



RGSQ Bulletin

ISSN 1832-8830

Vol 48 no 11 December 2013

Published by The Royal Geographical Society of Queensland Inc, a nonprofit organisation established in 1885 that promotes the study of geography and encourages a greater understanding and enjoyment of the world around us.

In this issue

- Christmas Party
- Christmas Close
- Volunteers Needed
- 2013 Treks Revisited
- 2014 Trek: Northwestern USA
- Simpson Desert Exhibition

From the President

This time last year the Council of the Society embarked on a "Review of RGSQ Activity".

In 2007 a similar Review was undertaken and a Strategic Plan resulted, with seven goals enumerated. The 2013 review follows the themes of the 2007 Plan.

The present review was commenced at an all-day meeting of the Council on Monday 25 March 2013. This meeting accepted an agenda of topics to address and these were set out in the April 2013 *Bulletin*. The outline has been pursued throughout the year with a particular theme nominated for each regular Council meeting. Although it seems to have spread over a long period without a formal result, the Review concept influences all the regular deliberations of the Council. Progressively the Council has sought and received feedback on ideas raised in the Review. The views and ideas of the Membership continues to be sought.

The over-riding influence on all decisions for future programmes is finance; and this has occupied considerable effort and consideration, primarily by the

Finance Committee and especially by the Treasurer John Nowill and the Secretary Chris Spriggs who brings his expertise as an accountant to the task.

Common to all aspects of the Review is the requirement to reorganise staffing arrangements and establish a new Executive Officer position to replace the position of Business Manager following the departure of Keith Smith and taking into account the wishes of Kath Berg to step back from the full time position of Administrator.

Considerable time has been spent on the staffing requirement, as a priority, recognising that there is an impact on all aspects of the review.

This initially resulted in a decision to advertise the position of Executive Officer within the scope of the Society and the Geography Teachers Association of Queensland. This approach resulted in the decision to offer the position to a very suitable candidate. However this offer was not taken up for legitimate practical and personal reasons.

A fresh approach to seek a suitable candidate is now in train. By advertising more widely, requiring a more precise definition of the specialised nature of the position, the Society is receiving a wide spectrum applications. So there are important decisions to be made.

Two topics which remain to be addressed which involve potential changes are The Library, a topic on which I have already commented in

the President commentary (in April and July) and that the Geography Competition be expanded to include Primary School Geography.

So this Review is ongoing. It is fair to say that discussions indicate that the Society is operating well, while highlighting and addressing necessary changes.

As part of a family visit to Canberra I visited the National Library to view the "Mapping Our World" Exhibition. I attended on Friday 8 November, the day after the official opening. The day started busy but later settled to comfortable viewing.

The display is presented in spectacular format and the historic content is awesome to use a much used modern expression for something most impressive. Some idea of the content is outlined in the RGSQ November *Bulletin*.

The comprehensive catalogue does more than justice to the Exhibition. It is a magnificently illustrated outline of the displayed mapping and provides

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

The Royal Geographical Society
of Queensland Inc
237 Milton Road
Milton Qld 4064

Tel: (07) 3368 2066
Fax: (07) 3367 1011
Email: admin@rgsq.org.au
Web: www.rgsq.org.au

a textbook of the development of mapping with accent on the southern hemisphere and Australia.

The Exhibition is certainly worth a visit but the catalogue provides more than sufficient to appreciate the significant collection on display. I would recommend to any map lover that a copy of the catalogue be purchased for personal reference. At \$50 for a glossy publication of 256 pages it is excellent value. A copy has been purchased for the RGSQ Library.

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

David Carstens



You
& your
friends are
invited to
the Society's

Christmas Party

7.30pm Tuesday 3 Dec
237 Milton Rd, Milton

Drinks, nibbles and
good company provided

Come along to meet old
friends and make new ones

The Society's current building, *Gregory House*, was officially opened at the 2003 Christmas Party by the then Governor of Queensland and Society Patron HE Ms Quentin Bryce, AC. To mark this 10th anniversary, there will be a small photographic display of the Society's headquarters over its history and a short speech by Doreen Worth who was President at the time of this building's acquisition and renovation.



Christmas Close

The Society's office will be closed for Christmas from 20 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*.

Kath and Hayley wish you and yours a safe and joyous Christmas and look forward to a productive year for the Society in 2014.

Can YOU Help?

As most members would realise, our Society organises the Australian Geography Competition. Approximately 75,000 secondary school students entered the 2013 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 16 January, and maybe finishing off the last bits on Friday 17 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 (10th to 13th), 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

2014 Renewals

Society members who need to renew their subscription for 2014 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.

2013 Treks Revisited

All Society members are cordially invited to a social evening of Treks Revisited on Friday 14 February at 7.00 pm at RGSQ Milton.

This is a great opportunity to see what your fellow RGSQ travellers have been up to in Peru, the Lambert Centre Point, and northern New South Wales in the course of our programme of 'Geography on the Ground' throughout 2013.

Members who were involved in any of these treks are asked to contact Leo Scanlan 3343 4398 if you have any artefacts, photos, paintings, tapestries etc. that we could display during this function in February 2014.

This event will be advertised again in the February *Bulletin* but as we don't publish a January *Bulletin* I thought I would flag this event in the December *Bulletin*.

Mark 14 February in your diary and I hope to see you there for RGSQ's first treks activity for 2014.

Leo Scanlan

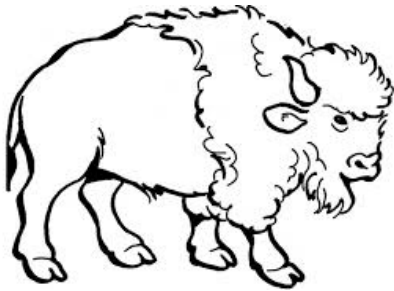
2014 Trek Northwestern United States

Monday 8 – Sunday 28 September 2014

Land of Diversity, National Parks, History, Wide Open Spaces and Frontier Excitement

As part of the Royal Geographical Society of Queensland's programme of 'Geography on the Ground' for 2014, I would like to present to you the United States many of you have read about but haven't yet travelled. This trek takes in the States of Washington, Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, South Dakota, Colorado, and Utah.

Much of what I am proposing is a comfortable mix of geography, national parks, and the history of the northwest quarter of the United States. The Continental United States is an area slightly larger than Australia and many of the western states have vast open spaces, a wide diversity of terrain, spectacular national parks, a wide variety of wildlife, much visible volcanic activity and comparatively easy access via a well developed network of national state highways and roads.



Seattle, gateway to the northwest and the Columbia Valley, is brimful of interest from a geographical perspective. One of our first objectives is to visit Mount Saint Helens to witness the scale of the massive lateral eruption that took place on 18 May, 1980 and to see for ourselves how nature has begun to repair itself over the ensuing 33 years. From Seattle we move on to Spokane and the Columbia River Valley before we reach Kalispell via the National Bison Range in western Montana established in 1908 as a refuge for the North American bison.

In Helena (the capital of Montana), our next destination, I have requested we visit the Montana State Legislature. Helena is situated in the county seat of Lewis and Clark County so here we are never far from the history of the considerable exploits of Lewis and Clark. In this part of the world we also cross paths with the history of Chief Joseph of Nez Perce fame. Chief Joseph was later known as a humanitarian and peacemaker. From Helena our next stop is the spectacular Glacier National Park (part of the International Peace Park consisting of Waterton in Canada and Glacier on the United States side of the border).

If that's not enough to whet your appetite for more think Cody, Wyoming and an evening rodeo; the Little Bighorn Battlefield in Montana of George Armstrong Custer fame; the Buffalo Bill Cody Historical Centre; Yellowstone, possibly the most spectacular national park, widely recognised as the first national park in the world and gazetted on 1 March 1872, is known for its wildlife and its many geothermal features; The Grand Tetons National Park; Custer State Park; Mount Rushmore; Sheridan; Denver and Rocky Mountains National Park; Moab and Arches National Park; Cedar City, Bryce Canyon, and Piute State Park where it is our intention to indulge in a little quad biking on the Piute Trail for a few hours; the Great Salt Lake and Antelope Park and the Wasatch Mountains, scene of the Winter Olympics in Utah with the ending of our trek in Salt Lake City.



This Trek of 20 days and 18 nights includes all airfares, all breakfasts and dinners for the duration of the tour, an accompanying knowledgeable tour guide for the duration of the tour, and is priced at an exceptional \$8795.00 Brisbane to Brisbane. Numbers are strictly limited and will be accepted on a deposit of \$1100 first come basis. If you would like to be part of this exciting 2014 USA tour, please contact Mel Haycock on mobile 0413 756 797 or email melhaycock1@gmail.com, or for further information call Leo Scanlan on 3343 4398 anytime or email trekabout@inet.net.au.

Hope to have you on board in September 2014.

Leo Scanlan

Simpson Desert Exhibition

In July 1963 a party of surveyors in Land Rovers left Adelaide to undertake the first comprehensive survey of the southern Simpson Desert. The survey was one of a series undertaken by the South Australian Department of Lands.

In conjunction with Alan Wright, a member of the 1963 surveying expedition, the Royal Geographical Society of South Australia is mounting an exhibition to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the survey.

The exhibition will include equipment similar to that used on the survey, as

well as accounts provided by host who participated in the epic undertaking.

RGSSA, Mortlock Wing
State Library of South Australia
North Terrace, Adelaide
Phone 08 8207 7266

November 2013 to February 2014
Tuesday - Friday, 10:00am - 1:00pm

Afghanistan Exhibition

And an exhibition closer to home. If you haven't yet been to see *Afghanistan: Hidden Treasures* on at the Queensland Museum, it closes on 27 January. Adults \$21.50; concessions available.

Objects included in the exhibition reflect Afghanistan's place at the heart of the ancient Silk Road. They are crafted from precious materials such as gold and turquoise and reflect influences from Egypt, India and Greece, among others.

These artefacts were once thought to have been lost forever: casualties of warfare, looting and destruction. In reality, during years of turmoil the director and curators of the National Museum in Kabul had – at great personal risk – secretly hidden masterpieces from the collection in vaults of the Central Bank in the Presidential Palace. In 2003, the vaults were opened to reveal that the treasures had survived intact.

RGSQ Bulletin

December 2013

Social, Tues 3 Dec, 7.30pm
What: Christmas Party

Christmas Close
When: 20 Dec to 1 Jan

Volunteer Days, Thurs 16 & Fri 17 Jan
For: Australian Geography Competition

Lecture Meeting, Tues 4 Feb 7.30pm
Speaker: Andrew Harper
Subject: Transformations: the Simpson
Desert from Drought to Flood to Fire

Activity, Fri 14 Feb 7.00pm
What: 2013 Treks Revisited: Peru, Lambert
Centre, South of the Border

The Royal Geographical Society of Queensland Inc
237 Milton Road, Milton Q 4064

POSTAGE
PAID
AUSTRALIA