



# RGSQ Bulletin

ISSN 1832-8830

May 2021  
Vol 56 no 04

Published by The Royal Geographical Society of Queensland Ltd., 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: Dr Iraphne Childs

## From the President

Dear Members, I hope you are enjoying the glorious autumn weather in Southeast Queensland, and are able to get out and about more, now that restrictions have again been eased.

The approach of the cooler weather brings to mind the many sojourns that my family has enjoyed camping and hiking among the wonderful granite landscapes in Girraween



National Park - Aboriginal meaning 'Place of Flowers'. When the wattles are in full bloom in winter, they are a joyful sight to behold. Meanwhile, our members and friends in southern Australia are already experiencing winter as some parts had bitterly cold temperatures just days after an unseasonably hot Easter weekend. In early April, snow fell in parts of Victoria as the state was battered with rain and harsh winds – stay safe and warm!

### First members' meeting back at RGSQ in 12 months!

On Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> April we held our monthly lecture at RGSQ premises in Spring Hill, following Queensland Health COVID guidelines. The excellent and very interesting presentation was by ABC's Kate Doyle ***Difficulties of communicating weather.***



Twenty-one RGSQ members attended the lecture in-person and sixteen attended via zoom. This was the first time that we had attempted a dual-mode lecture presentation and it seems to have proceeded quite well. We have noted comments from some zoom participants, particularly about the audio, and will endeavour to make improvements for next time. Thanks to Lilia and John

Tasker for setting up the technology to enable this to happen. A light supper was enjoyed by those attending at RGSQ – thanks to Ron Owen for organising this and Ros Boardman for assisting Ron. Members present were so pleased to again be able to mingle, catch up and chat over a cuppa. If Queensland continues to have no community COVID-19 transmission, we will resume our monthly lectures and meetings in-person at RGSQ. It will be necessary to register for events on the RGSQ website as we need to maintain attendance limits according to current guidelines. We will also aim to offer presentations via zoom, in addition to in-person, at RGSQ. This will benefit those members who cannot attend in person and who live outside of Brisbane.

### From our Patron, the Hon. Paul de Jersey, Governor of Qld:

In April I received the following two communications from Government House:

- Publication donation for the RGSQ library **The Governors of Modern Queensland** by D.Fagan and M. King, 2021, published by The Office of the Governor.
- An invitation to attend Government House to sign a condolence book following the death of HRH Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh. I attended Government House on 14<sup>th</sup> April and signed on behalf of RGSQ. The condolence book will be bound and forwarded to Her Majesty the Queen.

### RGSQ activities and trips going strong:

Both the TAAC and Map Group activities have so far been well-attended with participant numbers reaching quota limits. Members report that trips have been excellent and that they have really enjoyed getting out and reconnecting with Society friends again. So check out opportunities for events, both at RGSQ premises and outside on the website at [www.rgsq.org.au](http://www.rgsq.org.au).

With best wishes

**Dr. Iraphne Childs, President**

### References

Girraween National Park

<https://parks.des.qld.gov.au/parks/girraween>

Channel 9 National News *Victoria Hit by bitter cold snap*

April 11, 2021 <https://www.9news.com.au/national/east-coast-australia-experiencing-severe-cold-snap>

**RGSQ COUNCIL**  
**President:** Iraphne Childs  
**Vice-President:** Vacant  
**Secretary:** John Tasker  
**Treasurer:** Annie Lau  
**Councillors:** Kath Berg  
Jonathan Corcoran  
Ian Harding  
Patrick Moss  
Daphne Stephens  
Pamela Tonkin  
Stephen Turton

**CONTRIBUTORS**

Kath Berg  
Iraphne Childs  
Peter Lloyd  
Patrick Moss

**Photography:**

Kath Berg, Iraphne Childs,  
John Tasker, Nature  
Communications, RGSQ  
Archives

**WHAT'S ON**

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

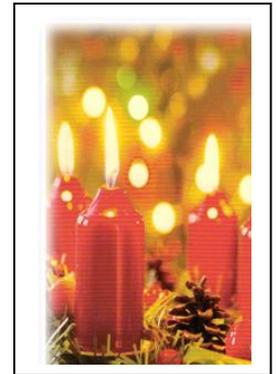


**Treks and Activities**

May event is now fully booked.

**13 JULY | [Christmas in July in the Sunshine Coast Hinterland](#)**

A relaxing day by bus to Mary Cairncross Scenic Reserve for morning tea and a walk in the rainforest. Followed by Christmas lunch at Tranquil Park Maleny.



**Mary Cairncross Scenic Reserve:**

The reserve comprises 55 hectares of subtropical rainforest. It is a living museum of diverse plant and animal life which delights with its tranquility and beauty. Take time to explore the Rainforest Discovery Centre and/or take a short stroll through rainforest tracks. Morning Tea is BYO or at own cost available at the on-site café.

**Tranquil Park:** enjoy the beautiful views overlooking the Glasshouse Mountains for the Traditional Christmas Roast with meats, ham, roast vegetables and plum pudding or pavlova for dessert. Drinks not included.

**Pick-up Location:** Bus Stop 27 Park Road, Eagle Jnc Railway Station at 8.00am. Also, a second pick up at Landsborough Railway Station at 9.00am. Return to Brisbane by approx. 3.30pm.

**Cost/Numbers:** \$85 members, \$90 non-members including lunch and bus. **Register and pay online by 30 June.**

**Coordinator:** Jeanette Lamont

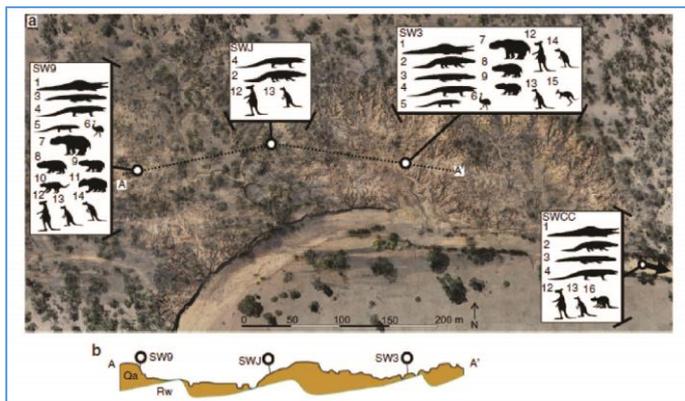
**May Lecture**  
**Tuesday 4 May | 7.30pm-9pm**  
***Climate, people or both – the environmental setting for late quaternary megafaunal extinction in eastern Australia***

by **Prof. Patrick Moss** - Deputy Head of School, School of Earth and Environmental Sciences, UQ; RGSQ Councillor

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

**Registration essential:** <https://rgsq.org.au/event-4270575>

You can choose to attend the lecture on premises (numbers are capped) or livestream via Zoom when you register for the lecture.



The key causes for the extinction of Australia's megafauna (marsupials, reptile and birds >44 kg) around 50,000 to 40,000 years ago has been a highly contentious issue for Australian archaeology and palaeoecology. Key reasons have been attributed to overhunting by people, habitat change associated with human burning and/or natural climate change. This presentation will examine key palaeoecological sites from northern Queensland, central/southeast Queensland (including one site, South Walker Creek, in which palynological data has been directly related to megafaunal remains) and Tasmania to examine the landscapes of eastern Australia during the period of megafaunal extinction (Marine Isotope Stage 3). Evidence will be primarily drawn from analysis of fossil pollen and charcoal to provide insight into the environmental setting of the region, which in turn will illustrate the complexity associated with climate change and human presence within the region. This has important implications for resolution of the megafaunal extinction debate within Australia.

Image Source: Hocknull, S.A., Lewis, R., Arnold, L.J., Pietsch, T., Joannes-Boyau, R., Price, G.J., Moss, P., Wood, R., Dosseto, A., Louys, J. and Olley, J., 2020. Extinction of eastern Sahul megafauna coincides with sustained environmental deterioration. *Nature Communications*, 11(1), pp.1-14.



**MAP GROUP EVENTS**

**Polynesian Navigators | 11 May**

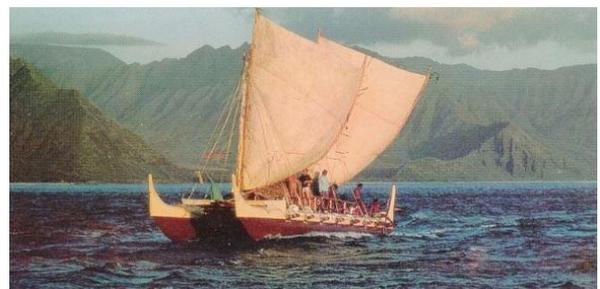
**9:15 am - 12:00 noon**

*Presentation by Iraphne Childs*

**Location:** Gregory Place, Level 1/28 Fortescue St, Spring Hill, Qld, 4000

**Registration essential:** <https://rgsq.org.au/whatson>

You can opt to attend the lecture on premises (numbers are capped) or livestream via Zoom when you register for the lecture.



**Topic Overview:** Debates still occur as to how the peopling of the Pacific took place. During his three voyages across the Pacific, Cook was puzzled to find remote islands inhabited. One thing is beyond doubt, the Polynesians were superb navigators, whose skills and navigation techniques were so different from those used by western explorers like Cook. This talk will present some maps and mapping techniques used by the Polynesians when sailing across this vast ocean and settling the Pacific islands.

**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:** Kay Rees

---

## 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

---

## What's happening on Council?

On 20 April, seven Councillors met in-person at RGSQ in Fortescue street with one Councillor attending via Teams online. Reports were received from Iraphne Childs (President), Annie Lau (Treasurer), Collections (Rob Cook & team), Pamela Tonkin (Property), Iraphne (Publications), 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
- Lecture presentations to continue in dual-mode: in-person and via zoom. Some comments from members who attended 13 April lecture via zoom will be taken into consideration for the May lecture
- Entries in the 2021 Australian Geography Competition reached 73,000
- The Preservation Needs Assessment Report was completed & the collections committee is now preparing for the next stage application in May.
- Efforts continuing to re-invigorate the Sunshine Coast branch of RGSQ
- Two new members were confirmed

---

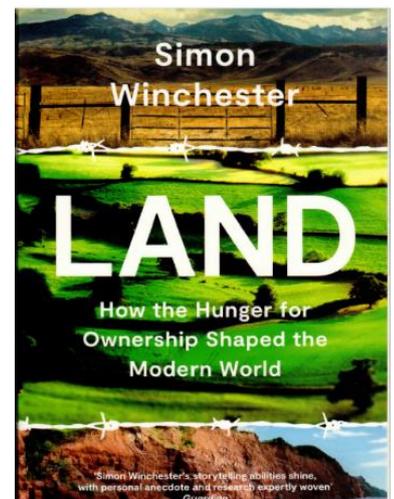
## BOOK REVIEW

by Iraphne Childs

**Land** by Simon Winchester, William Collins publishers, 2021

Author Simon Winchester has written several books of interest to geographers including *The Map that Changed the World*, *The River at the Center of the World*, *Pacific*, *Atlantic* and *Krakatoa*.

In his latest book *Land* Winchester asks "what have we done with the billions of acres that make up so much of our planetary surface, and why does it matter?" Winchester offers insights into what ownership of land really means for humans. He explores indigenous approaches to the guardianship of land; includes a history of map-making from the earliest times; explains the meaning and establishment of boundaries; investigates the world's largest landowners, for example Gina Rinehart's 29 million acres and the vast realms of the British monarchy.



Here are some sample teasers from the book:

*"What strikes many as ironic is that we have long called our planet the Earth, when – and this is of course especially noticeable when our blue and green spheroid is seen from outer space – it manifestly should more properly be the Ocean. The Earth is more sea than land, and by a long chalk" (p.7)*

An almighty project, led by Albrecht Penck, German cartographer, was conceived at a gathering of Geographers in Switzerland in 1891- the 5<sup>th</sup> International Geographical Congress. It's an interesting story as to what became of this project!

*"Now with the size of the world fully determined, it remained only to make a map of it. A map of all the world" - the IMW - (International Map of the World) with everywhere on the globe, every continent, nation, island owned or uninhabited, drawn on permanent paper at the scale of 1 to 1 million, all maps using the same style, systems of colours, same units of measurement (meters),*

same spacing of contours and in the same language English" (p.63-64)

On Maori land ownership: "New Zealand is now a changed place indeed. The land is still not fully shared – a newly rejuvenated Maori political party said in 2020 that it would campaign to have the ownership of all New Zealand's land put up for negotiation, which would be a mightily complex affair, likely to be bogged down in courtrooms for scores of years to come..." (p.342)

I hope you may have an opportunity to read some of this intriguing book.

---

## iGeo Team Training

Contributed by Kath Berg, AGC Committee Co-Chair



Australia's iGeo team: l to r - Imi, Rhea, Nikki and Gemma in Sydney for the iGeo training, April 2021; courtesy of John Tasker.

COVID-19 caused a lot of disruption to the Australian Geography Competition, as it did to many aspects of our lives. The 2020 International Geography Olympiad (iGeo) did not take place, and we also had to cancel the 2020 Geography's Big Week Out from which we would have picked Australia's team to the 2021 iGeo.

The iGeo is going ahead this year, but with international travel still largely impossible, it will be held virtually. As there was no Big Week Out last year, we selected our team via a written exam. An all-female team won through, the first time our team members have all been the same gender:

Nikki Ballinger	Walford Anglican School for Girls, SA
Imogen Cooper	Wesley College, Vic
Rhea Sankar	Canberra Grammar School, ACT
Gemma Snyman	Roseville College, NSW

From 12 to 15 April the team came together, along with Competition Committee members Kath Berg, Shane Albertson and John Tasker, to train for the iGeo. With students travelling from interstate, we were keenly aware of border restrictions in either direction of travel. Originally, the training was scheduled for Brisbane in January, but the occasional COVID-19 outbreaks meant it ended up being held in Sydney in April.

We spent time working through past examples of the three different iGeo tests – the Multimedia Test (presented on

individual computers), the Written Response Test, and how the Fieldwork Exercise might be adapted to virtual delivery. As we were based at North Manly, the students also compared the human impacts observable at two, close, but quite different beaches – Manly and Freshwater.

On the Wednesday afternoon we caught the ferry to the CBD. We had been planning to go to Australian Geographic's photo exhibition at the Australian Museum. However, that morning we received some information from the iGeo organisers that the virtual Fieldwork Exercise would relate to city parks in Istanbul. We therefore took the opportunity to look at the functions of, and infrastructure in Sydney's two main city parks – Hyde Park and the Royal Botanic Gardens.



There are many older inscriptions, but this is from the first ship quarantined in Sydney during the Spanish flu. Photo K. Berg.

On Thursday morning we finished with a guided tour of the Quarantine Station. Our current shared experience of a pandemic, closed borders and quarantine put quite a different perspective on what used to be looked upon as history that was well behind us.

The team will be back together in August to compete in the iGeo – hopefully in Brisbane this time.

---

## HOW TO DONATE TO THE ROYAL GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY OF QUEENSLAND

RGSQ is a Registered Charity and all donations can be tax deductible if given for Educational or Environmental Purposes.

Donations can be made

- in cash
- by cheque
- by credit card, please contact the RGSQ Office on 07 3368 2066
- or directly crediting our bank account: Account name – Royal Geographical Society of Queensland; BSB: 034 072, Account number: 211 734
- or on the RGSQ website at

<https://rgsq.org.au/donate>

A tax-deductible receipt will be issued if required for every donation gratefully received.

---

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

We have much pleasure in welcoming Robert Allen and Greg Lauer as new members. We hope your association with your new Society is long and mutually enjoyable.

## Preservation Needs Assessment of RGSQ's Collection Completed

The two conservationists, Jennifer Loubser and Maité Le Mens, engaged to carry out a preservation needs assessment (PNA) of the Society's collection of books, maps and artefacts have finalised the assessment and report.

The comprehensive PNA report is available to members and the public on the RGSQ website <https://rgsq.org.au/resources/Documents/Reports/PNA%20RGSQ%202021%20Final.pdf>. The report has provided a preservation template for the RGSQ to include within its existing Collections Management Policy. This will assist the volunteers who make up the Collections Committee to structure a program of work, and source funding, to:

- Ensure the sustainability of the collection by improving the environment within RGSQ premises for long-term storage and display of the collection, and using appropriate containers to store the individual items in the collection
- Use suitable conservation measures to extend the life of the highest priority items exhibiting evidence of deterioration, highlighted in the report
- Give members and the public access to a single digital catalogue of the RGSQ collections via the web, and
- Make high priority images, archives and map collections available via digitisation.

The project was made possible through a Community Heritage Grant received by RGSQ in 2020.

### **ANOTHER SURPRISE FROM THE ARCHIVES: QUEENSLAND'S FIRST PIGEONGRAM**

*By Peter Lloyd - RGSQ Archives Volunteer and former RGSQ President*

Peter Griggs' 1985 centenary history of the Society tells us that between the 1930s and the 1960s the Society authorised 18 issues of commemorative first day covers. The issues marked anything from the 21<sup>st</sup> birthday of Elizabeth (now Queen Elizabeth) in 1947 to, in 1946, the 176<sup>th</sup> year since the naming of Whitsunday Passage by Captain James Cook.

However, in the RGSQ archives lies a document with more surprising details about the issues, particularly the unusual launch of the Cook first day cover. In 1985, a philatelist named D.G. Cox undertook a detailed study of the Society's commemorative covers and published his research in the NSW Philatelist. A copy in the RGSQ archives reveals that the issuing of the Cook cover is especially interesting as it involved pigeons as well as postage. It speaks for itself:

#### CAPTAIN JAMES COOK, R.N. (1728 - 1779).

Issued to commemorate the 176th Anniversary of Captain Cook's discovery, and naming of the Whitsunday Passage, on the 3rd June 1770. A cairn was also unveiled at Day Dream Island. As the cairn was being unveiled several baskets of homing pigeons were released, each carrying a flimsy inscribed "QUEENSLAND'S FIRST PIGEONGRAM" and bearing a description of the occasion. The birds were released at 2.30pm and the first pigeon arrived back at Mackay, N.Q., at 3.30pm. Owing to hawks 13 pigeons failed to return. The pigeongrams were placed in envelopes, and all covers were postmarked Proserpine, which was the nearest post office, there being none at Day Dream Island.

For philatelist members the reference is: Cox, D. G., *The Royal Geographical Society of Australasia (Queensland). Centennial Label, Commemorative Covers and Hand Stamps. The NSW Philatelist Volume 8 No 1 February 1986.* Many members would not know about the Society's philatelic collection, so it is hoped to be able to display it, and other memorabilia, when normal meetings resume. Meanwhile, a picture of the Cook commemorative cover is given below.



---

# RGSQ

# Bulletin

May 2021

**Lecture/Meeting: Tuesday, 4 May**

*“Climate, people or both – the environmental setting for late quaternary megafaunal extinction in eastern Australia” by Prof. Patrick Moss*

**Tuesday, 11 May** | *Polynesian Navigators Map Group Presentation by Iraphne Childs*

**Activities/Events:**

**Visit to Summerland Camel Dairy | Friday, 7 May**

**W:** [www.rgsq.org.au](http://www.rgsq.org.au)

**E:** [info@rgsq.org.au](mailto:info@rgsq.org.au)

**P:** 07 3368 2066

**The May Council will meet on the third Tuesday of the month.**

The Royal Geographical Society of Queensland Ltd  
PO Box 625, Spring Hill QLD 4004

**POSTAGE  
PAID  
AUSTRALIA**