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# SAGTA Members' Newsletter

## Chair's Chirp—Robert Warriner

Welcome to this, the first of SAGTA's quarterly newsletters. I wish our existing members a warm hello, and welcome all new members to OUR Geography association.

A decision was taken by the Board of Directors to simplify the membership process. We have published the different membership options on the website at the beginning of the year so all members should be aware of this. The 2-year membership is no longer an option. For all renewals until the end of June, the membership cost would be for the full year. For this year only, those membership renewals which fall in the period 1 July to 31 December 2023, the membership fee will be R200. The plan is that all membership renewals will be payable in January and by the end of that month.

Every year end reminders will be sent out in November and December. Please do bear with us at this time of change. If you join at any stage during the year (2024 onwards) the cost of joining is the full membership fee.

Currently we are also exploring the automation of certain parts of the membership process. We do not want our members to become numbers only and therefore aim to maintain the 'human touch'. Geography is, after all, seen as part of the Social Sciences!

I thank each and every person on the SAGTA committee for their hours of voluntary work, passion and insight. To the Kartoza Team, the brains behind the creation and maintenance of the Map Downloader, a massive thank-you for this exceptional tool for our trade.

I cannot wait to see members at the SAGTA Geo Conference later in the year in Mpumalanga.

Chair Geo-Nerd

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## Special points of interest

- Annual Membership Change
- AAG perks for SAGTA members
- Webinars
- GEOAWARENESS DAYS
- Field Conferences
- JoGEA
- Mpumalanga Conference 2023



## Welcome to new members, 2023!

Since January 2023 our new members enrolled has totaled just short of 50! This is very heartening and we are encouraged by the number of new teachers joining our organisation. It is our wish that your association with SAGTA will be a long and fruitful one and that SAGTA will be instrumental in equipping you not only in the Geography classroom but also in your professional growth as an

educator of young minds. Should you at any time experience any difficulty with access to our website and the valuable resources found there, do contact our Help Desk using the following email address:

[help@saqta.org.za](mailto:help@saqta.org.za). You can also email the secretary as follows: [secretary@saqta.org.za](mailto:secretary@saqta.org.za).

*“All conferences are fun” and “contribute to considerably to your professional growth”*

## AAG membership benefits

As a member of SAGTA, you are an affiliated member of the American Association of Geographers (AAG). This is a very active and vibrant community of geographers.

Some benefits are:

- To develop your professional skills and advance your career
- To stay on top of current geographic research in your specialty
- Apply for special grants to support your fieldwork, research and teaching
- Join a worldwide community of scholars, educators and practitioners.
- SAGTA members are able to register for the AAG annual conference and pay the member registration fees, which is a huge saving.
- Access to the AAG Smartbrief (see opposite).

The AAG SmartBrief

[aag@smartbrief.com](mailto:aag@smartbrief.com)

March 16, 2023

# AAG SmartBrief



News for geographers

SIGN UP · SHARE

- **Geography professor highlights free satellite data tools, resources**  
The Conversation (3/14)
- **Scientists studying methylmercury threat from melting Canadian permafrost**  
Hakai Magazine (Canada) (3/15)

### RESEARCH, EDUCATION AND GLOBAL CHANGE

#### A look at weather extremes during 3 years of La Nina

La Nina recently ended after occurring for three consecutive years, with dozens of extreme weather events happening in that time frame. Among those events was Hurricane Ian, which resulted in \$112.9 billion in damage and 152 deaths last year, as well as a late-2021 multistate tornado outbreak that resulted in \$4.2 billion in damage and 93 deaths.

**Full Story:** [The Associated Press](#) (3/10)



<https://theconversation.com/how-to-use-free-satellite-data-to-monitor-natural-disasters-and-environmental-changes-198140>



<http://www.hellomess.com/2010/04/happy-earth-day-cupcake.html#sthash.4wbAHTIk.dpuf>

*Celebrating Earth Day with your classes!*

## ***Reflections by longest standing members ...***

### **Bridget Fleming    Founding SAGTA member**

Teacher support and sharing has been part of the Geography community for many years but there became a need to formalise these activities in September 2014, at the Winelands to Whale Coast

Geography Conference. Hence the Southern African Geography Teachers' Association (SAGTA ) was initiated. The aim of the association is to find synergies, partnerships and projects that would best meet the needs of our members. SAGTA is run by volunteers who are passionate about Geography and Education. As an NPO, SAGTA relies on membership fees to fund the website and server which hosts a myriad of resources to support Geography teachers in both the private and public sector not only in South Africa but also for teachers from the broader region of southern Africa.

SAGTA has funded the Map Downloader, PrepShare, webinars, visitorships, conferences and our new academic Journal, the Journal of Geography Education in Africa. JoGEA is now accredited by the DHET (and appears on the South African List of Approved Academic Journals). Like our social media pages and join SAGTA today to receive these benefits and more. Watch this space for more exciting projects for our members.

## **GEOAWARENESS DAYS**

**- 2nd Quarter 2023**

**April**

22 Earth Day

**May**

25 Africa Day

**June**

5 World  
Environment  
Day

8 World  
Oceans Day

**July**

11 World  
Population Day

***The value of being a  
SAGTA member.***

*'...the standout feature  
of the SAGTA website  
for me is the map  
downloader feature ...'*

*'...the greatest benefit  
of belonging to SAGTA  
is the wonderful  
community of  
Geographers...'*

*'It is invaluable to have  
input from profession-  
als who are passionate  
about this incredible  
subject.'*

## Bianca Rademacher

Probably the standout feature of the SAGTA website for me is the map downloader feature.

The launch of this feature has changed my ability and approach to incorporating topographical and orthophotos into the teaching of my content. But also it has taken away the restriction presented by the IEB examination maps. I am able to choose where I want to set a paper on, and it has given me the ability to produce my own pdf maps that I can easily customize for any task.

Plus there is the added benefit of being able to make these PDFs available for my students online; improving their ability to revise and taking tasks in their own time, without me having to search for maps!

But the greatest benefit of belonging to SAGTA is the wonderful community of Geographers, who share current and enriching material they find all day long on the group email; who assist when you are stuck or need input; and generously contribute to Prep-share.

This community is made up of my favourite people. If you are looking for a group of positive; kind; supportive people; who very quickly turn to friends and family; this is the community to belong to! I have been a member of this family for 7 years.

## Rhoda Larangeira

It is invaluable to have input from professionals who are passionate about this incredible subject.

The sharing of ideas and resources allows us "oldies" to remain current and up to date.

The topographical map and orthophoto resources have been a Godsend. It ensures that all my map skills papers are unique and personal.

Unfortunately, I have not been able to attend any fieldtrips or tours with association, but the feedback from these has been uplifting and inspiring.

## The Winning Membership Letters

We invited long standing members to contribute to the first

Members' Newsletter.

Thank you to Bridget,

Rhoda, Bianca and

Priscilla for your input.

**WE WANT TO HEAR**

**FROM YOU! YES, YOU!**



Please share your

news; a new idea; a

task you have

developed;

an interesting field-

work concept; or

outing which has en-

riched your teaching

for our next newsletter

(submit by the 31 May

for Issue 2).

Compilers:

Pam and Amanda

## Priscilla Reddy

As a member of The Southern African Geography Teachers' Association (SAGTA) for the past 7 years, I have experienced first-hand the immense benefits of belonging to this organisation. SAGTA is a professional organisation that brings together geography educators from all levels of education, including primary, secondary, and tertiary institutions. The association aims to promote excellence in geography education, foster professional development, and provide a platform for networking and sharing of best practices among members.

One of the primary benefits of being a member of the SAGTA for me is access to professional development opportunities. The association offers regular workshops, seminars, and conferences that focus on new teaching techniques, assessment methods, and the latest trends in the field of geography education. These events are designed to help members improve their teaching skills, stay up to date with the latest curriculum developments, and enhance their knowledge of the subject matter.

Another benefit of membership is the opportunity to network with other geography educators from across the country. SAGTA also provides a platform for members to connect with their peers, share ideas and experiences, and collaborate on projects. This is particularly valuable for educators who may be working in isolation or in schools with limited resources.

Members also benefit from access to a range of teaching resources, including lesson plans, teaching guides, and online tools. The association maintains a website that is updated regularly with resources and information that can be used in the classroom. This ensures that teachers are abreast of the latest teaching methods and resources.

Finally, membership of SAGTA is a valuable addition to any educator's professional portfolio. Being a member demonstrates a commitment to the profession and a willingness to stay current with best practices and trends in the field of geography. This can be particularly beneficial for educators seeking career advancement or recognition for their contributions to the field.

The benefits of being a member of the SAGTA are many and varied. From access to professional development opportunities and teaching resources to networking and career development, membership in this organization is a valuable investment for any geography educator. As a member for the past 7 years, I have found the association to be an invaluable resource and a supportive community of like-minded professionals.

## Webinars for the 2nd Quarter

25 May @ 16:30

**Revised GDSC - Geospatial Data Science Certificate and the SAGISO - South African Geographical Information Systems Olympiad.**

**End May—beginning June TBC**

**" Revise, Rebut and Resubmit: writing your first academic paper".**

**Professor Jennifer Fitchett**

Writing Workshop as a follow-up to the webinar (Saturday morning) in June.



Mpumalanga landscapes  
-photographic  
competition  
SAGTA Calendar 2023

- 15 September 2023 to 15 October 2023
- Submit your best TWO photographs.
- These will be posted on the website for voting.
- The BEST 13 photographs will be used for the calendar. A3 in size.
- Pre-ordering is important. This link will go out as the voting is taking place.

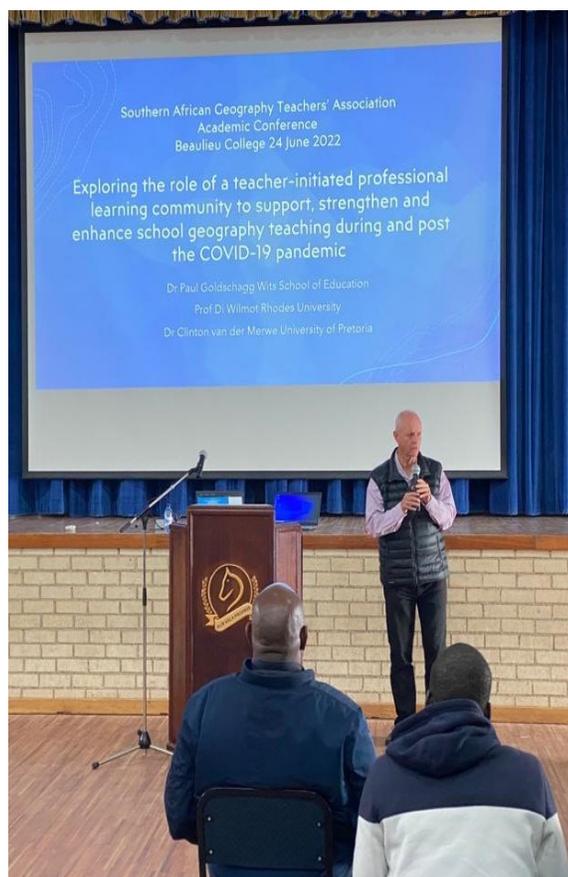
*“Revise, Rebut and Resubmit: writing your first academic paper”*

## JoGEA

The Journal is accredited with the DHET and plans to be indexed by the Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ), by applying this year. Prof. Trevor Hill (UKZN) is the interim Editor-in-Chief and we hope that teachers will consider sending papers on their best practice, after attending Prof. Jennifer Fitchett's webinar on writing your first academic paper, to JoGEA. We also encourage post-graduate students in Geography and Education to also attend and contribute to this rich educational resource.

<https://upjournals.up.ac.za/index.php/jogea/article/view/4330>

<https://upjournals.up.ac.za/index.php/jogea/article/view/4280>



## “A story of Geography” by Nicola McDonald (2000) conference in Johannesburg

A story of Geography is where we will start  
A conference of teachers who met at the heart  
of St Johns, Gauteng, to teach and to learn.  
To give of their skills and get more in return.  
McGaw, Smith, Carr and Gear:  
these are the Daves of the conference this year.  
John Abbott's stories of babies and rats,  
Inspired us to cope with 13 year-old kids.  
In the Arrow coach we explored Joburg central  
At Ponte we pondered their poor life of rental  
Dave Gear showed us homes of every kind,  
Follow the yellow brick road and St Stithians you will find.  
Coffins and chests and animal skins  
Mai-Mai, we wondered  
What was in those tines?  
Prof Beavon informed us of life in Soweto  
At Pieterse Memorial we mourned at the photo  
But spirits were high at Wandies Shebeen,  
The real thing in Soweto has yet to be seen.

Prof Richard Viljoen and Doctor Gill  
Taught us geology at every hill  
Potassium or Sodium, who really knew -  
The terminology was known by the gifted few!  
Ron Clarke at Sterkfontein showed us his jaws  
And Tony our hominid gave 'flat earth' new laws.  
Then down a slight incline, we took a stroll,  
To learn of the mining in a very deep hole.  
Graeme assured us it was a mere twelve degrees  
But the walk back up caused our limbs to cease.  
But never to fear on our many bus trips  
Fluffy, the hostess took us through all the dips  
And our DJ had many laughs at our cost,  
But Headmaster, Sir, I think your calling was lost.  
While trying to draw this poem to conclusion  
There's was many an Amstel creating diversion!  
But such was the spirit at conference this year,  
So, Geography students of 2000 beware,  
These teachers are armed with knowledge to give.  
And take heed of this subject,  
It'll teach you to live.

### Field Conference 2023

There is such tremendous value in attending the field conferences and we really encourage you to think about joining us in Mpumalanga in 2023 (see page 8).

In 2000 such a conference was hosted at St John's College, Johannesburg. We used to host these conferences under the banner of ISASA. I came across this poem written by Nicola McDonald of Penryn College. This was published in the Meridian, September 2000 issue.

Tony Hambly, proclaimed Chairman of the Flat Earth Society, South Africa, was responsible for this publication which was a Journal of the Geography User Group of the Independent Examinations Board.



# Mpumalanga Conference

## 29 September to 3 October 2023

The registration date has been extended to 15 May 2023. We have a few spaces on the tour, and have also revised the itinerary and condensed activities to accommodate a number of requests.

**Option 1:** Please note that we now leave on Friday afternoon (29th September) and return on Tuesday 3rd October 2023. The Conference is a day shorter and the new cost of the tour is R7000.

**Option 2:** Delegates are welcome to join us for the Ngodwana Papermill and Biomass Plant Tour or at Chimp Eden. This Option ends on Monday afternoon (after the Mine Tour and other activities).

Option 2 delegates may request an extra night at Diggers Retreat (Monday night) and leave early on Tuesday (3rd). This will be an extra cost of R1000.

If interested please complete form and the secretary will send you an invoice [Bit.ly/3ikaMD1](https://bit.ly/3ikaMD1)

**Ngodwana papermill & Biomass Plant**

Option 1 **R7000**

Option 2 **R3500**

**GeoTrail**

SAGTA Southern African Geography Teachers Association

**SAGTA CONFERENCE**  
29th September to 3rd October 2023

Day 1: Stone Circle

Day 2: Kaapsehoop

Day 4: Gold Panning

Day 5: Sudwala Caves

Book Now  
**Amanda Louw**  
secretary@sagta.org.za

## TRAVEL ITINERARY

Trip Start : Friday 29th September  
Trip End : Tuesday 3rd October  
\*\*Itinerary is subject to change



**FRIDAY (29/9)** Departing from Beaulieu College, JHB

Departure 11:30am

Stone Circle Museum (Waterval Boven)

Check-in at Silver Mist Guesthouse (Kaapsehoop)

Kaapsehoop escarpment walk & Sundowners

Dinner Silver Mist Guesthouse (Kaapsehoop)

**SATURDAY (30/9)**

Waterfall hike (optional)

Exploring the Rural economy of Kaapsehoop

(Glass Blowing; Jewellery manufacturers; Carriage rides;

National Heritage site; Breeding grounds of Blue Swallows)

Ngodwana papermill & Biomass Plant Tour

Chimp Eden Tour

Ghost Tour of Barberton

Digger's Retreat Barberton for the night



**SUNDAY (1/10)**

Geo Trail of Barberton

Digger's Retreat for Night



**MONDAY (2/10)**

Historical Tour of Barberton

Mine Tour or Gold Panning

Digger's Retreat Barberton for the night

**TUESDAY (3/10)**

Hall's Estate Visit (Mbombela)

Sudwala Caves

Butterfly Farm

Arrival in JHB 18:00

