



# RGSQ Bulletin

September 2016

ISSN 1832-8830

Vol 51 no 8

Published by The Royal Geographical Society of Queensland Inc., a not-for-profit organisation established in 1885 that promotes the study of geography and encourages a greater understanding and enjoyment of the world around us.

Patron: [H.E. Paul de Jersey AC, Governor of Queensland](#)

President: [Mr Leo Scanlan](#)

## From the President

### BRIAN McGRATH

On Tuesday, the 16<sup>th</sup> of August, many RGSQ members made their way in silence to the Holy Family Catholic Church in Indooroopilly to attend Brian McGrath's Requiem Mass. A Society member since 1983, many members will have fond memories of Brian along with Heather bringing geography alive on the many trips and activities he organised and participated in over the last two decades. Only on Thursday, June 23, Brian led the Society's Engineering Heritage Walk which he had organised. Brian will be sadly missed. We extend our sympathy to Heather, Brian's three children and his six grandchildren.

### GEOFFREY BILLING

Geoff passed away in Warwick on the 31st of July 2016. His funeral was held at Warwick Funerals Chapel on Friday, the 5th of August 2016. Geoff is survived by his wife Shirley, two children and six grandchildren who we extend our sympathy to.

### JUMPERS AND JAZZ

Our recent weekend excursion to Warwick for the 'Jumpers and Jazz' Festival was a great event. It may be something we can repeat in future years. The whole of Warwick was abuzz with knitted decorations. The caravan park was a comfortable place to stay in, and the entertainment at the various hotels, the RSL, and elsewhere was great, with all events clustered within a couple of kilometres around the centre of Warwick. I'd like to thank John McWatters for coming up with this idea as it has proved to be a very enjoyable weekend.

### THANK YOU

RGSQ is due to elect a new President at the 2016 AGM on September the 20<sup>th</sup> and this will be my last 'From the President' page. Our Society will usher in a new Council and I would like to offer my thanks to all outgoing Council members and welcome any new ones. I would, particularly, like to thank retiring Councillor/Secretary Roger Grimley for his extremely valuable contribution to the ongoing restructuring and administration of our Society. I would also like to thank all RGSQ members for their cooperation, volunteering, and support for RGSQ activities over these past two years.

### POND-TO-PLATE

Many thanks to Jeanette Lamont for organising this month's outing to Cherax Park Aquaculture Farm north of Gympie, the largest of its kind in South East Queensland. Peter Moore, one of the owners, provided an interesting account of the 'from-pond-to-plate' process as we walked around the Redclaw breeding ponds. This was followed by an equally informative session on the Redclaw breeding process right through to harvesting and packing for delivery to restaurants. This was topped by a three-course meal, which included, of course, Redclaw prepared by Ethel, Peter's wife.

With a couple more day excursions organised for later this year, I would like to invite new members, in particular, for this very social aspect of our Society's activities.

### LARC EXCURSION TO CALOUNDRA

Please see advert on page 3 of the Bulletin. At the request of LARC operators we have brought the date of the excursion forward to the 2<sup>nd</sup> of November. Apologies for any inconvenience.

### CANBERRA

I would like to mention, once again, booking for our 2017 trek - 'Canberra, 10 Days in the Nation's Capital', commencing on Friday, March 10, 2017 and encourage members who'd like to join the RGSQ in Canberra for the Balloon Spectacular to contact the Alivio Tourist Park and Motel in O'Connor, Canberra – details, dates, etc. on page 4 of the Bulletin. **Leo Scanlan**

### RGSQ MEMBERS' QUESTIONNAIRE – Current and Future Society Activities and Direction

In late August, all RGSQ members were sent either a hard copy or a link to the digital version of the Questionnaire. Response has been steady in the first few days and I would like to thank all members who have already completed and submitted the Questionnaire. This invaluable feedback will be included in the review of the strategic plan. It will also tell us what we should be focusing on and how we can make exploring and discovering the geography of the world enjoyable for our members. If you have not yet completed the survey, it can be accessed here: [https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/RGSQ\\_Programs\\_and\\_Future\\_Directions\\_Questionnaire](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/RGSQ_Programs_and_Future_Directions_Questionnaire); responses are required by September 11 for the online version and September 9 for the hard copy version. Thank you.

**Bernard Fitzpatrick**

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**Meeting/Lecture**  
**Tuesday, September 6, 2016**

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

**Time:** 7:30 pm

**"Biosecurity Queensland"**

presented by Dr Jim Thompson

Chief Biosecurity Officer, Biosecurity Queensland

Biosecurity continues to be a high priority issue for all countries. Australia has a unique advantage with its geographical location and its relative freedom from many pest and diseases. However increased global trade and passenger movement, climate changes and the emergence of previously unknown pests present an increasing risk to Australia's agriculture, the environment and our way of life. Queensland is now the frontline state in Australia for the emergence of many of these pests and diseases.

In this presentation, Jim will look at the biosecurity issues facing Queensland and Australia and reflect on the future roles of government, industry and the community in tackling these challenges.

Since 2011, Jim has led the State's efforts in the management of animal and plant pests and diseases, invasive species, animal welfare and agricultural chemical use. He is the Queensland Government's representative on the National Biosecurity Committee and chairs a number of national committees and boards, including the Taskforce implementing the Intergovernmental Agreement on Biosecurity.

Jim worked in the New South Wales Department of Agriculture in the northern tablelands before coming to Queensland in 1992. Jim has worked in various government agencies in Queensland (in several areas, including agriculture, natural resources and mines, and the environment) and in New South Wales in research, policy and management roles.

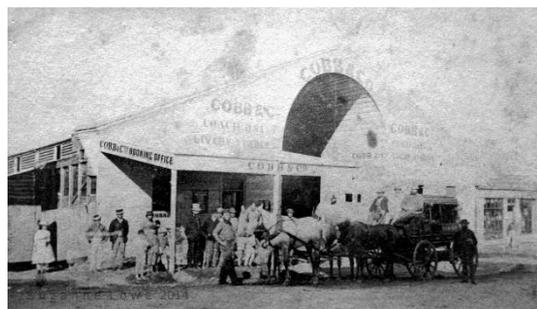
Jim Thompson obtained a B.Sc (Hons) in Zoology, a Master of Resource Science (pest animal management and control) and a PhD (animal management and conservation).

Jim has a strong commitment to deliver effective, customer focused biosecurity services for Queensland that are consistent with the national biosecurity framework.

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**Synopsis August Lecture: 'Cobb and Co comes to Queensland' presented by Jeff Powell**



Brisbane office and stables 1866, courtesy of Jeff Powell.

Despite the title of "Cobb and Co comes to Queensland" the interesting lecture presented by Jeff Powell at the August meeting was far more comprehensive. Jeff is the Curator of the Cobb and Co Branch of the Queensland Museum in Toowoomba. He is an enthusiastic and very well informed fount of information about the entire history of the network.

It began in Victoria in the mid-19th century when four young men saw the business opportunity the wealthy southern state offered. Freeman Cobb, John Murray Peck, James Scanlon, (note the spelling NOT Scanlan like our President) and James A Lambert were all in their twenties. Enthusiastic and energetic, they were capable of driving the coaches if the need arose. They had to gather huge resources as the teams of horses needed to be changed every couple of hours.

The network linked stables which also offered accommodation to the travelers. Though expensive, it was not a comfortable way to travel on rough roads which often barely existed. The passengers sat outside the mail coach and were exposed to the weather as well as the dust.

The leather straps allowed a pitching motion which made me feel queasy as Jeff described it. On some routes, in some weather, rains made progress slow and muddy. The prevalence of bushrangers added to the risks faced by the mail coaches.

Most of Queensland's population lived on the coastal fringe but gold exploration opened up the interior, despite the rigorous conditions experienced by the Coach Company.

They also opened up in New Zealand which was considered more accessible than WA.

The lecture by Jeff Powell has stimulated my interest in returning to the Toowoomba Museum with more understanding of the importance played by the Cobb and Co network. I will pay particular attention to the suspension of the coaches now he has pointed out how uncomfortable they would have been to travel in/on.

It is 150 years since Cobb and Co came to Queensland so this was a most appropriate lecture to offer in 2016.

**Sue Reid, RGSQ Member**

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**September Activity: Cruising (some of) Europe**

**What:** Nibbles and drinks, a 3-course meal and a presentation on a river cruise

**When:** Friday, September 30

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

**Time:** 6:00 pm for 6.30 pm start

**Cost:** \$37.50 per person

**Book and Pay:** please contact RGSQ Office at 07 3368 2066, by Tuesday, September 13

Friends are welcome!

**Note:** Please order your main course when booking: beef or pork.

Castles, cathedrals, monasteries, bridges, ruins, magnificent architecture - some buildings or even districts heritage or UNESCO listed, windmills,

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spectacular scenery, thousands of kilometres of grape vines in fruit (for wine making) crawling along river flats or clinging precariously up steep rocky cliffs, tiny villages, much manufacturing along the riverbanks, huge cities, coach travel, much guided walking, many locks - one rising or falling 42 metres, cobbled streets, many, many photos!!! 1800 'wet' km and how many??? 'leg' km!!!

All this and much more cruising from Amsterdam to Budapest the Rivers Rhine, Main & Danube & the Main Canal.

History, Geography, Geology and more.

Look forward to seeing you.

**Audrey Johnston**

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### **October Activity Day Outing - Robotic Dairy**

**When:** Tuesday, October 18

**Time:** 10:00 am

**Where:** Robotic Dairy, Tamrookum, via Beaudesert

**Cost:** \$25 members, \$28 non-members

**RSVP:** Tuesday, October 4

If you have not been to the Robotic Dairy before please consider joining us on our half day Trek in October. The cost includes morning tea provided by the family at Tamrookum.

Fascinating, expert and informed presentation about a different type of dairy farming. The cows decide when they want to be milked. If you have an interest in applied technology, modern "green" farming, or even family history of farming, we can promise you a great day!! It gives new meaning to "People and Place".

We did it before and it was a great day. It is a self-drive, so plan to car pool with your friends. We will probably be going back to the Beaudesert Hotel for lunch and perhaps a refreshment compliments of the RGSQ.

THIS IS A WORKING FARM, NOT A TOURIST ATTRACTION. You can only go there as part of a pre booked group. Remember it is a farm, so shoes may be soiled and shiny cars made not so shiny. But it is a great day!! **Frank Birchall**

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### **November Activity**

#### **PUMICESTONE PASSAGE LARC EXCURSION**

**When:** Wednesday, November 2

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

**Cost:** \$75 per person

**RSVP:** Wednesday, October 19

How about coming along for a great day out with RGSQ once again on November 2 for a unique look into Pumicestone Passage on the North Western side of Bribie Island.

This 2 hour excursion delves into the history, flora and fauna at the southern end of the Sunshine Coast. This part of the Pumicestone Passage abounds with over 350

species of migratory and regional birds, and varied marine life including the occasional dugong, dolphin and turtle.

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 the original condition as much 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 for this excursion is \$75 payable to the RGSQ Office before the event. Numbers are limited. Bookings need to be finalised by Wednesday, the 19<sup>th</sup> of October, to facilitate numbers for the tour.

The LARC operators have promised this eco excursion will be slightly different to the one presented last year.

This tour will finish at the Caloundra Power Boat Club where we have organised lunch (12:30 pm), included in the cost of the activity. The lunch menu at the Power Boat Club is a choice of Roast of the Day or Crumbed Fish, chips, and salad, followed by Pavlova and Fruit Salad. Tea and coffee is an extra at your own expense.

At the completion of lunch at 2pm we will be ferried by the Power Boat Club Courtesy Bus to our car park in Short Street.

At 2:30 pm I have organised a further tour in Caloundra at the Queensland Air Museum, 7 Pathfinder Drive Caloundra West. This tour will cost an extra \$10 and is not included in the overall cost. The tour will last approximately one hour. However I do need definitive numbers to proceed with the last part of this excursion.

This promises to be quite an eye opener as this Aircraft Museum is now the largest of its type in Australia and has 70 aircraft on display.

#### **Directions**

- Drive into Caloundra on Caloundra Road/Bulcock Street;
- Turn right at the main traffic lights out the front of Stockland Shopping Centre into Landsborough Parade;
- Proceed along Landsborough Parade about 500 m then, just after the pedestrian crossing;
- Turn left from Landsborough Parade into Short Street;
- Follow the road about 200 m to the boat ramp.

You have reached your destination - 'LARC About' tours.

I will be there to meet you at the boat ramp.

**Leo Scanlan**

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## CANBERRA 10 DAYS IN THE NATION'S CAPITAL



Image: Danae Hurst, CC By 2.0, <https://www.flickr.com/people/27038196@N00>

WHEN: Arrive 10<sup>TH</sup> – Depart 20<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2017

*Highlights - The Canberra Balloon Spectacular, Parliament House, The Australian War Memorial, The National Art Gallery, The National Library, Lake Burley Griffin Walk, Mount Ainsley at dusk, and much, much more.*

If you are interested in joining RGSQ in March 2017 you will need to book your accommodation now to avoid disappointment. The Canberra Balloon Spectacular is held between the 11<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> of March and bookings are already heavy for motel/caravan park accommodation in Canberra at this time. To hold our group together to facilitate 'happy hour' and communication regarding our programme etc., I have chosen the Alivio Tourist Park as our base which provides for a variety of accommodation choices. *To register for this trek and book your accommodation please follow the directions below:*

1. To register your interest in 'CANBERRA, 10 DAYS IN THE NATION'S CAPITAL' please phone the RGSQ Office on 07 3368 2066.
2. To guarantee your accommodation at Alivio Tourist Park from Friday March 10 to Monday morning March 20, please phone 02 6247 5466 or email: [reservations@aliviogroup.com.au](mailto:reservations@aliviogroup.com.au) and don't forget to mention you are travelling with the RGSQ group.

If you book online Wi-Fi is free while you're staying at Alivio Tourist Park and your booking can be cancelled free of charge up until a fortnight before you are due to arrive.

**Leo Scanlan**

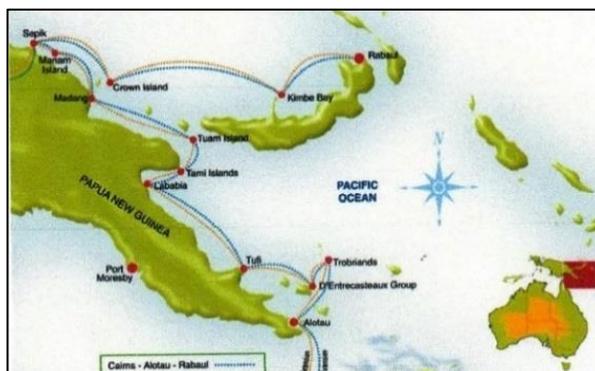
### CAIRNS, NEW GUINEA, and THE CORAL SEA

In 2017 it is our intention to spend 5 days in Cairns and its hinterland, and then link up with Coral Expeditions on the 4<sup>th</sup> of October for a twelve night cruise from Cairns to Rabaul in Papua New Guinea. While not exclusively ours, the cruise on the Coral Expeditions small ship, the *Coral Discoverer*, does provide Guest Lecturers and Expedition Leaders which fits quite nicely with The Royal Geographical Society of Queensland's mission of promoting 'Geography on the Ground' to our members. To borrow words from the Coral Expeditions website '*Mysterious Papua New Guinea*' is right on the doorstep of North Queensland and, yet, most of us know very little about this land of the unexpected.

RGSQ have managed to secure a group booking for 10 people in June 2016 and if you were pondering joining the group on the PNG and the Coral Sea cruise in 2017 there were some 13 cabins available in the Promenade Deck Category A Stateroom.

The cabin costs per person include all meals and have been sourced from the Coral Expeditions website. Please be advised that the actual cost may vary at the time of booking. Promenade Deck (Category A) was \$11,550 (13 cabins). The number of cabins indicated in brackets was correct as at 8 August 2016.

If you are interested in this exciting combination which covers Cairns, Papua New Guinea and The Coral Sea please contact the RGSQ Office on 07 3368 2066.



While the final cruise itinerary would be up to Coral Expeditions, it is expected that we would sail Cairns to Alatau and then sail east to the Dobu and the Fergusson Islands, then north east to the Trobriand Islands, before turning north west again towards Lababia, Tuam, and Madang.

Having a shallower draft than larger ships, the *Coral Discoverer* would then enter the Sepik River and cruise to the middle Sepik region. Our ship would then turn east towards Crown Island, Kimbe Bay, New Britain, and finish in Simpson Harbour in Rabaul. We would then return to Cairns via a charter flight from Rabaul.

*Please note that the RGSQ Cairns component of this trip, transport costs from your home to Cairns, and the return charter flight from Rabaul to Cairns at the end of the cruise are not included in the cruise cost listed above.*

*The details including the cost of the 5 days Cairns and hinterland leg of this trek will be provided in the coming months. This part of the trek may be booked by members who are not travelling on the cruise as well.*

**Leo Scanlan**

### Annual General Meeting – September 20, 2016

Notice is hereby given to members of the Society that the 2016 Annual General Meeting of The Royal Geographical Society of Queensland Inc will be held:

at "Gregory House", 237 Milton Road, Milton, Brisbane on Tuesday, the 20<sup>th</sup> of September 2016, commencing at 7:40 pm.

The business to be transacted at the meeting is:

- (i) to receive the Council's Report and the Statement of Income and Expenditure, Assets and Liabilities of the Society for the year 1<sup>st</sup> July 2015 – 30<sup>th</sup> June 2016.
- (ii) to receive the Auditor's Report in respect of the year 1<sup>st</sup> July 2015 – 30<sup>th</sup> June 2016.

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- (iii) to appoint the Auditor in respect of the year 1<sup>st</sup> July 2016 – 30<sup>th</sup> June 2017.
  - (iv) to elect members of the Council.

### Explanatory Notes

#### Business items (i) – (iii)

Material supporting these items (Council's Report and the Financial Reports, including the Auditor's Report,) will be available for those attending the meeting, and will be added to the Society's website following the meeting. The Reports will also be available to Members several days prior to the meeting.

#### Business item (iv) Election of Members of the Council

Under the Rules of the Society, all Councillors retire from office each year, and a new Council is elected by members. The Society Rules provide for a Council of thirteen (13) members. Any member may nominate (and be seconded) for election as a Councillor, and nominations can be lodged at any time up to the commencement of the meeting. *The functions of a Councillor are set out in a document 'Role Description – Councillors', which along with Nomination Forms can be obtained from the Executive Officer, or any current Councillor.*

The following current members of the Council have re-nominated for election to the Council for 2016 (and positions where indicated):

*Bob Abnett*

*Dal Anderson (Vice President)*

*Iraphne Childs (Vice President)*

*Tony Hillier*

*Margaret McIvor*

*John Nowill*

*Leo Scanlan*

*Kathryn Scott*

*Jamie Shulmeister (President)*

*Chris Spriggs (Treasurer)*

*"The Council's Report to Members for 2015/16", (Item (i) on the Notice of Meeting for the 20<sup>th</sup> September AGM) will be available prior to the meeting. The Report will be emailed to members in early September. Members requiring a hard (mailed) copy should register their request with the RGSQ Office, please phone Gail Orr at 07 3368 2066.*

#### AGM Format

- 6:45 pm - 7:15 pm - Pre-meeting drinks and nibbles. There will be a number of displays of RGSQ activities (e.g. Map Group, Library Group) around the auditorium and members involved in the activities will be happy to chat about their special geographical interest;
- 7:15 pm - 7:40 pm - Short (25 minute) Lecture by Prof Jamie Shulmeister on *"Shrinking glaciers - Cautionary tales from North America and New Zealand"* (<https://www.gpem.uq.edu.au/james-shulmeister>);
- 7:40 pm - Annual General Meeting;

- Members' Forum on Society's future directions;
- Tea, coffee and light supper.

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### Ken Sutton Memorial Library Group

**When:** Monday, October 24

**Time:** 9:00 am

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

Please be advised – the Library Group will not meet in September.

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### Map Group Gathering

**When:** Monday, September 5

**Time:** 10:00 am

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

*Key Event:* Les Isdale Presentation on "the Language of Cartography". Map Group members will be emailed further details closer to the date.

*RGSQ AGM & Map Group Display – Tuesday 20 September, Gregory House, Milton. 6:45 pm to 7:15 pm: Various displays over drinks & nibbles, followed by a short lecture and then AGM.*

*Visit to Queensland State Archives Map Collection – 10am to 12pm, Wednesday, 28 September, 2016. Map Group members will be emailed further details.*

**To Note:**

The Map Group will not meet in October due to Queen's Birthday public holiday on Monday, October 3.

*Bob Abnett, Map Group Coordinator*

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### Thank you, RGSQ Volunteers - Australian Geography Competition

A big thank you to members who helped sort, pack and send the Australian Geography Competition 2016 Certificates and Results during the week commencing 15<sup>th</sup> August:

Ian Francis, Roger Grimley, Margaret Hardy, Phillip Imison, Kay and Graham Rees, Sue Reid, Chris Spriggs, John Wilkinson, and Jeff Williams.

Over 115,000 sheets of paper were moved through the Society's Auditorium over three days!

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### Australia wins Geography Gold at the International Geography Olympiad

Four young Australian geography students have come FIRST at the 13<sup>th</sup> International Geography Olympiad held in Beijing from Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> of August.

The four-member Australian team and their achievements are:

**Clair Yung**, Narrabundah College, ACT - Gold medal and overall second in the world;

**Andreas Orsmund**, Sydney Grammar School, NSW - Gold medal and overall fifth in the world;

**Deepan Kumar**, Narrabundah College, ACT - Silver medal;

**Georgia Worner**, Loreto College – Kirribilli, NSW - Bronze medal.

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The four-member Australian Team which compete at the International Geography Olympiad is selected from participants in the previous year's Geography's Big Week Out. Sixteen top performing Year 11 geography students, one female and one male from each Australian State and combined Territories who have taken part in the Australian Geography Competition are invited to participate in the Geography's Big Week Out.

- Open to members, geography teachers and research students during the RGSQ advertised office hours or by special appointment at other times;
- The resources are not for lending except for special short-term arrangements with registered research personnel.

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### Library Policy and Borrowing

As advised in the April 2016 Bulletin, the Ken Sutton Memorial Library Group coordinated by Rob Simson were reviewing and developing a Library Policy. The policy has recently been adopted by the Society's Council. If you would like a copy of the Policy, please contact the RGSQ Office.

**To note:** RGSQ library use and book borrowing:

# RGSQ Bulletin

September 2016

**Lecture/Meeting:** Tue 6 September 7:30 pm

*"Biosecurity Queensland" presented by Dr Jim Thompson.*

**Annual General Meeting:** Tue 20 September, 7:30 pm "Gregory House", 237 Milton Rd, Milton.

**Map Group:** Mon 5 September 10:00 am, "Gregory House", 237 Milton Rd, Milton.

**AGM Lecture:** Tue 20 September, 7:15 pm, *"Shrinking Glaciers - Cautionary tales from North America and New Zealand" presented by Prof Jamie Shulmeister.*

*Council meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month.*

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

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