



RGSQ Bulletin

ISSN 1832-8830

Vol 49 no 10 November 2014

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

- Lecture Meeting: Conserving biodiversity on a budget.
- 2014/15 Council.
- His Excellency accepts patronage.
- Behind the scenes at the Archives.

From the President

I'm trying to squeeze writing this President's message in between coming home from the United States on 12th October, unpacking, packing, and then taking off again for Hong Kong on the 4th of November. A copy of the RGSQ report on our recent trek to the North Western United States is recorded later in this Bulletin. At the end of this United States Trek Sharyn and myself joined Liz and Mike McInnes in a further trip around the South Western United States. Unfortunately, on the last leg of our additional trek Mike became ill and was forced to stay on in hospital in California. At this point in time, Mike and Lizz have not returned to Australia. We wish Mike a speedy recovery and both Liz and Mike a safe return to Australia.

The past year has been an exciting one for The Royal Geographical Society of Queensland. A little over 10 months ago, RGSQ hired Bernard Fitzpatrick as our new 'Executive Officer'. I'm sure Bernard has experienced a steep learning curve and an extremely busy year settling in, and when he returns home some evenings he might wonder what he's gotten himself into.

RGSQ are currently going through an archiving and assessment

process of their extensive collection of historical maps, some dating back to the 1880's. The aim is to digitise them and make them available to the public.

This week, in no small measure Bernard has rewarded our faith in his ability in spades. Bernard featured on 'Weekends with Chris Welsh' on 612ABC Brisbane. As further evidence of his communicative ability, Bernard has been mentioned on 'ABC News' with a story by Jessica Hinchliffe. The topic, of course, was maps, as Bernard is a professional Geographer and Cartographer.

Bernard fielded questions related to Google Earth, the change in experiences and approach with the use of GPS technology, The Society's collection, dating back to the 1880's, and discussed why there's nothing like holding a map that someone drew way back in the 1880's. Other topics broached were GPS and smart phone technology, the release of digital topographic maps by the Department of Natural Resources and Mines, and how both past and present mapping work together and their relationship to historical land claims.

If you would like to tune in to either the verbal or written versions of Bernard's conversation with Chris Welsh or Jessica Hinchliffe's ABC news story, they can be found on http://blogs.abc.net.au/queensland/2014/10/the-death-of-the-road-map.html?site=brisbane&program=612_weekends or <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2014-10-13/paper-maps-save-pieces-of-queenslands-history/5809022>

Looking back at our report to the AGM two months ago, exciting things have been happening at

RGSQ in the past 12 months and will continue into 2015. Later in the year the RGSQ Council are coming together once again to formulate a 'Strategic Plan'. You might say, not again, because we've gone down this road twice over the past 20 years. This time, hopefully, a written 'Strategic Plan' and later member comment will explain our mission, and guide future RGSQ Councils.

We are in the process of modernising and upgrading our computer system. The RGSQ and the Geography Teachers Association of Queensland (GTAQ) joint submission to the Federal Curriculum Review was referenced in Christopher Pyne's report to Federal Parliament. Chris Spriggs has recently returned from the United Kingdom where he had talks with our parent organisation, RGS London, where hopefully, we might forge new arrangements for the future. Our next overseas trek to Hong Kong in November may also produce some new arrangements with RGS HK.

Since stepping down as Administrator, Kath Berg has been investigating the feasibility of a Primary Geography Competition. As

**Patron: H.E. Paul de Jersey
AC, Governor of
Queensland**

President: Mr Leo Scanlan

The Royal Geographical Society
of Queensland Inc
"Gregory House,"
237 Milton Road
Milton Qld 4064

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

part of The Tours and Activities programme in 2014 RGSQ members have ventured to Cape York, The United States, and Hong Kong. A host of day excursions and shorter events complement our longer treks throughout the year and continue to attract past and new participants and draw new members. Tours and Activities are now finalising an exciting programme of events to unfold in 2015.

Leo Scanlan

Lecture – Tues 4 November 7:30pm, “Gregory House”

Ms Mary Anne Barclay

Fly-in-Fly-Out: Challenges for the Exploration and Mining Industries

Mary Anne is a Senior Advisor for Social Enterprise at Centre for Social Responsibility in Mining (CSRSM), University of Queensland. She is particularly interested in the social changes that accompany resource development; especially in the ways that communities, companies and governments respond to rapid growth or contraction in the sector. Her research interests are focused on three main areas:

- Governance and regional development
- Local procurement, and
- Workforce diversity, particularly in relation to FIFO workforces, Indigenous employment and gender issues.

Mary Anne has worked on a range of consulting projects for the major mining companies; providing advice and conducting evaluations of corporate community investment programs and community perceptions surveys. She is the author of a variety of corporate reports and academic publications and is co-author of CSRSM's leading practice guides on Indigenous employment in the Australian minerals industry and Procuring from SME's in local communities.

She will be providing the Society with a presentation on the challenges for the exploration and mining industries with fly-in-fly-out workforce.

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.

There are still a few places available!

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.

Lecture/Meeting, Tues 2 Dec

RGSQ Christmas Party

Where: “Gregory House,”
237 Milton Rd, Milton

Time: 7:30pm

It is getting close to that time of year again. Make sure you have the RGSQ Christmas Party in your diaries.

Trivia

Did you ever realise that the names of all 7 continents begin and end with a vowel?

Of the 7 continents the names of 6 begin and end with A. EuropE is the only name that does not.

THE NORTH WESTERN UNITED STATES TREK

(Part 1)

On 8th September, 2014 20 members of RGSQ took off from Brisbane for Los Angeles, our first port of call in what proved to be a very physical trek to the North Western portion of the United States. After a couple of hours delay in Los Angeles, we boarded our second flight for Seattle in the early afternoon. Prior to landing we were rewarded with a very clear view of the summit of Mount Rainier which was quite visible on the right hand side of the aircraft. Mt. Rainier is the highest point in the Cascade Range and adjacent to Seattle. That evening we enjoyed a very pleasant opener to our trek with a dinner cruise on Lake Washington and the picturesque evening views of Elliott Bay and the lights of Seattle.

Our second day was an excursion to Mount St Helens, The Forest Learning Centre, and the Johnston Observatory. Our first stop was the Forest Learning Centre where we listened to a short lecture from geologist George Sharp. I had seen all of these events presented pictorially in National Geographic, but one has to visit this area to fully appreciate the size and scope of what had transpired when the mountain blew out a whole side back in May 1980. Recovery is slow but many of the plants and trees have once again began to colonise the slopes of Mt. Saint Helens and the surrounding blast area.

The following morning, we took in the Boeing Factory which is situated approximately 25 miles north of Seattle. This assembly plant is a series of massive factory floors with commercial aircraft in various stages of construction. Some sections of these jetliners are manufactured as far away as Japan and even Melbourne and are only married to the rest of the aircraft on arrival at the factory in Seattle. The space and flight technology here on show at The Future of Flight Aviation Centre and on the Boeing Tour is quite outstanding. Although part of our original itinerary, unfortunately we missed visiting the Bavarian village of Leavenworth that afternoon due to a landslide beside the road which forced us to take an

alternative route to Spokane our final stop at the end of day three of our tour.

Next morning, an early start to day four had us board our jet boat on the Snake River for our cruise down Hell's Canyon. This is one of North America's steepest gorges, and offers some of the most spectacular scenery in this part of the world. Our jet boat obviously had a very shallow draught and our skipper was a master at negotiating the various rapids that were encountered along the way. At turnaround point under a perfect blue sky we had a boxed picnic lunch under the plum trees before returning to our mooring around 2pm. We were a little unfortunate in that our bus refused to start on our return from our cruise on the Snake River so we missed our planned stop at the Nez Perce National Historical Park. Engineers from a nearby town were called but after a long wait we were ferried back to Spokane in taxis, arriving at 11pm after a very long day.

Spokane, the National Bison Range and on to Glacier National Park were on the agenda for Friday 12th September. Again we were delayed in the morning while hasty repairs were made to our transport. Finally we moved on around 11am and after passing through Lolo National Forest reached the National Bison Range late in the afternoon. Bison have made a remarkable comeback from near extinction with the help of places like National Bison Range and I must say it is quite exciting to view these huge animals up close – through a fence of course.

Next morning Glacier National Park proved to be, in my opinion, one of the highlights of the whole trip. I had seen mountains much like those in Glacier in Canada a number of years previously but a light and early dusting of autumn snow had really made for spectacular viewing on our morning drive through the park. The aptly named Going-to-the Sun Road cuts through the park and passes through every type of terrain from the lower valleys to alpine tundra at the top of the mountains. Mid morning we did manage to see a couple of Rocky Mountain goats which created some excitement and finally an afternoon cruise on Lake MacDonald was also a very

pleasant experience and a great way to end the day before settling in for the evening at our hotel in Kalispell.

Helena, the capital of Montana, was our next destination where we had an appointment at 5pm on Sunday afternoon to visit the State Capitol Building and the State Legislature for the State of Montana.

On the way we called in to the Museum of the Plains Indian at Browning. While small, this museum does have an interesting collection of models and artefacts from the various Plains Indian tribes. I look forward to seeing various pieces of Indian art that found their way on to the bus at our reunion of Cape York, The North Western United States, and Hong Kong to be held at RGSQ Milton in early February.

After checking in to the Holiday Inn, we were off again to view the crown jewel of the Treasure State, the State Capitol Building. The Lewis and Clark expedition loomed large from an extraordinary painting behind the speaker's chair at the back of the House of Representatives. In introducing a short history in booklet form, the State Governor, Steve Bullock, referred to the State Capitol as an unparalleled museum of Montana art and history. I'm sure all would agree, Steve Palmer, from the Montana Historical Society, our guide through the House, proved to be a wealth of information on both the Capital Building and Montana State history.

Spouting geysers, terraced hot springs, bubbling mud pools and mud pots, featured large in our next destination Yellowstone National Park. Yellowstone National Park was to be declared the world's first national park. 'Old Faithful', Yellowstone Canyon, formed part of our agenda while elk and buffalo were seen in the distance as we drove through. Unfortunately, bears and moose proved to be particularly elusive.

We spent the next two night in Cody, Wyoming which has a deep connection with the old west tradition and Buffalo Bill's legacy. Day nine saw us once again passing through Yellowstone on our way to an all too short visit south of Yellowstone to view the Grand

Teton range. Like elsewhere on this tour cameras were working overtime to capture the rich panorama of serene lake front with 13,000+ snow dusted peaks in the background. Grand Teton National Park is almost an extension of Yellowstone. This whole area has some remarkable physical geography. Every day was full of new vistas and discovery, and this evening although we arrived in rather late, we enjoyed dinner at the Cody Cattle Company.

Leo Scanlan

To be continued in next Bulletin.

Brisbane GIS Day

Explore your world with spatial technology. Geographic Information Systems (GIS) is a computer system used to store, analyse and display geographical data.

GIS Day was started in 1999 by ESRI, a GIS software company. The purpose of GIS Day is to provide users of GIS technology a forum to demonstrate real-world applications of the technology. On display will be organisations associated with mapping, satellite imagery, Global Positioning Systems (GPS), and surveying.

When: Wednesday 19th November

Time: 9am – 4pm – drop in

Where: QUT, Gardens Point Campus, Brisbane City.

For further information visit: <http://www.gisday.com.au/>

My Local Geography

Is there something of geographic interest where you live? Is there a place in Queensland you would like to share? We would like to hear about it.

Articles are welcome for the Society's Bulletin. Email your article to info@rgsq.org.au.

Upcoming Bulletin deadlines:

December – Thursday 13th Nov.

February – Friday 2nd Jan 2015

March – Friday 13th

Milton

190 years ago during October 1824, John Oxley and his party, which included Alan Cunningham revisited Moreton Bay following Oxley's 1823 discovery of the Brisbane River. The task at hand was to better explore the river and identify a suitable place to relocate the Redcliff Point settlement. T. C. Truman in the Courier Mail, 3 and 6 May 1950

(<http://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper?q=>) describes how by using an old map and Oxley diaries, he was able to ascertain the place where Oxley's expedition party landed to investigate a location for the new settlement. This was along the river banks of what is now Milton.

In November 1824, Oxley returned with Sir Thomas Brisbane, The New South Wales Governor, Sir Francis Forbes, The Chief Justice, and Captain John McArthur to select the site from the present North Quay to the end of William Street. It was originally named "Edenglassie" and later changed to Brisbane.

By 1862, the Colony of Queensland's Surveyor General Augustus Charles Gregory, who would later become foundation President of the Royal Geographical Society of Queensland, built his residence, "Rainworth" not far from where John Oxley had traversed thirty-eight years previously.

In 1877, Milton Railway station was opened. This resulted in more intensive development of the area.

Over the last 137 years some things have not changed. Milton's proximity to the Brisbane CBD has no doubt influenced the current developments such as the apartment block being built next to Milton Railway Station. With the current construction of the City Cat Milton Terminal on the Brisbane River, public transport is again likely to play a part in the future development of the area.

B Fitzpatrick

RGSQ Bulletin

November 2014

Lecture Meeting, Tues 4 November 7:30pm
Mary-Anne Barclay, *Fly-In-Fly-Out.: Challenges for the Exploration and Mining Industries.*

Trek: 5-12 November. Overseas Trek – Hong Kong

Activity, Tuesday 18 November - Queensland State Archives Tour

Lecture Meeting, Tues 2 December 7:30pm
Christmas Party

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

POSTAGE
PAID
AUSTRALIA