



RGSQ Bulletin

June 2017

Vol 52 no 5

ISSN 1832-8830

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: Professor James Shulmeister

From the President

Dear members, June is lining up to be another big month. Map group is very active this coming month with two events including a two-day workshop on open street mapping (pg.5). Open Street Mapping is a very modern and exciting concept. It is a community driven effort to develop and maintain up-to-date maps for all sorts of purposes. It involves local knowledge to verify and maintain the topicality of maps. OSM started in the UK and now has a local presence in Australia. It is a not-for-profit organisation, using an open license for its mapping. It is obviously a great fit for RGSQ and especially our mapping group. I can't wait to hear more about what they plan to do with it!

We have two talks in June. Jim Davidson, respected meteorologist who was to present the June Lecture in Brisbane contacted us in late March to advise that he would be unable to present this year due to an illness, but would look forward to presenting to the Society in 2018. If you do a web search on Jim, an extensive list of results will appear. Unfortunately, on Tuesday 16th May we were informed that Jim died of cancer.

Lynn Moorman is a visiting Canadian geographer. She has generously stepped into the breach to give the June lecture (pg.2). Her topic should be fascinating. The North-West Passage was one of the great hopes of the Age of Exploration. This was to be a passage that allowed ships to pass north of Canada and reach the Pacific thereby bringing China within easy trade reach of Europe, especially to northern countries like Holland, Great Britain, Denmark and Norway. While technically there is a sea route to the Pacific, the passage was never feasible due to sea-ice. It didn't stop many brave and foolhardy people from trying it. It is a story well worth the recounting.

Just to remind everyone, there is an information session on the Society's plans to change its incorporated legal structure, immediately before this talk

In addition, I am giving a talk at the Sunshine Coast – the second in our series up there (pg.2). This is an expanded and extended version of the talk I gave at the last AGM on glacier changes in New Zealand and North America. It will have a lot of new material, as I was back at the NZ glaciers in February.

I also want to highlight the Society's next big international trip. Leo Scanlan will be leading another exciting adventure to

Africa. The destination this time round is the southern part with a focus on South Africa, Botswana and Zimbabwe. It promises to be an amazing trip. Start planning for it now and you can even give us a provisional indication of intent to participate. The trip is scheduled to go in 2018.

Perhaps the thing that I have taken most notice of in the last week (State of Origin excluded), is the report in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Science from Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies in Tasmania of discovering more than 37 million pieces of rubbish, mostly plastic on Henderson Island, in the Pitcairn Island group in the central Pacific. Other than the obvious question of how they counted to 37 million pieces of rubbish, the findings are more than worrying as they show that plastics simply do not break down in any reasonable time in the world's oceans.

The reason for the huge concentration is that Henderson Island lies in the middle of the gyre in the Pacific where the plastics accumulate and the floating sea of plastic is now bigger than the state of Texas. We know that these plastics are entering our food chain with many of the fish we buy now containing micro-pellets of plastic. It is a pretty shocking state of affairs. Like most problems, we can't tackle all of it at once. Maybe we could look at our own usage of plastic and cut back – not using the free plastic bags at the supermarkets would be a good first step.

Jamie Shulmeister, President

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

We have much pleasure in welcoming *Matthew Blampey, Ron Johnstone, Isaac Llewelyn-Davies, Ashleigh Clews, Giselle Pickering, Isabella Frew, Imogen Cunningham, Ellie Drenth, Imogen Krause, Joseph Flanagan, Alexandra Brown, Yuchan Peng, Tsz Lam Vivien Yeung, Ting Chen, Ariana Magini, Dale Mullin, Ishara Sahama, Clarice (Claire) de Wit, Ethan Wignell, Meghan Barnard, Audrey McInnerney, Christopher Huff, Ashleigh Gonzalez, Kara Borthwick, Sivakumar Senthilkumar, Yi Zhang, John Tasher, Benjamin Priebbenow, Jack Walsh, Wei Tang, Prakash Hewavitharana, Xintian Pei, Emily McLean, Kirsten Noble, Jill Cremer, Kiu Sang (Sam) Ho, Shivam Trivedi, and Amelie Serplet* as new members. We hope your association with your new Society is long and mutually enjoyable.

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Keates.

LECTURE OF THE MONTH

"The Northwest Passage Now – a Geographer's Journey"

by Dr Lynn Moorman, Mount Royal University, Canada

Tue June 6, 7:30 pm

"Gregory House", 237 Milton Rd, Milton

Dr. Lynn Moorman (Ph.D., University of British Columbia - Geographic Education; MSc and BSc (Hons), University of Calgary, Geography) is a Professor at Mount Royal University, in Calgary, Canada. She teaches geomorphology and GIS, and her research integrates both disciplines of education and geography, looking at geospatial literacy, geospatial cognition with Digital Earth, and the practice of geographic education.



Lynn is a Governor and Fellow of the Royal Canadian Geographical Society, the Postsecondary Representative for Canadian Geographic Education, Task Force member of the International GeoOlympiad and Co-Chair of the iGeo event to be held in Canada in 2018. Lynn is a recent recipient of the Petro Canada Young Innovator Award (2016).



Image: Sea ice at Erebus and Terror Bay, Nunavut, the site of Sir John Franklin's winter encampment in 1845-46 during his search for the Northwest Passage. Courtesy of Lynn Moorman.

A decrease in annual sea ice extent has resulted in greater ocean access to the Canadian Arctic. In 2016, Lynn was invited to be the Geoscientist on board a commercial expedition with Adventure Canada through the Northwest Passage, providing a geographic perspective and interpreting the landscapes for fellow staff and passengers. Her presentation will follow this journey, from Canada's western Arctic right through to the western coast of Greenland, including geological and wildlife highlights, and learning opportunities with local Inuit communities.●

JUNE LECTURE ON THE SUNSHINE COAST

"Shrinking Glaciers? Cautionary Tales from North America and New Zealand"

by Prof. Jamie Shulmeister, University of Queensland

Tue June 27, 7:15 pm, University of the Sunshine Coast

Special RGSQ Lecture organised in association with the University of the Sunshine Coast.

Details of exact venue will be advertised in the next Bulletin.



Image: The Franz Josef Glacier in Westland, New Zealand, in the winter of 2007. Courtesy of James Shulmeister.

Dear members, next month I am going to give the second of our Sunshine Coast lectures. It is entirely unintentional but after Adrian McCallum's Arctic and Antarctica extravaganza the theme will remain icy.

My talk will be a full version of the short presentation on how mountain glaciers around the world are changing and what it means for our understanding of climate change. This is a topic close to my heart as it is the source of a lot of my personal research.

Why am I so passionate about it? Well apart from any reasons of scientific importance, mountain glaciers are both beautiful themselves and located in some of the prettiest scenery on the planet. Furthermore, and unlike Adrian's polar deserts, many of the glaciers are a hop, skip and a jump from vineyards and in the case of New Zealand, pretty good ones. I don't promise any wine at the talk but there will be some nice photos. Hope to see some of you up there. **Prof. Jamie Shulmeister, RGSQ President** ●

SYNOPSIS

“Revisiting the multifunctional transition in Australia’s Wet Tropics: the climate change crisis”

2017 J.P. Thomson Address

Dr Steve Turton, Adjunct Professor of Environmental Geography

by Bernard Fitzpatrick. RGSQ Member and Executive Officer

Dr Steve Turton opened his address by acknowledging the work on climatic influences of European development and settlement in north Australia by Professor Thomas Griffith “Grif” Taylor who was the 1917 J.P. Thomson Medal winner. For an introduction to Griffith Taylor see Dr Peter Griggs’ Feature Story in the May issue of the RGSQ Bulletin.

Image: Location of Wet Tropics by region.

Steve followed by outlining the structure of his lecture which covered:

1. An introduction to the bioregion of Australia’s Wet Tropics.
2. The Multifunctional transitions in the Wet Tropics which have occurred since European settlement.
3. Current key drivers for the Wet Tropics landscape of which climate is just one.
4. An overview of an article in *The Conversation* (an online journal) where Steve presented a Wet Tropics EcoCheck.
5. The impending climate change crisis.
6. Search for alternatives: climate adaptation pathways for Wet Tropics natural resource management.
7. Where to from here?

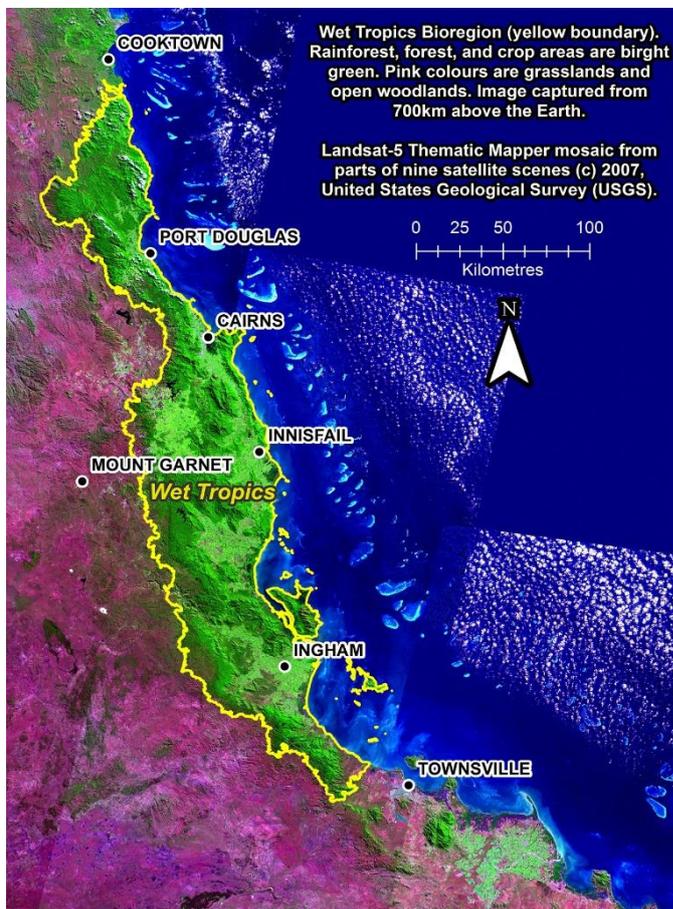
The Wet Tropical Rainforest of Far North Queensland is one of three Australian World Heritage listed rainforest areas. The other two are the Sub-Tropical Gondwanan Rainforest of North East New South Wales and South East Queensland and, the Temperate Rainforest of the South West Tasmanian Wilderness.

Because of the high biodiversity and many endemic plant and animal species, the Wet Tropics rainforest has been described as: a biodiversity hotspot; the second most irreplaceable natural world heritage area; and, the sixth most irreplaceable protected area on the planet.

Representing 1% of Queensland’s total area, the Wet Tropics is important to the State’s economy. It has 10% of the State’s agricultural activity, and 23% of its tourism which represents 3 million visitors per annum generating \$2.6 billion per annum from Rainforest tourism, and \$3.58 billion per annum. Between 2005-2015 it was one of the fastest growing populated regions in Australia. The Wet Tropics is a contested landscape with:

- Widespread areas of clearing for agriculture
- Water quality maintenance
- Ecosystem goods and services
- Urban, peri-urban and rural expansion
- Increasing pressure for agricultural development
- Conversation (World Heritage)
- Tourism development
- Indigenous interests, rights and aspirations

Steve then introduced the audience to multi-functional



transitions via the use of a four-stage heuristic model which fits the description of the region’s post-European settlement and landscapes. The four stages are: crisis phase; search for alternative phase; policy development phase; and bureaucratic phase.

Crisis phase: There have been several crises since European settlement of which human induced climate change is occurring now and presents future challenges to the region.

The interaction between land-use and values associated to the landscape places pressures on the resource. These are not static and change over time. Agriculture and Indigenous traditional/cultural were the two main values between the 1860s and early 1900s. From the early 1900s through to the 1970s, agriculture and timber were the dominant values. Current values include: amenity, ecosystem services, World Heritage, tourism, biological, and traditional/cultural.

Along with land use and value changes come threats such as invasive species and diseases of plants and animals. These as well as

management can all be represented in monetary terms when associated with the value of, or loss of the resources under threat. For example: under economic threat is \$5.2 billion a year from tourism, and for every dollar spent on management in the Wet Tropics there is \$85 return in tourism spending.

While providing graphics to support the threat of climate change as occurring now, Steve presented some future scenarios under current climate change trends which need to be considered in future planning for the region: substantial increase in average, maximum and minimum temperatures; substantial increases in the temperature, frequency and duration of hot days; average sea level and height of extreme sea-levels will continue to rise; increases in evapotranspiration in all seasons, increased intensity of extreme rainfall, less frequent but more intense tropical cyclones and changes to rainfall are possible but unclear.

Search for alternatives phase: The past passive research knowledge dissemination model which produces volumes of data and information is not readily accessible by those who are developing policy or undertaking land management. Steve presented an approach which has been successfully implemented in the Wet Tropics via the use of a “Knowledge Broker” and a co-research model which allows input and engagement with stakeholders via adaptive pathways.

The approach is iterative, allowing all parties to participate and collaborate, explore, develop, and implement adaptive and alternative pathways for managing and living in the Wet Tropics. This approach allows consideration of infrastructure, coastal zones, agriculture, other climate-dependent industries, and the natural environment. Three critical areas for the success of this approach are:

1. Decision-making and choices
2. The development of specific solutions to climate challenges
3. The analysis of barriers to adoption of systems and technologies that will help adaptation.

Steve presented opportunities due to climate change: “no-regrets” measures, which are things that make good sense anyway and have co-benefits; and, “win-win” activities where adapting to climate changes generate new industries, income and employment, or other desirable community outcomes.

Policy development phase: Through understanding the multifunctional transitions of the Wet Tropics, and applying new research dissemination approaches which engage stakeholders and provide faster knowledge transfer to all parties, appropriate policies considering the influence of climate change on the natural resources and community can be developed.

Bureaucratic implementation phase: It is then a matter of implementing what is required.

Steve finished his lecture with a quote from Andrew Winston, Harvard Business Review on April 21, 2017: “There’s a leadership vacuum on climate change. Business should fill it.”

* * *

UPCOMING EVENTS

JUNE: FOLLOW THE MURRAY

Thu 15 June, 9.15am for 9.30am start

An illustrated talk following the Murray from Goolwa to Albury

Cost: \$10.00

Book and PAY: by June 6, contact RGSQ at 07 3368 2066.

Venue: RGSQ Auditorium, “Gregory House”, 237 Milton Rd, Milton.

Note: The cost includes tempting morning tea.



River boat on the Murray, courtesy of Audrey Johnston.

Travel by coach, boat, car ferry and much leg as we travel from the mouth of the Murray (near Goolwa) to Albury. At times, we were not sure whether we were in New South Wales or Victoria. The catchment of the Murray and tributaries covers 14% of Australia’s mainland. The Condamine (which becomes the Darling) rises near Killarney, the Murrumbidgee near Khancoban and the Murray in the foothills of the Snowy. We actually visited the junction of the Darling and the Murray - a major difference in their widths!

Quite an adventure and ‘millions’ of photos! But I won’t show them all! Look forward to seeing you and bring your friends!

Coordinator: Audrey Johnston

JULY: FIELDTRIP ON BRISBANE RIVER

4-hour CityCat trip on the river as part of the Institute of Australian Geographers’ Conference

Thursday July 13, 9am-1pm

Cost: \$50

BYO Lunch

To book and for payment instructions, please contact RGSQ on 07 3368 2066 or email at admin@rgsq.org.au,

Payment due 31 May

The Brisbane River, a large dynamic waterway, is the pivotal physical element shaping the City of Brisbane and is, arguably, the City’s greatest natural resource.

From its source in the Brisbane valley the river courses through the CBD before reaching its estuary in Moreton Bay. A great way to observe the City’s changing development is on the river. The field trip will be a 4-hour journey aboard a CityCat ferry from the University of Queensland downstream through the CBD, Southbank Parklands to Hamilton warf, and returning to the University.

Dr. Iraphne Childs, a geographer from UQ’s SEES and RGSQ member and Vice-President, will be joined by an officer of the Brisbane City Council’s urban planning team to give commentaries on the river’s geography, including notable flood events, historical and present-day waterfront land use.
Coordinator: Iraphne Childs

* * *

JULY: ROCKS AND COALS OF THE IPSWICH BASIN

Wed July 26

Cost: \$55 members, \$58 non-members and includes morning tea and lunch.

The bus will depart at 07:30 am from the bus stop in Park Rd at the Eagle Junction Railway Station; return drop off is expected before 17:00. There is plenty of all day street parking in the area.

RSVP: Fri July 14, to book and pay please contact the RGSQ office on 07 3368 2066.

For further information about the trip, please contact GrahamRees@wombatshollow.com.

Much of the geography of SE Queensland is written in the 400 M year geology of the region. Warwick Willmott and David Trezise of the Geological Society of Australia will guide us through the formation of the Ipswich area in late Triassic period of around 200 M years ago. Members will recall that Warwick has delivered a number of fascinating lectures at RGSQ and has edited a number of publications of the Geological Society, including “Rocks and Landscapes of Brisbane and Ipswich”, which will be available for purchase on the day for \$20. **Coordinator:** Graham Rees

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AUGUST: DAY TRIP GOLD COAST WATERWAYS

SUSTAIN AND ENHANCE

Thursday 3 August

Have you ever wondered how the sand moves along the Eastern coastline and the problems caused for safe waterways and beaches? Join us as we:

- Evaluate the solution of the Sand By Pass system with training walls at the Nerang and Tweed Rivers
- Understand the creation of Wave Break Island
- See the location of the Artificial Reef at Narrownneck

Cost: \$40 members \$45 nonmembers includes Morning Tea
Lunch: Beachfront at Burleigh Heads Surf Club Cafe This is **not** included in cost. There is a choice of sandwiches, fish and chips/salad, hamburgers etc. with drink allow \$12 or BYO.

Depart: 7.30am Park Road Opp Eagle Junction Railway Station Redcliffe Coaches, 8.00am Park and Ride Mains Road Nathan behind QE2.

Return: Approximately 4.30pm at Park and Ride 5.00pm Eagle Junction

To **Book** contact RGSQ office on 07 3368 2066, **please indicate pick up location.**

RSVP: July 20

In memory of Brian McGrath 23.2.37 to 4.8.16

Brian McGrath was working for State Govt's Co-ordinator Generals Dept in 1965-1967 when the Gold Coast beaches became very badly eroded. He contacted the Delft Hydraulic Laboratory in Holland who sent out Mr Rudi Diephuis. Brian and Rudi walked the coast from the Broadwater to Tweed Heads, camping/motels at night. A 3-year investigation program was set up with coloured sand, depths from 25m boat and wave riders on coast to measure wave height and where the sand travelled. The sand moved in and out between the sand dunes and offshore bar and northwards from New South Wales, 500,000 cubic metres per year with longshore drift. The sand disappears north of Fraser Island into a black hole.

In 1969 Brian and Heather flew to Holland and worked with Delft Hyd. for 16 months to produce the Delft Report which was presented to Old State Govt in 1976. The Nerang, and later Tweed River, bypass was approved. Training walls were built to stabilize the River mouths and create safer waterways. The Beach Protection Authority was created to stabilize sand dunes with vegetation GCC Council has now taken over the beach replenishment. Special thanks to Heather McGrath for this background information. **Coordinator: Jeanette Lamont**

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SEPTEMBER: VISIT TO THE BRISBANE TRAMWAY MUSEUM

Wed 6 September

Cost: \$40 members \$43 non-members

RSVP: by Tuesday 29 August to RGSQ Office.

Who doesn't remember riding on a rattly Brisbane tram? Would you like to ride on one again to relive those memories? Well then, join us for a tour of The Brisbane Tramway Museum. The Museum has been operational since 1980 and is run entirely by volunteers who make a visit fun & informative. We will meet at 10am at the Museum for Morning Tea before commencing the tour at 10:30am.



Photo courtesy of Kay Rees

Following on the tour, we will make our way to the adjoining Ferny Grove Bowls Club for lunch.

Location: The Museum is located at **50 Tramway St, Ferny Grove QLD 4055** and is approximately a 25-minute drive from RGSQ north-west via The Gap, Ashgrove or Mitchelton. There is plenty of free parking. The closest railway station is Ferny Grove and it is a 10 minute, 700 metres walk. We can arrange to pick up anyone from the station (prior to 9:45am) and drop them back for a return train. **Coordinator: Kay Rees** ●

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

KEN SUTTON MEMORIAL LIBRARY GROUP



When: Monday, June 26, 2017

Time: 9:00 am

Where: "Gregory House", 237 Milton Rd.

MAP GROUP

UPCOMING MAP GROUP GATHERINGS/EVENTS:

June 2017

Gathering & Presentation

- **Monday 5 June @ 10am, Gregory House Auditorium**
 - **Presentation:** Speakers/Topic: Noel Dawson and Des Boyland on "The WARLUS Mapping Program";
 - **Gathering:** will follow presentation. An email will be sent to Map Group members providing information on what will be discussed at the Gathering.

Event: OSM 2 Day Workshop

- **Wednesday 21 & Thursday 22 June, 10am to 4pm each day @ Gregory House Auditorium**
 - **NOTE:** The dates have been brought forward a week, due to the OSM teacher's scheduling commitments.
 - **Workshop Fee:** \$20
 - **Information Sheet:** A more detailed Information Sheet on the Workshop Program over 2 days will be circulated to relevant Map Group members via an email. 5 Registrations are still active and forms a basic class size for David Dean, the OSM teacher running this digital mapping workshop.
 - **Closing Date for Registrations: Friday May 31, 2017**

July 2017

Event: Visit to Army Museum, Victoria Barracks

- **Wednesday 19 July - 9.15am to 12 noon**
- **@ Victoria Barracks, Petrie Terrace, Brisbane where the Army Museum is located.**
 - **NOTE:** A key element of this visit is to view Queensland military maps, besides undertake the standard Museum Tour.
 - **Standard Museum Entry Fee:** \$15
 - **Information Sheet:** A more detailed Information Sheet on the Visit will be circulated to relevant Map Group members via an email.
 - **Registrations:** Now welcome. Please contact Bob Abnett at abnett@powerup.com.au.
 - **Closing Date for Registrations:** Wednesday 5 July 2017
Bob Abnett, Co-ordinator, Map Group

Map of the month

“Interpreting Nautical Charts”

by Ian Francis, RGSQ member

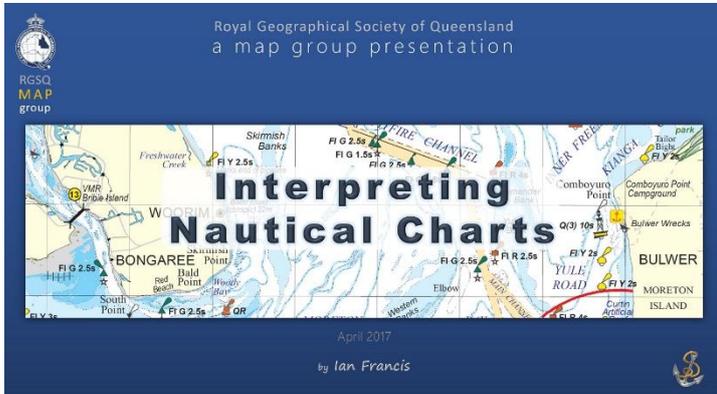


Image courtesy of Ian Francis.

Chris Hall, the regular contributor to this column, is on leave. This month I will depart from showcasing maps and explain why “Interpreting Nautical Charts” became the Map Group’s April presentation topic.

Until recently I had limited knowledge of nautical charts; however, a holiday rental experience in New Zealand was the catalyst for a deeper understanding.

In 1913 three houses were constructed on a sandy spit at Aramoana at the northern head of the Otago Harbour. The houses afford a splendid view of the Pacific Ocean. Commissioned by the Otago Harbour Board, the houses became the homes for a Pilot, two boatmen and their families. The pilot and his boatmen provided safe maritime passage in the Otago Harbour. Adjacent to the three houses was a purpose built jetty for the Pilot’s boat. One hundred and fourteen years later the three houses are still in use but sadly the jetty is a poor relic of its former glory.

The buildings’ location was carefully selected since visual sightings of incoming vessels and easy access to the Pilot’s craft were mandatory requirements. That changed in 1923 with the introduction of radio communications. Radio signalling made the need for visual sightings at the harbour mouth obsolete. Soon after 1923, the Otago Harbour Board relocated the pilot staff back to Port Chalmers. The houses were now surplus to requirement and sold.

Back to the present, I was fortunate enough to choose one of these heritage houses designed by architect Basil Hooper as my holiday destination. They have a breath-taking location situated on a thin sand spit with open ocean in front and the Otago Harbour at the rear. The views are glorious and the albatross flying overhead are a treat but it was the interior of the house that led me on the path of researching nautical charts. The house is decorated with all things maritime and featuring prominently are nautical charts of the Otago region. The collection of charts spans over 70 years. Sitting by the cosy fire each night was very relaxing but I found my mind wandering back to those wall charts time and time again. My curiosity demanded that I understood all their complexities.

After returning to Brisbane where I had access to the Internet, the expertise of the Maritime Museum and assistance from my

boatie brother in law I could immerse myself in the research of nautical charts. The natural extension of this endeavour was to present my findings to the Map Group at a monthly meeting.

My research took me from the earliest maps created by the Phoenicians to current charts produced by the Australian Hydrographic Service and points in between. I don’t profess to be an expert by any measure but I know a lot more now than I did prior to my delightful stay at Aramoana. ●

ROUNDUP - CANBERRA '10 DAYS IN THE NATION'S CAPITAL'

by Leo Scanlan, trek Coordinator



RGSQ group at Parliament House, Canberra Trek, March 2017.

On the 10th of March sixteen RGSQ members started, what was to prove, a very enjoyable and interesting look inside our Nation’s Capital, Canberra.

On our first evening in Canberra, we settled into our accommodation at the Alivio Tourist Park and then moved on to an evening ‘Enlighten Festival’ event entitled ‘Luminous Botanicus III’ at the National Botanical Gardens. For myself, I had never before experienced a botanical garden enhanced by so many different light forms. Some aspects of this event also had musical accompaniment. It was truly spectacular and something I would encourage visitors to experience should they visit Canberra at the time of the annual Enlighten Festival.

The next morning, we visited the National Capital Exhibition which was a look into the physical development of Canberra from a ‘sheep station’ to the Nation’s Capital. The photo exhibition of early design competition entries was quite interesting and well presented by our young guide Charlie. From here we moved on to walk in the historical gardens of Old Parliament House. I might add here in a different time things may have looked a lot better as the rose garden was definitely suffering from the heat and the very trying dryness in Canberra at this time of the year.

After a very relaxed lunch and some convivial conversation at The Deck overlooking Lake Burley Griffin most took the opportunity to walk the Bridge to Bridge circuit past the major institutional buildings around the lake. I’m sure many would have great photographs of Commonwealth Avenue Bridge, The Captain Cook Memorial Jet, The National Library of Australia, The National Gallery of Australia, and The Australian War Memorial to name a few of the prominent buildings in view.

On Sunday March 12, all visited the Versailles Exhibition at the National Gallery of Australia. This was the first time such an

exhibition from Versailles had moved beyond France. Although I feel most fortunate to have visited Versailles while in Europe on a past trip, as a proud Australian, I feel this was a real coup for our National Gallery to present such a priceless art exhibition. As part of the centenary of the First World War an "Artists of The Great War" Exhibition was on at the same time - also of great interest. In the early afternoon, some visited the Paddle Steamer Enterprise moored on Lake Burley Griffin adjacent to the National Museum of Australia.

On Monday morning, we made our first attempt to view the Balloon Spectacular on the lawns in front of Old Parliament House. This was to prove a non-event as the weather conditions were not conducive to a safe balloon spectacular on this particular morning. Later on, we moved to New Parliament House on Capitol Hill. The building is more than spectacular and I'm sure in years to come will be one of 'THE' buildings of the 20th Century. It was disappointing that Australia's Magna Carta was in Melbourne for some restoration work but a copy was on display.

Prior to our tour of Parliament House, we enjoyed morning coffee in Queens Terrace Café situated on the first floor of Parliament House. We then moved on to our 1pm 'Behind The Scenes Tour' of Parliament, with both the House of Representatives and The Senate highlights. The Ben Quilty art in the Great Hall and other priceless pieces of The Parliamentary Art Collection were visible throughout the building. This was followed by our customary Happy Hour at the Alivio Tourist Park at 5.30pm. *(Continued in the next issue of the RGSQ Bulletin)*

RGSQ Spicers Gap Heritage Track Outing Wednesday 10th May 2017 – Report

by Chris Spriggs, RGSQ member and trek Coordinator

24 members found their own way to the Aratula Hotel Motel, where a great morning tea was included as part of the day activity. The RGSQ group were allocated to cars during the stop at the Aratula Hotel Motel, since there was a need to minimise the number of vehicles travelling into the National Park.

Items of interest were placed on tables at the Aratula Hotel Motel, and we had a few contributions from members who had some past family experiences of Spicer's Gap as well as some geographical input from Bernard Fitzpatrick.

A group decision was made that some members would also continue beyond the Heritage Track and complete the Mount Mathieson track back to the Pioneer Grave carpark. This required organising of vehicles so that the longer walkers would have vehicles at the Pioneer Grave carpark on their return.

Members walked into the Pioneer Graves area on the road up to Spicer's Gap and read the interpretive signs along the way. We then proceeded to Governors Chair stopping at Moss's Well along the way. Lunch was had at Governors Chair while appreciating the beautiful views despite it being a cloudy overcast day. Here general discussion about the history and physical geography of the region occurred.

The Mt Mathieson walkers led the way along the Heritage Track leaving the remaining party to walk at a slower pace. This

is a more difficult track and is about 6.1kms from Governor's Chair to the Pioneer Graves. About half of the group opted for this option. The Spicer's Gap Road Conservation Park is a rare example of road construction from the 1860s and is blocked off to all traffic. It has useful historical plaques which were interesting to read along the way. This track is about 1.6kms long, gently sloping and requires a return the same way back. Bird and plant life is abundant. Participants seemed to enjoy the opportunity to visit this unique area and for quite a few people it was a revisit after a number of years. If there is enough interest we could repeat this trip next year, possibly on a weekend. ●



RGSQ members at Governor's Chair Lookout during RGSQ trek to Spicers Gap, May 2017.

Special Information Session

June 6, 6:30pm, before the June Lecture, 'Gregory House', 237 Milton Rd, Milton, 4064.

Following the announcement in the May Bulletin with regards to the Council's consideration to review and change the Society's incorporated legal structure aimed at bringing the operation of the Society on to a more modern footing, we'd be delighted if you joined us for a **Special Information Session to be held at 6:30pm before the 6th of June lecture** in the RGSQ Auditorium, 'Gregory House', 237 Milton Rd, Milton, 4064.

AGC Volunteers

Thank you again to all volunteers who assisted with the March Australian Geography Competition Question book mailout. The Competition has ended up with 743 schools and over 70,600 students entered.

Members' assistance will be required for the packing and mailing of the Certificates and Results commencing Tuesday July the 11th. If you can help, please contact the Office to register your name. Thank you. **Bernard Fitzpatrick, Australian Geography Competition Coordinator**

Library disposal

The RGSQ Library have some copies of the Australian Sugar Year Book to be disposed of. Volumes include: 1959, 1967, 1968, 1970, 1971, 1972, 1974, 1975, 1976, 1979, 1980, 1981, 1983, 1984, 1990, and 1991. If any member is interested in taking these volumes, please contact Bernard in the Office before the end of June 2017.

These along with copies of the Overlander magazine for disposal will be available on a table at the June lecture at "Gregory House".

RGSQ Office

Gail Orr, who has been our friendly Administration Assistant over the last fourteen months has decided to leave the employment of RGSQ at the end of May.

On behalf of Council, members, and staff I would like to thank Gail for working with us over the last year. We wish Gail all the best and best of luck with her family history research.

In addition to helping with the Society's administration, she has provided some interesting insights into the value of our historic records and library from a family history perspective.

Vale, Maureen Meier

We would like to inform members that our fellow member Maureen Meier passed away on the morning of Thursday, the 18th of May after a fight with cancer.

Maureen and husband Sid joined the Society in 1991 and became active members accompanying fellow members on the Society bus trips, and regularly volunteering in the Society's office. Sid died a number of years ago, but Maureen continued to regularly attend our monthly lectures up until early this year and, was until last year, coming into the office to assist with the monthly Bulletin mailout.

Maureen had many delightful stories of her early life in India and England, her 1950s and 1960s travels including outback hospitals as a young English nurse new to Australia.

Always with a smile, a kind word, and a gentle heart, Maureen will be missed by all who met her.

RGSQ Bulletin

June 2017

Lecture of the Month: Tue June 6

"The Northwest Passage Now – a Geographer's Journey" by Dr Lynn Moorman

Sunshine Coast Lecture: Tue 27 June

"Shrinking Glaciers? Cautionary Tales from North America and New Zealand" by Prof Jamie Shulmeister

Tours and Activities: Thu 15 June

Follow the Murray, an illustrated talk by Audrey Johnston.

Map Group: Mon 5 June, 10 am "Gregory House", 237 Milton Rd, Milton. *Key Event: "The WARLUS Mapping Program"*

Ken Sutton Memorial Library: Mon June 26, 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
"Gregory House", 237 Milton Road, Milton Q 4064

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