



# RGSQ Bulletin

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## From the President

The Council of the Society has embarked on the review of activities and functions. This examination recognises changing circumstances and seeks to identify the features of the aims of the Society which are to be maintained and strengthened and to nominate potential changes.

One of the ideas discussed at the Special Council Meeting on 25 March was that a more suitable name for Expeditions, Treks, and Scientific Studies should be adopted to better represent the purpose and type of activity or achievement sought.

Exploration is a common theme in all that we do and is the means of seeking geographic knowledge. It is, or was, suggested that the seeking of knowledge in modern times has changed and that new descriptors would be more appropriate.

Fifty years ago, working with the Australian National Antarctic Expeditions, the exploratory travels we were doing, into previously unvisited areas, were referred to as Field Traverses rather than Exploration although "Expedition" was still used.

From 1900 to about 1968 the Australian contribution to the knowledge of Antarctica was nominated by Dr Phillip Law, Leader and Director of Antarctic Division, as "Hit and Run Exploration". This involved landings at a limited number of accessible points along the coastline of the Australian Sector. This was aided by aerial viewing and photography in small aeroplanes, all ship based. Notably the ships were also small.

Occupation consisted of the Station at Commonwealth Bay, 1912 to 1914, followed by Mawson Station from 1954, continuously to the present, and Davis Station 1957, then Casey Station 1959, also still occupied.

With greater accessibility and modern helicopters the early work is now being extended and densified – rapidly by comparison – in the name of Science.

How much different was the European exploration of Australia and the Geographical Society input from 1885?

What is the role of our Geographical Society today compared with the work of the twentieth Century?

I have just spent Wednesday to Friday visiting Stanthorpe. Visits to Girraween National Park, a very good Museum and touring the secondary roads around the now highly developed farm and orchard lands at Stanthorpe and then travelling through Warwick, Allora, Laidley and Rosewood, was a private

expedition of modern nature which I found most satisfying and informative. To observe the positive result of the development of these areas and the prosperous nature of the towns along the way, in spite of setbacks, was something that needed to be seen to be recognised for geographical significance.

Rather than exploration, should I call this local tour of mine "Tourism"? It was certainly noticeable that Grey Nomads are involved in geographic tourism.

There is little doubt that the Society, in having similar geographic Treks, has been carrying out this role extremely well.

Our Thomson Medalist in 2013, Mr Paul Feeney, in presenting the Thomson Address on 2 April 2013, *The Society and its People*, provided a comprehensive and erudite essay on the role achieved by the Society over the last twenty-five years. The presentation was enthusiastically received by Members and Guests. As a long-term Councillor and Past

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President who had a pivotal role in the establishment and operation of the Scientific Studies Expeditions, from 1987 to the present, Paul provided an outline of the activities of the Society of which he and Members can be proud. The presentation was not restricted to the Scientific Study operations, and clearly showed the success and value of the Society.

This lecture was a very timely record which, in no small way, must influence the deliberations centred on defining future activity.

This first meeting of the Council recognised that the functioning of the Society has been first rate. This did not mean that the review would not aim to identify changes and fresh appropriate activities within the constraints of membership and finance.

Discussion is ongoing. Comment from Members is most welcome.

*David Carstens*

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## Lecture – Global Food Security

The May lecture will be presented by Dr Graham Bonnet on the topic: *Global Food Security: What does it mean for Australia.*

With the global population to reach around 9 billion by 2050, the demand for food is predicted to increase by at least 50%. The types of food demanded will also change, including an increase in animal products. This level of increase has been delivered in the past by agriculture. In the future more nutrients, water, land and energy consumption – key components of the previous increased productivity – will not be available. So how will we produce more from less, and what will this mean for Australian agriculture?

The talk will also explore the competition for land between food production and climate mitigation and what potential changes to land use in Australia may look like.

Dr Graham Bonnett leads the Advancing Agricultural Productivity and Environmental Health research

theme of CSIRO's Sustainable Agricultural Flagship. Its goal is to significantly increase agricultural productivity whilst maintaining the environment.

Graham comes from an agricultural background in England. He was awarded a Bachelor of Science with Honours in Agricultural Science (Crops), and a Doctor of Philosophy, both from the University of Leeds. After completing his doctorate, he worked on improving the quality of annual pasture at the University of Melbourne before joining CSIRO in 1993. He has worked since in Canberra, Townsville and for the past 10 years in Brisbane.

In Queensland Graham has been working on understanding the growth and development of sugarcane and improving sugarcane varieties. In 2009 Graham was awarded the Queensland-Smithsonian Fellowship. He and his family spent five months at the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute, Panama, where he conducted a comparative study of a wild relative of sugarcane.

Graham is a member of the Gene Technology Technical Advisory Committee that advises on the release of genetically modified organisms for trials and commercial purposes.

Graham cycles to work every day and has competed in several triathlons over the past 12 months. He is president of the Queensland Masters Badminton Association, and is in training for the Oxfam 100 km walk in June.

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## City Heritage Secrets

What: Visit the Police Museum, enjoy lunch, visit Masonic Centre  
When: Tuesday 14 May  
Cost: \$20 includes lunch & donation to Masonic Centre  
Book: with the office (including payment) by 7 May unless 'sold-out' earlier

We will be meeting at Roma Street, just outside the station near the bus shelters, at 9:15 for a 9.30 am start at the Police Museum, just across the road. The Police Museum is very interesting in that it includes displays

of famous Brisbane crimes and includes investigative data which we would not otherwise know about. Great displays – yes a murder scene – technology, transport, women in policing and much more.

Lunch will be at '301 on Ann' café, with a wide variety of main courses and deserts to choose from.

The Masonic Centre has fairly recently opened its doors to the public and this tour provides an opportunity to learn more about this organisation.



## 21-Day Tour to PERU

If you missed our trek advertisement for Peru in the December *RGSQ Bulletin*, then this is your chance. Twenty RGSQ members have already booked on this trek departing on 13 October 2013, and we can accommodate 4 more on this journey of a lifetime. Cost all inclusive is \$10,990 per person.

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. Colonial Lima, Iquitos and the Amazon, the Andes and the Inca capital of Cuzco, the Urubamba Valley, the Inca fortress of Ollantaytambo, Machu Picchu, the Colca Canyon and Lake Titicaca are just some of the highlights we will visit.

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

*Leo Scanlan*

## Volunteers Please

We'll soon be sorting the results of the Australian Geography Competition to send back to schools. We had around 75,000 entries from 725 schools this year.

We're calling on our wonderful members to help again. This will be from Tuesday 21 May to Thursday 23 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 – though the high tables do make the job a bit easier. Please ring Kath at the office on 3368 2066 if you can help.

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

Mary Comer; Audrey Johnston; John and Mary Nowill; Peter Nunan.

Hopefully that's everyone! A few people stopped to help when they happened to be at the Society.

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## Volunteer Transcriber

The Society needs to make its lectures more accessible for a deaf member. One of the possibilities Council is examining is for a member to type a reasonably comprehensive summary of what the speaker is saying as he delivers the lecture, so that the deaf member can read what is being typed while also looking at what is being projected. To do this you would need good typing skills.

If you think you could help with this – or even better can sign in Auslan – we'd love to hear from you. Please contact Kath in the office.

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## New Members

We have much pleasure in welcoming as new members:

Bob Abnett; Kerrie Corcoran; Chris Nussey; Yael Relf; Emil Zwetsloot

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

## Walks, Waterfalls and Wine

What: a long weekend of adventure, exercise and good company at the Blackall Range

When: 8 - 10 June 2013

Cost: \$10 for weekend including a wine-tasting, or \$20 for weekend, wine-tasting and group dinner (see below). Note this **excludes** accommodation which is to be booked directly (see below).

Book: with the office and pay by 4 June 2013

Bring: warm gear as temperatures range from 11° to 21° in June, walking shoes, water bottle, picnic lunch for Saturday

Meet: at the Little Rocky Creek Aboriginal site on Old Gympie Rd by 10:15 am Sat. It's about 2 km south of Landsborough.

If enough people are interested, we will arrange a group dinner on Sunday night – soup, a hot main course and cake, with BYO liquid refreshments.

Book your own accommodation at Lilyponds Holiday Park, 26 Warruga Street, Mapleton. For bookings, ph 1800 003 764; for information, ph 5445 7238; relax@lilyponds.com.au; www.lilyponds.com.au. Cabins and tent and caravan sites are available.

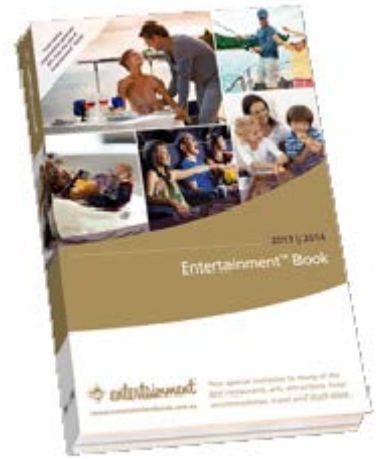
**Book early** as this is a long weekend. NOTE, because it is a long weekend, there is a minimum 3 night booking (Fri - Sun or Sat - Mon).

### Activities

- visit an Aboriginal site, and view and photograph grinding grooves used by the Gubbi Gubbi people
- enjoy wine tasting
- visit and enjoy your own picnic lunch at Gardner's Falls
- visit Baroon Pocket Dam
- many walks in National Parks are possible, varying in distance and challenge, from short to longer walks and easy to challenging
- heritage walks are available in Montville and Mapleton
- art galleries, craft and souvenir shops, eateries and retail therapy
- visit the cheese factory in Kenilworth, near the Maleny turnoff

Map and details on our website: www.rgsq.org.au and hard copies are available at the office.

**Join us on the adventure.**



## Discount Vouchers Book

Help us raise funds for the Society's work in promoting geography by buying an Entertainment Book from us, and 20% of the purchase price comes back to the Society.

The books are packed with hundreds of up to 50% off and 2-for-1 offers for the best restaurants, cafés, attractions, hotel accommodation, travel and much more! Selling for only \$65, you'll receive \$15,000 worth of valuable offers that you can use right away, up until 1 June 2014.

If you're like me, you buy these things with the best of intentions but then don't organise the discount in advance, or forget to take the voucher with you. I think the BIG difference with this book is that it covers Coles and Woolies. You just have to buy some gift cards, use them to buy your groceries, and you save 5% off everything. Once you've spent \$1300 on groceries you've paid off the \$65 and everything else in the book is a bonus – movies, car hire, clothes. And I've just noticed that my favourite hamburger place has a 2 for 1 offer!

The more books we sell the more we raise so tell your family and friends!

To purchase, please fill in the enclosed order form and return it to the Society, or purchase online at [www.entertainmentbook.com.au/orderbooks/230v765](http://www.entertainmentbook.com.au/orderbooks/230v765). Books can be collected from RGSQ.

If you want to purchase and pick one up on 7 May please let the office know in advance so that we have enough copies here.

*Kath Berg*

## Congratulations Ian Lambert

Belated congratulations to Society member Ian Lambert. Last year Ian was elected Secretary-General of the International Union of Geological Sciences for the term 2012-2016. Quite an addition to his workload!

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## Soil Conservation Website

The Queensland Landcare web site has some relatively new pages about achieving soil conservation in Queensland at <http://landcare.org.au/resources-links/achieving-soil-conservation-in-queensland/>.

It has links to the following:

- a pictorial presentation titled Achieving soil conservation in Queensland with over 200 photos to tell the story (it is a 25 MB file so it may take a minute to download)
- a written account of the history of soil conservation in Queensland
- three Queensland based historical videos on Youtube – *Soil is your future* (1956), *Soil: There's plenty of it isn't there?* (1982) and *Down to Earth* (1992)
- links to Queensland government web pages about soil erosion.

I think that the pages are a useful resource for students and the community in general.

Bruce Carey

## Australian Geographics

Thanks to member Ken Shea who donated the copies of *Australian Geographic* which were missing from the RGSQ Library.

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## Horse-riding in Nat Parks

The State Government is considering allowing horse-riding in more national parks in Queensland. The National Parks Association of Queensland is hosting a seminar on this topic.

Guest speaker: Ralph Dowling  
When: 5.45 pm Wed 17 April  
Where: Mt Coot-tha Botanic Gardens  
More info: 3367 0878

# RGSQ Bulletin

May 2013

**Lecture**, Tues 7 May, 7.30pm  
Speaker: Dr Graham Bonnett  
Subject: Global Food Security: What does it Mean for Australia

**Day Trek**, Tues 14 May. 9.15am  
What: City Heritage Secrets

**Volunteer Days**, 21 - 23 May  
For: Australian Geography Competition

**Lecture**, Tues 4 June, 7.30pm  
Speaker: Mr Tim Lawless  
Subject: The Geography of Australia's Housing Market

**Long Weekend Trek**, 8 - 10 June  
Where: Blackall Range

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