



# AGTA

## Don Biddle Award

*Friends of Geography Award*

### **Don Biddle Award citation for: Julie Hearnden**

Julie Hearnden has made a significant contribution to the teaching of geography, in both the Northern Territory where she is based and nationally as a previous member of the AGTA Board and the editor of the *Geographia Journal*.

Geography at the senior secondary level is not widely taught in the NT, despite the opportunities provided to teachers and students in our wonderful landscape and the tremendous need to focus on sustainability at a time where political and economic pressures threaten our varied and ancient landscape. Julie has always actively supported Territory teachers, either as a member of the GHTANT board or in mentoring new or inexperienced teachers of geography. Recently retired as Treasurer from the GHTANT board, Julie is one of only two former GHTANT members to be awarded Life Membership of our association, a tribute to her outstanding work and support to NT geography teachers.

Julie has worked to develop and nurture relationships outside of the NT which have benefited our teachers. Julie was president of SEANT (Social Educators Association of the Northern Territory) when the Northern Territory approached AGTA about joining as an affiliate. In January 2013, Julie officially engaged with AGTA about NT affiliate membership, leading to the recognition of geography as a discipline of importance to Northern Territory schools at a national level. 2023 will see our ten-year anniversary at an AGTA member, a feat which only eventuated due to Julie's passion and commitment to geography education.

To reflect our role in leading geography education in the NT, Julie led SEANT's renewal as GHTANT. This process involved the redevelopment of the association's constitution and its registration with NT Licensing. Although she stepped down as SEANT president in June 2013, Julie continued to play a strong role in the registration of GHTANT and in managing our relationship with AGTA. Due to her tireless work, AGTA formally accepted the membership application of the new GHTANT, and Julie attended every AGTA board meeting from that date until October 2019 when she stepped down as a GHTANT representative.

Julie has also been a strong advocate for geography curriculum in the Northern Territory. During her time with SEANT, she was a member of the working party that reviewed and improved the NT Curriculum HASS Framework for the Department of Education. Previously a generalised social studies curriculum, Julie actively promoted a discipline-based approach to the HASS curriculum to ensure that Geography education was given appropriate emphasis as an academic discipline. Julie also represented the Northern Territory in the initial ACARA development of the Geography and History curricula, as well as for the senior secondary curriculum. As a result of developing

constructive professional networks at the national level, Julie invited leading geography educators to the Northern Territory to work with our teachers to improve their knowledge, understanding and competence in teaching geography and to effectively implement the new curriculum. These interstate professional learning visits have continued with Julie promoting the AGTA Roadshow and in bringing guests to Darwin for the NT's biennial Festival of Teaching. Visits have included ESRI Australia, SheMaps as well as presentations from the current AGTA president, Susan Caldis.

The Festival of Teaching continues to be the major professional learning event for NT teachers. Every second year, hundreds of teachers from across the Territory engage with over 50 different workshops across all stages of schooling and curriculum areas. Julie was a lead organiser of the inaugural Festival of Teaching, bringing what was essentially an idea into fruition and ensuring that the event is the sustainable success that it is today.



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### **Don Biddle Award citation for: Darryl Michie**

Darryl Michie has consistently demonstrated over time that he is a teacher who has encapsulated the essence and spirit of excellence in geography at various levels. These include his leadership at a State and National level, his outstanding contributions made to AGTA, GAWA and SCSA and his effective and creative pedagogical methodology used in class rooms.

According to many who have worked or been taught by Darryl, he is an educator that strives to instil a passion for geography by promoting the subjects relevance to people's lives, student future career prospects and to the world at large. Described as a person who is passionate, enthusiastic, and determined, Darryl has a generous willingness to share exceptional knowledge and as a result, is highly admired by fellow teachers and students.

Furthermore, Darryl has held committee and executive positions on AGTA, assisted with the development of resources at State and National level, his geography teaching resources are consistently published and used in schools throughout WA so as to improve class room engagement in the discipline of geography as well as increase the profile of the significance of geographical education.

Strength and achievements include:

- **Curriculum**

2010 – Attended two ACARA Australian Curriculum Forums Sydney as the WA Representative. Darryl provided levels of initial direction for what we now see as the new Australian geography curriculum.

2011 – 2020 – School Curriculum and Standards Authority (SCSA) Senior School Course Advisory Committee (CAC). As an experience geography education leader, Darryl offered valuable input and feedback on the current status of the WA geography curriculum.

2011 – 2019 Darryl served on the ATAR Geography Examination Marking Panel

2014 – Darryl presented at the DoE HASS HOLA's Day (implementation of new WA Senior School Curriculum)

2014 – 2016 Darryl was involved in the SCSA HASS Yr. 7 – 10 CAC (implementation of Australian Curriculum)

2016 – SCSA As a member of this sub-committee Darryl partook in the reviewing and re-writing of the senior school Grade Descriptors that were used by classroom teachers throughout WA. These assisted with the moderation process of student assessments and results.

2019 – 2021 Darryl was successful in being appointed the ATAR Geography Chief Examiner

2019 – 2021 Darryl was successful in being appointed the ATAR Geography Chief Marker

2019 – 2021 Darryl was part of the SCSA CAC Senior Geography Syllabus Review. His role was Year 12 Writer

2021 Darryl was appointed Principal Consultant Examination Development, SCSA

2021 Darryl was involved in the delivery workshops that reviewed and updated WA ATAR Senior School Geography Curriculum. This was web based and in person.

- **Textbooks and publications**

2018 Proof reader, editor and contributing co-author of two chapters of the new ATAR Year 11, 'WA ATAR Geography: Units 1 & 2'

2018 Editor and contributing co-author of the GAWA Year 12 ATAR Geography textbook, 'WA ATAR Geography: Units 3 & 4' (second edition).

2021 Proof reader, editor and contributing co-author of five chapters of the new ATAR Year 11, 'WA ATAR Geography: Units 1 & 2'(3<sup>rd</sup> Edition)

- **GAWA**

1998 – 2021 GAWA Council member

2009 – 2011 GAWA Vice President

2012 – 2015 GAWA President

2005 – 2012 GAWA State Conference Convenor

2011 – 2015 and 2018 Mentored teachers and provided guidance to new and inexperienced teachers at the GAWA PD's titled "HASS Beginning Teachers Days". Darryl promoted and modelled 'good geography teaching practices'

2012 – 2015 presenter at the GAWA Australian Curriculum PD's – Promoted and unpacked the new Australian Geography Curriculum and WA Senior School Geography courses

2018 GAWA New York Megacity Study Tour Coordinator. Darryl led a group of secondary geography teachers through New York for 10 days. This study tour had direct links to the WA Year 12 Geography ATAR Course.

2017 – 2020 GAWA Year 11 ATAR Exam Writer

- **AGTA**

2010 – Attended first AGTA Board Meeting. In the same year Darryl was appointed AGTA 2013 Conference Convener

AGTA Board member 2012 – 2019

Throughout his involvement and connection to AGTA, Darryl has been highly pro-active and instrumental in reviewing and help reform the way affiliates were represented on the AGTA Board.

Key proponent of 2011/2012 AGTA Constitution reform discussions (equal affiliate representation for all affiliates, a truly national committee)

Promoted geography as a subject on a National level.

AGTA Vice-Chair 2016 – 2019 Darryl was active in maintaining clear communication and providing support to board members

2011 – 2013 AGTA Biennial National Conference Convener. Event included 205 delegates, international speakers and 50 individual workshop presentations

2013 Darryl was part of the AGTA sub-committee for Professional Learning

2014 – Darryl had high input into the formation of the *AGTA Roadshow* professional learning model. This included – Thinking geographically – primary and secondary pedagogy based presentations; Teaching geography skills – primary and secondary streams; and Fieldwork.

This 'model' helped develop the concept of State based delivery of AGTA PL days. Darryl promoted the collaboration between State and National teacher Associations. Benefits for both AGTA and State affiliates saw the profile of geography increase as well as the professional relationship between GTA's.

2015 – 2016 Darryl helped with the formulation of National and State based responses to the Australian curriculum review. Furthermore, he supported this national collaboration of resource development - Resource ('Unlocked' series of textbooks), arrangements to print in WA. Encouraged profit sharing model between AGTA and affiliates. Heavily promoted AGTA resources and textbooks in WA.

2015 – 2016 Ongoing analysis, feedback, responses to AC and WA Curriculum

2018 – 2019 AGTA Study Tour Coordinator – Planning Study Tour s to Singapore in 2020 and new York

City 2021 (Covid -19 put all possibility to a halt). However Darryl needs to be credited for the planning, resources development and networking he established.

In summary Darryl Michie is a geography leader, mentor and teacher who is held high professional regard by colleagues, students and parents throughout Western Australian education circles. His pro-action and passion is respected as he continues to work towards increasing the profile of geography. A strong advocate of fieldwork, geographical issues and instrumental in connecting the GTA's, we at GAWA are very proud to nominate Darryl Michie for the prestigious Don Biddle Award.