



RGSQ Bulletin

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Patron: H.E. Paul de Jersey AC, Governor of Queensland
President: Dr Iraphne Childs

From the President

Dear Members, now that COVID restrictions have eased, I encourage members to attend our lectures and events in-person at the RGSQ premises, to enjoy face-to-face presentations and camaraderie over morning teas and evening suppers. We are set up to adhere to COVID guidelines. The next lecture, is our special Thomson oration by Prof. Alaric Maude from Adelaide on 1 June **“What makes Geography Powerful?”** We are grateful that Alaric has been able to travel from Adelaide to deliver his lecture at RGSQ. Hope to see you there.

In May we had two successful dual-mode (in-person at Gregory Place and via zoom) presentations, enabling us to reach members outside of Brisbane and those who cannot attend in-person. On Tuesday, 4 May Professor Patrick Moss presented his excellent lecture **“Climate, people or both – the environmental setting for late quaternary megafaunal extinction in eastern Australia”** and on 11 May I presented **“Polynesian Navigation”** as part of the Map Group’s program. If you missed these events both presentations were recorded and are now available on RGSQ’s YouTube channel at <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC2WD4ARJhBDliOxa3qndb4Q>.



National Volunteers Week 17-23 May: To recognise, celebrate and thank volunteers for the vital role they play in our lives.



It is thought that Australia counts some six million volunteers who dedicate their time to helping others. I know that many of our members volunteer and participate in other organisations. I would like to recognise and thank the contributions that our members make as volunteers to the RGSQ – we could not run the Society without you! Our Councillors, members of all RGSQ committees, those who help with the Geography Competition mailouts, those who prepare and serve morning teas and suppers and more. On behalf of all RGSQ members, a BIG THANK YOU - we appreciate all of you.



From our Patron, the Hon. Paul de Jersey, Governor of Qld: I have accepted an invitation from Government House for myself and Ralph to attend an afternoon tea on 3 June celebrating Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II’s official 95th birthday. The Governor supports many organisations across the State through a program of community engagement including the RGSQ as our Patron. During his term of office, His Excellency has engaged with our Society in a number of ways including, as members will recall, [officially opening](#) our new premises in Fortescue Street, Spring Hill in July 2019, and many invitations to attend functions at Government House. His Excellency’s original five-year term commenced on 29 July 2014. In November 2018, the Premier of Queensland announced that the Queen had agreed to extend Paul de Jersey’s appointment by two years, through to 29 July 2021. To date there has not been any announcement as to who the next Governor of Queensland will be.

With best wishes
Dr. Iraphne Childs, President

References

National Volunteer week Australia
<https://www.volunteeringaustralia.org/get-involved/nvw/>

RGSQ COUNCIL

President: Iraphne Childs
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Secretary: John Tasker
Treasurer: Annie Lau
Councillors: Kath Berg

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Ian Harding
Patrick Moss
Daphne Stephens
Pamela Tonkin
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THE J P THOMSON MEDAL



Thomson Oration

Tuesday 1 June | 7.30pm-9pm

What makes geography powerful?

by **Alaric Maude** – awarded the
2020 JP Thomson Medal

Location: RGSQ premises (Level 1, 28 Fortescue St, Spring Hill, Qld) and via Zoom

Registration essential: <https://rgsq.org.au/event-4296503>

The concept of powerful knowledge was introduced into educational debates nearly a decade ago by Michael Young, a British sociologist of education. He contends that the main purpose of schools is to teach knowledge that enables students to understand and think beyond the limits of their own experience and describes such knowledge as 'powerful'. His ideas have been controversial, but particularly influential in geographical education.



In this lecture, Alaric will focus on the following types of powerful knowledge, which are derived from Michael Young's many publications:

- The power of new ways of thinking
- The power to better explain and understand the natural and social worlds
- The power to apply knowledge to contexts and problems beyond the limits of one's personal experience

These types of powerful knowledge become geographical when they are based on geography's major concepts. The lecture explores the ways in which these concepts can produce powerful geographical knowledge, with examples that include research on Queensland.

Alaric is a long-retired geography academic, after teaching at Flinders University for many years. In the past Alaric researched and taught about SE Asia and the Pacific, and then regional development in Australia. Since retirement in 2004, he has been Secretary of the Institute of Australian Geographers (2004-2012). Between 2009 and 2013, Alaric was Lead Writer and then Writing Coach for the Australian Geography curriculum being developed by the Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA). Between 2013 and 2017, he was Chair of the National Committee for Geographical Sciences of the Academy of the Sciences and led the production of a report on Geography: shaping Australia's future.

Please note: The lecture may be recorded. If you have any questions, please email us at info@rgsq.org.au.

The J.P. Thomson Medal is the most prestigious award given by The Royal Geographical Society of Queensland.

Consideration for the award is not restricted to Society members but is open to all persons who are residents of Australia. Not more than one award is made in any one year.

The Thomson Medal was established in 1900 to honour Dr James Park Thomson, CBE, LL.D Hon, FRGSA, founding Secretary of the Society, and the inaugural award was made the following year to Dr Thomson. The Medal recognises the high qualities of scholarship and contribution to the study of geography which marked the life of Dr James Park Thomson.

Awards reflect the object of the Society to promote and stimulate the study of geography, the need to affirm to Society members, the public and the media the importance of geography, and the desire to honour the community service to geography of Dr Thomson.

Contributions are considered in one or more of the following:

- Research that has advanced knowledge of the discipline of geography or advanced understanding of the importance of the role of geography in our daily lives.
- Teaching or writing that has contributed to geographical education, including the development or application of techniques that have promoted the progress or application of geographical studies.
- Activities in fields not necessarily identified as geography, but which are clearly influenced by a geographical outlook or knowledge.

Since 1991 only one category of Medal has been awarded. Prior to 1991, the Medal was struck in gold, silver and bronze. Past recipients have included Griffith Taylor, Bert Hinkler, Douglas Mawson, John Bradfield, and in more recent times, Graeme Hugo, Andrew Short and Dave Gillieson.

The 2020 JP Thomson Award recipient is Alaric Maude. Alaric was not able to come to Brisbane to receive his award in 2020 due to COVID restrictions but he did give an address via zoom in June 2020. He is delivering a different address on 1 June 2021 and will receive his award in-person at RGSQ on the night.

To register for the June 1 Thomson oration, please visit: <https://rgsq.org.au/event-4296503>

WHAT'S ON

For all upcoming RGSQ events, please visit the Society's website www.rgsq.org.au under 'What's On'.



Join the Treks and Activities Committee!

Each year the RGSQ provides a programme of trips and activities where members and their guests are able to engage with Geography.

The planning and co-ordination of such a programme is undertaken on behalf of the Society Council by the Treks and Activities Committee (TAAC).

TAAC meets four times a year for approximately two hours per meeting to initially plan and then coordinate at least one monthly activity. The ideas and general experience of ordinary members is invaluable in providing a varied selection of outings for Society members to enjoy and expand their knowledge while enjoying the company of like-minded people.

Becoming a member of TAAC provides an opportunity to enjoy the satisfaction and fulfilment of establishing a programme of events to engage, educate and entertain Society members and their guests throughout the year. New participants always inject new ideas and new opportunities.

The current committee comprises five regular members, two of whom will be resigning this year because of other commitments. The committee does not have to be limited to five.

Members are invited to contact Chris Spriggs (Current Co-Chair) on 0400 908 378/07 3369 0880 or the office on 07 3368 2066 for further details. By joining the Committee, you will be able to participate in a very important arm of the Society.



MAP GROUP EVENTS

CHALLENGES OF TOWN PLANNING

Wednesday, 30 June 2021

9:15 AM - 12:00 PM

Presenters: Daphne Stephens; RGSQ and Map Group member (retired town planner) and Drew Westbrook, Senior Town Planner, Veris.

Location: Gregory Place, Level1/28 Fortescue St, Spring Hill, Qld, 4000

Registration essential: <https://rgsq.org.au/event-4219718>

Topic Overview: Challenges within town planning decisions are vast and many and often leave residents unsatisfied. Just which issues and who's side is taken for the final Council/Court decision. This talk will have Daphne speaking about the controversial old ABC site in Toowong: current town planning requirements; a past approval and appeal and, a possible future use. Drew both works and

lives in Fortitude Valley and will outline the Valley's conflict between residential living and the entertainment locations, and other sites.

Event Requirements: This event will be conducted in keeping with Health Department Covid-19 directions regarding social distancing, good hygiene practices and group size in force for the venue at the time of the event.

Costs: \$2:00 contribution towards morning tea

Limit: 20. Registration on the website required.

Coordinator: Neville McManimm

REPORT: SUMMERLAND CAMEL DAIRY Friday 7 MAY 2021

There were 23 participants in our self-drive visit to Summerland Camel Dairy at Harrisville (20 members and 3 guests). It was a glorious day in the rural setting of the Scenic Rim. On arrival, we had time to gather, have a cup of coffee/tea with camel milk, meet and re-establish friendships. At 10.30am, David, our guide, took us on a short walk to the paddocks where he explained the history, the intelligence of the camel and the working dairy.



Members at Summerland Camel Dairy with Dessert gelato ice cream. Courtesy of Jeanette Lamont.

Originally the one hump, Dromedary, camel was brought to Australia as a work animal to transport and haul wool. Now they are wild and often mistaken for a pest to be culled. However, David elaborated on the advantages of the camel over the bovine, cattle. Camels are browsers so would rather eat bark and shrubs to grass, their feet are soft so are more environmentally friendly with less damage at the waterholes. They are suited to Australian conditions as they can survive up to 6 weeks without food or water and can swim if land is flooded. Also, there is less waste manure.

This camel dairy is the largest in the Southern Hemisphere. It has 800 camels with a dairy herd of 250. Currently they are milking 86. Once the wild camels arrive at the farm, they use the low stress stock handling method. The milking shed is a Herringbone design with feed, no pit and a calm, relaxed environment so the cow will release her milk. Milking is once a day 5 days a week. Each cow produces about three litres at a cost of \$10-12 a litre.

Research and Development at the farm is an important component. Three Universities are involved with data

collection and analysis for the benefits of camel milk. As a natural probiotic, it is good for the gut and mental health. It is naturally homogenized. Products such as Persian Feta cheese, and freeze-dried powdered milk are made. The whey is slowly blended with local honey, fermented, and distilled for Camel Vodka. A range of skin care products is also available. However, camel milk is not suitable for butter or cream.

After tasting the milk, camel sausage and feta, lunch, which used the farm products, was served on the veranda of the Homestead. It was an alternate drop of Camel Burger or Quiche with chips, salad, and a soft drink. A selection of Gelato Ice creams was served for dessert. Delicious!!

A visit to the shop and a photo with the camels was the perfect end to the trip. We departed about 2.30pm. It was a very informative and enjoyable outing in the Scenic Rim.

Contributed by Jeanette Lamont, TAAC member

REPORT: VISIT TO HERBARIUM, SATURDAY 24 April 2021

19 members attended the second visit to the Herbarium on a beautiful sunny day.

It was a real privilege to have the opportunity to hear from the presenters (Ralph Dowling and Gordon Guymer) and see this facility.

Ralph Dowling, Principal Botanist, gave a very interesting and informative presentation titled 'Arctic and Antarctic – Same but Different'.

He compared the two regions. One, a sea surrounded by land and the other, land surrounded by sea. There were statistics, colours of the ice, vegetation, wildlife, explorations, and industry. His photography captured the moods of the two cold areas. He described the plant life from Tundra with small elms to limited mosses and only 2 species of flowering plants. Also, animals from the terrestrial Polar bear to the abundance of marine life and Penguins were featured. Maps showed the routes of European explorers from the Vikings, James Cook, French and American. It was a very comprehensive coverage of the two cold deserts.

Gordon Guymer, Director, gave an overview of the facilities and wide variety of functions carried out by the Herbarium. He invited members to get involved with the Weed Spotters and Volunteer programs.

The group was divided into two for the guided tour of the facility. The Foyer Mural by Vince Byrne was much admired with the 70 plant species represented. The eco-friendly design of the building was explained, and we were shown the many coloured boxes with archival plant specimens. It was very interesting to see how the plants were arranged. Displays from Joseph Banks and Solander included a Banksia which was collected on Cook's voyage and some of Leichhardt's collection was displayed for us.

Lunch was at the Botanic Gardens Café.

Everyone spoke very highly of the occasion. It was a very enjoyable day.

Contributed by Jeanette Lamont, TAAC member

What's happening on Council?

On 18 May six Councillors met in-person at the RGSQ in Fortescue street with one Councillor attending via *Teams* online i.e. a quorum of 7 was present. Reports were received from Iraphne Childs (President), Annie Lau (Treasurer), Pamela Tonkin (Property), Young Geographers (John Tasker), Rachel Honey, Kath Berg & John Tasker (AGC) and Lilia Darii (Business Manager). Matters discussed included:

- IT fees and service model for coming year
- Stage three Conservation Heritage Grants application was submitted on 10 May
- Application to improve lighting and presentation facilities has been submitted to the Gambling Community Benefit Fund
- Membership fees review – members to be advised at AGM
- Replacement of lift – liaising with Body Corporate with regards to costs and timing. Current lift has been certified in January this year for a period up to 2022
- One new member was confirmed

BOOK REVIEW

Prisoners of Geography

by Ralph Carlisle

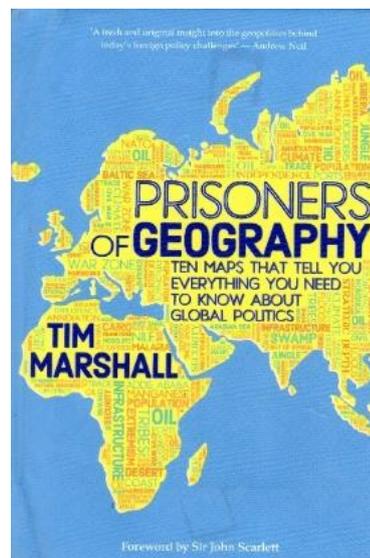
This book by Tim Marshall is sub-titled *Ten maps that tell you everything you need to know about global politics*. With a title like that, my interest was piqued!

The book examines how geographical factors have constrained the development and international relations of countries in different parts of the world. As a book on *geopolitics*, it is more *politics* than *geo*, but it does have a solid framework of physical geography – and maps!

To quote from the introduction: "... *the choices of those who lead [us] will to some degree always be shaped by rivers, mountains, deserts, lakes and seas that constrain us all – as they always have.*"

Published in 2015 - before Brexit, Trump, COVID etc - the book covers nothing of the last six years. There is limited discussion of climate change in the conclusion, and little on world population growth and environmental issues as drivers of current and possible future geopolitics. The author is a journalist with several decades of experience in reporting on international issues. He is well-informed rather than authoritative. Possibly his profession helps the text to flow and be readable. No references are given but there are five pages of bibliography.

The ten chapters are entitled Russia, China, USA, Western Europe, Africa, The Middle East, India and Pakistan, Korea and Japan, Latin America, The Arctic –



each with a map of the country/region discussed. There are no chapters on Australia, Oceania, or SE Asia. I can accept that our corner of the globe may not be very significant on the world stage (Australia is mentioned briefly in two places, but only as an ally of the USA). Nonetheless, I thought SE Asia would be worth a chapter (the South China Sea issue and the Malacca Strait are explored in the China chapter). Also, there is no chapter on the Antarctic, but, as the author explains, that ice and land mass does not contain shortcut sea routes like the Arctic does. He uses terms like 'above' and 'below' rather than 'north' and 'south'. This is irritating from a geographical perspective. The dust jacket uses Mercator Projection but other maps (e.g. of Russia and the Arctic) use projections more appropriate to the places on the globe represented.

Overall, this is an informative and easy-to-read book. Experts may consider that it oversimplifies its material, but this is both a strength and a weakness – a strength because it does not overwhelm with detail, a weakness because it may present an incomplete picture. If you read the book, you will quickly realise how much has happened in the world since it was written.

BCC Library – available as hard copy and electronic forms.

JAMES PARK THOMSON

Founder of the Royal Geographical Society of Queensland



With the Thomson Oration scheduled for 1st of June, members may be interested to find out more about the geographer whose achievements are celebrated through the annual JP Thomson award.

James Park Thomson was born in the Shetland Islands on 20 June 1854.

From 1872-1876, he travelled through many parts of North and South America and New Zealand studying the geographical conditions he encountered. In 1877, Thomson voyaged to New South Wales and took up a position in the Survey Department, Sydney.

In early 1880, Thomson qualified as a Land Surveyor and soon after was appointed the Government Surveyor in Fiji. He occupied this position for the next four years. While in Fiji, Thomson conducted the observation of the Transit of Venus.

After leaving Fiji, Thomson travelled throughout the South Pacific. In early 1885, he accepted employment as a draughtsman in the Survey Branch of the Queensland Department of Public Lands. He held this position until his retirement in 1921.

After his arrival in Brisbane, Thomson initiated the formation of the Queensland Branch of the Royal Geographical Society of Australasia. He went on to be the Society's Secretary or Secretary/Treasurer until 1941, except for 1894-1897 when he was President.

Thomson delivered many addresses to the society on a wide range of topics, including Fiji, the New Hebrides, the physical geography of Australia and water conservation. Many of his talks were published in the Society's publication the *Queensland Geographical Journal*. Thomson also published two books – *British New Guinea* and *Round the World* – and wrote articles for French and British geographical journals.

Thomson's achievements were recognised in 1897 when he was awarded the Medal of the Incorporated Society of Science, Letters and Art of London, and again in 1903 when he was bestowed with a Hon LLD from Queen's University (Canada). He also received a CBE in 1920 for 'distinguished services in the advancement of science'.

Dr Thomson died on 11 May 1941 at Kilcoy at the age of 87. The Society honours Thomson's achievements through awarding Thomson Medals. In 1989, the Society expanded the recognition given to its Founder by introducing the annual J P Thomson Address.

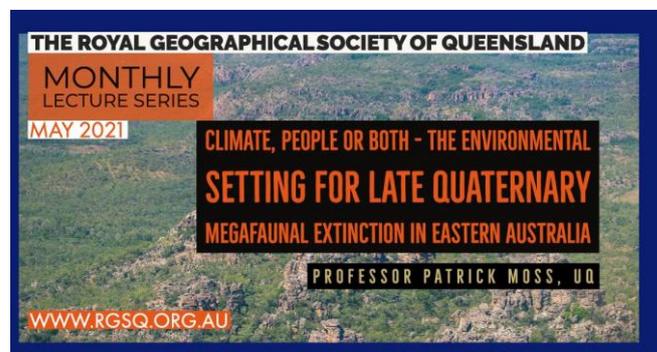
Recording of May lecture

The **recording of the May lecture** presented by Professor Patrick Moss

"Climate, People or Both - The Environmental Setting for late Quaternary Megafaunal Extinction in Eastern Australia"

is now available on:

- Society's YouTube channel:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EwRB6HF7fmM>
- Society's website under: [Past lectures 2021](#)



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

We have much pleasure in welcoming Dipam Gandhi as a new member. We hope your association with your new Society is long and mutually enjoyable.

We always welcome stories from RGSQ members. If you wish to submit your story for the July Bulletin, please email copy to info@rgsq.org.au by 15 June or contact us at 07 3368 2066 if you have any questions.

RGSQ

Bulletin

June 2021

Lecture/Meeting: Tuesday, 1 June

Thomson Oration: 'What makes Geography powerful?' by Alaric Maude

Activities/Events:

Tuesday 22 June: RAAF Amberley Aviation Heritage Centre and The Workshops Rail Museum

Wednesday 30 June: Map Group Presentation 'Challenges of Town Planning'

W: www.rgsq.org.au

E: info@rgsq.org.au

P: 07 3368 2066

The June Council will meet on the third Tuesday of the month.

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