



# RGSQ Bulletin

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## From the President

Judy and I are back on the wallaby, travelling down through NSW, Victoria and into South Australia before we head north into the Northern Territory. As a geographer, travel opens up a whole range of different landscapes and land uses that tell their stories in various ways – some obvious, others much more subtle. It also brings into focus the temporal dimension of geography, and not just the 'are we there yet' variety. My musings about time-space relationships started after we passed through eight time zones in our first two weeks on the road, thanks to daylight saving and the peculiar arrangement where Broken Hill is on South Australian time. My thinking about the time-space relationship, however, has broadened considerably as we travel along.

We had originally planned to travel through St George but the floods in February caused us to swing south through Moree before heading west to Bourke. Much further south of Bourke the Menindee Lakes were just starting to receive the waters from the Queensland rains of December and January. All of the

irrigators along the lower Darling were keenly anticipating the arrival of March floodwaters from the Paroo – said to be only the second time in 150 years that the Paroo has reached the Darling. We had a dramatic demonstration of the differences between the lengthy time-distance response of the flow of waters through these great inland catchments and response to episodes of intense localised rainfall. On our last day in the Flinders Ranges a line of thunderstorms passed over the area. Creeks that had been bone dry the day before were in full flash flood within a few hours of the storm's passage.

At a different temporal scale I have been fascinated by the many ruins of stone farm houses that dot the landscape of the southern Flinders Ranges, especially around Quorn. These ruins reflect the advance and retreat of settlement onto the 'bounds of the good earth' in the 1860s. That advance took place during an extended period of good rain, only to fail when a more typical low rainfall regime kicked in. Such variations in rainfall have had a major impact on the settlement patterns and land use across Australia but perhaps nowhere as profoundly as on the edge of the arid zone.

The old shearing shed at Mungo station, north of Mildura, is also evocative of the same process of land use changing to cope with variable climatic conditions. Of course the European exploitation of the Mungo saltbush and mallee country for their flocks is just a blink on the time line of human occupation

of this area. A walk over the sands of the Lake Mungo lunette reveals stone flakes that were produced by Aboriginal craftsmen as far back as 30,000 years ago, while the small white bones of long-vanished fish come from the period when the Willandra Lakes were 'permanent' and fed by the waters from the Lachlan River, the course of which has moved several hundred kilometres to the east since those halcyon days.

Then of course landscapes reflect the land forming processes that have been taking place over the past 4 billion years or so. South Australia's Flinders Ranges provide one of the best and most dramatic geological time profiles that I have come across anywhere. The SA Department of Primary Industry and Resources has established a well signposted geological trail along the track that passes through Brachina Gorge to the north of Wilpena Pound. This trail traverses a geological history of more than 640 million years. Along the track there is evidence of glaciation, great tectonic upheavals

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and so on. Some of the earliest creatures to evolve on the planet, such as stromatolites of around 630 million years age, are preserved as fossils in the Trezona Range on the eastern end of the trail.

In complete contrast, after having spent a day walking the Lake Mungo sands and contemplating its antiquity, on my return to Mildura I turned on my laptop and received an email from a colleague who is working for the UN in Yangon (i.e. Rangoon) the capital of Myanmar (Burma) giving me details of how to download data for a project I am working on dealing with the recovery process of communities impacted by tropical cyclone Nargis that had such a devastating impact over the south of that country in 2008. I was able to download that data in less than a minute from a web site hosted on a computer server located in China! The geography of cyberspace is still terra incognita to me and its time-space relationships a matter to contemplate.

Ken Granger

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## Thomson Address – Cave Conservation

The Thomson Address is named after the Society's founder, Dr James Park Thomson. The 2010 Address will be delivered on 4 May by Prof David Gillieson on the topic, *Dark Wilderness: On the conservation and management of caves worldwide*.

Caves are one of the final terrestrial frontiers. They remain a wilderness in the true sense, even after decades of exploration. Aircraft or spacecraft cannot remotely sense caves. Their true numbers and extents are largely unknown. Technology aids, but does not replace, the human explorer. Inevitably cave explorers modify that unknown wilderness environment in their search to find more. They must exercise restraint, which must also be practised by the visitors who will follow to enjoy the cave as a known wilderness.

In this lecture Prof David Gillieson will review the conservation values of caves, their management and future prospects, illustrated by his work with World Commission on Protected

Areas (IUCN) on four continents. Examples will be drawn from some of the largest, longest and deepest caves on the planet. Dave will also cover the mapping of cave and karst (limestone landscape) resources using both traditional and digital techniques.

David Gillieson is Professor of Geography in the School of Earth and Environmental Sciences, James Cook University, Cairns. He has been actively involved in karst and cave research and conservation nationally and internationally for over twenty-five years. He has carried out research in Australia, Papua New Guinea, Malaysia, Thailand and Japan. As a member of the IUCN he has carried out technical reviews of World Heritage nominations in Malaysia, Indonesia, Philippines, China, Argentina, France, Slovak Republic and Turkey.

Dave's book, *Caves: Processes, Development and Management* (Blackwells, 1996), is the standard text on cave management and is used by government agencies worldwide. He was a co-author of the IUCN guidelines for cave and karst protection (1997), which have been translated into twelve languages and are the international standards for management planning. He has also written world heritage nominations and management plans for cave areas in Australia and Malaysia. He was a technical advisor for the BBC *Planet Earth* episode on Caves.

On the occasion of the Address, Dave will be presented with the J P Thomson Medal in recognition of his contributions to geography.

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## 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

Leader: Audrey Johnston

Saturday: Maroochy Botanic Gardens. From the Bruce Highway take the Tanawha Forest Glen Tourist Drive and follow the signs.

UBD Map 77 N17. Meet near the information sign no later than 10.30 am. (Look for my big red and white umbrella.) Bring lunch.

Sunday: Mary Cairncross Scenic Reserve. Follow Mountain View Road from Cairncross Corner just east of Maleny. Meet beside the information office at 10.00 am. BYO lunch or buy it at the kiosk.

For more information on the places to be visited, and suggestions for accommodation, please see the February or March *Bulletins*, or ask the office for a copy.

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## Volunteers Please

We'll soon be sorting the results of the Australian Geography Competition to send back to schools. We're calling on our wonderful members to help us again. This will be from **Tuesday 18 May to Friday 21 May**.

This is the job where you have to walk along a line of certificates and results, matching them by school code. (Not to put you off, but this is the job that some opt out of.) Please ring Kath on 3368 2066 if you can help.

Thanks to the members who helped sort the returned answer sheets:

Joyce Barrett, Audrey Johnston, Maureen Meier, Pam Simpson, Andrea Smith, Saren Starbridge

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## Trekkers Reunion

When: 7.30 pm Wed 26 May

Where: RGSQ

RSVP: to the office **by 10 May**

All past Trekkers are invited to the Trekkers Reunion to celebrate the Society's 125th Anniversary and the big part treks have played in the life of our Society over the past twenty-five years. It will be a night of reminiscing and renewing friendships over photos and memorabilia. Drinks and light refreshments will be served.



## SE Qld Geography Trail 1

Last chance to book to join in the first leg of the SE Qld Geography Trail; bookings close early May. This series of short trips will explore the geography and activities of selected southeast Queensland towns and their surrounds. The towns on this trail are Goomeri, Eidsvold, Oakey, Gatton, Rosewood, Allora, Pomona, Hervey Bay and Yarraman. Members who complete the Trail will receive a certificate.

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:

**Sat 29 May.** Travel to Goomeri (250 km+/-). Camp Sat and Sun in the Sports Oval. Attend the Pumpkin Festival Dinner Dance (optional).

**Sun 30 May.** Join in the festivities of the annual Pumpkin Festival.

**Mon 31 May.** Travel to Eidsvold (180 km+/-) through the citrus areas of Gayndah and Mundubbera. Visit historic Archer Homestead and Tolderodden Environmental Heritage Park. Camp Mon and Tues, Eidsvold Showgrounds.

**Tues 1 June.** Visit the Eidsvold Historical Complex, Ceratodus Memorial Area, Wuruma Dam and Eidsvold Siltstone Works.

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

### Costs

- Camp fee Goomeri (non-powered sites) \$20 per site for 2 nights
- Camp fee Eidsvold (powered sites) \$20 per site for 2 nights
- Entries to Eidsvold attractions \$12 per person
- Dinner Dance Goomeri \$30 p.p.

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

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](mailto:brian.mcgrath@bigpond.com) or phone 3378 5960.

## Gov't House Open Day

The Society has applied to mount a display at the Open Day at Government House on Queensland Day, Sunday 6 June 2010.

The display will feature the activities of the Society, such as Cravens Peak Scientific Expedition, the Icons Trek and Queensland by Degrees. Society members are needed to help staff the display between 10.00am and 3.00pm to supervise and interact with visitors.

Please register your interest and availability to assist in this activity with the Society office.



### Australian Geography Competition

What: Geog Comp Final for under 16  
When: 11.00am, Monday 7 June  
Where: Foxtel Studios, 5 Thomas Holt Dr, North Ryde, Sydney  
Bookings: ASAP as seating is limited

As part of our sponsorship agreement with National Geographic Channel, the Final for under 16s will be held in Sydney. Members in reach of Sydney are warmly invited to attend.

The Final follows a quiz-type format. Many of the questions utilise film clips, photos and maps, so it is visually interesting as well as very exciting for the audience. The contestants are the eight state and territory winners.

## SE Qld Geography Trail 2

Continuing our South East Queensland Geography Trail, on June 26 and 27 we visit Oakey and Gatton and some sites in between.

The planned tour of the Vet School at the University of Qld Gatton campus will be a highlight of this weekend. Remember, this trip, as with most RGSQ trips, is quite suitable for children and young adults.

Oakridge Motel and Caravan Park, phone 4691 3300, is the selected

accommodation (camping or motel unit). **Please make your own accommodation booking and payment.** Mention you are with the RGSQ group. There are other motels and hotels in Oakey if you prefer.

The programme is

**Saturday 26 June.** Drive via Helidon to Spring Bluff Railway Station (130km). **Meet at 10.30am** for morning tea (BYO or the café) and inspection of this picturesque site. Drive through Toowoomba (14km) with its gracious homes and tree-lined streets. Onto Oakey (30km) for accommodation check-in and lunch (own arrangements).

At 2.00pm, visit the Army Aviation Museum for a conducted tour. At the conclusion of the tour, drive out to Ackland to view the new Hope Coal Open Cut from the Oakey-Cooyar Roadside.

5pm Happy hour at Oakridge Camp.

Dinner own arrangements.

**Sunday 27 June.** Walk main street, Oakey, view statue of *Bernborough*.

Depart Oakey 9.00am for Toowoomba. View heritage buildings in Russell Street including Queensland's oldest existing public urinal! At 10.00am, visit Cobb & Co. Museum, 27 Lindsay Street.

Depart Toowoomba 12 noon. Drive to Gatton (37km), meeting at Lake Apex Park for BYO lunch. Then drive through Gatton town out on the Forest Hill Road to the University of Queensland Gatton campus (8km) for a guided tour commencing 2.00pm of the newly opened Veterinary School.

**Costs:** Accommodation – book & pay for your own.

Tours of Army Aviation Museum, Cobb & Co Museum, and UQ Vet School – \$15 adult, \$11 concession, \$8 child

Please send your trip booking and tours payment in early to the office. Any queries re details may be directed to Brian McGrath, email [brian.mcgrath@bigpond.com](mailto:brian.mcgrath@bigpond.com), or phone 3378 5960.

## Donation Thanks

Many thanks to the members who have made a donation to the Society in the last year or so:

Don Biddle, Pat Burton, John Casey, Manfred and Barbara Cross, Allan and Judith Dalzell, Iris Dean, Marion Dowling, Helen Duckworth, Audrey and Bryan Gross, Grahame and Margaret Hardy, Barbara Hawken, Jim Hilton, Grahame Jardine-Vidgen, Geoff Paterson, Shirley Rae, Cecily Rasmussen, Peter Spearritt, Jill Wooton

It all helps to fund the work of the Society promoting geographical education and research in Queensland.

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## National Geog Curriculum

Some members have asked what is happening about geography in the national curriculum.

As most people would be aware, the Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA) has released draft national curricula for English, history, maths and science. These four subjects are being produced first. Geography is in the 'second phase', along with foreign languages and the arts.

The draft curricula follow a development process involving background papers and consultation, both in meetings and online.

The first public paper relating to geography will be released soon and the first ACARA forum on geography will be held in Sydney on 27 April. Our Society has been invited to nominate two representatives to attend this national forum. Kath Berg will be attending, as will Mark Camman, a classroom teacher member who is actively involved in some of our educational work.

The geography curriculum is scheduled for implementation in schools, starting from 2012, that is, one year after the first four curricula are available. Schools and/or systems can phase in the new curricula and it seems likely that some schools (particularly those who have taught the combined Studies of

Society and Environment) will delay implementing history until the geography curriculum is also ready.

We'll let you know when opportunities arise to comment on geography, but in the meantime **we need members to comment on the mathematics curriculum.**

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## Mapping in the Maths Curriculum

The draft national curricula for English, history, maths and science are available for public comment until 23 May. Everyone is invited to provide feedback – teachers, parents, academics, members of the community, even students! RGSQ will comment as an organisation, but the more individuals who comment as well, the more attention is paid to the feedback.

As has always been the case there is overlap between areas covered in science and geography, for example, climate, water resources, landscape processes. This overlap is recognised by the people developing these curricula and is being negotiated. In some respects, the treatment by science and geography is complementary. Members may wish to comment on this from their own perspective. See below for how to do this.

Of particular concern is the inclusion of mapping in the draft maths curriculum.

In primary schools the same teacher will be teaching both mathematics and geography, and lessons incorporating mapping will cover skills and content from both curricula. Of course measurement and scale are mathematical skills/concepts, the way measuring someone's height is a mathematical skill. However, we believe that the decisions in the curricula relating to mapping (what students learn when), should be made by geography specialists within the geography curriculum, not by maths specialists within the maths curriculum – and obviously in consultation with experts in the different Year levels.

In secondary schools, it is geography teachers who have the expertise in

mapping, and who apply mapping skills in other areas of the geography curriculum. The above comment (what students learn when), also applies at this level. For example, students should be learning about latitude and longitude earlier than in Year 10 as they would in maths. And do maths teachers want to teach mapping, or will it often be treated in a cursory manner, and not tied to other areas of their curriculum?

**To provide feedback**, go to [www.australiancurriculum.edu.au](http://www.australiancurriculum.edu.au). You will need to register (very quick). Choose Explore, then click on the curriculum you want to look at, eg Mathematics. The mapping skills are in the content strand Measurement and Geometry under the headings Location (Yr K-9) and Latitude and Longitude (Yr 10). If you only want to look at this strand, rather than the whole of the curriculum, you can tick only the strand Measurement and Geometry, apply filters, and organise by Year level.

Click on the green box to the right of the heading Location. This will enable you to see the Elaborations and to comment on both the Content Description and also the Elaborations.

Alternatively, after reading the curriculum and the elaborations, you can click on Survey. Once you have nominated which curriculum you can fill in the survey, or (and this is what we'll be doing) click on the "Email additional feedback" link and write or cut and paste your comments into an email.

For those that are interested in the background, here is a little more detail. The inclusion of mapping in the maths curriculum dates back to at least the formulation of the Key Learning Areas in 1989. Geography lost its identity as it was subsumed into Studies of Society and Environment (SOSE). The SOSE curriculum did not include any mapping (which was in maths), and very little physical geography (which was in science).

If any member knows if mapping was part of the maths curriculum prior to 1989, please get in touch with Kath in the office.

## 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Lunch

As previously notified, RGSQ will be celebrating its birthday on Saturday 10 July – 125 years to the day since the meeting that set up our Society.

Where: Map Room, Conrad Treasury Hotel, Queen St, Brisbane

When: 11.45am for 12.00 noon

Cost: \$47.00 per person, drinks extra  
RSVP: by 18 June, see slip below

The meal will be buffet style and include a range of hot and cold dishes (eg, veal and mushroom ragout, tandoori reef fish, sesame chicken, Asian noodles with vegetables, various salads), deserts, and tea and coffee.

Please join us for our social event of the decade. (Does a 1/4 century have a name?)

## Haddon Corner Trek

The theme of this trek, 13 - 27 Sept, is *Exploring Cooper Country*. We will visit Windorah, Birdsville and Innamincka, and other outback sites such as the "Dig Tree". Much of the Cooper Creek Catchment will be traversed and we are also planning a forum with guest speakers on the Cooper Country. Another focus is a meeting with RGSSA at Haddon Corner on the border between Qld and SA, to celebrate our joint 125<sup>th</sup> birthday.

This is a rare opportunity to see the west of our great State in the Spring following a bumper wet season (though the flooding has meant we will not get to Coongie Lakes). Those wishing to come are urged to get their bookings in as soon as possible to help the planning process.

You can take part in the Trek either in your own 4WD, or on the group coach. We still need more people on the coach to make that option viable.

Please contact the office for more information and a booking form.

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## New Members

We have much pleasure in welcoming the following new members:

Jan Baldwin; Clayfield College;  
Greg and Lyn Gilby; Michael Gray;  
Elizabeth Hindson; Fiona McDuie;  
McGees Property; Virginia  
Mikkelsen; Ted Van Riel

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

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## RSVP for RGSQ 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Lunch

**Map Room, Conrad Treasury Hotel, Brisbane, 11.45am for 12.00 noon, Saturday 10 July 2010**

Please return by Friday 18 June to RGSQ, 237 Milton Road, Milton Qld 4064

Names of those attending: .....

.....

.....Phone contact: .....

Payment of \$47.00 per person, totalling \$ ..... is paid by

enclosed cheque/money order payable to RGSQ       Visa       Mastercard

Card no.: ..... Exp date: .....

Cardholder name: ..... Cardholder signature: .....

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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	\$.....
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$.....</b>

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: .....

## Young Explorers' History

If any member has a story to tell and/or photos of the Young Explorers Group activities between 1998 and 2000, please send them to the office as soon as possible. Please scan photos at 600 dpi and fully describe them as they are required for the Society's archives and history.

Peter Lloyd

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## Geography Olympiad

The 2010 International Geography Olympiad will be held in Taipei, Taiwan, from 29 July to 4 August 2010, followed by a fieldtrip from 5 to

9 August. Australia's team has been chosen from students who participated in the last Geography's Big Week Out. Selection was based on formal assessment and on student performance during the week. Representing Australia in Taiwan will be:

Samuel Buttenshaw, All Saints College, Maitland, NSW  
Baris Dilaver, John Paul College, Kalgoorlie, WA  
Sophie Miller, Tasmanian Academy Hellyer, Burnie, Tas  
Emily Thoday-Kennedy, Modbury High School, Adelaide, SA

Thirty-one countries are expected to participate in the 2010 Olympiad.

The team will be accompanied by Society members Kath Berg, Anne-Marie Gerlach and Margaret McIvor. As Secretary of the Olympiad Task Force, Kath has been closely involved in planning the Olympiad.

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## Wine Tasting

Where: RGSQ

When: 6.00pm Monday 24 May

RSVP: Peter Connolly 3367 2555

Australian Boutique Wineries is providing a free wine tasting and appreciation evening. This is an opportunity to sample some of Australia's boutique wines held in high regard by wine judges. Orders accepted for anything you may like.

# RGSQ Bulletin

May 2010

**Thomson Address**, Tues 4 May 7.30pm  
Speaker: Prof David Gillieson  
Subject: Dark Wilderness: On the Conservation and Management of Caves

**Weekend Trek**, 8-9 May  
What: A Walking Weekend  
Where: Maroochy Botanic Gardens etc

**Volunteer Days**, 18-21 May  
For: National Geographic Channel  
Australian Geography Competition

**Social**, Wed 26 May, 7.30pm  
What: Trekkers Reunion

**SEQ Geography Trail (1)**, 29 May - 2 Jun  
Where: Goomeri and Eidsvold

**Evening Meeting**, Tues 1 Jun 7.30pm  
Speaker: Prof Martin Bell  
Subject: Population Trends in South East Queensland

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