



Australian Academy of Science

Ian Potter House, Gordon Street, Canberra 2601

NATIONAL COMMITTEES FOR SCIENCE National Committee for GEOGRAPHY

2011 BUSINESS PLAN or WORK PLAN Including TIMELINES for up to 5 years

1. Aims of this National Committee

In keeping with Academy guidelines the NCG has a mandate to:

- liaise with ICSU and the International Geographical Union (IGU) through its Executive and Commissions,
- propose and encourage activities that will enhance the status of the Geography discipline nationally and internationally and promote cooperation between professional and regional societies within Australia
- encourage and support Australian geographers in all vocational areas to join IGU commissions and attend IGU Congresses,
- inform the IGU of Australian activities and ensure our views are heard, and
- take an active role in discipline leadership and training in our region (SE Asia and Oceania)

2. Strategies to allow these aims to be achieved.

We will continue to develop our role as a peak body for geography in Australia by:

- enhancing communication with other geographical organisations, e.g. the Institute of Australian Geographers,
- forging stronger links with the IGU, e.g. by ensuring that any Australian representative on the Executive of the IGU is also engaged with the National Committee for Geography (NCG),
- participating in discussions over the place of geography in school curricula, via the National Curriculum process and the Australian Learning and Teaching Council National Standards process, providing advocacy and leadership as required,
- linking with other disciplines where necessary to contribute to national policy development, e.g. in the area of climate change adaptation,
- actively promoting the value of geography as a discipline to the wider community, both individually as senior members of the discipline and as



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a national peak body, and

- facilitating the international engagement of Australian geographers.

3. Plan of work/activities for up to 5 years including timelines

Our baseline activity for the next five years will of course be the annual face-to-face meeting of the NCG. This will normally occur in October/November of every year although the planned discipline review (see below) will probably necessitate multiple meetings involving the NCG in 2011.

Other major activities

2011

- A major activity will be to continue to participate in the national curriculum process for Geography. Members of the NCG were involved in the development and review of the 'shape' paper that provides the framework for the writing of the curriculum for Geography in 2011. Where possible the NCG will continue to lend support to the writing process and the subsequent development of teaching resources.
- Several members of the NCG are contributing to a new book in support of the new national curriculum "Schooling for Sustainable Development: A Focus on Australia, New Zealand and the Oceania Region" (ed. Professor M. Robertson, NCG). Writing will conclude during 2011 and the book will be published in late 2011 or early 2012.
- In 2011 the NCG will continue with its ICSU-funded project "Strengthening the bonds between scientific literacy and human understanding: Local area networks to help build cross-border solutions for disaster management." Aimed at developing the scientific skills and competencies in remote and developing areas of the Asia/Pacific, the project was initiated with a week in Melbourne in October 2010 where possible research proposals were fleshed out. These proposals will be developed further and submitted for funding to various agencies in 2011. The group (4 academics from developing countries in our region, plus 3 NCG members) will also submit a joint research paper to the 2011 Annual Meeting of the Association of American Geographers.
- Professor Nigel Tapper (NCG Chair) has been appointed to the Scientific Program Committee of the 2012 International Geographical Union Congress in Cologne – During 2011 he will actively be involved with other members of the Committee in developing the scientific program for Cologne – funding provided from Germany.
- A strategic 'think tank' was held in association with the NCG annual meeting in November 2010. The 'think tank' resolved that the NCG should take the lead, in collaboration with the relevant academic societies, in the development of two documents that will be a major focus of NCG activity in 2011 and 2012 (documents to be published in 2012)
 - a small document similar to the Academy's *The Science of Climate Change Questions and Answers*, that will be used to publicise/promote the discipline, and
 - a larger strategic document aimed more squarely at discipline/policy makers – more of a decadal strategic plan.



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- iii. the latter in particular, will require a National Strategic Planning Day for Geography to be held – probably at the Academy during the latter part of 2011. It will involve a professional facilitator and the invitation-only attendance of key geographers (academic, teaching and professional), government and business leaders engaged in geographic practice/employing geographers. The theme of the meeting will be “helping shape the future of geography” and selling points to attending the seminar will include
- possible influence on the emerging curriculum
 - ability to contribute to the future of geography
 - being part of early strategic discussions and framing the agenda

The NCG will raise funds for this activity from the Academy, business and the geographical organisations

2012

- a. Continued support of the national geography curriculum implementation ahead of the introduction of the new curriculum some time in 2012 – or later as now seems possible.
- b. The discipline strategic review will draw to a close with final documents likely to be released/published during 2012.
- c. IGU Congress to be held in Cologne, Germany. The plan will be to send at least two voting delegates plus support for the attendance of the Vice-President of the IGU, Professor Ruth Fincher, to this Congress. The NCG will also be working hard in the lead up to the Congress to ensure much better national representation from Australian geographers compared with the last Congress in Tunisia (2008), and will have a strong role in the development of the Scientific Program.
- a. Other activities, possibly associated with the outcome of the discipline strategic review, will be advised in due course. This will also allow a full five-year business plan to be developed.

2013 and beyond TBA

4. Proposed budget details (Please use the attached spreadsheet)

Note each National Committee is allocated:

- \$3,000 per annum to support committee meetings.
- Up to \$2,500 each for up to three approved voting delegates, upon presentation of a report and receipts/invoices, for attendance at the triennial/quadrennial General Assembly meetings of the corresponding International Union.

Progress against these identified Work Plan activities will be reported on in the Chairs' annual reports to the Academy. Work Plans for 2010 can be viewed at www.science.org.au/natcoms

Note: This plan will be published on the National Committee page of the Academy of Science website www.science.org.au/natcoms.

Please complete and return this form by 14 January 2011 to:

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