



RGSQ Bulletin

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From the President

This will be my final commentary as President. It has been an honour to have been accepted as President of the Royal Geographical Society of Queensland. It has been a pleasure and challenge to understand the full round of responsibilities which this has involved over the last two years. In spite of my forty years of Membership, I found that I had so much to learn and understand about the scope and operation of the Society and the contribution to Geography. All has been made possible through the support, advice and cooperation of the Council of the Society, all Members and the office Staff. In particular I recognise the support of my wife Kathryn.

The contribution of the Membership is typically indicated by the response to my questions raised last month concerning the operation of the Scientific Studies Program. The effort, detail and understanding indicated in the written responses received bodes well for the future of this aspect of our activity. As I have indicated on previous occasions, the same measure of interest is indicated in all of the activities undertaken. Feedback from the President's page has been most encouraging over the two years of my incumbency.

A rewarding activity over these two years involved looking back to past records, be they administrative matters or topics of geographic interest, lectures given and the

contribution of individuals. In the vast amount of information available, to glean some small understanding of what has gone before has been very sobering to me in grappling with the present and the future of RGSQ.

I will not be continuing as a Council Member after the Annual General Meeting. I am confident that there is a selection of very dedicated and capable people who have made themselves available for election to all Council positions for the next twelve months. This group of people have considerable expertise and experience. I do intend to continue as an interested and contributing Society member.

I trust that the Annual Report presented on Tuesday 2 September will provide the more extensive detail which will support my brief comments here.

Apart from the need for me to brush up on background for my own purposes, discussion in Council continually reveals that there are others within the Society who are not aware of features which exist. These units may well be inactive, albeit temporarily.

The Ken Sutton Trust is funded by a corpus which provides funding for Geographical Pursuits. This was funded from the estate of Ken Sutton, former President and well known Geographer.

In 1988 the Library was designated "The Ken Sutton Memorial Library".

The Society has an extensive Map Collection. This is made up of original acquisition and donations of private collections. The maps are curated by volunteer member Peter Nunan and an ever extending space is required to house them.

The Council is aware that our specialised Library is under-utilised.

The reasons for this are being identified and ideas to improve the accessibility and awareness of the Library are being considered. Involvement of volunteer Members to progress the needs in the Library is a desirable starting point.

Like the Scientific Studies commentary, there is a call for Society Members to identify themselves as contributors in the Library.

To illustrate something from the browsing of records, as well as Library content, I reproduce here part of a report from the RGSQ Bulletin of July 1988, titled "Down Memory Lane".

"Tuesday, June 7 was a Members Meeting with a difference. On that night members and their guests were treated to a "Walk Down Memory Lane" in the form of some of the Society's old glass slides. It proved to be one of our most successful programs. Not only was the attendance figure very good, but those present obviously enjoyed themselves immensely as members recognised people and places from times gone by, shown on the screen. The big old black and white photos had great impact and certainly did not suffer when compared with modern coloured slides."

"It was an evening intended to show members what we have in our Library and Archives, but the pictures themselves apart from archival value proved to be of much joy and entertainment to members."

Let me express my view of the Society as a motto. "We are not inventing the wheel of Geography but we are keeping it rolling".

David Carstens

Australia Comes Second at the 11th International Geography Olympiad

A big congratulations to the Australian Team who competed in the International Geography Olympiad (iGeo) in Krakow, Poland during Tuesday 12th to Monday 18th August 2014.

Janice Mui, MacRobertson Gilrs' High School, Melbourne came Third.

Stephen Roche, Sydney Grammar School won a Gold Medal.

Oscar Fawkes, Sydney Grammar School won a Silver Medal

Leon Shi, Melbourne High School won a Bronze Medal

What a fantastic effort by the Australian team given the increased number of countries entered in the 2014 iGeo.

Short Trek: Northern NSW Camping -Bundjalung NP

When: 16-19 September

RSVP: 2 September

Cost: Booking fee \$30.00

For those not going to America in September, a leisurely camping trek to Bundjalung National Park has been organised for September 16 to 19.

The campground at Woody Head will be the venue for accommodation on the 3 nights Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday 16, 17, 18 September; it has cabins and cottages which house 4 to 6 persons, campsites (all unpowered), hot showers and BBQs.

You will need to make (and pay for) your own booking, either online, or by phoning Woody Head camping area on 02 6646 6134, mentioning that you are part of the RGSQ group. Early booking, especially for a cabin or cottage, is recommended. You will also need a NSW National Parks Pass for your vehicle if you haven't got one for 2014.

Our route will be down the coast to Woody Head, returning via Alstonville, Lismore, Nimbin and Murwillumbah. Our time at Woody Head will be one for exploring the

Iluka and Clarence River area, or just relaxing on the beach.

The booking fee for this trek is \$30, which will cover a Welcome Happy Hour and Sausage Sizzle on the first night, Happy Hour nibbles on the second & third nights, and a farewell afternoon tea on the Friday at the Tweed Regional Gallery, the home for many of Margaret Olley's paintings.

Further information and a detailed itinerary are available from

Brian McGrath, phone 07 33785960, email brian.mcgrath@bigpond.com

COME CRUISIN'.... and more

When: 10th to 18th October

Cost: A non-refundable deposit (unless the trip is cancelled) is \$100 and is **due by 2nd Sept**. Final Payment Adults \$225.00 and Concession \$200.00 is due by 16th Sept.

A varied adventure from cruises to lighthouse to a port; Bundy Rum (125 years old); Bundy 'gingerbeerie'; a historic pub (133 years old); many museums & galleries; a cemetery & an aboriginal & other monuments; guided walks, a turtles information centre; varied scenery & activities.

All two night stays, too.

Fri 10th Oct - Cruise Noosa River to Everglades. O/N Gympie.

Sat 11th Oct - *am:* Visit Gympie Gold Museum.

Pm: Visit Gympie Woodworks museum O/N Gympie.

Sun 12th Oct - *am:* Explore Childers before travelling to Bundaberg.

pm: Explore Baldwin Swamp, an environmental reserve. O/N Bundaberg.

Mon 13 & Tues 14th Oct - Burnett river cruise; Mon Repos turtles sanctuary; explore city centre; Burnett Heads; Port of Bundaberg; Hinkler House; Sugar Museum; and other attractions not listed. If time you might like to nip out to the Mystery Craters on the Gin Gin Road. O/N Bundaberg.

Tue 14th Oct - Depart Bundaberg after cruise for Hervey Bay O/N Hervey Bay.

Wed 15th & Thurs 16th Oct - Whale watching cruise; Explore Hervey Bay; visit a Kanaka grave & an aboriginal monument; museums, gardens & more. O/N Hervey Bay on 15th Oct.

16th Oct - Depart Hervey Bay for Maryborough. O/N Maryborough.

17th Oct - *am:* guided walk in Maryborough.

pm: explore more of Maryborough O/N Maryborough.

18th Oct - Depart Maryborough for Tiaro's historic Station Hotel for a beer (ginger, of course) & lunch before departing for home or extend your stay.

Register your interest with the office as soon as possible.

Individual payments include:

- Noosa River everglades cruise with lunch.
- Whale Watching with lunch.
- Burnett River cruise with bikkies & a cuppa.
- Bundy Rum.
- Admission to Gold Mining Museum in Gympie.
- Admission to Woodworks Museum.
- Entry to 3 historic sites in Maryborough.
- 2 group dinners & nibbles for happy hour (BYO drinks)

Make your own accommodation bookings as soon as possible. Mention that you are with the RGSQ group. Caravan Parks (CP) as follows:

Gympie: Gympie C P, 5483 6800, gypiecaravanpark@bigpond.com.au

Bundaberg: Bundaberg East CP, 41528899, info@bundabergtouristpark.com.au

Hervey Bay: Happy Wanderer C P, 41251103, www.happywanderer.com.au

Maryborough: Wallace Motel & C P, 41213970, info@happywanderer.com.au

A Booking and Health Form with more information about the camp sites are available online at www.rgsq.org.au/TREK_OCT or hard copies can be obtained from the Office, 07 3368 2066.

Mid to late Holocene environmental history of Pungalina Station, Northern Territory.

Joel Murphy

School of Geography, Planning and Environmental Management,
University of Queensland

The mid- to late Holocene environmental history of Pungalina Station, Gulf of Carpentaria Lowlands, tropical northern Australia, is examined using proxies from sediment cores recovered from Lake Jabiru and Fern Springs to try and determine a Holocene monsoon record from the region. The proxies investigated include sedimentary characteristics, stratigraphy, loss on ignition, macroscopic and microscopic charcoal analyses and pollen analysis. Results from the longest record at Jabiru Lagoon identify three broad stages in monsoon development; (1) a strong but variable monsoon peaking between 5000 – 4000 BP; (2) a significant period of monsoonal failure between 4000 – 2000 BP; (3) the establishment of modern Australian monsoon conditions at around 2000 BP – present which is strong but highly variable. A second core record from Fern Springs indicates that while the last 700 years have been largely 'wet' that the 700 years could be broken into three broad phases, an earlier wet phase, an intermediate dry phase and a modern phase which is definitely wet. In the modern phase the highest charcoal values are encountered suggesting a change in burning regime in European times.

The overall patterns observed here are consistent with those from Groote Eylandt and Vanderlin Island which are sites several hundred kilometres to the north. This suggests that a consistent pattern of monsoonal change can be derived from core records of this type. Most notably, the evidence suggests that modern conditions at the site are as wet as any time in the Holocene suggesting that agricultural development of northern Australia could be challenged by extended periods of drought that have not so far occurred in European times.

New Members

We have much pleasure in welcoming the following new members:

Richard Duczmal, Olga Kolokolova, and Lynne Newbury and Michael Whitehouse.

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

Assessing the Society's Artefacts

The Society has embarked on a project to undertake an audit and assessment of our artefacts. This investigation will be used to determine the significance of items: to the Society; to the State of Queensland; and, to Australia.

The project is still in its early stages and a process to undertake the full audit is being developed as the project proceeds. The intention is to document and check items against Society records. Currently we are considering the Society's artefacts fall under four categories:

- Maps, cartograms and posters;
- Art and images (photos);
- Books and publications; and
- Other items.

The information gained from this audit project will be used to assist in determining the preservation needs of each of the Society's artefacts.

The Society's Map Collection has been identified as the first collection of items that will be documented and assessed. Society member, Peter Nunan has nearly completed sorting our map collection ready for the documenting and initial assessment stages.

We would welcome advice and input from any members who have experience in documenting and assessing collections such as the Society's. As well, if there are any members who would like to assist with documenting our collection would you please contact Bernard Fitzpatrick at the Society's office by telephone: 07-3368 2066 or by email: info@rgsq.org.au.

Annual General Meeting

Tuesday 2 September

As notified in the last *Bulletin*, the Annual General Meeting of the Society will be held at 7:30pm on Tuesday 2 September 2014.

The Council's annual report will be presented, as will the statement of income, expenditure, assets and liabilities of the Society. The meeting will elect the Society's Council for 2014/15 and appoint the auditor for the same period.

This is your opportunity to get an overview of the work of our busy Society over the course of a year and to ask questions about it.

Behind-the-Scenes at the Archives

This is a self-drive outing

When: Tues 18 Nov

Times & Venues:

10:30am meet for 11am tour at Queensland State Archives, Runcorn

12:30pm BYO lunch

1:45pm meet for 2pm tour Brisbane City Council Archives Moorooka

RSVP: Fri 31 Oct 2014.

Cost: Booking Fee: \$5 - to be paid to the office.

We will be visiting Qld State Archives in the morning to learn how Qld's significant documentary heritage collection is being managed & preserved. A fascinating insight.

BRING YOUR OWN LUNCH. QSA will have a room available for our use and also tea and coffee will be provided.

Then it is a 20-min drive to the Brisbane City Council Archives to learn about their extensive collection of plans and maps.

There will be a focus on RGSQ related research and the results might inspire you to want to follow up your own history on a future visit to either of these venues.

Driving Directions: will be supplied to those partaking in this activity.

Public transport will not be viable so if anyone needs a lift, please let the office know and we will attempt to accommodate this need.

The Queensland Plan

The Queensland Government released *The Queensland Plan: Queenslanders' 30-year vision* on July 31, 2014. This document will be of interest to Queenslanders, particularly geographers.

The plan has identified and outlines nine Foundation areas: Education; Community; Regions; Economy; Health and Wellbeing; Environment; People; Infrastructure; and, Governance.

The digital version of the plan in PDF format can be obtained from <http://queenslandplan.qld.gov.au/assets/images/qld-plan.pdf>.

Library at Lectures

There has been a suggestion that a selection of books from the Society's Library be available for perusing in our auditorium on Lecture nights.

If there are any members who would like to volunteer to select books for Lecture nights, please contact the office.

Maps Donated

Thank you to our Member Bruce Urquhart for his donation of maps to the Society.

Volunteer Peter Nunan is adding them to our Map Library.

Parking

Just a reminder that parking in St Francis Theological Society grounds on Lecture nights is generously allowed by the College. It would be a great shame if the Society lost this generosity.

On Lecture nights, members may enter St Francis grounds from Milton Road and proceed to the first driveway junction. You may park either in the paved marked spaces to the left before the junction, or on the gravel area to the right. You may not park on grassed areas, or go beyond the NO ENTRY signs. If there is no space in these areas you must park in the surrounding streets.

RGSQ Bulletin

September 2014

Annual General Meeting:

Tues 2 September 7:30pm

Lecture Meeting: Tues 7 Oct 7:30pm
Dr Kerrie Wilson – Allocating Limited Resources to Protect Biodiversity

Short Trek: 16-19 September, Northern NSW Camping -Bundjalung NP.

Student Activity: 28 Sept – 3 Oct, Geography's Big Week Out

Short Trek: 10-18 Oct, Come Cruisin', Gympie to Bunadberg.

Activity: November 18th
Queensland State Archives and Brisbane City Council Archives.

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