



AGTA

Don Biddle Award

Friends of Geography Award

Don Biddle Award citation for: Dr Greg Calvert

Dr Greg Calvert has a B. A. (Hons) Geography and a PhD in Maths & Science Education. He has been an outstanding teacher and a leader in Geographical Education. Dr Calvert has worked tirelessly for TGTA and AGTA. He was the Principal Education Officer for Year 11 and 12 Curriculum in the Department of Education 2012-13 before retiring after 40 years' service. Dr Calvert taught Grade 11 & 12 Geography from 1977 to 1985 and again from 2003 to 2009. In 2008 - 2009 this was in conjunction with Certificate 11 Property (Spatial Information Services). He was the Year 11 & 12 TCE Examination paper critic from 1989 to 1991 and from 2010 to 2018. Dr Calvert was also an External Marking Examiner from 1979 to 1981. He was the Tasmanian Department of Education representative for ACARA Senior Secondary Geography 2011-2012. His membership of TGTA includes: Committee Member 1978, Vice President 1982, Secretary/ Treasurer 1981-1982 and again from 2006 to 2018 and Treasurer in 2019. Dr Calvert has presented at many of TGTA's workshops and conferences. He was awarded Life Membership in 2018 for his dedicated and distinguished service to TGTA.

At a national level, Dr Calvert has contributed a sustained and valuable commitment to geographical education in varied ways. Between 2010 - 2013 when the *Australian Curriculum: Geography* was being developed, he was invited by ACARA, as one of the Tasmania representatives, to attend several national panel meetings to review and provide feedback on the draft Australian Curriculum: Geography documents. More specifically, between 2012 and 2013 when the Australian Curriculum Geography: Senior Secondary was being developed, his expertise in curriculum development and a Stage 6 teaching context was sought by ACARA in a critical friend mode.

Dr Calvert is also a contributing author to a recent AGTA publication: *Geography Fieldwork Unlocked*. Since 2016, he has been instrumental in enabling the AGTA Roadshow to be hosted in Tasmania as well as for AGTA and TGTA to have a workshop presence in a combined Humanities Conference where various subjects from the Humanities Key Learning Area are to teachers as part of a targeted professional learning opportunity.

During 2017 - 2018, Dr Calvert initiated a Careers focused agenda to the AGTA program. He was commissioned to attend a national Careers Forum with the brief of raising the profile of Geography as a viable study and career options for school and university study. Dr Calvert capably fulfilled this role and as a result put forward a proposal to the AGTA Board whereby greater synergy, clarity and relevance should occur for Geography and the Careers space not only in a web-presence but also in an Association-wide strategy that could potentially connect AGTA more closely with the Institute of Australian Geographers. The proposal was approved by the AGTA Board. During 2018, in his final year as an AGTA Board Director, Dr Calvert collaborated with another AGTA Director to develop and put forward a literature review and position paper which formed the basis for strategic planning and the formulation of a working party to continue this important work for AGTA.

His membership of AGTA includes: Delegate 1980 and 1981-1982, and AGTA Director 2015-2019. He attended first AGTA Conference in Adelaide in 1980. Greg Represented AGTA at the 2016 – STEM, STEAM or HASS Conference in Sydney, in 2018 – CDAA Conference Hobart, Geography - A Basis for Career Development.

Greg has been a Contributor/ Paper *124 Paper AB 24 Careers and Geography* with Susan Caldis, *Fieldwork* published by AGTA in 2019. He has also reviewed numerous books on behalf of AGTA.

Dr Greg Calvert has made a valuable contribution to geography education and is a very worthy recipient of the *2019 Don Biddle Award*.



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Don Biddle Award citation for: Rebecca Nicholas

Rebecca Nicholas has made an outstanding contribution to geographical education. Her impact has been Australia-wide.

Rebecca has been teaching Geography for over 18 years in a number of schools in both Queensland and Victoria. She has extensive experience in the use of spatial technologies and BYOD in the classroom. She currently works at Brisbane State High School as the Deputy Dean of Teaching and Learning.

Rebecca has made a substantial and sustained contribution to Australian Geography Teachers' Association (AGTA) for more than a decade. She was Director of the Association and acted as its Secretary for five years. She is currently a GTAQ committee member.

Rebecca was the AGTA Conference Convener in 2008 and has again taken on this role in 2019. The 2008 Conference is remembered for the professional way in which it was organised and the manner in which it promoted collegiality. The level of professionalism evident in Rebecca's organisation of the 2019 AGTA Conference has set a very high standard that others will be challenged to emulate.

Rebecca has been a major player in curriculum and syllabus development at a state and national level, including as an advisor for the *Australian Curriculum: Geography* and more recently as a writer of the 2019 QCAA Senior Geography Syllabus.

It is, however, in the area of Professional Learning that Rebecca has had her greatest impact. Her passion for ICT within a geographical context is recognised nation-wide. She is often called on to present at conferences and to facilitate workshops. Participants in these activities are always enthused by the ICT-based strategies demonstrated and greatly appreciate Rebecca's knowledge and expertise.

Given Rebecca's commitment to Geography and student learning it is likely that she will continue to play an important leadership role in geographical education for decade to come.

Rebecca Nicholas is a very worthy recipient of the Don Biddle Award.