



91st Annual Report

Geographical Society of New South Wales (NSW) 2017-2018

1. Australian Geographer

2017-2018 has again been a busy year for Australian Geographer with the 90th anniversary of the journal. Our second issue of the year was dedicated, in part, to short retrospectives on Australian Geographer. Chris, Natascha and Duncan penned an editorial reflecting on 90 years of Australian Geographer, and looking to the future. In that issue we were fortunate to publish an evocative piece by Bruce Thom titled 'Sentinels of geography: legacy, public policy and contemporary relevance'. So too, a powerful piece by Libby Porter titled 'From an urban country to urban *Country*: confronting the cult of denial in Australian cities', which has been downloaded more than 450 times.

2017-2018 has also been a year spent consolidating the many changes introduced in 2016-2017 (e.g. online submission, online first publication).

1.1 Editors

From March to September 2019, Natascha Klocker has been Acting Editor-in-Chief while Chris Gibson has been on sabbatical. Chris will return to his role on September 19th at which point Natascha will step back into an Associate Editor role. Duncan Cook has continued to fill the role of Physical Geography editor.

1.2 Online submissions

The journal's online submission system, through Editorial Manager, has been running smoothly easing the submission process for authors and the editorial workflow.

Taylor and Francis have been in contact about transitioning the journal to a contextualised copy-editing process, which uses artificial intelligence to assist with the copy-editing process, including by assigning papers that require greater attention to a workflow that offers more extensive intervention from (human) copy-editors. Natascha is waiting until Chris returns before moving on this.

1.3 Impact factor

AG's impact factor increased from 1.115 in 2016, to 1.350 in 2017. This was a pleasing result that suggests the work of the past couple of years (with the shift to online first, and so on) is beginning to pay dividends. The journal's ranking is 50/84 in the Geography subject category.

1.4 Downloads

There were 50,319 full-text article downloads in 2017; and downloads are tracking slightly higher for the first two quarters of 2018 than at the same time last year. The number of research articles being published per year is holding steady – 59 in 2017 compared to 60 in 2016.

1.5 Special Issues

In the past twelve months AG has published two special issues: Historical Geographies Down Under (edited by Andrew Gorman-Murray) and Globalising the Australian Economy (edited by Kirsten Martinus, Thomas Sigler, Phil O'Neill and Matthew Tonts). Special issues continue to be an extremely effective means of ensuring well-known and established geographers publish in the journal, and SI articles tend to attract more downloads than regular articles.

Of note is a paper published by Rae Dufty-Jones in the Historical Geographies special issue. The paper (titled 'A historical geography of housing crisis in Australia') has been viewed 674 times and was linked to a Conversation piece which resulted in Rae getting a phone call from Bill Shorten!

1.6 Social Media

AG's Twitter (@austgeog) and Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/AustralianGeographer>) presence are growing stronger. We now have 855 followers on Twitter, and 202 followers on facebook. Since the accounts began, more than 860 tweets have been made from the @austgeog Twitter account, promoting content. Posts are made to facebook daily, reaching between 40-90 people per post, on average. 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).

1.7 2018-2019 Plans

A special issue edited by Benjamin Cooke is underway for 2019: *The politics of urban greening*.

Chris has been in discussion with a number of early career geographers and PhD students around a panel session (in written form) to round out the 90th anniversary year. 5-6 'next-generation' geographers are being asked to answer a small number of questions (in writing), around their hopes, aims and concerns for the future of geography in Australia.

Chris and Natascha have also been in discussion with the IAG Urban Geography Study Group around introducing an annual 'leading insights' essay.

Natascha Klocker, Acting Editor-in-Chief, Australian Geographer, natascha@uow.edu.au

2. Program of Society Activities

2.1 2017 Awards Night

The 2017 Awards Night was held at Club Burwood RSL, Monday 4 December. We had over 100 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 are:

2.1.1 MacDonald 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. The medal is awarded biennially.

The 2017 MacDonald Holmes Award was given to Professor Kevin Dunn. Kevin is Dean of the School of Social Sciences and Psychology and Professor in Human Geography and Urban Studies at Western Sydney University. Currently, Kevin is one of the four Vice Presidents of the Geographical Society of NSW. Kevin is a longstanding member on Council, having previously served as both President and Honorary Secretary.

For more information about Professor Kevin Dunn and/or the MacDonald Holmes Award please visit our website: <https://www.geogsoc.org.au/site/index.cfm?display=288314>

2.1.2 Life Membership

In accordance with our Constitution, the Council may, in special circumstances, accord Life Membership to a member or benefactor who has provided exceptional support to the Society. As a Society we are very grateful for the contributions made by our Life Members and wish to recognise them accordingly.

In 2017, the life member award went to Emeritus Professor Bruce Thom.

For more information about our life member awards please visit our website: <https://www.geogsoc.org.au/site/index.cfm?display=546978>

2.1.3 Australian Geographer Best Paper Prize

Each year, the editors of the Australian Geographer award two \$500 cash prizes for Best Paper Prize and Best Paper Prize by an Early Career Researcher (ECR)¹. The Awards are intended to encourage

¹ For these purposes, 'early career' is normally taken to mean within 5 years of completion of a PhD (or beforehand).

and highlight the highest quality published work in geography. In 2017, the Society decided to name these Awards after the first editors of the Australian Geographer, Dorothy R. Taylor and David G. Stead.

- The Dorothy R Taylor Award for best paper published overall in a calendar year in 2016 was awarded to: Professor Patrick D. Nunn and Associate Professor Nicholas Reid for their paper, 'Aboriginal Memories of Inundation of the Australian Coast Dating from More than 7000 years ago'.
- The David G Stead Award for best paper by an early career researcher published in a calendar year in 2016 was awarded to: Rhonda Itaoui for her paper, 'The Geography of Islamophobia in Sydney: mapping the spatial imaginaries of young Muslims'.

For more information about these awards please visit our website:

<https://www.geogsoc.org.au/site/index.cfm?display=674196>

2.1.4 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 2017, there were five recipients that were awarded between \$500 and \$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 five recipients:

Dr Laura Hammersley (University of Wollongong)

Dr Yichi Zhang (University of Technology Sydney)

Dr Charles Gillon (University of Wollongong)

Dr Sonia Graham (University of NSW)

Dr Svenja Keele (University of Melbourne)

2.1.5 University Student Prizes

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 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 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 2016 award winners (awarded at the 2017 Awards Night).

Table 1: 2016 Award Winners. The top student at each university in NSW in each of the following years; year 1, year 2 and year 3.

University	1st year winner	2nd year winner	3rd year winner
Australia Catholic University	Samuel Ashton	Caitlyn Tuckerman	Mariam Jebara
Macquarie University	Rachel Hughes	Thomas Cocks and Johanne Malin Hoepfner	Zak Baillie
University of Newcastle	Kelly Jones	Elsa Berger	Laura Mason
University of New England	Tionne Hilder	Ruth Burger	Erika Donadini
University of NSW	Gabrielle Brennan	Panayiotis Panaretos	Adriana Zaja
University of NSW (ADFA)	Riley Bradford	Jack Palmer	Izaak Gurney
University of Sydney	Kevin Huang	Olivia Grivas	Leah Emmanuel
University of Wollongong	Maddison Shaw	Rebecca Vaartjes	Carly May Boag
Western Sydney University	Surreti Bajwa	Liam Butler	German Nkomo

Bronwyn Bate, Executive Officer

2.2 Honours/Masters Conference, 2017

The 2017 Geographical Society of NSW Honours/Masters Conference was held at the University of Newcastle Thursday, 9th November. The Conference was organised by Dr Meg Sherval. There were 13 presenters, with contributions from Macquarie University, the University of Newcastle, the University of Sydney, Western Sydney University and the University of Wollongong. The quality and diversity in the papers was high, as is the norm at this conference and a tribute to the discipline.

The Society's President, Professor Phil McManus 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 - Brittany Betteridge (University of Sydney)

Highly Commended presentation on a Human Geography topic – Jean-Louise Olivier (University of Newcastle)

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 90th Birthday Gala Dinner and Exhibition

To commemorate their 90th Birthday the Geographical Society of NSW held a Gala Dinner and Exhibition at the University of Sydney. More than just celebrating one of Australia's major geographical societies, the 90th Anniversary Gala Dinner and Exhibition event was a celebration of the history, present and the potential future of geography in NSW, Australia and beyond.

2.3.1 Gala Dinner

The Gala Dinner was held Saturday, 12 August 2017. The date of the dinner was chosen to coincide with the first meeting of the Society that was held 10 August 1927. For more information about the history of the Society please visit our website:

<https://www.geogsoc.org.au/site/index.cfm?display=289422>

The dinner was held in the MacLaurin Hall at the University of Sydney. Over 90 people attended the dinner. The turn out was impressive and there was a mix of academic geographers, geography teachers, retired geographers, people with an interest in geography and geography students.

The keynote speaker on the night was Linda Burney MP, the Shadow Minister for Human Services, the Federal Member for Barton, and a proud member of the Wiradjuri nation. A live band (Slide McBride) was also present on the night and European Catering provided an excellent 3 course sit down meal.

For photographs of the gala dinner please visit our website:

<https://www.geogsoc.org.au/site/index.cfm?module=PHOTOS>

2.3.2 Exhibition

The Exhibition titled 'Writing About the Earth' ran from the 7th August – 15th September 2017 and was held in the Fisher Library at the University of Sydney. A celebration of Geography and the Geographical Society of NSW, the exhibition showcased the evolution of geography in NSW and highlighted how geography shapes the way we understand and think about our world, and the relationship between people and place. Additionally, the prize winning photos of the Geographical Society of NSW Photography Competition (see 2.3.3 below) were displayed at the exhibition.

For photographs of the exhibition please visit our website:

<https://www.geogsoc.org.au/site/index.cfm?module=PHOTOS>

2.3.3 Photography Competition

In 2017, the Society held its first photo competition which coincided with the 90th Birthday

Exhibition (see 2.3.2 above). This was a successful event with several entrants offering up to four photographs for judging. 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 places of employment. The Society would like to congratulate the following prize winners:

First Prize (\$400) was awarded to Ashraful Alam for his photograph titled: 'When the path leads you home'.

Second Prize (\$200) was awarded to Kiran Maharjan for his photograph titled: 'Is my house in the background?'

Third Prize (\$100) was awarded to Nicola Perry for her photograph titled: 'Floating Houses at Dusk'.

An additional five Highly Commended Photographs were awarded, and while they did not receive a cash prize, these photographs were also displayed as part of our 90th Birthday Exhibition. The awardees of the Highly Commended photographs were:

1. Ashraful Alam for his photograph titled: 'Children and the Chained H2O'.
2. Joshua Bray for his photograph titled: 'Livelihoods in Bagan'.
3. Michelle Hales for her photograph titled: 'The Hard Hat Highway'.
4. Nicola Perry for her photograph titled: 'Coconut Tea Cosy'.
5. Danilo Ignacio Urzedo for his photograph titled: 'Peanut Genetic Diversity: Seed guardians'.

The Society has decided to run this competition on an annual basis. In future years, the photographs will be presented at the Society's annual Awards Night and will be part of a rotating exhibition that is sent around NSW Universities.

2.4 Study Tours

2.4.1 Operational Tours 2018

- Two tours have taken place in 2018, both led by Heather Rushton.
- In February, a very small group (4 people including the tour leader) visited the states of Manipur, Nagaland and Assam in North Eastern India, before continuing to Sikkim.
- As Heather had not previously been to this region of India, the tour was a trial run for a tour proposed for 2019. The destination proved to be most worthwhile.
- The tour was run at cost to the Travel Agency with the Tour leader paying her own way; therefore, no commission was paid to the Society.
- In April another small group (5 people including the Tour Leader) travelled to Namibia and Botswana.
- This was a safari tour that travelled from the sand dunes of Sossusvlei, through the Namib Desert to the coast, then inland to Etosha and Chobe National Parks finishing at Victoria Falls. Highlights of the tour included viewing the wild life and exposure to the cultures of the differing tribes encountered along the way.
- Again, having so few participants and the Tour Leader having to contribute to the costs, no commission was paid to the Society.

2.4.2 Non-operational Tours for 2018

- Unfortunately, the proposed tour to Romania, Hungary and Slovakia scheduled for September 2018 had to be cancelled due to insufficient numbers.

2.4.3 Proposed Tours for 2019

- Planned for January is a tour to South America, including well known destinations such as Lima, the upper Amazon, Cusco, Macchu Picchu, La Paz, Rio de Janeiro, Iguazu Falls, Buenos Aires as well as a spectacular crossing of the Andes. An extension tour to Patagonia is also on offer. The brochure is now available.
- In May there will be a tour to the Caucasus. Commencing in Armenia, the tour will move through stunning mountain landscapes into picturesque Georgia and then continue into Azerbaijan, a land of contrasts. This is likely to be a popular tour and therefore profitable to the Society.
- September will see a return tour to Honshu, Japan, in time for Autumn.
- The proposed tour to North East India will take place in late November/ early December. It is planned to coincide with the famed Hornbill Festival in Nagaland.

Heather Rushton, Tour Leader

2.5 The Travellers Club

Our meetings at Norths (North Sydney Leagues Club) have settled down well and we are ably looked after, both as to using the photo projection equipment and the provision of refreshments. Attendance numbers are down a bit, most influenced by regular attenders being absent on travel abroad. There is also a gradual attrition as older members die (most recently David Raupach and Tom Brady) and are not replaced by younger people. This situation is now common to voluntary organisations generally. We could well do with a greater variety of speakers, especially from such a potential source as the Society, unless its members are now all armchair geographers. So, volunteers are welcome, the financial reward being a \$50 book token. As we were making a significant loss with the \$10 registration fee, we raised it to \$15, without protest, somewhat narrowing the gap. Bronwyn Bate continues to produce attractive brochures for the talks and Christine Edwards mostly collects the entry fees.

2.5.1 Talks presented since the Society's AGM in August 2017 have been:

10th September 2017: "Trinidad and Tobago via Cuba and Mexico City" by Bob Solomon

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

11th March 2018: "Fellow Travellers" by Bruce Ryan

6th May: "Coastal West Africa" by Stephen Codrington

8th July: "Disappearing islands? Marshall Islands, Kiribati and Tuvalu" by John Connell

2.5.2 Talks forthcoming for 2018:

9th September: “Guns, science, rats and ships: developing the West Head of Sydney Cove since 1788” by Davina Jackson

11th November: “The Caucasus” by Heather Rushton

Bob Solomon (Dr Robert Solomon AM) Convener

2.6 Postgraduate Events

The society held two events targeted at postgraduate students this financial year.

The first event, titled ‘Research Student Journeys: where is your geographical research taking you?’ provided an opportunity for PhD, Masters and Honours students to share their research journeys with others. Students brought along an object that represented their research, as a basis to talk for a sociable couple of minutes. This event provided a space for students to meet fellow geographers from universities across NSW. The discussion was held prior to the 2017 awards night and attendees were invited to stay after the workshop and enjoy the evening. Thirteen students attended the workshop.

Our second event, ‘A Q&A on Publishing’ was held in March 2018. Three panellists, Natascha Klocker (Senior Lecturer in Geography, School of Geography and Sustainable Communities, University of Wollongong), Claudio Minca (Head of Department, Geography and Planning, Macquarie University) and Dallas Rogers (Senior Lecturer within the Faculty of Architecture, Design and Planning, The University of Sydney), provided valuable insight into planning and writing papers, navigating the review process and promoting publications. This event was well attended with 28 postgraduate students showing up to learn from our panel and network with fellow geographers from NSW universities.

Thank you to Garth Lean and Bronwyn Bate for helping to facilitate and organise both of these sessions.

Sophie-May Kerr, Student Representative

3 GENERAL SOCIETY INFORMATION

3.3 Council Membership 2017 - 2018

PRESIDENT	
Professor Phil McManus	Professor of Urban and Environmental Geography, and the Head of School of Geosciences, University of Sydney
VICE PRESIDENT x 4	
Professor Kevin Dunn	Dean of the School of Social Sciences and Psychology and Professor in Human Geography and Urban Studies, Western Sydney University
Dr Josephine Gillespie	Senior Lecturer in the School of Geosciences, University of Sydney
Dr Garth Lean	Lecturer in Geography and Urban Studies, School of Social Sciences and Psychology, University of Western Sydney
Dr Meg Sherval	Senior lecturer in Geography and Environmental Studies, School of Environmental and Life Sciences, University of Newcastle
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	
Susan Caldis	Unit Convenor, Geography Methodology, Macquarie University
Mr Martin Plüss	Geography Teacher and Dean of Learning, Loreto Normanhurst
COUNCILLORS x 8	
Dr Rae Dufty-Jones	Senior Lecturer in Geography and Urban Studies, School of Social Sciences and Psychology, Western Sydney University
Dr Laura Hammersley	School of Geography and Sustainable Communities, University of Wollongong
Dr Natascha Klocker	Senior Lecturer in Geography, Department of Geography and Sustainable Communities, University of Wollongong
Associate Professor Andrew	Department of Geography and Planning, Faculty of Arts, Macquarie

McGregor	University
Dr Fiona McKenzie	Honorary Associate, School of Geosciences, University of Sydney / Founder and Director, Orange Compass
Mr Colin Sale	Educational Consultant
Dr Krishna Shrestha	Senior Lecturer in Development Studies, School of Social Sciences, University of NSW
Dr Sophie Webber	Lecturer in Human Geography, School of Geosciences, University of Sydney
STUDENT COUNCIL REP	
Sophie-May Kerr	PhD Candidate, Department of Geography and Sustainable Communities, University of Wollongong

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

Thanks to departing Councillors

- Professor Phil McManus; Professor of Urban and Environmental Geography, and the Head of School of Geosciences, University of Sydney. Phil will be stepping down as President of the Geographical Society of NSW effective from 27 August 2018. The Society would like to thank Phil for his excellent leadership and hard work over the past 4 years.
- Dr Natascha Klocker; Senior Lecturer in Geography, Department of Geography and Sustainable Communities, University of Wollongong
- Mr Colin Sale; Education Consultant, Study Tours Leader
- Dr Krishna Shrestha; Senior Lecturer in Development Studies, School of Social Sciences, University of NSW

3.4 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. Table 2 presents an overview of membership trends over the 2017-2018 financial year using these new categories. Table 3 presents membership trends from 1st July 2013 – 30th June 2017. Membership has increased in 2017-2018 (133 members) compared to 2016-2017 (109 members). It is likely that the Society's 90th Birthday Gala Dinner and Exhibition and the launch of the new website, which automatically notifies people about membership renewal and allows them to pay online via the payment gateway Eway, have contributed to the increase in memberships over the past year. The 90th Birthday Gala Dinner and Exhibition have increased awareness of the Society and the website has streamlined membership renewal and reminders.

Table 2: Overview of membership 2017-2018

Category	Cost 1 year membership	2017-2018	
		n	%
Ordinary/Corporate/Fellow	\$60.00	43	32.33
Retirees	\$30.00	28	21.05
Students	\$15.00	42	31.57
Associates	\$15.00	5	3.75
Life members	\$0.00	11	8.27
Free 12 month membership	\$0.00	4	3
Total		133	100

Table 3: Membership trends from 1st July 2013 – 30th June 2017

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

Bronwyn Bate, Executive Officer

3.5 Planning Day 2017

The planning day was held Friday 3 November 2017, in Conference room 449, Level 4, Madsen Building, University of Sydney. The aim of the 2017 Planning Day was to build on the momentum gained in 2016 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. Fiona McKenzie (GSNSW Councilor) organised and hosted the Planning Day. The Society would like to acknowledge Fiona's hard work towards a successful 2017 Planning Day.

Table 4: Planning Day action items for 2018 in order of importance

Priority	Task	Who
1	<p>Communications strategy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Membership drive. - Social media guidelines. - Leverage existing content. - Make connections with universities to develop an active communications channel to promote seminars etc. 	Sophie-May Kerr, Garth Lean, Laura Hammersley, Bronwyn Bate
2	<p>Constitutional reform – IAG model is a good example to start</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Clarify Council roles. - Add VP's to Executive. - Develop succession guidelines. - Create a welcome pack for new Council members. - Make it more visible how to become a member of the Society. Ask for Expressions of Interest. - Funding options for regional geographers to attend key GSNSW events e.g. planning days. 	Stephen Codrington, Rae Dufty-Jones, Phil McManus, Kevin Dunn
3	<p>Survey members for feedback re. Society.</p>	Meg Sherval, Bronwyn Bate, Ray Dufty-Jones, Emma Waterton
3	<p>Scheduling Council meetings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reconsider meeting times and frequency. - Consider using technology so that Councillors don't need to travel as often for meetings. 	All of Council
3	<p>GTA / GSNSW via ambassadors</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - An ambassador's program whereby funds would be sought from GTANSW and GSNSW (and potentially the IAG and AGTA) for a postgraduate/early-career geographer or other interested GSNSW Councillor to be trained as a discipline ambassador to connect with schools and also (potentially) site on the GTANSW Council too. When the ambassador(s) visit schools and students and/or organise joint GTANSW-GSNSW events their intent is to promote 	Susan Caldis, Andrew McGregor, Martin Pluss, Phil McManus

	Geography rather than the university with which they are affiliated.	
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Bronwyn Bate, Executive Officer

3.6 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.

3.5.2 Website

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

The Council identified two key areas of the website that required changing and these changes were implemented when the website was launched.

1. The website should include a member only area that can only be accessed through a formal login process. This has allowed members to:
 - access the Australian Geographer dating back to 1928.
 - access three additional journals; Urban Geography, Physical Geography and International Research in Geographical and Environmental Education. 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.
 - access digitised records of the Society archives. The Society archives have now been digitised and will be uploaded onto the members only area of the website by the end of 2018.
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).

Membership has increased in 2017-2018 (133 members) compared to 2016-2017 (109 members). It is likely that the launch of the new website that automatically notifies people about membership renewal and allows them to pay online via the payment gateway Eway has streamlined membership renewal and reminders, contributing to the increase in memberships over the past year.

Additionally, the overall design of the website has been modernised and the content updated and edited. Further, the website navigation has been overhauled and additional pages have been added. Most notably, a 'Member Publications' page has been added to the website. Through this page, our members can promote a book they authored or edited in the last five years. For more information or to view this page please visit our website:

<https://www.geogsoc.org.au/site/index.cfm?display=756803>

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 28 August 2017 the Society's Facebook page had 360 followers and this has grown to 433 followers on the 27 August 2018.

The Society's Twitter account (@GeogSocNSW) commenced in 2015. On the 28 August 2017 the Twitter account had 509 followers and this has grown to 699 followers on the 27 August 2018.

Bronwyn Bate, Executive Officer

Thank you to all those who contributed to the 91st Annual Report.