



# RGSQ Bulletin

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## From the President

The Review of our Society activities has occupied the Council in some constructive discussion and this is ongoing. Staffing of the office in the coming years has required much consideration and the process is ongoing.

Consideration of the Treks and Activities contribution has been active with an unsurprising conclusion that the work of that committee is a key function which needs to continue in the established pattern. The Library is the next topic for consideration.

As I commented in July, the Society has a significant and specialised library with a very significant collection of publications and material. To illustrate this, here are some topics which are contained in one sample which interested me, taken from one publication selected from the shelf.

I happened to choose a rather ragged booklet, *Queensland Geographical Journal*, Volume XVI 1900-1901. Within the Journal is "Proceedings of the Royal

Geographical Society of Australia Queensland", starting at page 125. This is a report of the activity of the year. The Balance Sheet shows income and expenditure to the extent of £446 (\$892). Although my choice was a ragged copy, a check proved that the same information was safely included in the bound copies of the journals of that time.

The first paper in the Journal is by J.P. Thomson, "The Geographical Evolution of the Australian Continent". The second paper which attracts my interest is "On the Mitigation of Floods on the Brisbane River". This is a discussion paper by Hon. A.C. Gregory, the first President of the Society, but in the capacity of his responsibilities as Surveyor General and (later) as a Member of Parliament. The paper covers the merits, costs and basic flood assumptions influencing construction of a dam.

A third paper is by David Forbes B.A., "Reminiscences of the Early Days of the present Colony of Queensland". David Forbes was an early settler on the Darling Downs, in 1843, and in 1900 records the people and places of his time on Clifton Station in partnership with his brother Francis Forbes. The account covers to 1850 when David Forbes sold his interests on the Darling Downs. The paper is a brilliant commentary on the people and the conditions at the time. The story relates to the period before the subdivisions into Selections in the 1870s, which was the background to my commentary about Steele Rudd and *On our Selection* in the June *Bulletin*.

Two more papers in this volume cover the interest and concern for Aboriginal heritage and ethnology. The papers are both by R.H. Mathew, Licensed Surveyor, based on his contact with Aboriginal communities. "The Murrawin Ceremony" outlines traditional ceremonial in what is now Northern New South Wales and the other, "Ethnological Notes on the Aboriginal Tribes of the Northern Territory", records social organisation and vocabulary.

The Society has been asked to make a submission to the Review of the Centre for Government of Queensland. This is an information Centre managed by the School of History, Philosophy, Religion & Classics at the University of Queensland. Members of the Society have been involved in this web-based documentation and have made contributions to the wide-ranging content. Two sections, Queensland Places and Queensland Historical Atlas, have direct geographical significance. It is my concern that I had no idea of the existence of the Centre and wonder if other Members

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and the general public have sufficient information to encourage or enable them to access the content. Once connected the information is impressively accessible and searchable. I commend Members to take an interest in the site for information and potentially to take up the invitation to contribute. Access the site at:

queenslandplaces.com.au  
www.qhatlas.com.au

The large attendance by members and visitors at our July lecture is proof of the significance and value of this key aspect of the Society program. Mr Carl Robinson maintained keen interest in his presentation of geography, history, people and religion of Mongolia. The Society has purchased a copy of his book, which is a traveller's guide of the country, as represented in the lecture.

David Carstens

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## Lecture Change

The printed programme shows the August lecture as being delivered by Dr John Kirkwood on ecotourism in Antarctica. John emailed us from Spitsbergen saying he wouldn't be back in Australia till 23 August. We'll try again next year – but perhaps avoid high summer in both the Arctic and Antarctic!

Thanks to Paul Donatiu for stepping in. See below.

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## Lecture – National Parks

The August lecture will be delivered by Paul Donatiu on the topic: Threats to Queensland National Parks. You may have seen some coverage of this subject in the news. It's important for us as a community to understand the implications. Paul has provided the following information, on which he will expand during the presentation:

The National Parks brand in Queensland is being seriously challenged.

Between June 2010 and June 2012, the then Queensland Government

took advantage of federal funding available under the National Reserve System (NRS) to purchase twelve high conservation value properties across Queensland. To date, none of these properties have been gazetted as National Parks.

In November 2012, the current State Government introduced legislation to provide leases for ecotourism facilities on National Park land. Allowing resorts on National Park land erodes the primary purpose of National Parks which is the conservation of nature.

In May 2013, the same Government decided to make five National Parks, and eight of the twelve NRS properties referred to above, available for cattle grazing.

On a new front, the State Government recently announced a Scientific Review into Queensland's protected areas. The National Parks Association of Queensland believes that it is clear from the initiation of this Review that the Government may try to revoke recently gazetted National Parks. In addition, it is likely that Conservation Parks will be re-categorised to a tenure more aligned with the pursuit of recreation than conservation.

All of these threats will test the resilience of our National Park system and whether it can continue to function for its core purpose.

Paul Donatiu is Executive Coordinator for the National Parks Association of Queensland. Paul has an educational background in Architecture, Psychology and Environmental Management and has worked for WWF-Australia, Griffith University and Greening Australia. He is passionate about rare plants and has a special affinity for the granite country in Southern Queensland.

Paul's interests include restoration and disturbance ecology, bush-walking and nature photography. As the basis for a Churchill Fellowship in 2010, Paul examined how climate refugia are being identified in California, Europe and South Africa and whether such areas should be prioritised within new protected area acquisitions in Australia.

## Brisbane River Exhibition

When: 1.30pm Tues 17 September  
Where: Museum of Brisbane, Level 3, Brisbane City Hall  
What: guided tour of exhibition, and optional afternoon tea  
Cost: \$5.00 per person  
Book: with the office

As the defining symbol of our city, the wayward and beautiful Brisbane River has bought us opportunity, sanctuary and at times, heartbreak.

*The River: A History of Brisbane* explores our ever-changing relationship with the river.

From its importance to the land's traditional owners, its discovery that decided our capital's location, and the industry that was born along its shores, the river has played a critical role in the growth of our city.

Revealing how the river is intertwined in the lives of Brisbane's inhabitants, the exhibition is also a stunning showcase of artworks and objects from the City of Brisbane collection.

*The River: A History of Brisbane* will connect you to the stories of the city as it charts a compelling journey from Brisbane's earliest settlement through to the modern city we call home.

The Society has arranged a special guided tour of this exhibition with a museum curator. It will be followed by an optional afternoon tea in a nearby café. When booking, please advise if you are likely to join us for afternoon tea so we have an idea of numbers.

Please arrive at City Hall a few minutes before 1.30pm to give time to take the lift to Level 3. Meet in the reception area of the Museum.



## Annual General Meeting

Members are hereby notified that the Annual General Meeting of the Society will be held at RGSQ, 237 Milton Rd, Milton, at 7:30 pm on Tuesday 3 September 2013.

The business to be transacted at this meeting shall be:

- receiving the Council's report and the statement of income and expenditure, assets and liabilities of the Society
- receiving the auditor's report
- electing Council members
- appointing an auditor

If any member wishes to add an item of general business they should notify the Secretary of this by 13 August 2013.

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## Council Nominations

Any two members of the Society may nominate any other member to serve as an officer or other member of the Council during 2013-2014 by completing the nomination form below and returning it to the Secretary by 20 August 2013. Only if at the commencement of the AGM there is an insufficient number of candidates nominated, may nominations be taken from the floor.

If you would like more information on serving on Council, please ask a Councillor at the next meeting, or ring David Carstens on 3848 5649. Members are asked to think seriously about contributing to the Society in this way.



## International Geog Olympiad

The 2013 International Geography Olympiad will be held from 30 July to 5 August in Kyoto, Japan. The team is selected from students who have excelled in the senior level of the Australian Geography Competition, via a fieldwork-based selection/training event Geography's Big Week Out. These four students are the members of Australia's Olympiad team, based on their outstanding performances:

- Ali Finnemore, St Mary's Anglican Girls School, Perth
- Sarah Naco, Canberra Girls' Grammar School
- Lachlan Peat, Brisbane Grammar School
- Britt Simmons, Canterbury Girls Secondary College, Melbourne

The team will be accompanied by Society Administrator Kath Berg and Pat Beeson, a Victorian geography educator who led the organisation of the 2012 Geog's Big Week Out.

Thirty-two countries will be taking part in the 2013 Olympiad – including for the first time Kazakhstan, Mongolia and USA. USA hasn't previously had a national geography competition for the right age group (16-19 years old). Hence their delayed entry.

In the breaks from the serious business of the tests, the team is looking forward to exploring Kyoto with its many world heritage sites. As

a complete contrast, we will be staying in Osaka for a couple of days before the Olympiad for the full-on experience of a high-density Japanese city. (We're doing this in Osaka, not Tokyo, because the team is flying Jetstar directly to Osaka from the Gold Coast.)

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## Office Hours

As notified in the last *Bulletin*, Kath Berg will be out of the office from the afternoon of Friday 26 July to Friday 9 August. Hayley Freemantle will staff the office every day in Kath's absence, but the office will open later and shut earlier than usual. It would be wise to ring before visiting.

Kath will be taking the Australian team to the International Geography Olympiad in Kyoto – see previous item. As Kath is co-chair of the International Geographical Union (IGU) Olympiad Task Force, she will be staying on in Kyoto to attend the IGU Conference, while Pat Beeson travels back to Australia with the students.

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## New Members

We have much pleasure in welcoming the following new members:

- Wendy Carter; James Freeman; Wayne Mackenzie; Bonny Stutsel

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

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## Council Nomination Form

We, being financial members of The Royal Geographical Society of Queensland Inc, nominate:

\_\_\_\_\_ for the position of:

- (Please circle one of)
- President
  - Vice-President (2 positions)
  - Secretary
  - Treasurer
  - Councillors (8 positions)

on the Council of the Society for the 2013-14 year.

Nominator's signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Secunder's signature: \_\_\_\_\_

I, being a financial member of the Society, agree to the above nomination, and confirm my preparedness to serve if elected.

Candidate's signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Candidates may wish to provide a brief resume of their involvement with and interest in the Society.



The biennial National Geographic World Championship is being held in St Petersburg, Russia, from 27 July to 1 August 2013. The team has been selected from students who have excelled in the intermediate level of the 2012 and 2013 Australian Geography Competitions. (The International Geography Olympiad is for students from the senior level.)

The three students who make up the team are:

- Jamie Abel, Shore School, Sydney
- Tom Butler, Northern Beaches Secondary College Manly Selective Campus, Sydney
- Garry Zhu, Camberwell Grammar School, Melbourne

The team will be accompanied by Margaret McIvor, Society Councillor and long-term member of the Competition Committee.

Although the World Championship is organised by the [US] National Geographic Society, the Final will be hosted by the Russian Geographical Society in the building it has occupied for more than 100 years.

## Kanawinka Geopark

Last *Bulletin* included an item about the Kanawinka Geopark. Society member Ian Lambert has emailed that the Geopark has lost its UNESCO global status.

Geopark Director Ian Lewis believes the park was not re-registered by the federal government because of confusion between National Parks and Geoparks. He said the Geopark was not "another sort of authority .... We promote a region for its natural features and we're really basically a marketing tool for encouraging visitation to a region. ... We're quite optimistic that this can all be resolved".

# RGSQ Bulletin

August 2013

**Lecture**, Tues 6 August, 7.30pm  
Speaker: Paul Donatiu  
Subject: Threats to Queensland National Parks

**4WD Trek**, 28 August - 18 September  
Where: Lambert Centre

**Meeting**, Tues 3 September, 7.30pm  
What: Annual General Meeting

**Guided Tour**, Tues 17 September, 1.30pm  
What: The River: a History of Brisbane Exhibition  
Where: Brisbane City Hall

**Lecture**, Tues 1 Oct, 7.30pm  
Speaker: Warwick Willmott  
Subject: The (Very) Ancient Geography of Brisbane

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