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2019 Council Report to Members

The Council is pleased to present its report for the Financial Year, 1 July 2018 to 30 June 2019.

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OVERVIEW

The twelve months to 30 June 2019 have been a full and active year with many challenges and achievements. The 2018 Annual Report identified for 2019:

- ***A new home for RGSQ*** - the move to Spring Hill took place in September 2018, after which the premises underwent several months of design and refurbishment to make Gregory Place fit for the Society's purposes. The major fit-out was finalised as planned at the end of February and we were able to invite members to the Open Day on 9 April. The official opening by the Society's patron, the Governor of Queensland took place on 18 July. The Society's new premises provide opportunities for the Society to engage with its members and the public with monthly lectures commanding a full-house, the Map Group holding regular presentations in-house and a first computer training session.
- ***A new legal structure transferring from Letters Patent to a Company Limited by Guarantee (CLG) and a new constitution for the Society*** – this is envisaged to be finalised in the coming Financial Year. A Special General Meeting of RGSQ members was held in May 2019, at which members adopted the proposed new Constitution and other special resolutions ensuring a smooth change in the legal structure. Following this, applications have been made to the relevant government agencies to complete the incorporation change process to a CLG. As at 30 June 2019 a response was still pending from the Office of Fair Trading.
- ***Development of the new website*** - the Society has expanded opportunities to engage with members and the wider community via the new website. RGSQ members have responded positively to the new system, with most communication and bookings for upcoming events and lectures now being performed via the website. Next steps would be producing new content, developing tools to encourage visitors to become members and possibly developing an online shop promoting RGSQ-branded merchandise and publications.
- ***A new TAAC Administration and Procedures Manual*** has been developed throughout the year and will be adopted shortly. The enhanced RGSQ website has enabled much improved publicity for TAAC events and is being actively used by Committee members for better communication to members in organising activities.

Successful progression / completion of these and many other RGSQ projects throughout the year has been achieved by the dedicated efforts of Councillors, staff and many member volunteers. On behalf of all RGSQ members, I extend our thanks to all who have been involved and have contributed to these projects and participated in activities that make RGSQ a vibrant Society.

RGSQ ACADEMIC PRIZES

J. P. Thomson award

Professor John Connell of the University of Sydney's School of Geosciences was presented with the 2019 J P Thomson Award and gave his oration entitled 'The Pacific islands: sinking islands and sinking geographies?' as the June Lecture.

Ken Sutton Trust award

Professor James Watson of the University of Queensland, School of Earth and Environmental Sciences was presented with the inaugural Ken Sutton Prize in recognition of his outstanding contribution to Geography and conservation work both within Australia and globally. He presented two lectures entitled "What becomes of Australia's biodiversity in the contemporary era?" - one in October in Brisbane at the University of Queensland and one in November at the University of the Sunshine Coast.

University prizes

The Society provides Academic Prizes (\$500 bursary, an engraved medal, and twelve months membership to the Society) for high achieving university students majoring in Geography. Three (3) institutions currently offer qualifying study programs and the 2018 awardees were:

- James Cook University – Todd McNeill
- The University of Queensland – Douglas Johnson
- The University of the Sunshine Coast – Caleb Matiske and Kent Olive (joint winners).

MEMBERSHIP

The membership/member profile by category as at 30 August 2019 compared to June last year is shown in the Table 1 below. Over the last year five Household bundles, 13 Ordinary, and 28 Student/Youth memberships* did not renew or resigned. In addition, with the switch to the new website and membership software in May 2018, the Council initiated an audit of the membership database to ensure it accurately reflects the membership, in particular in relation to Life memberships. Following responses received, the number of Life memberships has been adjusted from 57 to 29.

| Membership Category | To June 2018 | | To August 2019 | |
|---------------------|--------------|------------|----------------|------------|
| | Memberships | Members | Memberships | Members |
| Ordinary | 116 | 116 | 93 | 93 |
| Household Bundle | 68 | 125 | 55 | 100 |
| Educational | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| Student | 56 | 56 | 34 | 34 |
| Life | 57 | 57 | 29 | 29 |
| Honorary Life | 2* | 2 | 1 | 1 |
| Total | 301 | 358 | 214 | 259 |

Table 1. Membership by category June 2018-August 2019

*Student memberships are free for the duration of student enrollment

Finally, it is with sadness that we noted the death in February of Dr. John Sinclair AO, whom many members knew personally or through his work in the conservation and World Heritage listing of Fraser Island. Several members attended the public memorial service for John held in the Brisbane Masonic Lodge on March 16th.

Although not in the past financial year, we note with sadness the passing on 29th July this year of **Lorraine Johnson** who died after a long battle with cancer. Lorraine and husband Beres have been long-time members, active on day-time trips, regular attendees at monthly evening lectures and participants on many of our domestic & overseas tours. Deepest condolences to Lorraine's husband, Beres.

MANAGEMENT and ADMINISTRATION

In the 2018-2019 Financial Year major projects have monopolized the management and administrative resources of the Society, namely: the purchase of new premises, the move to Spring Hill, completion of the re-fit, review and restructuring of staffing, the change in legal structure and on-going development of RGSQ Traveller. These major projects have been tirelessly supported and progressed by the Society's Council, dedicated volunteer members and office staff. Much appreciation and thanks are due to all who have assisted with these major projects.

FINANCIAL RESULTS AND POSITION

The Society has reported an overall surplus of \$98,530 for the year to 30 June 2019, which includes realised profits on the sale of investments of \$47,934 and unrealised gains on investments of \$154,222. However, the Society made an operating deficit of \$103,626 after taking out the investment gains.

| | Note | 2019 \$ | 2018 \$ |
|--|------|------------------|------------------|
| Australian Competition Income | 2 | 276,908 | 330,024 |
| Other Income | 2 | 294,883 | 317,028 |
| Distribution of (profit)/loss to AGTA | | 44,688 | (10,609) |
| Exploration and research | | - | (323) |
| Employees benefit expense | | (199,441) | (194,780) |
| Depreciation expense | | (24,973) | (9,323) |
| Competition expense | | (366,284) | (308,808) |
| Administrative expense | | (129,407) | (108,408) |
| Profit / (Loss) from ordinary items | | (103,626) | 14,801 |
| Extraordinary items: | | | |
| Gain on disposal of Gregory House | | - | 1,123,205 |
| Agent's fee – disposal of Gregory House | | - | (45,000) |
| Reversal of building maintenance provision | | - | 32,513 |
| (Decrease)/Increase in market value of investments | | 154,222 | (11,352) |
| Realised gain/(loss) on investments | | 47,934 | - |
| Profit for the year | | 98,530 | 1,114,167 |

Figure 1: Income and Expenditure Statement for Year Ended 30 June 2019.

The loss or deficit above consisted of RGSQ's deficit of \$58,938 and half of the Australian Geography Competition deficit of \$89,376 equalling \$44,688. Details are in the published accounts.

RGSQ. Deficit \$58,938. Income from investments was up over 8% from the previous year. Cost allocations were higher from the AGC but offset by lack of rents from tenants at the old Milton premises and no income from RGSQ Traveller. Removal costs to Gregory Place were \$22,171, but all other costs were close to the previous year. Non-cash depreciation costs are considerably higher due to the purchase of the new premises and fit-out.

AGC. Deficit of \$89,376, of which half (\$44,688) is attributable to RGSQ. The negative result is mostly due to timing differences in both income and expenditure occurring at different times over the year-end periods. Entry fees were lower by about \$50,000 being unpaid at 30th June. Costs were also increased by about \$30,000 being negatively affected by timing differences in the 2018-2019 competitions. Meanwhile, sponsorship income for the AGC increased by \$5,000.

Balance Sheet. The Society continues to carefully maintain and manage its assets. Major changes in the Balance Sheet were caused by the purchase of Gregory Place. At 30th June 2018, the funds were held in a term deposit pending settlement of the purchase. The total assets greatly exceed total liabilities. While the property and investment assets dominate, the cash balances exceed the current liabilities.

| | Note | 2019 \$ | 2018 \$ |
|---|------|------------------|------------------|
| ASSETS | | | |
| Current Assets | | | |
| Cash and cash equivalents | 3 | 158,708 | 1,973,054 |
| Trade and other receivables | 4 | 27,112 | 21,768 |
| Total Current Assets | | 185,820 | 1,994,822 |
| Non-Current Assets | | | |
| Investments | 5 | 1,687,338 | 1,238,798 |
| Property, plant and equipment | 6,7 | 1,467,854 | 23,506 |
| Total Non-Current Assets | | 3,155,192 | 1,262,304 |
| TOTAL ASSETS | | 3,341,012 | 3,257,126 |
| LIABILITIES | | | |
| Current Liabilities | | | |
| Trade and other payables | 8 | 18,169 | 24,650 |
| Income in Advance | 9 | 30,000 | - |
| Employee Benefits | 10 | 13,449 | 10,455 |
| Amount due to associated party | 11 | 32,270 | 76,958 |
| Total Current Liabilities | | 93,888 | 112,063 |
| Non-Current Liabilities | | | |
| Employee Benefits | 10 | 13,767 | 10,236 |
| Total Non-Current Liabilities | | 13,767 | 10,236 |
| TOTAL LIABILITIES | | 107,655 | 122,299 |
| NET ASSETS | | 3,233,357 | 3,134,827 |
| MEMBERS' FUNDS | | | |
| Retained earnings | | 3,201,087 | 3,057,869 |
| Accumulated profits reserve - Competition | 11 | 32,270 | 76,958 |
| TOTAL MEMBERS' EQUITY | | 3,233,357 | 3,134,827 |

Figure 2: Balance Sheet as at 30 June 2019.

Audit. Williams Hall Chadwick, the Society's auditors, have provided an unqualified audit report as attached to the published accounts.

Outlook. Council is mindful of the fact that, although the total asset position is very favourable, the day to day cash situation is of concern due to large swings during this financial year, mostly due to late receipt of AGC entry fees. The 2019/20 budget is still showing a deficit but much reduced from 2019. Much effort is being put into identifying new sources of income, including grants and sponsorships. In addition costs are being managed very carefully.

COMMITTEES, SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS, TRUSTS

COMMITTEES

Australian Geography Competition Committee (AGCC)

Members: Voting members as at June 30, 2019: M Mclvor (RGSQ), J Tasker (RGSQ), J Davis (AGTA), S Albertson (AGTA), K Berg (Independent). Non-voting member as at June 30, 2019: B Fitzpatrick, Chair (AGC Coordinator, RGSQ)

Changes to committee membership during the year were as follows:

- At the AGTA Board Meeting in October 2018, AGTA was represented by A-M Gerlach and J Clothier.
- RGSQ appointed J Tasker to the vacant RGSQ representative in October 2018.
- M Mclvor (RGSQ) was Committee Chair until March 2019.
- In March 2019, L Darii was withdrawn from the Committee as a non-voting member. B Fitzpatrick (Executive Officer and AGC Coordinator to March 2019) has remained as a non-voting member from the time of his appointment as Committee Chair and the dedicated position of AGC Coordinator.

Overview

The Australian Geography Committee (AGC) is a joint initiative of the RGSQ and the Australian Geography Teachers' Association (AGTA) managed and run by the RGSQ under a Memorandum of Understanding between these parties. During the financial year, the AGC continued to promote the study of Geography within Australian schools and provide a surplus to operating funds which are used to allow the AGC to improve operations, and support RGSQ and AGTA projects which further develop and promote Geography and Geographical Education. The 2019 Competition was run in schools from Wednesday 27 March to Wednesday 10 April with 792 schools and over 73,500 entries. RGSQ member volunteers have again provided important support to the Competition's success through their help with mail-outs of Competition materials and the scanning of the returned answer sheets.

Geography's Big Week Out

The 2018 Geography's Big Week Out (GBWO) was held on Kangaroo Island from Sunday 30 September to Friday 5 October 2018. This is a field Geography experience for 16 high performing Year 11 students who competed in the in-School Round of the AGC. One female and one male from each State and Combined Territories, and the next nationally high performing female and male students are selected to participate in GBWO. The 2017, 2018 and 2019 GBWOs have been hosted by the Geography Teachers' Association of South Australia (GTASA) under the coordination of GTASA member and classroom teacher Liam Sloan with support of other GTASA members and AGC Committee member, Kath Berg with administration undertaken by RGSQ staff. The hosting of the GBWO is rotated between State Geography Teachers' Associations every two to three years and is one of the AGTA's in-kind contributions to the overall success of the AGC. Participation in the GBWO is a major prize for students entering the competition. The students who participated in the 2018 GBWO were:

| State | Student | Her/His School |
|-----------------------------|----------------------|---|
| Combined Territories | Ben Nugent | Radford College |
| | Miranda Kenndey-Hine | Canberra Grammar School |
| NSW | Charlotte Woodrow | Sydney Secondary College - Blackwattle Bay Campus |
| | Xavier Hodge | Sydney Grammar School |
| | Yu Jeung JacobThai | Sydney Grammar School |
| QLD | Dakota Miller | Ormiston College |
| | Lara de waal Hart | Brisbane State High School |

| | | |
|------------|-----------------------|--------------------------------------|
| SA | Alexander Shierlaw | St Peter's College, Hackney |
| | Chelsea Pyman | Pembroke School |
| TAS | Lachlan Moore | Launceston Church Grammar School |
| | Sienna Cook | Launceston College |
| VIC | Eleanor Smith | Kilvington Grammar School |
| | Stefan Simic | McKinnon Secondary College |
| | Zoe Oconnor | The Mac.Robertson Girls' High School |
| WA | Justin Mathews | Shenton College |
| | Kimberley Ann Clifton | Churchlands Senior High School |

International Geography Olympiad

The four-student Australian Team to the 2018 15th International Geography Olympiad (iGeo) held in Quebec City, Canada, performed commendably against 42 countries. This highlights the strength of Australia's Year 11 and 12 Geography curricula in teaching students to think, analyse and interpret information. The Australian student-team and medals awarded were:

- Hannah Wright from Walford Anglican School for Girls, SA – Bronze medal
- Phoebe Blaxill from St Mary's Anglican Girls' School, Karrinyup, WA – Bronze medal
- Sophie Ohlin from Sydney Girls High, NSW
- Harry Hall from Trinity College (Gawler), SA

Kath Berg (AGC Committee member) and Liam Sloan (GTASA and Coordinator of the 2017 and 2018 GBWOs) were the Australian Team leaders.

The students selected from the 2018 GBWO to represent Australia at the 16th iGeo in Hong Kong in August 2019 were:

- Jacob Thai, Sydney Grammar School, New South Wales
- Alex Shierlaw, St Peter's College, South Australia
- Stefan Simic, McKinnon Secondary College, Victoria
- Eleanor Smith, Kilvington Grammar School, Victoria

The Team Leaders who accompanied the Australian Team to the 16th iGeo in Hong Kong were Kath Berg (AGC Committee member) and Simon Roos-Freeman (GTASA and GTASA teacher assisting with the 2017 and 2018 GBWOs).

Funding and Sponsors

The GBWO and Australia's participation at the iGeo are made possible through funding provided by the Australian Government Department of Education and Training and university sponsors. In 2019 these were:

- Macquarie University Department of Geography and Planning and Department of Environmental Sciences
- Monash University School of Earth Atmosphere and Environment (Physical Geography) and School of Social Sciences (Human Geography)
- The University of Queensland School of Earth and Environmental Sciences
- University of Western Australia
- Flinders University, College of Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences

Collections Committee

Members: P Griggs (Chair until July 2019), P Lloyd, B Abnett, P Nunan, J Graham, J Fairbairn

During the year, the Collections Committee provided advice to the Archives, Map and Library Groups, assisted and progressed sorting materials and items in these collections. After the resignation of Peter Griggs in July 2019, Peter Lloyd has kindly agreed to be interim Chair of the collections committee.

Finance Committee

Members: C Spriggs (Chair), J Nowill, P Griggs, I Childs, L Darii

The Finance Committee provides financial advice to the Society's Treasurer and Council and met twice during the year.

Honours Committee

Members: P Griggs (Chair until July 2019), J Holmes, L Isdale, L Scanlan, D Wadley, D Cook

The Honours Committee met in the second half of 2018 and provided recommendations to the Society's Council on the choice of the 2019 J P Thomson awardee, Professor John Connell who received the award in June of this year. Fellowships were awarded to David Carstens and Tony Hillier. These Fellowships were presented by the Governor, His Excellency the Honourable Paul de Jersey AC, at the official opening of Gregory Place on 18 July 2019. In July 2019, P. Griggs stood down as chair of the Honours committee and D Wadley took over the role with a view to arranging a meeting of the committee before the end of 2019 to recommend the 2020 awardees to the Society's Council.

Property Committee

Members: B Abnett (chair until April 2019) P Broad (current Chair), Ian Francis, Pamela Tonkin, Neal O'Connor

The Property Committee has had a busy year, managing the relocation of the Society from the Milton Road premises to level 1, 28 Fortescue Street in Spring Hill. A special tribute goes to former Chair, Bob Abnett, who worked tirelessly in relation to the purchase of the Society's new premises, coordinated the move to Spring Hill and managed the major renovations undertaken following settlement. In these matters, Bob was ably assisted by a large number of dedicated and capable volunteers as well as Society staff. It has been through the efforts of Bob and his helpers that the new premises are so attractive and functional. Only minor work remains to be undertaken in the kitchen. Thanks go, also, to Committee member Ian Francis for his determined efforts in sourcing and delivering an appropriate solution to the Society's audio-visual needs in the new premises. The Body Corporate is managed efficiently, and the Society enjoys good relationships with residents and other commercial tenants.

Scientific Studies Committee

Members: I Childs (Chair), P Nunn, J Shulmeister, K Scott, N O'Conner, P Moss, T Sigler

The re-constituted Scientific Studies Committee held an initial meeting on Tuesday 30 April 2019 with the aim of re-invigorating the Society's scientific activities. The committee discussed ideas for future expeditions, possible funding and recommended that a 3-year plan for a future scientific expedition be developed. A budget proposal for 2019-2020 was prepared for Council and external grant funding is being investigated. The RGSQ August Council meeting approved funding for a pilot study to be conducted in the second half of 2019. A 2nd committee meeting will be held on 10th September to plan the pilot study. The proposal includes:

- both physical and human Geography
- a small number of scientists supported by a "citizen science" type operation with opportunities for RGSQ members to participate in research projects as volunteers
- possible locations discussed were Carnarvon area, Upper Yabba Creek and Stradbroke Is

Traveller Committee

Members: L Scanlan (Chair), I Childs, L Darii, S Scanlan

RGSQ TRAVELLER is the international travel arm of RGSQ. Traveller has now been operating for several years and has been set up to boost RGSQ's income stream in order to continue the distribution and promotion of geographical knowledge. All business arrangements have been put in place including the registration of our business logo. (note the Traveller logo on the illuminated signage at the front of our new premises). The committee is aware that Traveller cannot sustain a profitable operation relying solely on patronage from the RGSQ membership base. We are offering discount cruises with a financial benefit to the Society through a new association with Coral Expeditions Cruises and we hope to develop such market tour arrangements with other travel companies. The committee has endorsed two overseas treks for 2020: Southern Africa (Zimbabwe, Botswana, and Namibia) in June and Italy later in September. These two treks, while still accessible to all RGSQ members, will be advertised in mainstream media in October this year. RGSQ members are encouraged to promote Traveller's treks to relatives, friends and acquaintances. Continuing this income stream is extremely important for the well-being of our Society looking into the future.

Treks and Activities Committee (TAAC)

Members: Co-Chairs: Wayne McKenzie/Chris Spriggs, Mary Comer, Audrey Johnston, Jeanette Lamont, Bob Reid

The TAAC has had a very active year with all events being well supported. Feedback on activities has been excellent.

| Date | Activity | Venue | Coordinator |
|-------------|---------------------------------------|--------------|------------------------|
| 11-Jul-18 | Lamington NP - O'Reilly's | O'Reilly's | M Comer/ B Fitzpatrick |
| 17-Aug-18 | Upper Yabba Valley Falls | Imbil | I Stebhens |
| 13-Sep-18 | Fun, Ferries and Food | Brisbane | A Johnston |
| 19-Sep-18 | Roma St Parklands & Qld Police Museum | Brisbane | K Rees |
| 01-Nov-18 | Tasmania 15 Day Trek | Tasmania | W McKenzie |
| 04-Dec-18 | Christmas Party | Paddington | Committee |
| 19-Feb-19 | Shorncliffe Jetty and Waterfront | Shorncliffe | A Johnston |
| 29-Mar-19 | Changing Use of Wetlands & Airport | Nudgee | J Lamont |
| 15-Apr-19 | Pete's Hobby Farm and Township | Lowood | C Spriggs |
| 15-May-19 | O'Reilly's Walk | O'Reilly's | M Comer |
| 05-Jun-19 | Cobb & Co Museum | Toowoomba | W McKenzie |

Table 2. TAAC activities July 2018-June 2019

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

Archives Group

Members: P Lloyd (Coordinator), M Allison

Archive work was temporarily suspended for about six months during the move to the new premises. Due to shortages in the availability of volunteers, little progress has been made in the document or memorabilia/artefact archive. However, a box list spreadsheet and a keyword finding aid have been developed and have proven useful for the (nearly all) boxed documents in the collection. Some progress has been made in identifying and describing the numerous sets of images held in different formats and a report listing these sets is being prepared. A small working party was established in May 2019 to test various options to collect digital images from members and store them in a "cloud-based system". No images have been added to the official albums since 2003 when digital imagery became popular so the collection of digital images relevant to the Society's activities is becoming urgent. The purchase of a scanner is underway to digitise selected images from the Society's print, slide and lantern slide collection. This is particularly important to save the slide and older colour print images from further deterioration in image quality. Kay Rees has been investigating scanning and framing the portraits of a selection of former RGSQ presidents with a view to displaying them in an appropriate wall location in the new premises. A lack of suitable volunteer input is likely to inhibit further progress in organising the Society's archives in the coming year, so any member with time, an interest, and some skills in library, archive, custodian, etc. work would be warmly welcomed.

Map Collection Group:

Members: P Nunan (Coordinator) D Worth, R Carlisle

For the RGSQ Map Collection, the move from Milton was a two-stage process. Firstly, the maps and their housing furniture (racks, drawers, Vertiplan cabinet) had to be prepared and moved to the Society's new premises in Spring Hill where they had to be stored temporarily while refurbishment of the premises was carried out. Secondly, the maps had to be moved into their new home, the newly-created map room. Both stages required specialised removalist expertise and was conducted well, with maps and furniture arriving in the new home in good condition. The map room is now adjacent the Society's meeting area and is more visible and accessible for members adding to the geographic 'feel' during gatherings. A recent donation of maps and map drawers has resulted in group members taking the opportunity to work on improving the organisation and accessibility of the collection for members' use. A few months should see this completed. The group will work with the Collections Committee to determine future strategic actions for the map collection such as cataloguing, digitisation and making it available online.

Ken Sutton Memorial Library Group

Members: J Graham (Coordinator) N McManimm

The Library Group meets each month when the 2 members are not travelling and they work on the collection most Mondays. The coordinator accessions newly received journal issues and catalogues donated and purchased books. The collection was prepared and moved to Fortescue Street by specialist removalists into the new designed Library space. The books and journals have been put back into order with some shuffling. Journals are now in alphabetical order by title. All uncatalogued/partially catalogued books previously held in the storeroom at Milton are now available in the library area. Shelf space was freed up when the Collection Committee approved culling of journals which were either held elsewhere in Brisbane and/or not focused on the objectives of the Society. The work now is cataloguing and processing the backlog of some 400 volumes previously held in the Milton store. We hope to complete this task in the next 12 months. The medium-term objective is to produce a full catalogue of the Library's book collection on the DBtextworks single user system which will enable us to investigate the possibility of loading a file onto the National Library of Australia's Trove system and so make the RGSQ Library resources more accessible to Society members and the wider public. A further objective is to look at the repair and preservation of some of our rare and valuable books which need attention.

Map Group

Coordinators: B Abnett (until April 2019) and I Francis plus 33 registered members

The Map Group has had a very successful and busy year with presentations and meetings at RGSQ and other venues focusing on a wide variety of mapping interests. The group explores historical maps, traditional and cutting-edge mapping techniques and enjoys learning the stories behind the maps. As well as seminar meetings and presentations, the group has also organised visits to map collections at the Queensland State Archives and the Fryer Library at the University of Queensland, Aboriginal camp sites in the Kedron Brook area and longer 3-5-day field trips to the Stradbroke Island Historical Museum and Toowoomba region.

| Date | Activity | Venue | Coordinator |
|------------|--|--------------------------------|----------------|
| -Jul-2018 | <i>MacArthur Museum, Brisbane City.</i> Has some WWII military maps plus normal tour of the Museum. | MacArthur Museum | Ian Francis |
| -Aug-2018 | <i>Aspects of Imagery Mapping</i> by Guest Speaker Silvia Michael (a practicing spatial map maker of today) | David Carsten's house | Bob Abnett |
| -Sep-2018 | <i>Fryer Library, University of Queensland.</i> Has some historic maps of Queensland, plus other historical geographical information, plus some old RGSQ collection items. | Fryer Library UQ | Kay Rees |
| -Oct-2018 | <i>Cartographic Errors - Presentations by Map Group members</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> David Carstens <i>Difficulties involved in the production of a map at Mawson in Antarctica in 1963 and related "a typical error" in the Readers Digest Atlas.</i> Stuart Watt <i>"Even the best can miss a detail" (An error of scale on an orienteering map).</i> | David Carsten's house | Bob Abnett |
| Nov-2018 | <i>"Sharing the Knowledge"</i> – presentations by Map Group members <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Mapping Practice Prior to Digitisation</i> – Les Isdale <i>What's in the RGSQ Library and Map Collections?</i> – Jim Graham and Peter Nunan <i>The History of the Digital Cadastral Database</i> – Len Lowry | BCC Library Mitchelton | Bob Abnett |
| 3-Dec-2018 | End-of-year gathering – Geography-related objects "Show and Tell" by members | BCC Library Mitchelton | Bob Abnett |
| 4-Feb-2019 | <i>Queensland's Pre-Separation Land Commissioners</i> Guest Speaker: Dr Margaret Shield | BCC Library George St Brisbane | Bob Abnett |
| 6-Mar-2019 | Visit to Queensland State Archives | QSA Runcorn | Daphne Stevens |
| 1-Apr-2019 | <i>Mapping a New Colony, the Geographical Construction of Queensland, 1860-1880</i> Speaker: Dr Peter Griggs | RGSQ Fortescue St | Bob Abnett |
| 7-May-2019 | Visit to North Stradbroke Island Historical Museum & lunch at Island Fruit Barn Cafe | Dunwich Stradbroke Is | Ian Francis |
| 3-Jun-2019 | <i>Areography (The Scientific Study of the planet Mars' geographical features)</i> Speaker: Keith Treschman | RGSQ Fortescue St | Ian Francis |

Table 3. Map Group activities July 2018-June 2019

Sunshine Coast Group

Coordinator: J Carter

The Sunshine Coast Group of RGSQ has been active again in 2019, with three public lectures and a field trip. The first public lecture, in February was by Mr Geoffrey Gearhart, on protecting sea turtles of the Coral Triangle; the second in June by Professor Patrick Nunn on ancient memories and disappearing knowledge; the third will be in October by Mr Syd Kirkby OA on the Australian national Antarctic research expeditions. All lectures have been well attended, with an audience of around 70-80 people. A field trip to the Upper Yabba/Imbil region was run by Ian Stehbins in July and again in August. Students from the University of the Sunshine Coast and other RGSQ members participated in the field trips. Group members would like to see some lectures to continue to be presented on the Sunshine Coast in order to avoid having to drive to Brisbane.

Young Geographers Group

Coordinators: J Tasker and G Pickering

The Young Geographers group has seen significant growth in 2019, attracting new members and taking an active role to promote geography. University connections and social media continue to be critical tools to grow the group, organise activities, and spread geography-related news and developments. Key events for the year have included the annual Welcome BBQ for new and continuing members at South Bank Parklands, and participation in broader RGSQ activities, including the monthly lecture series and trips to the Upper Yabba catchment. Building upon the momentum from 2018, members from the YGs have conducted several speeches at schools across South-East Queensland promoting geography and pathways through university to employment. A handful of members also represented RGSQ at a recent summit discussing spatial education in schools, together with representatives from across the education sector. Looking into 2020, there is significant potential for growth within the Young Geographers group, and the potential for collaboration and promotion of geography across Queensland.

Trusts

Ken Sutton Trust

Trustees: I Childs (Chair), M Mclvor, J Shulmeister

Ken Sutton B.Ed., F.R.G.S., F.R.F.S.A., M.A.C.E. was prominent in geographical education in Queensland and Australia. The Ken Sutton Trust, established via a bequest from the Ken Sutton estate in 1988, serves as an everlasting legacy of Ken Sutton's work. The Trust provides a platform for the best Geographical or Geographical Education work in Australia to be promoted through an endowed lecture mini-series and publication and carries a prize of \$500 awarded for the most exciting new research in a geographical field or geographical education undertaken by an Australian geographer. In 2018 a selection panel was convened (I Childs, M Mclvor, J Shulmeister, A Powell MLA, Yu-Hsuan Tu) to choose a worthy individual as recipient of the inaugural Ken Sutton Trust prize. After a short-listing of high profile candidates, Professor James Watson of the University of Queensland, School of Earth and Environmental Sciences, was chosen as the awardee in recognition of his outstanding contribution to Geography and conservation work both within Australia and globally. Professor Watson presented two lectures entitled "What becomes of Australia's biodiversity in the contemporary era?" - one in October in Brisbane at the University of Queensland and one in November at the University of the Sunshine Coast.

ADDRESSING THE STRATEGIC PLAN

Council, staff and members have worked to address the objectives of the Society's Strategic Plan, contributing to our five broad strategic objectives.

1. **Engaging people in Geography** – *To continue to offer a range of services and opportunities for the Society's members to participate in, engage with and enjoy Geography through day activities; short and long treks within Australia and overseas; evening lectures; scientific expeditions; and, opportunities to be involved with activities that support the promotion of Geography.*
 - In spite of changes to lecture venues, over the last twelve months the Society's diverse **lecture program** has attracted good audiences with topics ranging from bio-diversity and protecting sea turtles to urban farming and robotics. The Sunshine Coast Group has continued to continue engage people outside of Brisbane in Geography.
 - The **Map Group** program of presentations and hands-on activities, the Archives, Library and Map Groups have continued to provide opportunities for member participation.
 - The **Young Geographers Group** has helped to engage younger geographers and professionals with the Society with through various activities and social media.
 - The **Bulletin**, the Society's monthly newsletter, continues to enhance content. New sections introduced by President, I Childs have been achieved during 2019 namely: '*Focus on Geographical Research*' which brings to members the most recent scientific endeavors in the field of Geography from around Australia; '*Geographers in the Spotlight*' which celebrates the achievements of geographers and '*Member Reflections*' which profiles our members' stories and recollections of engagement with Geography. Reports from Special Interest Groups and RGSQ members appear regularly in the newsletter
 - The number of students and schools entering the **Australian Geography Competition** has again increased in 2019 - the Competition places the spotlight on Geography in Australian secondary schools for the 25th year.
2. **Enhancing membership** – *To understand, appreciate and strengthen the Society's membership bonds and to widen the membership base, as the foundation of a vibrant and successful Society.*
 - The efforts of the **Sunshine Coast** and **Young Geographers Groups** have helped to widen the Society's membership base.
 - The increased use of **Facebook** has helped to expand awareness of the Society, particularly the Society's lecture program both in Brisbane and on the Sunshine Coast. Along with the new RGSQ website capabilities, it is envisaged that greater communication among members will result from more use of social media.
3. **Knowledge and understanding** – *To promote geographical understanding amongst the Society's members and the wider community, to advance geographical knowledge.*
 - The Inaugural **Ken Sutton lecture** has raised awareness of current critical bio-diversity issues within Australia and globally.
 - The **Scientific Studies Committee** was resurrected with the aim of advancing geographical knowledge amongst members and the wider community.

- **Map Group lectures** e.g. the history of Town Planning presented issues in modern mapping for town planners presented and explained what mapping tools are available to the public.
 - The **Australian Geography Competition** with its associated events Geography's Big Week Out (a field work type exercise) and Australia's participation in the International Geography Olympiad are excellent avenues to advance geographical knowledge in secondary schools.
4. **Growing our reputation** – *To further build the Society's profile and reputation, nationally and internationally, reinforcing and publicizing its role as a leader amongst related societies and a partner of choice in geographical endeavours.*
- The Society has continued its participation in the **Australian Academy of the Sciences, National Committee for Geographical Sciences (NCG)**. This enables RGSQ to increase the Society's profile within the wider geographical sciences community. The President, Dr Iraphne Childs, has represented RGSQ at the NCG meetings in Adelaide and at the launch of the Academy's decadal plan for Geography: **Geography: Shaping Australia's future** in Sydney in November 2018. The Plan provides a unified vision for Australian Geography over the next decade that aligns strategically with contemporary social, economic and environmental challenges of our time and region. The plan included a chapter on the Geographical Societies (including RGSQ) prepared by Kath Berg.
 - Involvement in the **Queensland Science Network (QSN)** - The Society has continued its collaboration with science-based organisations facilitated through the QSN and by the Royal Society of Queensland. RGSQ has a dedicated page on the QSN website and has participated at Government House Queensland events to strengthen its ties with other scientific not-for-profit organisations.
 - Resurrection of **the Scientifics Studies Committee** – Geography is about field-work and this initiative will help to build RGSQ's reputation as a hands-on geographical Society emphasizing its pioneering role as a Society with a long tradition of conducting scientific expeditions.
 - **Student Volunteers**. In 2018 and 2019 the President, Dr Iraphne Childs has initiated closer relationships with University of Queensland in two ways: (a) through the School of Earth and Environmental Sciences, opportunities for students to work as volunteers on Society projects, undertaking tasks related to the Society's Collections and helping with aspects of the Australian Geography Competition and (b) through the School of Business to develop a post-graduate student project investigating ways to increase RGSQ membership.
5. **Securing the future** – *To enable a robust future for the Society, by increasing income sustainability, using technology effectively, and enhancing staff capabilities. To support the Society's activities, through the effective use of good business practices and evolving technologies.*
- A high priority is being placed on **securing more income** through travel program arrangements and grants. Our Business Manager, Lilia Darii, has investigated a wide range of private and government funding opportunities to supplement the Society's funds. She is working with Council to identify appropriate RGSQ projects to apply for funding.
 - Progress in the **use of technology** particularly via the Society's new website has resulted in communication and booking efficiencies, addressing cybersecurity by implementing appropriate measures and ongoing improvements in data management. Thanks to Graham Rees and his team of helpers in continually monitoring and improving the website.

2019-2020-YEAR AHEAD

The incoming Council for 2019-2020 will comprise both new Councillors who can provide fresh perspectives and ideas and re-nominating Councillors who bring continuity and past experience to deliberations. Council will have a good mix of academic, professional and business expertise on board to lead the Society going forward in targeting projects to secure the Society's future.

For example:

- Exploring more financially-beneficial arrangements with travel companies such as that with Coral Expeditions
- Procuring grants for RGSQ projects e.g. Scientific Studies, Archives and upgrading the boardroom facilities
- Three major AGC projects including the development of the AGC website and marketing initiatives through AGTA.
- Implementing strategies to increase membership
- Investigating ways of streaming lecture programs to reach a wider audience
- Resurrecting the publications committee with a view to possibly developing an online refereed journal to provide a publication platform for academic and professional geographers

On behalf of the Council



Dr Iraphne RW Childs, President

9 September 2019