



# RGSQ Bulletin

April 2015

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Patron: H.E. Paul de Jersey AC, Governor of Queensland  
President: Mr Leo Scanlan

## In this issue

- Lecture meeting: April 7 – Soldier settlements of the Granite Belt
- Activity: 22 April – Hiking the Himalayas
- Trek – April 27 – May 7 The Warrumbungles

## From the President

March 2015 was off to a good start with our monthly lecture, *'Mapping Queensland in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century'*, by Steven Jacoby. Inspired by the natural disasters in 2011, developments in mapping have placed Queensland as the trailblazer of Australian states in new digital mapping technology. While at this time I don't wish to delve too deeply, I would invite all those who missed Steven's presentation on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March to explore the endless opportunities offered by our own Queensland State Department of Natural Resources and Mines' creation, Globe4G20 mobile application. The display via multiple overlays of our State is truly 21<sup>st</sup> century technology at its best. [tiq.qld.gov.au/g20/queensland-globe-for-g20/](http://tiq.qld.gov.au/g20/queensland-globe-for-g20/)

Around this time every month, I'm continually trawling newspapers, periodicals, magazines, and, in fact, any news that might have some significant geographical content worth mentioning in the next *'RGSQ Bulletin'*. This month was certainly no exception with a wealth of information to draw from.

Geographical comment: **Cyclones:** Unfortunately, disasters once again figured quite prominently over these past couple of weeks. The Australian Government Bureau of Meteorology

Tropical Cyclone Warning Centre in Brisbane is currently tracking Tropical Cyclone Nathan in the Coral Sea and some models suggest there is every possibility this cyclone could track towards the Queensland Coast later in the week.

North and Central Queensland have recently experienced a deluge of rain accompanied by destructive winds, and our Pacific neighbour Vanuatu, has been completely devastated by Cyclone Pam. Aid from Australia, New Caledonia, New Zealand, and Britain has now begun to arrive.

The destruction was characterised by winds of 270 kilometres per hour, sea surges of up to eight metres, widespread flooding, houses blown away and an untold number of deaths so far. The Queensland's Premier has offered electricity power crews to assist in restoring power to the devastated area. The scene from the air was described as catastrophic with the economic cost of the devastation to this small nation of 260,000 people, 2000 kilometres east of Brisbane, running into millions of dollars.

Many RGSQ members will have fond memories of the people and places after having travelled to these beautiful Pacific Islands for holidays. I'm equally sure, where possible, assistance will be offered along with our goodwill and hope for a speedy reconstruction and recovery.

Further north the storm also hit Kiribati and Tuvalu with equally devastating impact. Such destruction once again highlights the importance geography plays in weather forecasting, in disaster management, in emergency response, aviation, GPS technology, reconstruction, and employing

economic geography in planning the road to recovery.

**Koalas:** A little over 12 months ago, RGSQ hosted Deborah Tabart, Chief Executive Officer of the Australian Koala Foundation, to deliver our monthly lecture. I'm sure we all realised the importance the koala plays in Australian tourism. It is estimated the koala generates approximately \$2 billion dollars annually into the Australian economy.

Following the completion of the G20 summit in Brisbane, a BBC journalist coined the phrase, 'Koala Diplomacy'. On such auspicious occasions, our politicians are forever ready to introduce a couple of koalas to our esteemed visitors. President Obama was photographed with a koala on his visit to Brisbane.

Do these lovable little creatures have a future without Australian Government protection? The koala was not listed as endangered by the previous Australian Government and now it seems, our current Australian Government is not inclined that way either.

Recently the Victorian Government conducted a quite significant Koala cull at Cape Otway. I certainly don't have all the answers, but the culling of 700 koalas because of 'overpopulation issues' seems a little extreme to me.

I suspect more science and more government intervention is necessary if we are to save the koala. If you would like to add your comment and send it along to The Federal Environment Minister log on to ([akf@savethekoala.com](mailto:akf@savethekoala.com)).

**Lighthouse fascination:** Whenever I see a lighthouse, I take a

photograph whether here in Australia or overseas. Without thinking I'm drawn to photograph these life saving monuments. Over the past month I've come across two articles in local media that I would like to draw to your attention. The first was in the Weekend Australian on February 14-15 entitled '*Lighthouse that shone a beam on history may be extinguished*', and the second story was from the Weekend Australian Travel and Indulgence section on the same weekend entitled '*Sunny side up at South Head*'.

'Sunny side up at South Head' indicates Macquarie Light Station was Australia's first lighthouse and opened on November 30, 1818. Francis Greenway apparently did such a good job with the design he was granted a conditional pardon by Governor Lachlan Macquarie. Since 1976 Macquarie Light Station has been fully automated, a lighthouse keeper no longer in residence. The lighthouse mentioned in this story is much closer to home at the end of Old South Head Road in Sydney's Watson's Bay. Perhaps we are all missing out by not planning one of our RGSQ trips to view the lighthouse and many of the other colonial relics so easily accessible in Sydney.

The second lighthouse is The Deal Island Lighthouse, first opened in 1848 and most definitely it lit the way for generations of new settlers heading for the east coast of Australia. Volunteers with the 'Friends of Deal Island' fear that without urgent attention this sentinel between Flinders Island and Wilson's Promontory may be deemed unsafe without some urgent attention and an injection of \$500,000 in rescue funding. I suspect most of us will never see Deal Island lighthouse which stands 320 metres above sea level, while the lighthouse itself is only 20 metres tall.

The Deal Island lighthouse was there to guide all of the early Australian settlers through Bass Strait on their ships. Supported by Tasmania's Parks and Wildlife Service, volunteers live on the island for three month stints to try to slow the decline of this geographic and historically significant beacon of early Australian history.

I will post both of these interesting stories related to our early European Australian history on the RGSQ noticeboard – I hope you find them of interest.

*Leo Scanlan*

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## Lecture Meeting – Tues 7 April, 2015

### Soldier Settlements of the Granite Belt

by Lorene Long

**Where:** "Gregory House,"  
237 Milton Rd, Milton.

**Time:** 7:30 p.m.

Born and educated in Stanthorpe, Lorene has a business background, working with design of training, and/or engineering professions and consultancies.

When Lorene's father had a stroke, she moved back to Stanthorpe to support her parents in their retirement, and purchased a property.

Her involvement with the Stanthorpe Museum has resulted in a passion for the recording of accurate history and salvaging and displaying as many relevant items as can be found.

Lorene is the author of the book, "*Soldier settlers of the granite belt: the Pikedale Solider Settlement Scheme.*"

Lorene will present the sequence of how the soldier settlement in the Granite Belt evolved. The great number of government departments, committees, the bureaucrats and advisors involved shows the huge effort put into creating and operating this scheme.

Lorene will explore the challenges faced by the soldier settlers, locals and government during and after the settlement scheme.

In 1937 a Royal Commission was being called for... but there appears to have been no resolution. With the expertise of the politicians in delaying the issue, eventually it seems the beginning of WWII in 1939 may have diverted attention from the plight of the remaining 25 settlers.

How any family survived and succeeded is almost a miracle. These men and women had

to be hard working, resourceful, and above all have the ability to withstand all the setbacks. Only a few people would have the spirit to keep their goal in sight and stay positive for so many years. A sense of humour must have been essential.

These settlers exhibited the true Aussie Spirit!!

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## Treasures in Your Library (1)

The RGSQ Library is growing daily, with donated material to be assessed for accession. That's a process in which members can help. Why not browse the Library next time you have a spare minute (!) and offer your views about these interesting items?

The pile of material from Melva Hobson is especially interesting and diverse. I was fascinated to find a series of Journals in the **Map Collectors' Circle** series. There are ten issues, written by R.V.Tooley, famous for curating the historical maps of Australia in the National Library. The descriptions are accompanied by excellent reproductions of the most significant maps.

No. 5 in the series concerns The Printed Maps of Tasmania. Here are early charts of Circular Head and Hobart, and the voyages of Freycinet and Furneaux, and Tallis's illustrated map of the island.

No 12 – One Hundred Foreign Maps of Australia 1773-1887, remarkable for the rush to publication of maps showing Cook's discoveries, and charts of navigators' tracks in the SW Pacific.

No. 23 – The Dutch Period (great cartography!). No 44 – The Printed Maps of New South Wales, including pre-Separation Queensland, with Cook's charts of Endeavour River, and Mitchell's beautifully hachured Map of the Colony 1834.

In No. 60 – Printed Maps of Australia, Arrowsmith's 1848 map shows the new Counties 'which will be ready for Proclamation before the end of the year' – including Stanley, on Moreton Bay.

The journals are a fascinating collection of early maps of Australia, with authoritative text by the master antiquarian.

*Les Isdale*

## NOTICE OF A SPECIAL MEETING

**Where:** "Gregory House,"  
237 Milton Rd, Milton.

**When:** Tuesday, 5 May, 2015

**Time:** 6:30 p.m.

A Special Meeting of the Royal Geographical Society will be held at 6.30pm on Tuesday, 5 May, 2015, at Gregory House, to present the Strategic Plan 2015 - 2019 to members.

The aims of the Special Meeting are:

- To give a presentation on the role, function and purpose of the Strategic Plan.
- To seek the engagement of members on the Strategic Plan's implementation during its first year of 2015.

Immediately following the Special Meeting, the normal monthly lecture will take place at 7.30pm.

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## STRATEGIC PLAN 2015 – 2019

Over the past 6 months the Council of the Royal Geographical Society of Queensland has been working upon the formulation of a Strategic Plan to carry the Society forward in coming years. In March, 2015, the Council adopted the Strategic Plan 2015 – 2019 and a copy of it is attached to this Bulletin to inform members.

### Why have a Strategic Plan?

There are a number of reasons:

- **A generational change in the operations of the Society:** This is most evident at the officer level, with new staff running the Society's office. They need to know what the Society stands for and what it wants to do, in order to be more effective at helping members run the Society. Also, there are newer members helping run the Society at both Council and general volunteer levels. They too need to know what the Society is about.
- **Technological change:** The Society has significantly updated its use and application of computers. Better computer technologies open up avenues the Society could not previously pursue under manual systems of operations. A Strategic Plan and its associated Implementation Tasks per annum, can help members and officers take full advantage of these new opportunities.

- **A changing financial world:** Since the GFC, the Society's long term sources of revenue (investments and property income) are no longer as lucrative as in the past. Hence, the availability of ready finances to fund the Society's projects and activities has changed, requiring more rigorous assessment of what can now be undertaken. A Strategic Plan provides a framework of priorities which can be implemented over time.

- **Access to public and private funding sources:** Increasingly, volunteer organisations seeking public or private funding, have to demonstrate they have a plan for their future. A Strategic Plan provides this basic requirement and the Society may now have better access to public and private funding bodies, regarding funding specific projects and programs.

### What Does the Strategic Plan Contain?

- **Statements of Intent:** These are a number of statements emphasizing what the Society is about and what it stands for, specifically in relation to Geography, and how, via the **Vision, Mission** and **Strategies**, the Society intends to achieve certain goals.

The **Strategic Objectives** or goals cover the following:

- Engaging people in geography
- Enhancing membership
- Knowledge and understanding
- Growing our reputation, and
- Securing the future.

- **Implementation:** There are a number of Tasks to be implemented on an annual basis to achieve the strategic objectives or goals. In this first year of the Strategic Plan, the Tasks to be achieved during 2015 are highlighted. As each year passes, new Tasks will be identified and incorporated into the Strategic Plan for implementation. Every year, a Progress Report will be made to the Society's Annual General Meeting on the implementation of Tasks. It is also proposed that at the beginning of each year, the Council selects new Tasks to be implemented in the coming year and inform members via the Bulletin.

*Bob Abnett*  
*Strategy Implementation Committee*

## Members working for Members

Over the coming issues of the Bulletin it is Council's intention to inform members of the activities of your Committee Structure and how many volunteers within our organisation help keep our Society together and achieve what would otherwise be unachievable. I will set the ball rolling by explaining the Tours and Activities Committee role in organising various events. Later on all the chairs of the other committees will explain their roles within our Society.

## THE TOURS AND ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE

I have a very able committee consisting of Graham and Kay Rees, Janette Lamont, Audrey Johnston, Brian McGrath, John McWatters, Russell and Cheryl Saunders, and John Nowill. Many of you enjoy our day excursions as part of our Society's normal social calendar. Last month we held our second evening of Treks Revisited where 12 people contributed to what was an exceptional social gathering and promotional evening for our Society. 70 people attended on the night.

Today, March 4th, I sincerely thank John McWatters for a job well done in organising our trip to the Military Intelligence Museum at Canungra. This exercise was far more geographical than I could have imagined. After a very interesting visit we finished this excursion with a hearty lunch at 'The Outpost' in Canungra's main street.

Russell and Cheryl Saunders did a great job in mid-2014 in putting together our last Cape York expedition. Kay and Graham Rees are still busy putting the finishing touches on what should be a great excursion to Kangaroo Island in South Australia due to take place in October. Brian McGrath has recently ventured down to the Warrumbungles to reconnoitre our coming trek to this exceptional national park in New South Wales. Now that's determination in organising and getting it right!

Tonight I have just finished an advertisement for the LARC excursion to Caloundra in May, Frank Birchall is working on the day trip to the Robotic Dairies in June,

Brian McGrath on the trip to Wellcamp Airport in Toowoomba in July, Audrey Johnston a dinner talk on Scotland in August, John McWatters our Society's excursion on the Coomera River in August, and I'm still working on the Sri Lanka arrangements, and Jeanette Lamont is putting together a day excursion in September.

Looking further ahead, I am already working on Africa and Madagascar for April 2016, and Frank is working on another single city tour to Singapore in the second half of 2016.

Around July our committee will meet again to discuss another series of events to fill in the rest of our calendar for 2016. These events don't just happen – they require lots and lots of phone calls, commitment, reconnaissance, patience, advertising, and general organisational ability. All are capably put together by the person who puts their hand up to do the job.

Next month we will follow with a report from Chris Spriggs, RGSQ Secretary, which will clarify another aspect of our Society's activities.

*Leo Scanlan*

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## RGSQ SRI LANKA 2015

**When:** Sat 5 September departing

**Cost:** To be advised

You probably haven't thought of Sri Lanka as a destination where you might see leopards so why not come with The Royal Geographical Society of Queensland in September of 2015 to exotic Sri Lanka? Yala National Park is one of the highlights with one of the highest concentrations of leopards anywhere in the world. If that's not enough, Yala is the habitat of 215 bird species, a resident elephant herd of approximately 300-350, Sri Lankan sloth bears, and water buffalo. All 5 globally endangered sea turtles varieties also visit the park and it is home to two species of Sri Lankan crocodiles. Other National Parks also beckon.

It's not only the national parks. Sri Lanka is brim full of history and culture; Sigiriya Rock Fortress, King Kasyapa's citadel is a step back in time and one of the finest examples of Sri Lankan arts and culture. A tour of Polonnaruwa: once a medieval capital, with Buddha and Hindu

sculptures, and examples of ancient irrigation canals. Kandy: the last royal capital of Sri Lankan kings, and, of course, the Temple of the Sacred Tooth relic of Lord Buddha, and more.

This tour to Sri Lanka is 14 Days/13 nights flying Singapore Airlines. It departs Australia on Saturday, September 05, 2015, and arrives back in Australia on Monday, September 19.

Sound interesting? It's full of culture, wildlife, and excitement so if you're at all interested in coming along with a group of like-minded people, phone **Leo Scanlan at home on 3343 4398** for further information and register your interest. Participants will be registered on a first come basis and numbers will be limited.

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## Volunteers Please

### Australian Geography Competition

A few more volunteers to assist with sorting and **scanning of the Answer sheets** would be appreciated. This will occur between **Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> April and Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> April**. Most of the work will be required the week commencing Monday 13<sup>th</sup> April. It is difficult to know on which days help is required during the week starting Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> April as it will depend on when and how many Answer sheets are returned each day.

We also need some more helpers for the final Competition working bee to sort and send the **results and certificates** which is scheduled for **Tuesday 19 to Thursday 21 May**.

Please ring Bernard in the office (3368 2066) if you can help.

Your help with the Australian Geography Competition is greatly appreciated.

In early March, over three days, Society members helped count, pack and dispatch over 152,000 Question booklets and Answer sheets, which together weighed over 4 tonnes. Thank you to members who helped: Mary Comer, James Hansen, Audrey Johnston, Margaret McIvor, Mary and John Nowill, Annette and Gerry O'Sullivan, Kay and Graham Rees, Sue Reid, and Chris Spriggs. Thank you also to those who placed themselves on the list for Friday but were not required.

## PUMICESTONE PASSAGE LARC EXCURSION

**When:** Wednesday 13 May

**Time:** 9:30 am

**Where:** Short Street, Golden Beach Queensland

**Cost:** \$50 per person

**RSVP:** Friday May 1.

How about coming along for a great day out with RGSQ once again on May 13<sup>th</sup> for a unique look into Pumicestone Passage on the North Western side of Bribie Island.

This 2 hour excursion delves into the history and the flora and fauna at the southern end of the Sunshine Coast. This part of Pumicestone Passage abounds with over 350 species of Migratory and regional birds, and varied marine life including an occasional dugong, dolphin and turtles.

All this from the deck of a living piece of history the LARC V which was originally build in the 1960's. Other than the custom passenger deck this LARC has been kept in as original condition as possible. This is a great opportunity to see a small part of the northern Pumicestone Passage from a different perspective.

This tour lasts approximately 2 hours. Cost of this excursion is \$50 payable to the office at RGSQ before the event. Numbers are limited. Bookings need to be finalised by Friday May 1<sup>st</sup> to facilitate bookings for the tour.

### DIRECTIONS

Driving into Caloundra on Caloundra Road/Bulcock Street

- at the main traffic lights out front of Stockland Shopping Centre turn Right from Caloundra Road/Bulcock street on to Landsborough Parade
  - Proceed about 500m then just after the pedestrian crossing
  - Turn Left from Landsborough Parade into Short Street
  - Follow the road about 200m to the boat ramp
  - You are at your destination LARC
- ABOUT TOURS

Following this 2 hour excursion we will move on to the Caloundra RSL for an enjoyable lunch (own cost). Wednesday's are always good in Caloundra because I'm told the

entertainment is special at lunchtime.

Following lunch, the Caloundra RSL have a small militaria museum which is open on Wednesdays until 2pm.

I will be there to meet you at the boat ramp --- Leo Scanlan



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## The Warrumbungles Trek

**When:** April 27 to May 7

**Cost:** \$25 per person

The first of two treks planned for the mainland this year will commence on Monday April 27 and return to Brisbane on Thursday May 7. Travelling through rich cotton and grain farming country and the timber industry areas of the Pilliga, the major destination will be the Warrumbungle National Park, but the trek will include visits to the towns of Moree, Narrabri, Coonabarabran and Baradine and to the Mt Kaputar National Park, and the Forest/Conservation areas and Timallallie National Park in the Pilliga area.

The Warrumbungle National Park was burned out in a major bushfire in January 2013 and this is an excellent time to visit to see both the regenerating of the bush and the vistas opened up by the still charred trunks of the larger trees.

We will meet in Moree on the afternoon of April 27 and visit Mt Kaputar National Park on the Tuesday and Wednesday. On the Thursday we will be taken on an aboriginal guided walk to the sacred Sandstones Caves and visit the famous Pilliga pottery en route to Coonabarabran and the Warrumbungles where we will stay from Thursday afternoon to Monday morning. We will then travel to Baradine for a two-night stay, visiting the aboriginal sites at Dandry Gorge and see the recently installed Sculptures in the Gorge. On Wednesday we will visit the historic Woolleybah sawmill and the artesian bore pool in Pilliga en route to Moree for our last night. Trekkers may return to Brisbane on the Thursday,

or go off on their own further adventures.

This is basically a camping trek, but cabin accommodation is available for all sites. Some of the route is on maintained unpaved roads, but 4WD is not necessary.

The registration fee for members of RGSQ for this Trek is \$25 per person, which will cover the costs of the aboriginal guide, the station owner at Woolleybah and office administration costs.

Registrants for this trek must make and pay for their own camp sites, cabin costs or the like. **May is the start of the peak tourist season in this area, so early booking is advised.** A complete list of the camp sites, details of their location and contact details are available on request from the office or from

Brian McGrath, tel 07 3378 5960 or email [brian.mcgrath@bigpond.com](mailto:brian.mcgrath@bigpond.com)

Registrants will be provided with a detailed itinerary for the trek, which promises to be a most interesting, enjoyable and educational "geography on the ground" event.

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## Adelaide & Kangaroo Island Trek

**What:** 7 nights in Adelaide & 9 nights on Kangaroo Island

**When:** Fri 9 – Mon 26 Oct

**Cost:** \$40 per person payable to the RGSQ Office.

**RSVP:** 31 May 2015

Numbers are limited. Several members have already booked their ferry and accommodation, so places are filling fast.

Most activities on this trek are optional and user pays at the time, including a special bus tour if there is enough interest.

Trek notes and detailed itinerary covering activities and likely costs will be available in June.

For any further information contact Kay Rees - [kayrees@gmail.com](mailto:kayrees@gmail.com) or the RGSQ Office.



## Hiking the Himalayas

**What:** nibbles and drinks, a light lunch and adventures in Nepal

**When:** Wednesday, 22<sup>nd</sup> April

**Time:** 10:30 am for 10:45am

**Where:** "Gregory House," 237 Milton Road, Milton

**Cost:** \$20.00 to be paid by 14<sup>th</sup> April.

**RSVP:** Book and pay with the office, Phone 3368 2066.

Visitors welcome but numbers are limited for catering.

As a girl who had seen many summers (and as many winters) I had often thought of going trekking in Nepal and realised that the time was approaching when it could be "now or never." So I booked a trek – in winter.

This was almost 30 years ago yet I still remember the excitement and the exhilaration and ... the apprehension. Could I? I could!!! One of the oldest, I was never the last.

Nepal is a fascinating country, its scenery magnificent – from the jagged snow-capped Himalayas, tumbling rivers, tiny streams tumbling over rocky beds, forests, cultivation, rice terraces marching up and down hillsides, goat trains, isolated cottages, tiny villages, towns and cities, 1,000s of temples and friendly people. And ... very cold nights.

More activities than trekking, too – you'll have to attend to find out what other adventures we enjoyed.

Look forward to seeing you.

*Audrey Johnston.*

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## Geography Trivia

Queensland's highest mountain, Chooreechillum has an elevation of 1,622 metres. It is better known by its European name, Mount Bartle Frere. It was given its European name by George Elphinstone in 1873 after Sir Henry Bartle Frere, President of the Royal Geographical Society, London 1873-74.

# RGSQ Bulletin

April 2015

**Lecture/Meeting:** Tues 7 April 7:30pm  
Soldier Settlements of the Granite Belt,  
Lorene Long

**Activity:** Wed 22 April, Lunch time - Hiking the Himalayas.

**Volunteer days:** Australian Geography Competition, 7 – 23 April and 19-21 May.

**Lecture/Meeting:** Tues 5 May 7:30pm  
Queensland's megafauna extinction,  
Dr Gilbert Price

**Trek:** , April 27 to May 7, The Warrumbungles.

**Activity:** Wed 13 May, Pumicestone Passage LARC Excursion.

**Trek:** 9 – 26 October, Adelaide and Kangaroo Island,

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

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