



# RGSQ Bulletin

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## In this issue

- Africa Revisited
- Membership Renewals
- Christmas Party
- Volunteering for Geog Comp
- South of the Border Trek
- Peru Trek
- Christmas Close
- Vale Rolf Roduner

## From the President

Writing as President of our Royal Geographical Society in the last two months has been something of an outline of my past activity and interests in geography and the Society – now some comment on more recent happenings.

Two Council meetings and the October and November Lectures have passed since the Annual General Meeting and Committee activity for 2013 is underway. For all my previous time with the Society, I have not fully appreciated the strength and extent of the Committee work within the Society, especially in the way that the current activities are enabled within the modest financial and people resources available. In the role of President, I have had to become more aware of the scope and time involved.

During October there have been two invitations from our Patron, Her Excellency Ms Penelope Wensley, for the Society to attend Receptions at Government House. The first was to a Reception with the Minister for Agriculture, the Honourable John McVeigh, to recognise and promote the importance of Agriculture in Queensland. The second in her

capacity as Patron of the National Trust of Queensland, to celebrate the first year anniversary of the Currumbin Wildlife Hospital Foundation and in support of the Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary and Community Wildlife Hospital.

Each was attended by large number of representative from kindred organisations, businesses and Local Authorities. The very pleasing nature of these receptions was the exchange of information and the "networking" promoted by the Governor.

The first of these Receptions was attended by myself as President, my wife Kathryn (also a Member) and Mr Keith Smith, the Society Business Manager and now retired Secretary. The Governor and her Husband welcomed Guests at the entrance to the Drawing Room. In welcoming Keith Smith, as he entered, the Governor specially acknowledged his recent retirement as RGSQ Secretary after twenty six years, with a suitable comment.

The outline of the work, achievements and plans of the Agriculture Industry by Her Excellency was presented in her usual informed and erudite manner. The Minister for Agriculture, Hon John McVeigh responded with appreciation and the promise, maybe a little political, of the ongoing support of the Government for the farming community.

On the second occasion, Kathryn and I represented the Society. A completely different selection of

people, related to the National Trust responsibilities and the work of Currumbin Sanctuary was assembled.

It was most informative to hear of the work of the National Trust at Currumbin and to realise the scope of the public support required and given to this organisation.

The information about wildlife preservation, outlined by the Governor, and in the response to the Governor's address by the Chairman of the Fund Raising Committee, Dr Bruce Cook OAM, was a further example of valuable communication.

It is my impression that our mass media techniques for reporting, in print, radio and television, do not manage to present the essence of the real work of these types of organisations, in the manner achieved at these gatherings.

Thanks and appreciation to Her Excellency for recognising and including our Society at these functions.

Patron: H.E. Ms P Wensley AC,  
Governor of Queensland  
President: Mr David Carstens

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The programme of Lectures and Activities for the Society in 2013 has been formulated over the last couple of months and I am sure you will appreciate the contribution of the Committees who have constructed the programme as the year progresses.

As this is the December *Bulletin*, on behalf of the RGSQ, I wish all Members "Happy Christmas and a Challenging New Year".

David Carstens

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### Africa Revisited

You are invited to a multi-media presentation on both of the RGSQ 2012 Africa Treks. This will be held at the Society on Thursday 31 January 2013 at 7:30 pm. Light refreshments will be served.

Preliminary information on the Peru Trek later in 2013 will also be available.

This is the Society's first activity of the year, is free, and is open to ALL MEMBERS. For catering numbers, please advise the office by Friday 25 January if you are attending.

Enquiries to:

Kay Rees

KayRees@wombatshollow.com

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### 2013 Renewals

Society members who need to renew their subscription for 2013 will find a renewal form enclosed with this *Bulletin*. We hope that all of you will decide to renew to support the work of the Society and/or take advantage of our interesting programme of lectures and treks.

If you'd like to change to receiving your *Bulletin* by email, please fill that in on the renewal form. Members who already receive the *Bulletin* by email and who are due to renew will be sent a renewal form in the post.



You  
& your  
friends are  
invited to  
the Society's

### Christmas Party

7.30pm Tuesday 4 Dec  
237 Milton Rd, Milton

Drinks, nibbles and  
good company provided

Come along to meet old  
friends and make new ones

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### Can YOU Help?

As most members would realise, our Society organises the Australian Geography Competition. Approximately 80,000 secondary school students entered the 2012 Competition. We need to call on our generous members again for their help. We will be packing the initial mail-out to schools on Thursday 17 January, and maybe finishing off the last bits on Friday 18 January.

In this mailing, all schools get the same so it's relatively straightforward – no matching codes nor counting large numbers involved! (I can even do it sitting down, though some people prefer to stand.) If you can't help on those dates but can fit in some time earlier in January, you could help prepare the mailing envelopes. Other jobs come up in March, April and May.

If you can give a few hours of your time, please ring or email me in the office and let me know you can help in January, or later in the year. Thanks very much.

Kath Berg

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### South of the Border Trek

A trek suitable for families and people who prefer not to camp, as well as campers, has been arranged for the school holiday period after Easter 2013. The period involved is from **1 to 11 April 2013**. Participants will meet at Stanthorpe, where we will spend 2 nights, visit wineries, and view local scenery.

Then travel via Moree (1 night) to Coonabarabran (2 nights) and visit the Warrumbungles and local Observatory.

Next to Armidale (3 nights), for waterfalls and national parks, art galleries, museums and a local tour.

Finally to Yamba (2 nights) for some beach, surf, and visits to nearby centres, such as a ferry trip to Iluka for lunch.

The formal Trek will finish at Yamba on 11 April, but people may elect to stay on, or visit other beachside places like Lennox Head on the way home.

The itinerary has been planned on good roads, and with caravan park/motel accommodation every night. The Easter/school holiday period may make bookings difficult, so please advise the office of your interest as soon as possible. Let us know of your accommodation needs, caravan, tent or cabin, etc. We will then contact caravan park venues, and circulate a firm itinerary.

Members will be required to make their own accommodation bookings, after we advise the venues.

The Treks and Activities Committee is really desirous of having a good number of children/grandchildren along on this trek, so please encourage the "young ones" to come along and enjoy RGSQ hospitality and our interesting and informative treks.

A registration fee of \$25 per individual or \$50 per family, is payable **before 28 February 2013**.

Enquiries to:

Brian Mealey

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bsmealey@bigpond.net.au

## PERU TREK 2013

*The magazine 'International Traveller for Modern Explorers' regards South America as having some of the 'hottest destinations of the world's most seductive continent'.*

Like Australia, South America is a huge continent and it's impossible to see it all in 22 days. However, Peru offers a microcosm of what's on offer in South America, and a magnificent display of the physical and human geography in this part of the world.

Think of the Amazon and Machu Picchu for starters – doesn't that sound exciting! Then add Santiago, Valparaiso, Lima, Cuzco, Arequipa, Colca Canyon, and Lake Titicaca. Combine that with a heady mix of food, wine, colour, music, markets, and some exceptional history of the Spanish conquest of the New World and the Inca civilisation.

I invite you to join us on tour and once again promise a very rewarding geographical experience in 2013 when The Royal Geographical Society of Queensland, in conjunction with Travel Concepts, travel to Peru.

This RGSQ group will depart for South America on 12 October 2013.

Cost all inclusive \$10,990 per person  
Deposit \$1,200.00 per person



For further information regarding a detailed itinerary or to book, contact Mel Haycock at Travel Concepts, ph 07 3368 3733 or email [melh@travelconcepts.com.au](mailto:melh@travelconcepts.com.au), or for information only phone Leo Scanlan on 07 3343 4398 or email [trekabout@inet.net.au](mailto:trekabout@inet.net.au).

Bookings will be taken on a first-come basis and numbers are limited. Don't delay if you're at all interested, as our last RGSQ trek overseas to Southern Africa in 2012 sold out in the first couple of weeks.

*Leo Scanlan*

### Christmas Close

The Society's office will be closed for Christmas from 21 December, reopening 2 January.

Please note that the Society does not publish a January *Bulletin*. Next year's lecture and trip programme will be sent out with the February *Bulletin*.

Keith, Kath and Hayley wish you and yours a safe and joyous Christmas and look forward to a productive year for the Society in 2013.

### Vale Rolf Roduner

Members will be saddened to learn of the death of Society member Rolf Roduner on 7 November, after a short illness. Rolf was a key member (in charge of catering) of the Pungalina Scientific Study volunteer team and will be missed by his friends at RGSQ. Several members were able to attend the scattering of his ashes at one of Rolf's favourite spots on Stradbroke Island.

The Society extends its sympathy to Linda, Mark and family members.

### Queensland/NT Border

Peter Saenger, who was one of the researchers at Pungalina, has published a book entitled *Queensland's Western Afterthought*, about the 1862 shift of Queensland's western boundary from 141°E to 138°E, from Haddon Corner to Poeppel Corner.

Peter is concerned that the important anniversary of this action – 150 years ago – has passed unnoticed in this State. Without this re-positioning of the boundary, our State's geography

and economy would have been very different, with the Queensland towns of Birdsville, Bedourie, Boulia, Cloncurry, Camooweal, Mt Isa, Burketown and Karumba being situated in the Northern Territory!

The book, thoroughly researched and with an extensive bibliography and detailed index, is available from the publisher Tankard Books, PO Box 5098, East Lismore NSW 2480. The retail price is \$48 (postage included), and order forms are available from Heather McGrath, phone 07 3378 5960.

*Heather McGrath*

### Local Website

I am not affiliated with the geographical society, but I walk past your headquarters every day on my way home from work. I live in Rosalie, and have created a website – [www.oncewasacreek.org](http://www.oncewasacreek.org) – that delves into the environmental history of the Rosalie/Milton/Auchenflower/Rainworth area. It looks at the natural environment and hydrology of the area, as well as how it has been changed as people settled in and developed the suburbs. It certainly relates to geography, but on an intensely local scale. Part of the idea is to get people attuned to the 'geography' that is part of our daily lives.

The site is very much a work in progress, but the pages I have created to date cover topics such as the history of Gregory Park, John Oxley's visit to the area in 1824, and how the floods remind us where all the old creeks were. I am currently working on one about the early settlement of Milton.

I'm not really sure where the website would fit into your members' interests, but I thought it would be worth sharing it with you.

*Angus Veitch*

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# RGSQ Bulletin

December 2012

**Members' Meeting**, Tues 4 Dec 7.30pm  
What: Christmas Party

**Christmas Close**  
When: 21 Dec to 1 Jan

**Volunteer Days**, Thurs 17 & Fri 18 Jan  
For: Australian Geography Competition

**Trek Show**, Thurs 31 Jan 7.30pm  
What: Africa Revisited

**Lecture Meeting**, Tues 5 Feb 7.30pm  
Speaker: Jeanette Covacevich  
Subject: Big Lessons from Small Islands

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