



RGSQ Bulletin

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President: Dr Iraphne Childs

From the President

Dear Members, it now looks promising that Australia's COVID-19 vaccines will be rolled out in March and April. Queensland continues to be in a fortunate situation with no community transmission. While ever mindful of the continued, albeit low, risk, RGSQ is hoping to resume some trips and activities in 2021. Thanks to the TAAC committee and the Map Group coordinators for planning and organising the year's events. Check out their programs on the website.

INTERNATIONAL
WOMEN'S DAY 2021
— #womenlead —

International Women's Day 8 March 2021

International Women's Day (IWD) is celebrated around the world on the 8th of March. In Australia we can recognise the work of many outstanding women scientists and geographers.

Australia's Chief Scientist:

Dr. Cathy Foley, physicist, is the 2nd woman to be appointed to the role of Australia's Chief Scientist. She took up this position in January 2021. Dr Foley has been involved with climate change, stem cells, health and biosecurity, mineral resources, manufacturing, astronomy, and energy. As well as providing independent advice to Government on science, technology and innovation, Dr. Foley has been keen to engage and share scientific information with the Australian public. She has been regularly posting science news on her website and on her Facebook page. For example, in early February she alerted us to the launch of the **Square Kilometre Array Observatory (SKAO)** which has ushered in a new era for radio astronomy. Headquartered in the UK, the SKAO is the world's largest intergovernmental radio telescope, including 131,072 two-metre-tall antennas located in Western Australia. Researchers hope the SKAO may help find out how the first stars and galaxies formed after the big bang, understand dark matter, and find out more about the universe's vast magnetic fields.



Australia's Women Geographers: Most members will probably know the name of famous Australian geographer Griffith Taylor, but did you know that his sister, **Dorothy R. Taylor**, was also a Geographer? She was one of the first women employed in the Department of Geography at the University of Sydney, where she had completed a Bachelor of Science. In 1925 she established the Geographical Laboratory at the University of Sydney with her brother, Griffith. The Geographical Society of NSW's *Australian Geographer Award for Best Paper* is named after Dorothy, recognising her role in establishing and co-editing Australia's first and longest-running academic geography journal. The award acknowledges the contributions made by Australian women geographers. Today women make a huge contribution to the teaching of Geography in primary and secondary schools and in universities. Many women geographers lead research teams and hold executive positions in local, state, and national professional institutions such as the Geography Teachers' Associations, Institute of Australian Geographers, and the Academy of Science's National Committee for Geographical Sciences.

Contributions to RGSQ: The Society's membership is approx. 50% female with women members participating in and contributing in so many valuable ways to activities on committees and as volunteers. Over its 135-year history, the Society has had three women presidents: Mrs. Henry Robertson, MBE, JP, FRGSA (1944-49); Mrs. Doreen worth (2001-2003) and yours truly, Dr. Iraphne Childs, FRGSQ (2003-2005; 2017-present). The current RGSQ Council of 11 members has five women councillors. To celebrate IWD we asked three young women members to share their thoughts on being Geographers in Australia today - see what they said later in this Bulletin.

References

Australia's Chief Scientist

<https://www.facebook.com/ScienceChiefAu>

Square Kilometre Array

<https://www.skatelescope.org/news/skao-is-born/>

Australian Geographer Awards, 2019. The Geographical Society of NSW.

<https://www.geogsoc.org.au/site/index.cfm?display=674196>

With best wishes

Dr. Iraphne Childs, President

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

We have much pleasure in welcoming Thomas Bauer, Michael William Harrison, Charles Martin, Aisling Shanahan, Richard Mainey, Mubeen Ahmad, Rachel Gallagher, and Ingrid Bailey as new members of The Royal Geographical Society of Queensland. We hope your association with your new Society is long and mutually enjoyable.

March 2021 Monthly Lecture Tuesday March 2 | 7.30pm-9pm | via Zoom *Mapping Pest Animals – Identifying and Managing Impacts*

presented by *Matthew Ryan, Principal Biosecurity Officer with the Invasive Plants and Animals Program of the Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries*

Register: <https://rgsq.org.au/event-3669844>



Pest animals (invasive animals) have a significant impact on the environment, the economy, human health, or social amenity.

The diversity of Queensland's climate and environment provides favourable conditions for the establishment of many invasive species whether

accidentally or through deliberate introduction. Invasive animals can compound issues with control as they can be transient, cryptic in nature and move across multiple land tenures.

Although eradication of invasive animals is desirable, it is recognised as unachievable in most cases. It is therefore more strategic to prevent entry and establishment of new pests and focus management of established pests to reduce their impacts in a cost-effective manner.

Mapping provides a useful tool to process information about invasive animals and assist land managers and property owners through better application of resources and determining appropriate control methods.

Matthew Ryan is a Principal Biosecurity Officer with the Invasive Plants and Animals Program of the Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries. He has over 15 years' experience managing pest plants and animals, born from interests when growing up on a family farm, and working within specialised fields across local and state government. Matthew's current role has a focus on new and emerging plant and animal threats to Queensland and methods to both detect and prevent establishment.

Please note: This lecture will be delivered online via Zoom. The lecture link will be emailed to all registrants closer to the lecture date. If you have any questions, please email us at info@rgsq.org.au.

2021 Australian Geography Competition is underway



The AGC for 2021 is well on the way with question-writers busy finalising the competition booklet and the first mailout of information to schools completed. Many thanks to our AGC Coordinator, Rachel Honey, for organising the mailout, to member volunteers - Ralph Carlisle, Mary Comer, Roger Grimley, Graham and Kay Rees, Bob Reid, and Sue Reid, who helped Rachel to prepare the packages for mailing on 2 February.



Grateful thanks also to Councillors Kath Berg and John Tasker, our RGSQ representatives on the AGC Committee, for their continued efforts and time.

Contributed by *Iraphne Childs, photos credit Kay Rees*

Volunteer Days for the 2021 Competition

The Competition will need the assistance of RGSQ volunteers again in 2021 during the following periods:

March: Tuesday 2 to Friday 7

Mailout of Competition Question packs. This mailout requires counting/weighing of question booklets and answer sheets and placing them in large envelopes, post satchels or boxes. This is a complex mailout which requires 6-8 volunteers per day.

April: Wednesday 7 April and Tuesday 20 April

Receiving, opening, and scanning of answer sheets. This task requires concentration and attention to detail. The days volunteers are required is dependent on the timing and number of returned answer sheets.

May: Tuesday 25 to Friday 28 May

Mailout of Certificates, results, and prizes. This mailout requires the sorting and packing of student certificates, results sheets and prizes into large envelopes, post satchels or boxes. This task requires concentration and attention to detail.

If you have some time to help, please contact Rachel, Competition Coordinator, on 07 3330 6907 or email AGCcoordinator@rgsq.org.au.

WHAT'S ON

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



The **Treks and Activities Committee** are well on the way to finalising a complete program for each month of 2021. A number of these events are the same as those postponed last year.

Some people therefore are already registered and have paid for these activities. If this is the case, you will be contacted to find out whether you are still available to go on the new trip or would like a refund.

Details are gradually being uploaded to the website and should be available shortly.

The trip to the Herbarium at the Mt Coot-tha Botanical Gardens together with a lecture on the Arctic and Antarctica has been arranged for March 5th and has already been booked out as we are limited to 20 people for that event. Given the demand for this activity, we are considering running it again. Further details will be available on the website.

A preliminary treks and activities program is shown below:

- **Friday 5th March Lecture and Tour of Herbarium. Mt Coot-tha Botanical Gardens. [Register](#)**
- **Wednesday 7th April St Lawrence Urban Farm and Boggo Road Gaol**
- **Friday 7th May Summerland Camel Farm Dairy, Harrisville**
- **Tuesday 22nd June RAAF Heritage Museum Amberley and Ipswich Railway Workshops**
- **Tuesday 13th July Christmas in July, Maleny**
- **Tuesday 17th August Milne Bay Museum Chermside**
- **September: Overnight trek in Warwick area**
- **Wednesday 13th October Scenic Rim – Boonah and Mt French**
- **November: Possible long trek to Tasmania**
- **December: Christmas Party**

Let's hope we can complete all these events without restriction apart from social distancing and proper hand cleansing.

Chris Spriggs, on behalf of the TAAC Committee

Preservation Needs Assessment of RGSQ's Collection of artefacts, maps and library

On the 1st of February, conservationists Maïté Le Mens and Jennifer Loubser conducting the preservation needs assessment of RGSQ's entire collection have begun their study of the state of the collections. On the Friday, before the conservationists visit, members of the Collections Committee and volunteers met at RGSQ to prepare and set up RGSQ's entire collection of artefacts for assessment. Thank you to Neville McManimm, Peter Lloyd, Ralph Carlisle, Jim Graham and Rob Cook for their help with the set-up of the collection as well as on the day of the assessment.



Peter Lloyd, long standing Society member, former RGSQ president with Jennifer Loubser.



Assessment of items from RGSQ's collection of artefacts.

The Conservationists left behind devices to measure the temperature and humidity in the collection storage areas: archives, library, and map collection. This will help assess the environmental conditions of RGSQ's collections. Conservationists are expected to share drafts of their report during February and March, and to provide the finished report by the end of March.

Introducing the partnership between *The Royal Geographical Society of Queensland and The Adventure Traveller*



the
adventuretraveller
take the road less travelled

Recognising the 2020 and ongoing difficulties of travelling in 2021 due to COVID-19 restrictions, it will be some time before we can resume overseas trips via RGSQ Traveller. In seeking to move forward and resurrect our trips program, we have embarked on negotiations with a local travel company, [The Adventure Traveller](#), to form a partnership initially focussed on domestic travel. This will provide safe travel options within Australia for our members, be marketed to a wider audience via *The Adventure Traveller's* database, hopefully generate income for RGSQ and minimise time and administration related to organising tours for the RGSQ office. This initiative has the support of RGSQ's Treks and Activities Committee (TAAC) members, whose focus is domestic travel. Some of our RGSQ Council members have previously taken tours with *The Adventure Traveller* and have had very positive experiences to recommend this company. RGSQ is currently engaged in drafting a partnership agreement with *The Adventure Traveller*. We will keep members informed with more details in the April Bulletin. So, foreshadowing some possible exciting trips for this year, we introduce here, **Mr. Dean Tuckwell, Director, The Adventure Traveller.**

Dean has been involved in retail travel since 1989. His experience, expertise and understanding of airfares and the intricacies of the travel industry allows him to construct innovative itineraries and obtain the best deals for his clients. With great attention to detail, he ensures that his clients maximise their time available and derive enormous satisfaction from surprising them with what may be possible on their budget.

Encouraging them to enjoy the great experiences that a well-planned trip can provide.

A dedicated and passionate traveller, he has travelled in all continents having visited Antarctica in 2004 and feels that for all its faults, the world is a wondrous and amazing place. He believes that travelling is an essential part of one's growth and education and goes a long way in making people more tolerant and understanding.



“What people don't think about is that online travel companies are travel agents also, just ones that provide little service.”

Photo: Dean Tuckwell, Giraffe Manor, Nairobi Kenya

RGSQ: How has The Adventure Traveller adapted to the challenges of the pandemic?

Dean: *It has certainly been a tough time. Not only have we had very little income since March, but the commissions that we had earned for 2020 had to be refunded as clients' trips were cancelled.*

We were very lucky that we owned our own premises in Paddington and were thus not locked into a long-term lease like many agencies. We have subsequently sold the office and upgraded our computer and phone systems so that all our staff are now working from home. The office phone number rings for whoever is working that day and we can easily transfer calls amongst ourselves. When they call, most clients would have no idea that we were not all working under the same roof.

As traditionally the bulk of our business was international travel, we have obviously had to increase our knowledge of Australian destinations. We are also "thinking outside the box" and looking at exclusive tours and conferences. Recently we promoted our Norfolk Island Gardening Tour which was fully subscribed in less than 2 days.

RGSQ: Given that travel is intrinsically geographical, how has seeing different places and people changed your perception of the world?

Dean: *I've always loved the Mark Twain quote: "Travel is fatal to prejudice, bigotry, and narrow-mindedness, and many of our people need it sorely on these accounts. Broad, wholesome, charitable views of men and things cannot be acquired by vegetating in one little corner of the earth all one's lifetime."*

"I visited Plymouth many years ago and expanded my knowledge of Sir Francis Drake and his incredible feat in circumnavigating the world. In the UK he is revered as a hero but then I found it fascinating many years later to visit Latin America and The Caribbean where the same man is denounced as a pirate!

Travel can help you appreciate that everyone has their own perspective."

I truly believe that travelling (with an open mind) makes one more tolerant as ignorance and lack of empathy is the root of many of the world's problems. I think that once you meet and speak with people, despite the obvious differences in where and how they live, their background and diversity of beliefs, you realize that most people want the same things – for them and their family to be safe, happy, and healthy.

RGSQ: Most of us know about iconic Australian destinations such as The Great Barrier Reef, Uluru, what would be your top three Australian travel destinations?

Dean: *I think the Barrier Reef is hard to beat but if I ever have clients travelling to Cairns, Palm Cove or Port Douglas I always strongly suggest that they also cross the Daintree River and spend a couple of nights in Cape Tribulation. If someone told me that it was the most beautiful place in the world, I would not argue with them. Stunning, dense rainforest coming right down to the beach and it is also the point where the Reef is closest to the mainland. Just do not go swimming!*

I think a driving holiday around Tasmania offers incredible variety. Hobart is a very attractive city with a fascinating historical district, great food, interesting festivals, and an innovative art scene. Although some of the art is controversial, MONA is a world class art institution and an essential visit. Tasmania also offers stunning national parks like Freycinet and Cradle Mountain, many examples of Australia's brutal past, and unique wildlife.

Since conducting my research into Australian destinations, the most exciting destination is Bamurru Plains in The Northern Territory <https://www.bamurruplains.com/>. A luxury bush camp set on a working 300 square km buffalo farm, it offers superb accommodation, exquisite food, and unique activities that very few people get to experience. I do not think travel gets any better than staying in a good lodge in Africa and Bamurru Plains is as close as you will get in Australia.

A little closer to home (I know this is a 4th destination but what can I say? – I am passionate about what I do), how can you go past a 4WD combination of Noosa Heads, Fraser Island and Mon Repos? Experience Noosa's magnificent national park, beautiful beach, river, and great food before driving up the beach to the world's largest sand island with its crystal-clear lakes. Finish with one of nature's great privileges, viewing hundreds of marine turtles either laying eggs or hatching.

RGSQ: What would be the strangest question you have been asked as a travel agent?

Dean: *I was once having trouble confirming accommodation on a New Zealand driving holiday. The original plan was to fly into Auckland and fly out of Queenstown but, as I just could not make it, work suggested that we look at travelling South to North instead. The lady asked, "but that would take longer wouldn't it?"*



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Celebrating RGSQ women Geographers

Three young women members have shared their thoughts on being Geographers in Australia in 2021. Thanks to Nicole, Annie, and Kathryn for sharing their stories and views. Here is what they said.....

Dr. Nicole Garofano - grew up in Sydney, then spent 12 months travelling in central and south America, the Caribbean, Barbados, the US/Canada, and the UK. She has worked in the travel industry and as a volunteer for a local NGO on environmental education in Barbados. Nicole has an MA in Development Practice, a Graduate Certificate in Environmental Management and in February 2021 graduated with her PhD from UQ.



Dr. Annie Lau - grew up in Hong Kong where she completed high school education, her undergraduate and M. Phil degrees. She completed her PhD in Singapore. Annie is currently Lecturer in the School of Earth and Environmental Sciences, UQ, specializing in geomorphology, coastal science, coastal change, storms, and tsunamis in the Pacific and Australia. Annie is an RGSQ Councillor and Treasurer.



Ms. Kathryn Scott - grew up in Toowoomba, and now lives on the Sunshine Coast. She has a Bachelor of Learning Management (Primary) from CQ University and a Master of Environment from Griffith University. She is Senior Project officer, Natural Assets Policy and Planning in the Qld Dept. of Agriculture and Fisheries. Kathryn is a member of the RGSQ Scientific Studies Committee.



Why did you first become interested in being a geographer?

Nicole: I have always been interested in geography. Listening to my Dad's stories of his travels around the world on Cable and Wireless telecommunication cable maintenance ships. From an early age my Dad took us through many exotic locations. In those days, you had to stop in Singapore, then Bahrain, and then London. All of that planted seeds of wanting to know more about the world, countries, and people. I recall having to choose between geography and history at high school, and for me it was simple – geography all the way!

Annie: I have always loved maps and spent hours reading road maps with my younger brother. Geography was my favorite subject in school. I enjoyed learning about mountains, rivers, population change and urban development. I was particularly amazed by the fact that I could apply the concepts learned in class to better understand the natural disasters

reported in the news. I feel blessed that I am still working in the field of natural hazards, and that I can share my passion with students as I teach the "Environmental hazards" course at UQ now.

Kathryn: At a young age I was particularly interested in physical geography - geomorphology, climatology, and biogeography. At school, geography was always one of my favourite subjects. I chose Geography as one of my senior subjects and thoroughly enjoyed the field trips and learning about different earth systems, human relationships to places and how each can influence the other to varying extents.

What do you see as your main contributions to Geography?

Nicole: For my Ph.D. I studied how the geography of small island developing states presented challenges and opportunities in waste management. I strive to raise awareness of the roles of geography and culture in remote island states that affect resource and waste management of plastics. Geographically remote, these islands receive plastic packaged products from many brands and manufacturers. Yet, their remoteness is forgotten when the post-consumption packaging from these products needs to be managed.

Annie: My research focuses on using landforms, rocks, and sediments to understand how and why coastlines change through time. Some changes are gradual (e.g. accumulation of sand to form dunes), while some happen within minutes (e.g. erosion caused by natural hazard events). The results of my work can help stakeholders and policymakers to make better decisions in risk and land management for protecting coastal environments, habitats, and people.

Kathryn: As a former primary school teacher I seized opportunities to share my interest in geography with students, instilling a sense of curiosity and care for the natural world. Now my contributions are more on a personal level - travel experiences, particularly the voyage to Antarctica in 2018, part of the Homeward Bound project, opened my eyes to the incredible interconnectedness of Earth's places, and how far-reaching human impacts are. I am more conscious of how my daily choices have cumulative effects over time and so I strive to live more sustainably.

The 2021 theme for IWD is Choose to Challenge – What challenges do you see facing women geographers in Australia in 2021?

Nicole: the challenge is accessing people in 2021. State border closures and concerns about interacting in the public realm limit the ability to gather perspectives, in some cases even within the same neighbourhood. On the other hand, COVID-19 has created some unique studies examining the relationships between people and their surroundings. For me personally, not being able to reach foreign shores limits the scope of my chosen work in small island developing states.

Annie: In 2021 a major challenge is to adapt to pandemic-related travel restrictions. Geographers need to conduct fieldwork but most travel is not possible nowadays. We have to change how we work, adjust project plans, and find creative solutions to problems. As an individual, I continue to challenge gender stereotypes and fight for gender equality.

Kathryn: Many Australians are acutely aware of the challenges we face at global and national scales in 2021 but

we have the option to see the opportunities they present. While women geographers in Australia (as for women in STEMM more broadly), have much to celebrate in the progress already made, there remains the challenge of striving for equity - in leadership, in pay and in fair recognition and representation in decision-making. It is crucial now more than ever that diversity and inclusiveness is embraced as a key strength and a true part of Australia's identity in co-creating the future we choose.

What has been your greatest joy in your work as a geographer?

Nicole: The most simplistic joy I have known is to teach a geography for tourism course at TAFE more than a decade ago. It was such a pleasure to get back to basics and encourage others to get familiar with their world and what it contains. Since then, other joys have been introducing those in the developed world, the global north, to the wonders of remote island locations and their traditions, their beauty, and their challenges.

Annie: Spending time and talking with people in coastal communities, especially in more isolated, remote places, motivates me to research coastal hazards as I can help people to understand the past and be better prepared for future hazards like cyclones and tsunamis. At the same time, I always feel very contented and excited to learn about nature as local people share their knowledge with me generously.

“Geographers are interesting people and that is great for sparking insightful conversations.” Kathryn Scott

Kathryn: I am fortunate to have seen a large iceberg in Antarctica. Meeting and working with an amazing range of people who span the different disciplines of geography has been a joy.

How would you persuade a high school student passionate about geography to take up a degree in Geography?

Nicole: Give them a set of maps of the world, showing topography, population, biodiversity - anything that represents the vast differences in the countries and regions of the planet. Then show them pictures of unique places, perhaps the Blue Planet, and see if this inspires them. This combined with a few stories from my geographical adventures might spur in them what spurred in me all those years ago.

Annie: Go for it and you will not regret it! To be able to study and work in a field that you are passionate about is the best thing in the world. Geography is a very broad field, you can choose to specialise in areas that you are most interested in, learn different skills that can be applied in your daily life and in workplaces, and start a career that you will enjoy.

Kathryn: If you are already passionate about geography then completing a degree is the icing on the cake - it will not only open doors to a range of possible career options, but further study will enable you to continue learning about the things that interest you while expanding your networks and finding ways to do work you enjoy and make a meaningful difference in the world.

Photos courtesy of Nicole Garofano, Annie Lau and Kathryn Scott

What's happening on Council?

On 16 February Council met for the first time this year. Some Councillors were unable to attend in person so we met online via *Teams*. Reports were received from Iraphne Childs (President and Scientific Studies), 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:

- Society's finances including our investment portfolio and the cessation of Job Keeper
- Progress of the 2nd stage of the National Library of Australia's Community Heritage Grant program to assess the preservation needs of the RGSQ Collections
- New grant application by Property committee to upgrade lighting and the boardroom to the Morrison Government's Stronger Communities Programme
- Negotiations with travel companies *Coral Expeditions* and *Adventure Traveller* for possible partnership arrangements for domestic tours
- AGC activities underway for 2021
- Activities plan for 2021 of the Young Geographers special interest group
- Nine new members were confirmed

Leo Scanlan is resigning



After 30 years of service as an RGSQ Councillor, president, past president and RGSQ Fellow, Leo has decided to step down. He has been a member of RGSQ since 1987. Over the years, Leo brought his knowledge from formal studies in tourism to the Treks and Activities Committee and the development of RGSQ Traveller. He has organised and led numerous Society trips both within Australia and overseas. He comments that he has made many friendships through the Society which have been a great source of pleasure. We thank Leo for his long

years of service and valuable contributions to RGSQ. On behalf of Council and all at RGSQ we wish you and Sharyn well, Leo, and that your interest in Geography continues.

Contributed by Iraphne Childs

Vacancy on Council

We have a vacancy on the RGSQ Council and would welcome any member who is interested in contributing.

If you would like more information on the role of Councillor, please feel free to email me i.childs@ug.edu.au or call me on 07 3856 2827 or 0419 756 936 to have chat. Thanks.

Dr Iraphne Childs, current President

Recording of February lecture available



If you missed the February 10 lecture 'Why city policy 'to protect the Brisbane backyard' is failing?' presented by Rachel Gallagher, you can catch up on our website at <https://rgsq.org.au/Past-lectures-2021> and on the Society's YouTube channel <https://youtu.be/SUSKs9BpKGc>.

RGSQ Bulletin

March 2021

Lecture/Meeting: Tuesday, March 2

Mapping Pest Animals – Identifying and Managing Impacts, by Mathew Ryan

Principal Biosecurity Officer with the Invasive Plants and Animals Program of the Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries

Activity: Friday, March 5

Mt Coot-tha Botanic Gardens Herbarium Tour and Lecture on The Arctic and Antarctica

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

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