



RGSQ Bulletin

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From the President

In last month's 'From the President' I reported that our Society is not only a great educator regarding geography, but is a great motivator as well.

Members of RGSQ are motivated by an assortment of interesting geographical activities. To name a few there are treks (both local and international), education (Australian Geography Competition, the RGSQ library, and Queensland By Degrees 'an ongoing project'), scientific studies (Pungalina - Seven Emu Scientific Study), and of course our monthly lectures (for example, 'Disaster Management in Queensland', scheduled for July). Over the past couple of years we have reported on many of these activities through our monthly *RGSQ Bulletin*.

From 25 June to 23 July, in collaboration with the Australian Wildlife Conservancy, RGSQ is to conduct a multi-disciplinary scientific study at Pungalina - Seven Emu Wildlife Sanctuary in the Northern Territory. It would be remiss of me, on the eve of this study not to pay due recognition to those RGSQ members who have worked to bring this rather complex activity to fruition.

Our Society is justifiably proud of its ability to finance and help scientists access isolated areas and facilitate a valuable, cross-disciplinary exchange of scientific information. A rainfall history of the Australasian monsoon tropics, Holocene palaeoecology and paleoclimatology of Pungalina from lake cores, and a vertebrate fauna survey including fauna patterns and refuges, are just some of the study projects in this our seventh scientific study in an isolated location since 1992.

I would urge all our members and other interested parties to log onto the RGSQ website www.rgsq.org.au and view a series of images taken during preliminary 'works' at Pungalina. It's an impressive achievement!

Many thanks to Tony Hillier, Paul Feeney, John and Mary Nowill, Bob Manktelow, Kev Teys, Bruce Urquhart, Gerry Keates, Digby Warren and Brian McGrath for the preliminaries and ongoing work at Pungalina, and to Hayley Fremantle in the RGSQ office. I think this kind of enthusiasm for our many projects and the involvement in a multitude of sometimes difficult and mundane tasks, are what makes RGSQ one of the more active community organizations here in Queensland.

Rather coincidentally *The Weekend Australian* 9-10 June (Cover page, page 8 and page 17) featured articles on Australian Wildlife Conservancy (AWC) and its involvement in the battle to preserve and repair Australia's poorly understood north ("Owners of the

land become its saviours" and "Grand plan for an ancient landscape"). Currently the AWC estate incorporates 22 sanctuaries around Australia covering more than 2.6 million hectares (6.5 million acres) and it is still growing. More information on the website: www.australianwildlife.org

I think our choice of partnership with AWC in this instance is proof positive of our ongoing commitment to geography and scientific endeavour in northern Australia.

Leo Scanlan

New Members

We have much pleasure in welcoming as new members:

Reg Ford; Diane Jeffs; John Kelly; Merv Walton

We hope your association with your new Society is long and mutually enjoyable. We look forward to getting to know you at Society events.

Patron: H.E. Ms P Wensley AC,
Governor of Queensland
President: Mr Leo Scanlan

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July Lecture – Disaster Management in Qld

The July lecture will be presented by Mr Mike Shapland, on the topic *Disaster Management in Queensland*.

The Queensland disaster management system is a multi-tiered system of committees and coordination centres at state, district and local levels, which works in partnership to help prevent, prepare for, respond to, and recover from disasters in Queensland. Emergency Management Queensland (EMQ) is the lead government agency for coordinating disaster prevention, preparedness and recovery. EMQ also works closely with the Queensland Police Service and local councils in responding to disasters.

EMQ contributes to safer, more resilient and sustainable communities by delivering services through:

- leading and coordinating activities undertaken before, during and after a disaster or emergency to minimise community impacts
- disaster awareness including community safety and education programmes
- response and recovery services including State Emergency Service volunteers, EMQ Helicopter Rescue and state disaster response management
- supporting volunteer marine rescue organisations as well as helicopter providers
- actively engaging with local government to promote disaster management and volunteer management priorities.

Mike Shapland is Director of Policy and Performance, Emergency Management Queensland, a division of the Department of Community Safety. He joined the Department in 2004 as a project officer responsible for counter terrorism issues. He was appointed Director of Operations in March 2006 – two weeks before Tropical Cyclone Larry.

During the past five years he has been involved in, amongst other things, the response to the Queensland floods, cyclones including Larry and Ului, planning for and responding to pandemics, The

Gap storms, and the whole of government response to eradicating Equine Influenza.

Mike moved to Australia in 2001 after 25 years with the British Army in the Royal Tank Regiment. He was appointed a Member of the Order of the British Empire in 1997, is a Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society.

A Cathedral & the Gardens

What: A walk in the City Botanic Gardens, lunch and tour of St Stephen's Cathedral

When: Tuesday 10 July 2012

Cost: \$18.00 (includes donation to Cathedral and lunch)

Wear: walking shoes and sun-smart gear

Book: with the office and pay by 3 Jul

Meet: by 9:50am at the rotunda near Albert St/Alice St entrance to the Gardens.

If you would like to join us for lunch and the Cathedral only, please register this on booking. Those not going to the Gardens should meet the group at 12.00 noon outside the Pig and Whistle, 123 Eagle St, City.

The Brisbane City Botanic Gardens are listed on Queensland's Heritage Register. Established in 1828 to provide food for the early penal colony, its vegetation collection now includes the first native plants to be formally planted in Queensland.

With the official opening in 1855, curator Walter Hill was appointed the first superintendent. He set up an active planting and experimental programme trialing crops from around the world to determine their suitability for the sub-tropical climate. He trialed mangoes, pineapples, papaws, custard apples, sugar cane, ginger, coffee, various nuts, grapes and tobacco. He also established an ornamental collection.

The Gardens underwent a major redevelopment in 1987. Plant-scaping and further development was carried out in 1989 with the construction of the mangrove boardwalks and the Riverstage.

We will then head down to the Pig and Whistle for a light lunch (drinks

and desert are also available at own expense).

Lunch will be followed by a guided tour of the Cathedral lasting approx 1½ hours. The Foundation Stone of the Cathedral was laid in 1863 but only a section of the foundations date to the 1860s. In 1874 the incomplete Cathedral was blessed and dedicated. The gables and spires were added in 1884. The restored, renovated and extended cathedral was rededicated in 1989.

To the right is the restored St Stephen's Chapel, which contains a shrine to Mary MacKillop. Fondly names 'Pugin's Chapel' (after the designer), this is Brisbane's oldest church building. It was blessed and opened in 1850. Its architecture is Gothic Revival.

Friends are welcome.

Audrey Johnston

Maritime Museum

Meet: 9.30am Wed 8 August,

Maritime Museum, Southbank

Cost: \$35.00 includes lunch

Book: with the office by Fri 20 July

Take a voyage of discovery through the exhibition galleries of the Queensland Maritime Museum and trace our maritime history from the days of the early navigators to the present day. The museum has an extensive collection: charts drawn by the early explorers; photographs and paintings illustrating our maritime history; objects ranging from diving gear to kerosene lamps, cannons to boat engines. Outside you can see a dry dock, a light house, and many vessels: small sailing boats, a pearling lugger, a steam tug (*The Forceful*), a Navy frigate (*The Diamantina*), etc.

Arrangements have been made to have lunch at the Southbank Institute of Technology Restaurant for a 2-course luncheon (main and dessert).

Those who don't need to rush away will return to the Maritime Museum in the afternoon to take in all that the Museum has to offer.

Kay Rees

Millmerran Festival

The Society has organised a weekend at the Millmerran Camp Oven Festival. A very interesting programme is planned for 5 to 7 October.

Saturday we'll be joining enthusiastically in all the Camp Oven Festival has to offer: bush poets' breakfast, music, demonstrations, stalls, displays, camp oven cooking competition, apron competition.

On the Friday and Sunday we are organising a varied selection of events for members. Some of the details are still to be confirmed, but the programme should include visits to: the original R.M. Williams retail outlet; Cecil Plains Homestead; Lemon Tree Weir on the Condamine; Yandilla Anglican Church; Millmerran Museum; Mt Basalt Lookout; and, Forrest Estate Olive Grove and Wine Cellar. We are also organising a talk from Grant Ubergang, Patron of the Millmerran Historical Society. More details later.

There is an entry fee for the Camp Oven Festival, and the Society will also be making a small charge to cover refreshments in some of the venues we visit.

Accommodation at Tony and Dawn Smith's Millmerran Village Caravan Park, phone 07 4695 2020, email mvcaravanpark@bigpond.com is in great demand. If you intend coming, book your accommodation now – mentioning you are part of the RGSQ group – for the nights of Friday 5 and Saturday 6 October. If you miss out, there is an alternative temporary camp ground in the showground; enquiries dtwidale2@bigpond.com.

Please let the RGSQ office know when you have booked.

Greg Lewis

Society Secretary

The Society's Secretary Keith Smith will not be standing for re-election at the Annual General Meeting in September. Keith is well into his 80s and has not been in the best of health. We need to find a replacement.

Unfortunately none of the current members of Council are in a position to take this on. We would like to ask every Society member to seriously consider if they can serve the Society in this way. Please talk to Keith, Leo Scanlan, or Kath Berg if you might be able to help.

The position of Society Secretary is a voluntary elected position. This is separate to Keith's paid role as the business manager of the Society. The work of the Secretary is supported by the Society's paid staff.

Thank You

Many thanks to the members who sorted and sent back the results of the National Geographic Channel Australian Geography Competition to the 774 schools that entered:

Helen Bismire, Mary Comer, James Hansen, Bev Leggett, Maureen Meier, John and Mary Nowill, Rob Simson, Chris Spriggs and John Walker

Thanks as well to the members who were on standby for the Thursday in case we hadn't finished.

Aust Geog Comp Students

Readers of the *Bulletin* know that around 80,000 students enter the competition each year. Our contact with them is by necessity via their teachers.

However, I [=Kath] have the privilege of one-on-one contact with our high-achieving students: with our intermediate students in the Final for under 16s and then taking the Australian team to the National Geographic World Championship; and with our senior students in Geography's Big Week Out and then taking the Australian team to the International Geography Olympiad.

We regularly print in the *Bulletin* comments that these students write immediately after their respective events. The two emails below, which I haven't had the space to print till now, show a longer term effect:

Thought you might like to know what happened to the geographical

prodigy from sunny ol' Queensland. Currently undertaking the great sea change, taken up residence at the Gold Coast, on campus at Sir Samuel Griffith University. Big change from the farmer boy, I know.

I should most definitely thank the lot of you for your wisdom and guidance. Without it I would probably be doing engineering or something else quite mundane. It was hard to find something that truly interested me and was geographically orientated, seeing as none of the universities seemed to have any idea what disaster management was. The best answer I could find was go and work for the SES. I have enrolled in a five year dual degree in marine science and urban and environmental town planning. You have no idea how much direction the five days spent with you gave me.

Kelly Hart, 2010 Geography's Big Week Out

You will be glad to hear that I did very well with Year 12 last year. I received an ATAR of 99.25, which according to my aunt in Cairns is equivalent to a 1 in the grading system used in Queensland, and more importantly I received a perfect score of 20 for Geography which means I received a merit award from the SA Governor. This meant that I got a first round uni offer to study a Bachelor of Engineering (Civil & Transport) at University of SA, so overall I am rather ecstatic.

David Giles, Australian team, 2009 National Geographic World Championship

Aust Geog Comp Final

The Geography Competition Final for students under 16 years old will be broadcast on National Geographic Channel at 10.30am AEST on Monday 16 July. Tune in if you can.

Taking part are the 8 state/territory winners from the school round held at the end of March. Representing Queensland is: Will Snell, St Stephen's Catholic College, Mareeba. Will is only 13, so it's quite a coup for him to have reached the Final. Full report next *Bulletin*.

Geography Student Day

The Science of Geography, Planning and Environmental Management. This is a day designed to inform high school students on the ways in which geography, planning and environmental management can impact our world, and the careers that are available through studying these subjects.

Date: Friday 20 July 2011

Time: 9:00am to 2.00pm

Venue: University of Qld, St Lucia

Cost: Free

Who: Year 10, 11 and 12 students

Due to a cancellation, there are now some vacancies for the student day.

If you are interested, please email Kate on k.swanson@uq.edu for more information and a programme.

Based on feedback from the 2011 Geography Day some changes have been made.

- We have kept the student presentations, which were highly rated by all participants.
- In 2012 students will have a lecture and a workshop related to the topic of their choice so that they receive context, real world examples and practical skills.
- Teachers will receive a take-home pack of materials used in the lectures and workshops.

Geograph Project

www.geograph.org.uk

The Geograph British Isles project aims to collect geographically representative photographs and information for every square kilometre of Great Britain and Ireland. After five years, its almost 1.7 million images range from snow-covered forests to cathedrals, from the windswept outcrops of the Shetlands to ordinary suburban neighbourhoods. The site was founded as both a game and national geography project, and such is its success that it has been recognised as a unique resource by the British Library and entered into its digital archive for posterity.

RGSQ Bulletin

July 2012

Scientific Study, 25 Jun - 23 Jul

Where: Pungalina, NT

Lecture Meeting, Tues 3 Jul 7.30pm

Speaker: Mr Mike Shapland

Subject: Disaster Management in Qld

Day Trek, Tues 10 Jul, 9.50am

Where: City Botanic Gardens, lunch, St Stephen's Cathedral

TV Broadcast, Mon 16 Jul 10.30am

What: Geography Competition Final

On: National Geographic Channel

Lecture Meeting, Tues 7 Aug 7.30pm

Speaker: H.E. Mr Paul Madden

Subject: Geography and Diplomacy

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