



RGSQ Bulletin

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From the President

It would seem that the population 'elephant in the room' that I referred to in an earlier *Bulletin* is beginning to draw a lot of attention to itself. The debate about how large a population Australia should have, or can sustain, has certainly become energised in recent months.

It started with the release of Treasury modelling that forecast a population of 35 million by 2049. This modelling was prepared as input to the Commonwealth Government's 2010 Intergenerational Report that was released in February. This projection was welcomed by political and business leaders who are attracted to the notion of a 'Big Australia'. On the other side of the fence (or is it a barrier?), the forecast was greeted with alarm and horror by many academics, environmentalists and others who argue that such a number would have a huge impact on our culture, society and sustainability.

Perhaps the more extreme arguments of the 'Big Australia' proponents were articulated by Harry Triguboff, General Manager of the Meriton Apartments group of developers, on the ABC 7.30 *Report* on Australia Day when he stated:

I'd like to see 100 million because I believe we'll have many things to do here besides digging holes and selling coal. I mean, our agriculture has to be huge, our desalination will be fantastic, our rivers will flow the right way. I mean, it will all have to be developed.

At the other extreme were remarks made by entrepreneur and nationalist Dick Smith reported on the *ABC News* on 25 January. He was reported as saying:

Our politicians are completely letting us down. Nine out of ten Aussies don't want 40 million people here, but there's no discussion. There has to be. Because what's the use of bringing kids into the world, when even in a modern Western country they could starve to death. And that's what could happen.

Fortunately it seems as though there will be an open public debate on the population issue. I am already aware of two public seminars that are scheduled for Brisbane in March that will address this issue. The first is being staged by Conservation Queensland and will be held at the Queensland Museum Theatre (Grey Street, South Brisbane) on 13 March. This half-day seminar will be addressed by a panel of four speakers – all of them, such as Labor MP Kelvin Thomson and demographer Mark O'Connor, are well known for arguing against a 'Big Australia'.

The second seminar (styled a Growth Summit) is a more lavish affair to be staged by the State Government over two days, 30 and 31 March. The panel of seven identified appears to be more balanced, with speakers including Tim Flannery, Bernard Salt (well known demographer), Heather Ridout (Australian Industry Group), Ian Lowe (Australian Conservation Foundation), Brendan Gleeson (Urban Policy at Griffith University), architect Michael Rayner and Debra Currie (Planning Institute of Australia). No venue has yet been announced.

In addition to these seminars, the Local Government Association of Queensland has announced that it will be running a public inquiry into population growth during the first half of 2010. The terms of reference have yet to be made public.

I would encourage members of the Society to take a keen interest in this topic and participate in this debate – the outcome will have huge ramifications for all of us and for

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generations into the future. This is not just about the economy, it is about the future of our society, our cultural identity, our health and happiness and our environment.

Ken Granger

PS. In the latest issue of *People and Place* (vol 17 no 4, available in the RGSQ Library), there is an article by Kelvin Thomson, "Population Reform – Meeting the Challenges". *Kath B*

Evening Meeting – Address by the Governor of Qld

The Society is honoured that its Patron, H.E. Ms Penelope Wensley AO, Governor of Queensland, has agreed to give the March address. The title is: *Exploring the Limits: Extreme Geography?*

Prior to her appointment in July 2008 as the 25th Governor of Queensland, Ms Penelope Wensley enjoyed a distinguished career in diplomacy, playing a significant role in the promotion of Australia's international relations and the development of Australian foreign policy across a diverse range of issues affecting peace and security, economic and social development, human rights and humanitarian concerns, the environment and sustainable development.

Ms Wensley graduated from the University of Queensland with a Bachelor of Arts with First Class Honours. She joined the Australian Foreign Service in 1968 and served as an officer of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade until 2008, representing Australia in a wide range of positions overseas, in Europe, Asia, Africa, the Americas and the Pacific and at the United Nations. Achieving the rank of Head of Mission in 1986, Ms Wensley served successively as Consul-General in Hong Kong, Ambassador for the Environment, Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the United Nations in Geneva, Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the United Nations in New York, High Commissioner to India and Ambassador to Bhutan, Ambassador to France, Algeria, Morocco, Monaco and Mauritania.

Within the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade in Australia, Ms Wensley also held a range of senior policy positions, notably as head of the East Asia Branch, as head of the International Organisations and Legal Division, as head of the North Asia Division and as head of the Europe Division.

Ms Wensley has achieved international recognition for her contribution to the United Nations. She played a key role in the negotiation of a number of major international Treaties, including the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the United Nations Convention to combat Drought and Desertification. She also chaired or co-chaired a number of major United Nations conferences and processes, including the First United Nations Special Session on HIV/Aids; the United Nations Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States; the United Nations Budget and Finance Committee and the International Coral Reef Initiative.

Ms Wensley was appointed an Officer of the Order of Australia (AO) in 2001 for her distinguished service to the development of Australia's international relations.

Her life-time involvement with the promotion and protection of Australia's interests internationally, and her long and active engagement with the development of national and international responses to various global challenges, has created a deep commitment to the advancement of international understanding and cooperation, through enhanced communication, contact and exchanges between countries and cultures.

New Members

We have much pleasure in welcoming (and welcoming back) the following new members: Dale, Jessie and Zoe Farnell; William Klein; Lex and Margaret Morley; Grace Warren; Michael Wilke.

We hope your association with your new Society is long and mutually enjoyable.



AUSTRALIAN GEOGRAPHY COMPETITION

A big thanks to the many Society volunteers who helped send out the Competition information, and the follow-up letters, to schools:

Dal and Wendy Anderson, Joyce Barrett, Mary Comer, Paul Feeney, Maureen Franek, Audrey Johnston, Maureen Meier, Peter Nunan, Anne O'Connor, Graham Rees, Andrea Smith, Helen and Digby Warren.

More Help Please

We need to call on our generous members for more help with the Competition – to mail out the questions booklets. For those with experience, this is the mailout where you use the counting scales to weigh questions and answers.

We'll be doing this from **Tuesday 9 March to Thursday 11 March**, with perhaps just a couple of people needed on Friday 12 March.

Please ring Kath in the office (3368 2066) if you can help – or see her at the March meeting.

Trekkers Reunion

When: 7.30 pm Wed 26 May
Where: RGSQ

A big part of the life of our Society over the past twenty five years has been the treks undertaken by our members. As part of the events for the Society's 125th anniversary year there will be a Trekkers Reunion.

Many lasting friendships have been made on Society treks, whether they were on board bus or in smaller groups. This reunion will not be restricted to current Society members, but to all present and past members who participated in treks. In fact, this reunion was suggested by a former member, Grant Epple. It will be a night of reminiscing and renewing friendships over photos and memorabilia. So, past trekkers:

- put the above date in your diary
- contact and tell former members of the reunion

Celebrating 125 Years

HADDON CORNER TREK

Big plans are taking shape for this September

What? As part of Royal Geographical Society of Old 125th Birthday celebrations, and in co-operation with our South Australian sister society, a Trek with the theme “Exploring Cooper Country”, focussed on Cooper Creek and the Channel Country. Local experts and scientists will link up with us.

Where? Meet RGSSA members in Windorah, visit Haddon Corner, Birdsville, Innamincka, Dig Tree & all points between.

When? 15 days from 13 - 27 September 2010, departing Brisbane.

How? A fully-catered coach safari (camping) tour operated by experienced tour company, Polleys Coaches; plus independent 4WD trekkers.

Cost? On the coach: \$2700 for members (\$2740 for others) – all inclusive.
4WDers: \$160 for members (\$200 for others) – includes registration, dinners at Windorah and Birdsville, Cooper Country Forum.

Who? You we hope.

Why? Renew your spirit of adventure. Discover the Far Outback as you’ve never seen it before.

Details: See over for itinerary. For a booking form, contact the Society – 07 3368 2066; admin@rgsq.org.au.

Haddon Corner Trek Itinerary, 13 - 27 September 2010

Mon 13	Depart Brisbane, overnight Mitchell	
Tues 14	Mitchell to Quilpie, overnight Quilpie	Charleville Historic House and Vortex Gun, Pioneers Park, Quilpie Catholic Church altar, Info Centre and Art Wall
Wed 15	Quilpie to Windorah, overnight Windorah	Meet RGSSA group at Windorah
Thurs 16	Overnight Windorah	Solar power installation inspection, Cooper Channels Walk, Cooper Country Forum, evening group BBQ
Fri 17	Windorah to Haddon Corner, overnight Haddon Corner	Anniversary meeting with RGSSA, camp fire evening, campsite Kulpie waterhole
Sat 18	Haddon Corner to Birdsville, overnight Birdsville	Deon's Lookout
Sun 19	Birdsville, overnight Birdsville	Big Red Sand Dune, geothermal power inspection, Channel Country beef production, farewell RGSSA evening BBQ
Mon 20	Birdsville to Innamincka, overnight Innamincka area	Cadelga ruins, Cordillo Downs Woolshed
Tues 21	Innamincka, overnight Innamincka area	Local Burke and Wills historic sites
Wed 22	Innamincka, overnight Innamincka area	Coongie Lakes (day trip)
Thurs 23	Innamincka to Thargomindah, overnight Thargomindah	Oil and gas fields, Noccundra pub
Fri 24	Thargomindah to Cunnamulla, overnight Cunnamulla	Early hydroelectricity, Thargo, Lake Bidegolly NP, mud springs, date farm at Eulo
Sat 25	Cunnamulla to St George, overnight St George	Cunnamulla Fella Tourist Centre
Sun 26	St George, overnight St George	Riversands Winery, Beardmore Dam
Mon 27	St George to Brisbane	

Turkey Travel and Tukka

What: Dinner of Turkish-style cooking and illustrated talk about country

When: 6.00 for 6.30 pm Fri 16 Apr

Where: RGSQ

Cost: \$35.00

Book: with the office and pay by 6 April. Numbers are limited, so book and pay now. **No** late bookings will be accepted because of catering.

Food: Aussie nibbles and drinks; soup; main course and side dishes; sweets; tea and coffee

I toured Turkey in 1987/88 and I suspect that many things will not have changed. Turkey is unusual in that it is situated in two continents – 97% in Asia and 3% in Europe – connected by the Bosphorus Bridge which was opened in 1973. In Istanbul (Constantinople, Stambul) we will visit the Topkapi Palace, the setting for Mozart's 1782 Opera // *Seraglio* and today a museum. The Imperial Treasury guards a diamond of 86 carats and an emerald weighing 3.26 kg.

The Church of the Holy Wisdom, Sancta Sophia, completed in 548

AD, is another museum. The Sultan Ahmet, or Blue Mosque is the only one in Turkey with six minarets. And of course the markets.

So many ruins to explore + temples, palaces, market places, a necropolis, rock tombs, theatres, a camel fair and much, much more. We spent Christmas Day at Olympos, the Home of the Gods. After swimming in the Mediterranean in January, it took hours to thaw out. A major highlight was a visit to Ephesus.

Bring your friends and introduce them to your Society.

Audrey Johnston

A Walking Weekend

When: 8 - 9 May

Where: Maroochy Botanic Gardens + Mary Cairncross Scenic Reserve

Cost: your accommodation

Wear: sunsmart gear, walking shoes

Bring: camera and water bottle

Book: with the office by 4 May

Accommodation: **book your own** (suggestions at end)

Leader: Audrey Johnston

Saturday morning: Maroochy Botanic Gardens. **Meet** near the information sign no later than 10.30 am. (Look for my big red and white umbrella.) We'll take the Lagoon Walk strolling through eucalypt and riparian forests, crossing rocky creeks with ferns, mosses, and lichens, palms, perhaps lizards and birds. We'll enjoy lunch at the picnic tables in the Contemplation Gardens, set among cultivated gardens of local vegetation. **Carry your own lunch.** There are no BBQs or bins.

Saturday afternoon: Explore the Fern Glade, the Mossy Log Walk, the Ephemeral Wetlands and the very spectacular Sculpture Garden. There are 13 remarkable, very large sandstone or granite sculptures set among another native garden. I promise you a busy camera!!

Sunday morning: Mary Cairncross Scenic Reserve. **Meet** beside the information office at 10.00 am. Again, we're walking so come prepared. Well-maintained tracks (there are a few steps here and there) wander through subtropical rainforest where, more than 100 species of trees have been identified,

including rose gums, red cedar and black bean. The fertile under-storey has a diversity of shrubs, herbs, orchids, palms, ferns, mosses, lichens and fungi. More than 100 species of birds have been identified and there are mammals and reptiles. BYO lunch or buy it at the kiosk. And don't miss the Education Centre.

Locations

Maroochy Botanic Gardens: From the Bruce Highway take the Tanawha Forest Glen Tourist Drive and follow the signs from there. UBD Map 77 N17.

Mary Cairncross Scenic Reserve: Follow Mountain View Road from Cairncross Corner just east of Maleny.

Suggested Accommodation

Cabins are available at each of these:

- Lilyponds Caravan Park, Mapleton, phone 5445 7238 or freecall 1800 003 764
- Mapleton Cabins and Caravan Park, Obi Obi Road, Mapleton, phone 5445 7134
- Ocean View Caravan Park (about halfway between Maleny and Landsborough), phone 5494 1171 or freecall 1300 769443
- Tanawha Caravan Park, Tanawha/Forest Glen, phone 5476 6646
- or there are 'millions' of cottages available along the Blackall Range.

SE Qld Geography Trail

The Treks and Activities Committee has planned a series of short trips in 2010 to explore the geography and activities of selected southeast Queensland towns and their surrounds. If you have studied the 2010 Programme which came with the February *Bulletin*, you would have noted that the towns listed for this trail are Goomeri, Eidsvold, Oakey, Gatton, Rosewood, Allora, Pomona, Hervey Bay and Yarraman.

Members who complete the Trail will receive a Certificate to be presented at the Christmas party.

The first of these trips will be to Goomeri and Eidsvold. The trip is available to campers and those using motel-type accommodation. 4WD is not necessary. The programme is:

Saturday 29 May. Travel to Goomeri (250 km+/- via Gympie). Camp overnight in the Sports Oval. Attend the Pumpkin Festival Dinner Dance (optional).

Sunday 30 May. Join in the festivities of the annual Pumpkin Festival. Overnight camp Goomeri Sports Oval.

Monday 31 May. Travel to Eidsvold (180 km+/-) through the citrus areas of Gayndah and Mundubbera. Visit historic Archer Homestead and Tolderodden Environmental Heritage Park at Eidsvold. Camp overnight in Showgrounds.

Tuesday 1 June. Visit the Eidsvold Historical Complex, Ceratodus

Memorial Area, Wuruma Dam and Eidsvold Siltstone Works. Camp overnight in Showgrounds.

Wednesday 2 June. Return to Brisbane via Gayndah, Biggenden, Mt Morris NP, and Maryborough (470 km+/-).

Costs

- Camping fee Goomeri (non-powered sites) \$20 per site for 2 nights
- Camping fee Eidsvold (powered sites) \$20 per site for 2 nights
- Entry fees Eidsvold attractions \$12 per person
- Dinner Dance Goomeri \$30 per person

Non-camping participants are required to book and pay for their own accommodation in Goomeri (or locations close by) and Eidsvold (2 motels).

The Pumpkin Festival attracts thousands of visitors, so it is essential that you **get bookings and payments in early** to the office.

Any queries re details may be directed to Brian McGrath, email brian.mcgrath@bigpond.com or phone 3378 5960.



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2010 Membership Renewal

Membership fees for 2010 were due on 1 January. According to our records, your membership has been paid up to the year shown in the top right corner of your mailing label. (For life members this space is blank.) Please contact the office if you think there may be a mistake in our records. If you have not yet paid, please circle the appropriate fee and send this in with your payment. The mailing label on the back of this sheet gives your name and address. Please correct it if there are any errors. You may like to consider making a tax-deductible donation for the Society's environmental and educational work at the same time. Thank you.

Ordinary	\$40.00
" Pensioner rate	\$25.00
Household	\$55.00
" Pensioner rate	\$35.00
Student/Junior	\$25.00
Schools/Non-profit organizations	\$55.00
Corporate	\$150.00
Life	\$400.00
Donation	\$.....
TOTAL	\$.....

I enclose a cheque/money order payable to RGSQ; or, please debit my Visa Mastercard

Card no.: _____ Exp date: _____

Cardholder name: _____ Cardholder signature: _____

Yes, I'd like my Bulletin delivered by email. My email address is: _____

Anniversary Lunch

As advised in the last *Bulletin*, an anniversary lunch will be held in the Map Room of the Conrad Hotel on Saturday 10 July 2010 from 12:30 pm to 2:30 pm. The gathering will be addressed by Bill Kitson. Lunch will be buffet style and there will be a variety of dishes on the menu (veal and mushroom ragout, reef fish, crumbed chicken, Asian noodles, etc). The cost of the dinner will be \$47.00 per person with drinks at members' own cost. Whilst payment is not required until June, members are invited to advise their intention of attending for catering purposes. Bookings are now open.

Steam Train Trip

Bookings have closed for this trip, but for the convenience of members who have already booked some information is repeated here.

When: Saturday 6 March

Meet: 7.30 am (for 8.00 am departure), Warwick Station, eastern end of Fitzroy Street (return at 6.00 pm)

Leader: Audrey Johnston (ring on 0438 159 218 on Sat morning if any problem)

Stay: Rose City Caravan Park, New England Highway (cnr Glengallan Rd). Phone 4661 1662.

Rail, Reef and Rainforest


Please note that this trip to the Townsville area, scheduled for 6 - 16 May, has been cancelled due to insufficient interest.

Place Plea

If any members have digital images of Carnarvon National Park, please contact Audrey Johnston (3283 4494) or email them to Hayley Freemantle at projectofficer@rgsq.org.au. This is to help illustrate the square around 25°S 148°E, for Queensland by Degrees.

RGSQ Bulletin

March 2010

Evening Meeting, Tues 2 Mar 7.30pm
Speaker: H.E. Ms Penelope Wensley, 
Subject: Exploring the Limits: Extreme Geography?

Weekend Trek, 5 - 7 Mar
What: Steam train trip, Warwick to Wallangarra

Volunteer Days, Tues 9 - Thurs 11 Mar
For: National Geographic Channel
Australian Geography Competition

Aust Geography Comp, 22 - 31 Mar
What: School round

Evening Meeting, Tues 6 Apr, 7.30pm
Speaker: Prof Roger Stone
Subject: Predicting the Future of Queensland's Climate

Social, Fri 16 Apr 6.00pm
What: Turkey Travel and Tukka