



## 2021-2022 Council

President: Mr John Tasker  
Vice-President: Dr Iraphne Childs  
Treasurer: Dr Annie Lau  
Secretary: Ms Kath Berg

### Councillors:

Mr Rob Cook  
Dr Jonathan Corcoran  
Mr Ian Harding  
Dr Patrick Moss  
Miss Giselle Pickering  
Ms Daphne Stephens  
Ms Pamela Tonkin  
Dr Stephen Turton

## What's happening on Council?

The Society's Council met on 19 October. Reports discussed by Councillors, and highlights of those reports, included:

- President (I Childs): successful Upper Brisbane Valley trek; attending reception at Government House supporting vice-regal arts and community patronage
- Treasurer (A Lau): approval of the corrected financial report submitted by the auditors
- Business Manager (L Darii): finalisation of marketing poster; success of further grant application for conservation and management of collections
- Australian Geography Competition (R Honey, K Berg): 2022 Competition to be delivered online after successful trial; Big Week Out postponed to January because of Covid concerns
- Honours (D Wadley): Council approved the recommendations for the 2022 Thompson Medallist and Fellowships
- Property (P Tonkin): fire warden and first aid training for staff and volunteers
- Publications (I Childs): progress on updating the Society history 1985-2020 – thanks to Ingrid Bailey for volunteering; photo competition

Council was pleased to accept applications for membership from **Miriam Raymond, Rochelle Sherrin and Whitney Wettig.**

At the conclusion of the AGM, the new Council met briefly to elect the Society's executive officers, other than the President who is directly elected by members.

## Vice-Regal Patronage of the Society

We are pleased to announce that the Society has received confirmation that Her Excellency the Honourable Dr Jeannette Young PSM Governor of Queensland is delighted to accept our request for patronage for the duration of her term in office.



*Her Excellency the Honourable Dr Jeannette Young PSM Governor of Queensland; courtesy of Government House, Queensland.*

## 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'.



Register at: <https://rgsq.org.au/event-4543899>

TAAC (Treks and Activities Committee) welcomes you to the 2021 Christmas party to be held in our premises on Tuesday 7th December at 7.30pm.

Christmas cake, tea/coffee and drinks will be provided. **Please consider bringing a plate to share.**

Short presentations will be given covering the TAAC and Map Group events during 2021.

This is a free event for members and \$5 for non-members and guests. Currently limited to 50 people.

## MAP GROUP TRIP REPORT UPPER BRISBANE VALLEY Thursday 7 - Friday 8 OCTOBER 2021

By Ralph Carlisle, trip coordinator



RGSQ group at the former Linville Railway Station (operated 1910 to 1993); photo courtesy of Len Lowry

This self-drive two-day trip explored the Upper Brisbane and Stanley River Valleys from Wivenhoe Dam to the East Branch of the Brisbane River and to Mary Cairncross Park overlooking the Stanley River catchment. The trip itinerary focussed on themes reflecting the physical and human geography of the UBV. Speakers from SEQwater and Somerset Regional Council gave overviews on topics of a geographical nature, particularly water management, geology and agricultural activities.

Originally planned for August, the trip did not run then because of a Covid-19 lockdown but was rescheduled for early October. While most registrants for the original dates

were able to join the rescheduled trip, some could not, enabling some additional members to join. The final number was 18 people in 10 vehicles.

Some participants drove up from Brisbane on the Wednesday afternoon and stayed overnight in motels in Fernvale and Lowood, while others camped at Lake Wivenhoe. Others drove from Brisbane on the Thursday morning.

### DAY 1

#### WIVENHOE DAM

The trek started at the Spillway Common, Wivenhoe Dam, where we were joined by Michael Fiechtner, Water Education Officer with SEQwater, who had previously spoken at the showing of the movie *Deluge* to trek registrants at the Society premises. Michael gave us an overview of the SEQwater water management system. Then we drove across the dam wall to learn about the fuse plugs, the dam's 'safety valves'. Following morning tea at Cormorant Bay, we had a distant view of the structure for introducing recycled treated water into the reservoir in the future.

#### ESK

Originally, it had been planned to visit the Esk Visitor Information Centre (VIC) to listen to a local geologist, George Winter, but double-booking had occurred, so we met at a covered rotunda in Pipeliner Park nearby, a venue which was well-ventilated and was eminently suitable. George discussed aspects of the valley's geology and geomorphology and their influence on the local agricultural industry. We had lunch in Pipeliner Park.

#### CABOONBAH

We went on to the site of the original Caboonbah homestead which burnt down in 2009. Abutting the Brisbane River as it enters Lake Wivenhoe, the Caboonbah property is owned by SEQwater and is not normally open to the public. From the grounds, we were able to view the river, in particular the reach in which Henry P. Somerset observed the great wall of water racing down the river in February 1893, later to inundate Brisbane in the first of three floods that month. HP Somerset's lobbying later led to the building of Somerset Dam.

#### SOMERSET DAM

At the village of Somerset Dam, Michael Fiechtner had organised access to the Coronation Hall where the local progress association has placed a display including photos of the construction of the dam and related documents. Because we needed to be at our next stop Toogoolawah at a specific time, we had to omit the next items on the itinerary – a view of Somerset Dam and a visit to Caboonbah Undenominational Church where many of the Somerset family are buried.

#### TOOGOOLAWAH

Here we visited the Condensary Art Gallery (owned by Somerset Regional Council), where local speakers gave talks about historic industries in the area - especially dairying, condensed milk processing and others. We appreciated afternoon tea provided by the Art Gallery. After Toogoolawah, we drove straight to Linville for our overnight stay, omitting another itinerary item – a view of

the Karreman Quarry at Harlin, a major extractive industry in the UBV.

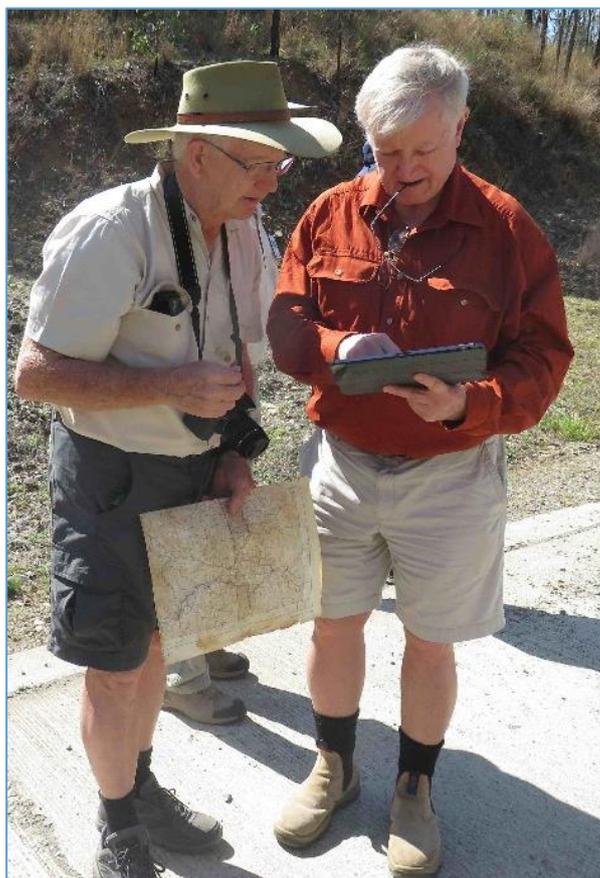
## LINVILLE

For our overnight stay, most of the group stayed at the Linville Hotel (a traditional pub), some stayed at a local B&B and others in the camping ground over the road from the hotel. Everyone had an enjoyable dinner together.

## DAY 2

### MT STANLEY

With carpooling, five cars drove north to the confluence of the East and West Branches of the Brisbane River. By this stage, the Brisbane River was reduced to a series of stagnant pools – obviously the area had not had recent rain and was in drought – the grass in the paddocks was brown. Interestingly, we passed a cattle mustering along the road and the farmers kindly pulled the cattle off the road to allow our convoy to pass! We continued up the East Branch to Crossing No. 4 where we viewed a huge granite boulder which appeared to have rolled down from Mt Stanley at some time in the unknown past. Stands of hoop pine stood on the adjoining peak, which several members, using GPS and a topo map, confirmed was Mt Stanley.



Geographers at work! Neville and John locating and identifying Mt Stanley with GPS and paper map; photo: I. Childs.

### BENARKIN STATE FOREST

Returning to Linville, we collected the cars left there, then went on to Moore where carpooling resumed. We travelled along the highway to Benarkin State Forest and followed the Old Esk Rd (former Cobb & Co coach route) to Jessie's Well for morning tea. This was appropriate as the well there had provided water for the horses pulling the

coaches. An operating sawmill was located opposite the well. Next, we drove down forestry roads to Sandy No. 5 fire tower, a three-legged fire watchtower nearly 37 metres high, built in 1979.

### ON TO KILCOY AND PEACHESTER

We proceeded back to Moore, collected the vehicles left there and drove on to Kilcoy for lunch. From there, we continued to Peachester, where we visited the local heritage centre which, along with many items about the locality, has a display about the long-term weather forecaster, Inigo Jones, including a letter of condolence from the Society to his widow after his death.

### CROHAMHURST

About five minutes further on, we visited Inigo Jones's former observatory, now privately owned. There is an RGSQ plaque there commemorating the forecaster, made in 1952, originally located in the RGSQ premises in Brisbane and placed at Crohamhurst in 1982. This spot holds the Australian record for the highest rainfall of 36 inches in 24 hours!

### MARY CAIRCROSS PARK

Finally, we drove via Bald Knob Rd to Mary Cairncross Park for a final afternoon tea and the end of the trek. From the observation deck, there is a very impressive view over the Stanley River catchment and Mt Beerwah which sits on the watershed between the Stanley and the coastal streams.

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## REPORT: SCENIC RIM VISIT TO BOONAH AND MT. FRENCH

Contributed by **Mary Comer**, Treks and Activities Committee member and trip coordinator

Third time lucky! After two postponed days for this trip due to bushfires in the Scenic Rim and then Covid -19 the trip went ahead.



RGSQ group; visit to Boonah and Mt French

Despite rain falling on the way to Boonah we had the most beautiful weather for the rest of the day. We met at Arthur Clives Family Bakehouse for morning tea/coffee at 9.30. The garden area was prepared for us and with scones baked that morning. This is where we met Wendy Creighton - a resident of the area and editor of local newspapers. Wendy gave us a wonderful talk about the

history from an early name Blumberville to Boonah. The area was built on timber and dairy industries and serves today as a vibrant community of the Scenic Rim.

We then walked through the town individually following some excellent notes to guide us written by Neville McManimm before assembling at the Dugandan Hotel for lunch where Wendy joined us again to answer any questions. After saying goodbye to Wendy, we drove in convoy to the top of Mt French. There are two short walks which gave us clear views to the surrounding areas.

Thanks especially to Wendy and Neville and to all who came with me - Mary, John, Maureen, Leigh, Cavell, Neville, Linda, Richard, Bob, Jeanette, Laurelle, Len, Grahame, Margaret, Lillian, Roger, Glenda, Wayne, and Chris.

## MAP GROUP with BILL KITSON

Contributed by **Neville McManimm**, Map Group member

On Monday 25<sup>th</sup> October we had the pleasure of Bill's company. He is a retired Qld Surveyor, founder of the Qld Museum of Lands, Mapping and Surveying and recipient of the Society's 2009 Thomson Award. His talk, which he gave with "Great Zeal", oops, enthusiasm, was about the Marine Survey of the Qld coast from 1861-1913.



*Neville McManimm introducing Bill Kitson*

The contacts he has made with the descendants of those Surveyors, and the photographs they provided, brought a personal touch to a story which could have been just about "looking through telescopes" and "heaving the lead".

Those early Surveyors were taught their trade at Crammers College in England. Is this why we now "cram" before exams?

Bill is a walking encyclopaedia on our history, and he was, as usual, very generous with his time during the morning tea which followed his presentation.

There was a very good roll up of Map Group members for the morning and I'm sure a good time was had by all present.



*L-R: Bill Kitson with RGSQ members Bob Abnett and Neville McManimm*

## MEMOROBILLIA WANTED FOR RGSQ ARCHIVES

The Society's archives have reached an important milestone. Most of the paper-based material has now been sorted, ordered, and placed in archival boxes.

During the process, however, it became apparent that the Society's archives have few items of memorabilia from the 2000s and 2010s. In particular, the Society has no examples of t-shirts or sweatshirts that were produced for Society expeditions and trips overseas, the Australian Geography Competition or other events. So, if you are looking to downsize, the Collections Committee would welcome donations of these items or any other items showing Societal activities (e.g. four-wheel drive (4WD) stickers; photographs; DVDs) that you would like to give to the Society. This material will find a safe and secure home and will contribute to telling the story of the Royal Geographical Society of Queensland Ltd. as it approaches its 150th anniversary in 2035.

**Peter Griggs**

Collections Committee Member

A recording of the **OCTOBER** lecture on bushfire risk in Qld presented by Lee Johnson, former Commissioner of Queensland Fire and Emergency Services, is available on the **Society's YouTube channel**: <https://youtu.be/Q9G4XWv1AC0>

The **NOVEMBER** lecture recording is available at <https://youtu.be/s0odOCpU--s>

**SUBSCRIBE**

 A screenshot of the YouTube channel's 'Uploads' section. It shows three video thumbnails:
 

- Coastal wetlands provide opportunities for climate change mitigation and adaptation** (1:05:49)
- Bushfire - an Intensifying Risk for Queensland** (1:16:59)
- Royal Geographical Society of Qld Monthly Lecture...** (57:26)

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## Photos from the Society's 2021 Annual General Meeting



*Kath Berg was presented with the RGSQ Fellowship by David Wadley, Honours Committee Chair, during the 2021 AGM; courtesy of Kay Rees*



*Members attending the 2021 AGM on premises; courtesy of Kay Rees*



*New Councillor, Rob Cook, current Chair of the Collections Committee; courtesy of Kay Rees*

## From Iraphne Childs

Dear Members,

thank you to all who attended the Society's AGM on 19th October either in person at Gregory Place or via zoom. The meeting went smoothly with all resolutions supported.

As you know, at the AGM I stepped down as President after my 4-year term and John Tasker was elected unanimously as the incoming President. At the short Council meeting following the AGM, I nominated and was appointed as Vice-President for the coming Society year. I hope to assist John in his transition from Council Secretary to the President's role. You will find the full list of new Councillors and office-bearers in this Bulletin. It just remains for me to wish all members a very happy Christmas, a healthy and happy New Year out of lockdowns and safe from COVID.

With best wishes  
Vice-President, Iraphne Childs

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## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

We have much pleasure in welcoming Miriam Raymond, Rochelle Sherrin and Whitney Wettig as new members of RGSQ. We hope your association with your new Society is long and mutually enjoyable.

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## CONTRIBUTORS

Kath Berg, Ralph Carlisle, Iraphne Childs, Mary Comer, Peter Griggs, Neville McManimm, Chris Spriggs

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## PHOTO COMPETITION: Members' Choice



Members are invited to [choose](#) their favourite image for the members' choice prize. The [slide show](#) or [album](#) on the Society's website give slightly different methods for viewing the photos.

All winners will be announced at the RGSQ Christmas Party on Tuesday evening, 7 December 2021.

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# RGSQ Bulletin

November 2021

## Activities/Events

**7 December:** *Annual Christmas Party*  
at Society premises

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*The December Council will meet on the first  
Tuesday of the month.*

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