



RGSQ Bulletin

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

President: [Professor James Shulmeister](#)

From the President



"You, our members, are the key asset of the Society, and I want to focus my term on building activities for the membership, as well as building a wider membership."

Firstly, I would like to introduce myself. I am Jamie Shulmeister and I am a Professor of Geography at the University of Queensland. Since arriving in Brisbane in 2009 I have become closely associated with RGSQ and I have been on the RGSQ Council, mostly as a Vice President, since 2010. Despite my apparently Germanic name, I am actually from Dublin, Ireland. I hold a Bachelor of Science in Geography from Trinity College Dublin; an MSc in Physical Geography from Queen's University, Canada; and a PhD in Geography from Australian National University. I am a physical geographer with my teaching and research mostly focussed on geomorphology and long-term climate change. I have avoided nominating as President for the last few years as I have been Head of School in Geography at UQ. Now that I have finished my term as Head, I am able to give more time to the Society.

It is a great honour and privilege to become President of RGSQ. This is both a venerable society with a great history, and a vibrant society with an even better future. It is wonderful to see the level of commitment and enthusiasm from the membership as reflected through the lecture attendance, treks and the new special interest groups.

I would like to thank all the members of the outgoing committee for their outstanding efforts over the last few years. We, as a society, have made huge strides in streamlining how we work and thinking about where we want to go. This has been incredibly important as the society is now on an improved financial footing and has a far better vision of the future. I am hoping that my presidency can build on this ground work and expand the society both in terms of types of activity and engagement of the membership. You, our members, are the key asset of the society, and I want to focus my term on building activities for the membership, as well as building a wider membership.

I think we've already had some excellent initiatives in this regard with two new special interest groups in mapping and the library and I thoroughly endorse the new 'travel' special interest group to be led by Audrey Johnston.

Beyond the special interest groups, I am committed to trying to get Leo's ideas for an RGSQ bespoke travel company to fruition. I would also like to see us reaching out to members, at least, in the greater SEQ area and to start running a few events in the arc between the Gold Coast, Toowoomba and the Sunshine Coast, perhaps in the form of occasional lectures and/or trips centred on those localities. I would also like to see us step up a little more in the way of educational activities – one suggestion in this area is citizen science and I will be giving this and other ideas some thought.

As I am in full-time employment, I may be around the office less frequently than some of my predecessors but I look forward to meeting you all at lecture nights and I encourage you to come up and say g'day and give me the benefit of your (collectively) huge experience.

Jamie Shulmeister, RGSQ President

2017 RGSQ Council

At the Annual General Meeting held on 20 September, 2016 the following members were elected to the Council:

President:	Jamie Shulmeister
Vice Presidents:	Dal Anderson Iraphne Childs
Secretary:	<i>To be appointed</i>
Treasurer:	Chris Spriggs
Councillors:	Bob Abnett Paul Broad Tony Hillier Margaret Keates Margaret McIvor John Nowill Leo Scanlan Kathryn Scott

Lecture of the Month: Tuesday, October 4

7:30 pm, "Gregory House", 237 Milton Rd, Milton

"Naval Brigade in Queensland"

presented by Capt RWG (Bob) Hume, RFD, RANR

Bob Hume RFD is a retired Queensland barrister-at-law and has had a lifelong amateur interest in Military History. He is currently the past Vice President (Administration) of Royal United Service Institute Queensland.

Bob has had a long association with things naval. At the age of 14, Bob Hume joined the Sea Cadets, and upon leaving school he joined the Royal Australian Naval Reserve. He was commissioned in October 1966. Spending 11 years in the Supply and Secretariat Branch in various positions, he then transferred to the Special (Naval Control of Shipping (NCS)) Branch. He also spent 5½ years as "Staff Officer NCS" at HMAS MORETON before transferring to the Naval Legal Branch where he remained until he retired as a Reservist. He spent 8 years as "Head of Panel" of the South Queensland Naval Legal Panel. He has been posted to Singapore as senior Australian officer for an international NCS exercise; to the UK (HMS VERNON) for specialist training, and to the Western Pacific Naval Symposium, Bangkok, as part of the RAN presentation team.

Queensland Naval Brigade

Bob will be speaking on the Queensland Naval Brigade which was formed in 1873. As a branch of the Queensland defence force, the naval brigade was used as naval infantry to garrison and defend Queensland's early major ports. Operating through the 1890s, following Federation in March 1901 the Naval Brigade passed into Commonwealth service.

Synopsis September Lecture: 'Biosecurity Queensland' presented by Dr Jim Thomson

"Australia has experienced 43 new pests in the last 12 months alone (2015/2016)".

Dr Jim Thomson gave an excellent lecture-presentation to about 45 attending RGSQ members. Jim gave an overview of what Biosecurity is today, stressing that it has been around for decades, primarily, in the form of management of risks from pests and diseases in relation to agriculture and pastoral activities across Queensland. Today, the delivery of Biosecurity in Queensland differs from the past, as it now comprises a wider perspective, continuing to cover agricultural and economic property, while including environmental stewardship (protection of environmental assets) and a way of life (protection of our way of life and community).

There is also a greater international perspective to Biosecurity, not only protecting Queensland's rural exports (livestock and agricultural products), but global food supplies (Queensland and ultimately Australia's contribution). Australia is free from many pests and diseases which are affecting other continents across the world. A large part of Biosecurity Agencies' activities across Australia focuses on maintaining and protecting this continent's lower incidence of such pests and diseases.

Dr Thompson indicated that Queensland is at the "front line" of Biosecurity in Australia, as it is one of the key pathways for new pests trying to enter the country. Australia has experienced 43 new pests in the last 12 months alone (2015/2016). Also, Australia, as a whole, is

at the top of the range, internationally, in dealing with the control of pests and diseases.

A number of case studies, both overseas and within Queensland were given as examples of what Biosecurity organisations face today and how they handle such cases.

- In Britain the foot-and-mouth disease outbreak in 2001 was catastrophic for the country, with 4 million animals slaughtered to contain the spread of the disease. Disposal of carcasses became a major disease control and logistical problem for Britain's Biosecurity establishment. Since 2001 a vaccine has been developed.

- Hendra virus in Queensland, starting in 1994 and significantly re-occurring in 2011, spread from its initial focal point in South East Queensland into the Central coastal and Northern coastal regions of Queensland. To help counter the continuation and spread of this primarily animal (but also human) disease, a National Hendra Virus Research Program has been set up, with the aim of reducing and better controlling future outbreaks.

- Other given examples were: fire ants (a hot spot in Southern Queensland); Panama disease in bananas (contained to one farm near Tully); and marine pests (come in with ships across Australia's main ports).

Overall, Dr Thompson was able to give RGSQ members a greater appreciation of what Biosecurity Queensland is about and how it works today.

Bob Abnett, RGSQ Member

Information from the Inner Circle

While I'm still a member of the RGSQ Council and now that my time as RGSQ President is over, I intend, with the help of a very willing committee, to devote my efforts to developing and organising our treks and day activities.

Regarding Jamie's early comments as President, he has indicated where he might direct RGSQ activities in the future. He did flag his aim to back the development of a travel company offering domestic and overseas treks. This reasoning was supported by Chris Spriggs, our Treasurer, who further explained our wish to generate further income via our proposed travel project to invest in the services and activities that have become so popular with our members.

As well as our future overseas travel it would be nice to resurrect our bus treks for members to various places here within Australia. This type of group activity was ably led by Dal Anderson and did generate considerable income for our Society during the 1990's.

Next year, commencing on the 4th of October, RGSQ Treks are 'piggy backing' on one of Coral Expeditions cruises to Papua New Guinea. There are still some cabins available on this 72 berth expedition cruise. If you are at all interested please refer to your September RGSQ Bulletin for further information.

For me, personally, RGSQ has been a great motivator. Hopefully, RGSQ can motivate you, as well, to become involved with like-minded travellers in exploring your world through our program of 'Geography on the Ground'. **Leo Scanlan**

September Activity: Cruising (some of) Europe

Dear members, due to low numbers, this activity has been cancelled. Apologies for any inconvenience to those who booked for the event.

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

Note: this event is fully booked. If you'd like to be waitlisted, please contact the RGSQ Office on 07 3368 2066.

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.

Please be advised that 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

November Activity:

PUMICESTONE PASSAGE LARC EXCURSION

When: Wednesday, November 2

Time: 9:30 am

Where: Boat ramp, 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 19th 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

CANBERRA:

10 DAYS IN THE NATION'S CAPITAL

WHEN: Arrive 10TH – Depart 20TH 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 11th and 19th 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 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**

Ken Sutton Memorial Library Group

When: Monday, October 24

Time: 9:00 am

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

Map Group Gathering

When: Monday, November 7

Time: 10:00 am

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

At the September Map Group, Les Isdale, a Map Group member, made an excellent presentation on the **Language of Cartography**. Les is a professional cartographer and he has a very strong interest in map making to this day.

Les made the presentation more comprehensible to non-map makers, albeit users, by talking about the *Language of Maps*.

Les's presentation, done with help from Ian Francis, Map Group's "resident" former IT professional, can be found on the RGSQ website for all RGSQ members to read. So, if you're interested in learning about the *Language of Maps*, please visit the RGSQ website www.rgsq.org.au.

Future Map Group Events

October 2016: No Map Group gathering, due to Queen's Birthday public holiday on Monday, 3 October.

November 2016:

- **10:00 am, Monday, 7 November, 2016: Key Event:** Sub-Group on Map Library to present a further Display on Rare/Historic Maps held in Map Library. To be displayed in the Meeting Room and Auditorium.
- **Wednesday, 16 November - GIS Day:** Map Group members can visit this event. (6 to 8 members visited the 2015 event). Free entry, please register on the GIS Day website - <http://www.gisday.com/> Registrations opened in late June, 2016.

Bob Abnett, Map Group Coordinator

In May, this year, RGSQ began a three part series tracing the evolution of geography as a discipline from its early history to modern times. This is the final part in the series. If you'd like to leave a comment, please email at info@rgsq.org.au, re: Bulletin comment.

PART III: Modern Geography

Immanuel Kant's (1724 – 1804) definition of geography as spatial relationships, provides a good constraint for the definition of the discipline of geography, while Carl Ritter (1769 – 1859) defines methods for studying the spatial relationships. In many cases, the definition of geography adopted by individuals or groups of geographers is influenced by the domain of study which these geographers are associated with. However, many geography practitioners are little concerned with the definition of their discipline because, on completing their formal education, and once employed (non-academic) find themselves in an employment position that does not include the word geography in their role description, with many working in multi-disciplinary work environments.

Even so, geography trained individuals tend to have a particular ability to view the world from a different perspective to their work colleagues. It is their understanding of spatial relationships and interconnectivity in the context of place, people (social and economic) and the environment which provides valuable insight to understanding issues more holistically. In more recent organisation management terms, geography could be presented as providing valuable skills for developing a T-shaped organisation. T-shaped professionals are "... individuals who combine deep cognitive, analytical, and/or technical skills in a specific discipline, with broad multidisciplinary, social skills (Irving Wladawsky-Berger, December 18, 2015, "The rise of the T-Shaped Organization", The Wall Street Journal). The importance of compulsory high school based geography in a broader social economic context, therefore, cannot be understated. But some still ask, what is geography?

Geography is many things to many people. Mike Heffernan, "Chapter 1: Histories of Geography" in Clifford et al (2009), "Key Concepts in Geography" writes:

"The deceptively simple word 'geography' embraces a deeply contested intellectual project of great antiquity and extraordinary complexity. There is no single, unified discipline of geography today and it is difficult to discern such a thing in the past."

E. Parish in his 1810 publication "A New System of Modern Geography" provides an insight into a text book for students from the era when geography was "defining" itself as a discipline and about the same era Kant and Ritter were practicing:

"GEOGRAPHY is a description of the earth, with its various divisions, natural and artificial; but more is generally understood. The productions, the curiosities, manners, customs, government, and religion of different nations, and even astronomy, are included in the science of geography."

Astronomical geography considers the earth as a planet, and treats of its figure, magnitude, place, and motion.

Natural geography considers the earth as divided into land and water, as continents, islands, oceans, and seas.

Political geography describes the earth as it is divided into kingdoms, empires, republics, or colonies.

Topography, or particular geography, is a description of particular countries, cities or places, their situation, boundaries, and productions. These are more or less united and blended in all our popular works of geography.”

More than a century after Parish published his words, in 1914, G.B. Roorbach in the Bulletin of the American Geographical Society (Vol. XLVI, No 11) would write:

“There prevails a general impression, even among geographers themselves, that there is little or no agreement as to what geography is or what its purposes and problems are. It has been commonly said that there are as many definitions of geography as there are geographers; that the subject is not a distinct and separate science with a single aim and purpose.”

Many papers and debates have occurred between geographers and other disciplines about “THE” definition of geography as a discipline, but Kant’s two defining words, “SPATIAL RELATIONSHIPS” are fundamental. Even so, two accepted professional branches of geography have emerged:

- physical geography, considered a part of the natural sciences and is concerned with the spatial relationships of the natural features and phenomena of the earth’s surface. Physical geographers will study one or more of the atmosphere, hydrosphere, biosphere, and/or geosphere.

- human geography, considered a social science is a branch of geography associated with the spatial relationships of the activities of humans and how these activities are influenced by, or influence the earth’s surface. Human geographers will study people and their communities, cultures, economics and humans’ interaction with the natural environment.

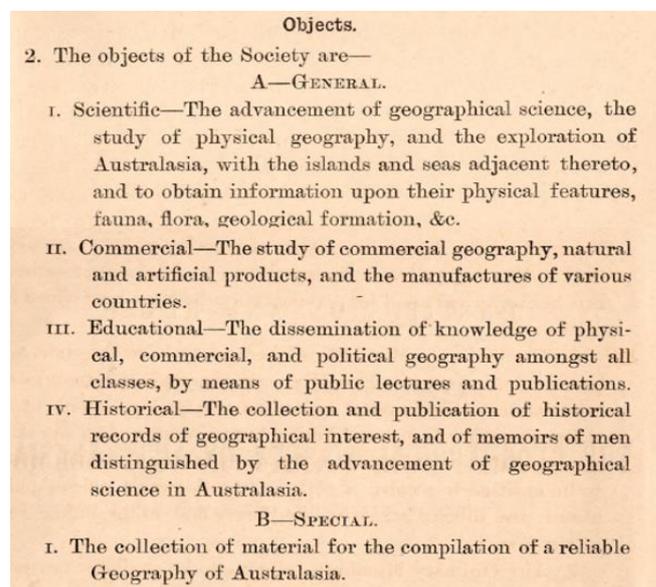
However, a number of geographers while accepting these two branches as useful for defining the polarity of geography, consider them rather arbitrary and practice a mix of both in what may be considered regional geography. These practitioners tend to study the spatial relationships of the built environment (human geography) and the natural environments (physical geography), and consider spatial relationships the discipline’s defining focus.

However, the general public since the 1800s, provide a fourth and popular definition of geography based on the context of exploration which in today’s era equates to place and travel. This popular interest in geography was and still is reflected in the establishment in the Nineteenth Century and continued existence of a mix of professional and public organisations and learned societies. For example:

- The Geographical Society of London in 1830, which in 1859 would become The Royal Geographical Society - a learned society;

- The American Geographical Society founded in 1851 in New York - representing professional geographers;
- The Royal Geographical Society of Australasia (Queensland Branch) (RGSA-Q) in 1885 - a learned society which would, about 1990, become The Royal Geographical Society of Queensland (RGSQ); and,
- National Geographic Society, founded in 1888, has interests which include allied disciplines of geography.

The 1885 objects of our RGSA-Q were:



The Twentieth Century would see the emergence of professional institutes with membership consisting of individual professionals interested in a more systematic study of geography. For example: The Institute of British Geographers formed in 1933; and, the Institute of Australian Geographers formed in 1958. While these geography discipline based institutes exist, the names of many geography practitioners will likely be found amongst the membership lists of other professional organisations more aligned to the practitioner’s specific branch of geography.

The popular understanding of geography while importantly engaging a wide audience, coupled with the trend of many practicing geographers having their single professional membership with allied professional organisations rather than a cohesive geography institute, at least in the Australian context has influenced the perceived importance of geography as a career choice for parents of school aged children. This parent perception; the limited understanding by the general public of the importance of geography as a discipline; and, the lack of a single cohesive geography “industry” advocacy does not bode well for Australian society into the future.

While many may find the lack of a single definition of geography a weakness of the discipline, it is actually an indication of the strength of geography and geographical thinking. It is all embracing. Geography and geographical thinking underpin our daily lives and our future. As quoted in the May Bulletin: *“The great challenges of the 21st century are geographical in their formulation, analysis and consequence, and they transcend the physical/social*

divide.” (Carl Lee and Danny Dorling, 2016, “Geography’s place in the world” (<https://www.timeshighereducation.com/features/geogra-phys-place-in-the-world>)).

In modern Australia the measure of importance is currently economic based, so from a discipline perspective, Australian geographers need to frame geography’s importance in economic terms. For example, geography contributes to the Spatial Industry, which, in 2006-07 (a decade ago), was conservatively estimated to have contributed \$682 million to the Australian National Accounts (<http://www.crcsi.com.au/partners/43pl/industry-development/reports/value-of-spatial-acil/>). What other economic examples are there that demonstrate geography’s dollar value to the Australian economy?

But it does not have to be about economic. Geography is a way of thinking, and you do not need a geography degree to think geographically, you only need a desire to explore, study and/or appreciate the spatial relationships of the world around you. By thinking geographically, you influence your world and those around you. If we all think geographically we make the world a better place. Hence, the importance of a learned geography society such as the RGSQ to promote and stimulate the study of geography cannot be understated.

Bernard Fitzpatrick

RGSQ Bulletin

October 2016

Lecture/Meeting: Tue 4 October 7:30 pm

“Naval Brigade in Queensland” presented by Capt RWG (Bob) Hume, RFD, RANR.

Activity/Event: Day Outing - Robotic Dairy Tue 18 October.

Map Group: No Map Group meeting in October, Next Map Group meeting: Mon 7 November 10:00 am, “Gregory House”, 237 Milton Rd, Milton.

Ken Sutton Memorial Library: Mon 24 October, 9:00 am, “Gregory House”, 237 Milton Rd, Milton.

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

The Royal Geographical Society of Queensland Inc
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