cammeray shopping centre is now our familiar meeting place. Its facilities are good, its staff efficient, and the afternoon tea service satisfactory. The cost of the venue and the book vouchers for speakers well exceeds the nominal entry fee paid by the 20-40 people (mostly members) who attend, but this can reasonably be seen as the Society's investment in those who go on its tours.

Bronwyn Bate has capably produced the promotional brochures for the talks and sorted the accounts, Christine Edwards has relieved the audience of their entry fees on most occasions, and

Stephen Codrington has continued to be the base-load speaker from his exceptional travel experience.

2.4.1 The program of talks since July 2016, at the usual rate of five per annum, has been:

11th September: "Mongolia" by Heather Rushton

20th November: "The African Sahel" by Stephen Codrington

12th March 2017: "Three Pacific Micro-Nations" by Stephen Codrington

(standing in for an indisposed Stuart Semple of Canada)

14th May: "Protecting Sea Turtles in the Coral Triangle" by Geoff Gearheart

9th July: "Turkmenistan" by Stephen Codrington

2.4.2 The final talks for 2016 will be:

10th September: "Trinidad and Tobago via Cuba and Mexico City" by Bob Solomon

12th November: "Namibia and Botswana" by Heather Rushton

Once again, if any members wish to share their travels with an appreciative audience (and collect the means to buy a book or two), feel free to offer.

Bob Solomon (Dr Robert Solomon AM) Convener

2.5 Postgraduate Events

During the 2016-17 financial year the society held two events targeted at postgraduate students.

2.5.1 Workshop: Demystifying Academic Publishing: Strategies and Routines - Professor Robyn Dowling

The society asked Professor Robyn Dowling (University of Sydney) to run a workshop focusing on academic publishing prior to the 2016 awards night. 25 people attended the event and attendees were invited to stay afterwards to attend the awards night. The purpose of the workshop was to demystify the publishing process by breaking it down into its component parts. Professor Dowling provided students with publishing strategies, an overview of the review process and tips to ensure

work is read.

2.5.2 Postgraduate networking event: Q&A: Career paths with a Geography PhD – Beyond Academia

On the 20th March 2017, NSW postgraduate students in geography and related disciplines attended a Q&A run by the Geographical Society of New South Wales. The event was themed around career paths beyond academia. The panel was made up of four speakers who have completed geography PhDs: Dr Rae Dufty-Jones (Lecturer, Geography and Urban Studies, Western Sydney University), Dr Fiona McKenzie (Co-Founder and Director of Strategy, Australian Futures Project), Dr Adam Tyndall (Policy Officer at Department of Premier and Cabinet, NSW) and Dr Daniel Montoya (Senior Researcher at NSW Parliamentary Library). Each speaker shared their career trajectory and experiences and students at the opportunity to ask further questions. 25 students attended the event and provided positive feedback on the day.

Sophie-May Kerr, Student Representative

3. GENERAL SOCIETY INFORMATION

3.1 Council Membership 2016- 2017

| | |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| 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 Garth Lean | 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 Emma Waterton | Tourism and Heritage Studies, Western Sydney 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 (see note 1) | 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 Rae Duffy-Jones | Senior 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: At the beginning of 2017 Dr Jessica McLean stepped down from Council. Susan Caldis (former President of the GTANSW) was then elected to Council.

Thanks to departing Councillors

- Dr Jessica McLean, Lecturer in Geography, Department of Geography and Planning, Macquarie University.
- Professor Carolyn Cartier, Professor of Human Geography and China Studies, School of International Studies, University of Technology Sydney.
- Dr Duncan Cook, Lecturer in Geography, School of Arts and Sciences, Australian Catholic University.
- Associate Professor Wendy Shaw, Human Geography, School of Biological, Earth and Environmental Sciences, University of New South Wales.
- Mr John Bliss. John was co-opted to council as Website Convenor. Unfortunately, John will be stepping down from this role. 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)
 - Bronwyn Bate (Executive Officer)

Nominations for co-opted members to Council

- 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

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 over the previous 3 years) 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 new membership categories and prices that commenced 2016-2017.

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

| Membership Type | Year | | | | | | | |
|--|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|--------------|
| | 2013-2014 | | 2014-2015 | | 2015-2016 | | 2016-2017 | |
| | n | % | n | % | n | % | n | % |
| Ordinary | 41 | 30.4 | 37 | 31 | 34 | 27.2 | 29 | 26.9 |
| Retired | 29 | 21.5 | 29 | 24 | 23 | 18.4 | 20 | 18.5 |
| Student | 18 | 13.3 | 18 | 15 | 30 | 24 | 27 | 25 |
| 2016 Honours/ Masters Conference | 13 | 9.6 | 9 | 7 | 14 | 11.2 | 10 | 9.3 |
| 2 nd year Student Prize (see note 1) | 10 | 7.4 | 6 | 5 | 9 | 7.2 | 3 | 2.8 |
| Life | 6 | 4.4 | 7 | 6 | 7 | 5.6 | 9 | 8.3 |
| Fellow | 4 | 3.7 | 4 | 3 | 3 | 2.4 | 3 | 2.8 |
| Retired Fellow | 5 | 3.7 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2.4 | 3 | 2.8 |
| Associate | 4 | 3.0 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 1.6 | 3 | 2.8 |
| Corporate | 4 | 3.0 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0.9 |
| Totals | 135 | 100 | 120 | 100 | 125 | 100 | 108 | 100 |
| AG Supply Members (formerly 'life members') | 2 | 1.5 | 2 | 1.6 | 2 | 1.5 | 1 | 0.9 |
| Totals | 137 | 101 | 122 | 102 | 127 | 102 | 109 | 100.9 |

Note 1: At the 2016 Awards Night, 9 students were awarded a 2nd year prize. As part of their prize they are given a \$100 cheque and 1 year free membership with the Society. Only 3 of the 9 students signed up to become a member of the Society.

Table 2: Overview of 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 2016

The planning day was held Friday 4 November 2016, in Conference room 449, Level 4, Madsen Building, University of Sydney. The aim of the 2016 Planning Day was to build on the momentum gained in 2015 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. This year, Fiona McKenzie (GSNSW Councillor) organised and hosted the Planning Day. Fiona notes that the aim of the Planning Day agenda is to think about, brainstorm and plan ideas around the question: "How do we continue the vision of the Geographical Society into the

future?” Table 3 below details the action items that came from the 2016 Planning Day discussions. These will be revisited at the 2017 Planning Day.

Table 3: Planning Day action items for 2017 in order of importance

| Area | Action | Future Direction |
|---|--|------------------|
| GSNSW Symposium Funding Scheme | Put together a proposal | KD, EW |
| Increase student prizes | Offer student prizes to best 1st, 2nd and 3rd year Geography students across NSW universities. | GL, BB |
| Commenting on Current Affairs via committee’s symposium | | EW, KD |
| New journal on teaching | Start a new academic journal with a focus on Geography teaching | KD, JG |
| Events noticeboard | Put together a noticeboard on the geogsoc website that details geography events/ seminars that may be of interest to members across NSW universities. i.e. Events: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Members - Public - Academic | SMK, BB |
| Encourage early engagement with the GSNSW | Offer free membership to Honours/ Masters students across NSW universities. | SMK, BB |
| Photo competition | Photo competition with a cash prize for Honours/ Masters/ PhD students. | NK, JG |
| Improve GeogSoc use of social media | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Create social media guidelines - Embed Tweets in webpage (compile list) | SMK, GL, BB |
| Bring in people with media skills | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - GeogSoc to promote Geography in the media | FM, PM |
| Career section on GeogSoc website | Something similar to “job centre” on AAG website. | SMK, PM |

Bronwyn Bate, Executive Officer

3.4 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 2016-2017 was to update the Society’s website and to organise a Gala Dinner and exhibition to celebrate both the Society’s 90th Birthday and Geography in NSW.

3.4.1 Society's 90th Birthday Gala Dinner and Exhibition.

The Society celebrated its 90th Birthday this year with a gala dinner on the 12 August 2017 and an exhibition titled "Writing about the Earth" which runs from 7 August – 15 September 2017. Both events were held to celebrate both the 90th Anniversary of the founding of the Society and the history, present and future of geography. The gala dinner was a spectacular occasion. Linda Burney MP delivered a keynote speech and the three-piece band had everyone up and dancing. The curated exhibition was held Level 2 in the Fisher Library and has received a lot of positive feedback.

3.5.2 Website

Over 2015 – 2016 the Council identified four areas of the website that required 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, 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.
4. Change the look and 'feel' of the Society's promotional materials including their website.

In 2016 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.

The Society launched its new website on 28 August 2017. Thank you to Stephen Codrington, Phil McManus, Jessica McLean and Bronwyn Bate for their work with the website.

3.5.3 Social Media

The Society's Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/geogsoc>) has continued to grow over the past year. On the 15/08/2016 the Society's Facebook page had 258 followers and this has grown to 360 followers on 28/08/2017.

The Society's Twitter account (@GeogSocNSW) commenced in 2015. On the 15/08/16 the Twitter account had 291 followers and this has grown to 509 followers on 28/08/18.

Bronwyn Bate, Executive Officer