

RGSQ Bulletin



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Patron: [Her Excellency the Honourable Dr Jeannette Young AC PSM, Governor of Queensland](#)

President: Mr John Tasker

What's happening on Council?

The Society's Council met on Tuesday 21 March. Items of interest include:

- The South Island New Zealand trip to be led by Iraphne Childs was proving very popular and all organisation for it was proceeding.
- As at 21 March, 637 schools had registered to compete in the Australian Geography Competition and the entry deadline had been extended as teachers were still wanting to enter students.
- The Collections Committee is identifying high priority items to digitise, as well determining material already in digital form (such as the Queensland by Degrees project) to enhance access to them.
- The Society had applied for another grant from the Gambling Community Benefit Fund to upgrade the equipment used to conduct events, in-person and online. Thanks to Pam Tonkin and Lilia Darii for meeting a tight deadline.
- A new series of monthly events, provisionally titled GEOTalks, was approved. This would be delivered online with a speaker for 25-30 minutes and 30 minutes of audience engagement. It would enable the Society to better reach and serve members and prospective members who lived outside Greater Brisbane. It is expected to be launched in June. Thanks to the members of the Geography in Conversation Group for this initiative.
- The theme for this year's photo competition was endorsed. Look for information on this in the May Bulletin.
- The Young Geographers' event the previous week had been very successful: speed-networking for geography students and early career professionals.
- Council discussed the need to better advertise our interesting range of events. Any member with ideas on this, or who can volunteer to help, is asked to email info@rgsq.org.au.

For further information on any item, please talk to a Society Councillor at a Society event or send an email to info@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'.

Monthly Lecture Tuesday 4 April

A triple La Niña and SE Qld coastal changes: Implications for management

presented by

Dr Javier Leon

Register: <https://rgsq.org.au/event-5211158>

On premises at Gregory Place, 1/28 Fortescue St, Spring Hill and via Zoom



Image credit: Drone image looking across Burgess Creek, Sunrise beach. Source: Javier Leon

The capacity of sandy beaches to provide coastal protection varies across time and space. Recent research suggests climate change could result in substantial erosion of most sandy beaches by the end of the century, with significant social and economic impacts. Furthermore, storm and cyclone events generate extreme erosion of sandy beaches which is not fully recovered. Three back-to-back La Niña events occurred between 2020-2023. La Niña is associated with warmer waters in the western Pacific Ocean, which increase storminess off Australia's east coast. Chances of a higher number of tropical cyclones increase, as do the chances of cyclones travelling further south and further inland, and of more frequent passages of east coast lows. Detailed (3 cm

spatial resolution) and frequent (monthly or bimonthly) drone and ground-based volumetric surveys were undertaken during this period along the open beaches between Peregian Beach and Sunshine Beach with the aim of monitoring coastal change along the shoreline and dunes. Results are variable and indicate average shoreline erosion of around 20 m, dune crest retreat of up to 10 m and dune erosion of up to 3 m vertically on some locations. Frequent, high-quality 4D spatial information (3D plus time) across the coastal zone is required to monitor, manage, and predict coastal change and its associated hazards. Building an understanding of coastal response to both gradual and extreme events is especially critical in an era of progressively rising sea levels which are likely to exacerbate already existing trends.

About the presenter

Dr Javier Leon is a geographer with broad interests in geomorphology and is particularly interested in the study and management of coastal systems including sandy beaches and coral reefs. He has developed and collaborated in multidisciplinary research projects combining field data, geospatial techniques, and modelling in study sites across the Great Barrier Reef and Eastern coast of Australia and Pacific Islands including Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands. His aim is to answer questions related to links between morphology, ecology and management in the current changing climate and sea-level rise context.

Please note: If you register to attend the lecture via Zoom, the video link will be emailed to you closer to the lecture date. This lecture may be recorded. If you have any questions, please email us at info@rgsq.org.au.

Welcome New Members

We have much pleasure in welcoming *Simon Cole, Malcolm McSorley, Robert Blake Morrison, Charles Nason, Henrique Reis, Nick Lyttle* and *Ashhane Bandaragodage* as new members. We hope your association with your new Society is long and mutually enjoyable.

Seeking Volunteers

The Society has received requests from interested approved parties to hire the premises outside of RGSQ normal business hours.

To make this possible the Society **might** need to have a member volunteer to give access to the hirer and to lock-up afterwards.

Please consider helping with this, as it is a revenue source.

The Property Committee will maintain a roster of times which will be circulated to those who volunteer. The periods we are looking at are Monday, Thursday and Friday evenings, Saturday and Sunday. We would hope that with 10-15 volunteers each person would only need to attend a couple of times in a year.

If you can volunteer, please let Property Committee know at info@rgsq.org.au.

Geography in Conversation Tuesday 23 May

TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE CORRIDOR GOLD COAST TO SUNSHINE COAST

Register: <https://rgsq.org.au/event-5217469>



Image credit: TMR

Guest speakers, **Professor Ian Lowe**, Sustainable Population Australia, **Ms Deborah Tabart OAM**, Australian Koala Foundation, and **Cr Joe Natoli**, Councillor representing Division 4, Alexandra Headland, Buddina, Maroochydore, Minyama, Mooloolaba, Parrearra and Warana as part of the Sunshine Coast Council. Moderated by Stella and Graeme Rush.

The expanding population of the Greater Brisbane area, projected to increase by another 1 million people by 2050, presents challenges for planning, livability, and the environment. How will transport infrastructure be planned and what is the timeline for it to be delivered? The corridor from the Gold Coast to the Sunshine Coast is one of the fastest growing population centers in Australia. Contests between wildlife corridors versus transport corridors, physical environments versus human settlements and the overall urban livability index are each caught up in the overall transport plan.

You have 60 minutes to ask questions of the experts representing the conflicting sides of this contest. Enjoy light refreshments before settling in for an informed conversation on a topic of interest to us all.

Members, please post your questions on notice to the GIC forum: <https://rgsq.org.au/geographyinconversation/>

OR non-members email: questionsonnotice@gmail.com

Time: 5:30pm light refreshments – doors open at 5:15pm
Q&A Forum 6:00 – 7:30pm. Mingling 7:30 – 8:00.

Address: Gregory Place, Level 1, 28 Fortescue St, Spring Hill.

Cost: \$5.00 for refreshments, included in registration

Cost: \$5:00 members; \$10:00 non-members; \$5.00 students

Pamela Tonkin, Co-Convenor



Treks and Activities

The Lamington National Park Environment – Binna Burra Caves Walk Saturday 10 June

Register: <https://rgsq.org.au/event-5183881>



Where: This event commences at 9:15 am at the Binna Burra Teahouse. On getting together, we will arrange a car shuffle, leaving walkers at the teahouse, taking cars down to the Information Centre and bringing drivers back up in one car before we start. By 10 am, we will commence walking down the Caves Track to the Information Centre. We will drive back to the teahouse for lunch before all returning to the Information Centre for a good look around. Departure will be at leisure from the Information Centre.

We will look at some carpooling from Canungra if that suits people and some may like to stay overnight at Binna Burra before or after the event.

The Event: The Caves Walk in the Binna Burra section of the Lamington National Park is usually done as a circuit from the lodge and teahouse area, walking down the track to the Information Centre and then walking back up the steep road to the lodge site and teahouse. We will only walk the first half.

Our walk is about 3.5 km and is predominantly downhill, with the start at about 770 m elevation and the finish at about 660 m. Nevertheless, there are some short uphill sections. We will be walking on a formed track with the National Parks information on this grade of track saying 'May have short steep hill sections, a rough surface and many steps. Reasonable level of fitness and some bushwalking experience recommended.' There are a number of steps, mostly going down, but no long-stepped sections. The steps are unlikely to have handrails. The two hours allowed should mean we have plenty of time.

The walk offers great views across and up and down the Coomera River valley to the cliffs on the western side. The geology and vegetation are interesting. We will start on the Hobwee Basalt before descending into the Binna Burra Rhyolite. We should see rhyolite lavas and ash-fall tuffs, predominantly rhyolitic. Also, we will pass through a deposit of perlite, a glassy mineral that forms when rhyolitic lavas cool quickly.

We will be accompanied on our walk by Barry Davies, President of the Lamington Natural History Association and of Gondwana Guides (some may know Barry from his time as Activities Coordinator at the Lodge in the 1980s).

The Information Centre has a substantial collection of material on the history and natural resources of the

Lamington National Park, particularly the Binna Burra section and will be manned by Lamington Natural History Association members.

Numbers: 15 walkers. Note this is a more challenging walk than Tullawallal because of grades and steps.

Times: Some members may like to arrange accommodation at Binna Burra

- Gather at teahouse 9:15 (non-drivers will have plenty of time for coffee, drivers may have time for a quick cup)
- Car Shuffle to Information Centre
- Walkers depart teahouse by 10 am
- Arrive Information Centre noon to 12:15 pm
- Lunch at Teahouse about 12:45 pm at own cost
- About 2:00 pm, drive back to Information Centre for guided visit

Cost: member \$10, non-member \$20. This includes a donation to the Natural History Association but does not include morning tea or lunch.

If this event gets fully booked, please join the waitlist. If there is enough interest the event can be repeated in the future.

Coordinator: Bob Reid

Visit to Archerfield Airport

22 June 2023, 10:00 AM - 12:30 PM

Register: <https://rgsq.org.au/event-5190052>



Photo credit: Kgbo, CC BY-SA 4.0
<<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0/>>, via
Wikimedia Commons

This event is now fully booked. If you are interested, please proceed with your booking to add your name to the waitlist and we may organise a repeat event later in the year.

Brisbane's 2nd airport, at Archerfield, has had its geographic and historical footprint on SW Brisbane for almost 100 years. Historian Peter Dunn OAM will host a visit to the airport for RGSQ members and will provide a fascinating account of the establishment of the airport through to its current operations, and including the important, and perhaps not well-known role that the airport

played in WWII. A conducted tour of the Historical Displays and War Rooms will also feature. Peter's presentation will be conducted in the Departure Lounge of the airport (seating available). The tour of the display rooms will require standing.

The adjacent God's Acre Cemetery at the entrance to the airport, equally has a story to tell, and Robin Barke, who has had a long association with Archerfield, will provide a talk and conduct a walk around the resting places of a number of the early pioneers and settlers of the broader Archerfield district. No seating is available for this segment of the visit.

The event will commence at 10.00 am, and our time at Archerfield, and the event will finish at about 12.30 pm.

For participants inclined to add an hour or so to the outing, there are a couple of lunch options:

- Visit the nearby Oxley Common (about a 5 min drive from the airport) for a (BYO) picnic lunch. There are good facilities (BBQ, covered tables, toilets) and walks along Oxley Creek and into the associated wetlands, all fully recovered from the floods of a year ago.
- Souths Sports Club (in the Acacia Sports Complex, off Mortimer Road), about a 2 min drive from the airport, for the usual club-style meal, at participant's cost.

Cost: \$10 per person (member); \$20 per person (non-member)

Access: By car is the most convenient, and parking in the Airport car park (off Beatty Road) is available. Please be aware that the area around the airport is 'trucking central', and large road transport units operate everywhere.

BCC bus services operate to the area.

Please register on-line. Participant numbers are limited to 20. A wait list will be operated. Peter Dunn OAM and Robin Barke have agreed to provide a repeat event later in the year if required.

Event coordinator: Roger Grimley

RGSQ Map Group: CANUNGRA Extended Outing 9-11 May 2023 **10 spots available**

Register: <https://rgsq.org.au/event-5142632>



Photo: "Cuppa with a View"; courtesy of Neville McManimm

The Base Camp will be a Camping Ground 10 minutes from Canungra township. As things will start about 9am on Tuesday 9 May, consider if you wish to travel early on

Tuesday morning from Brisbane (2 hours travel) or arrive in Canungra on Monday 8 May during the afternoon after a pleasant country drive and time for drinks and nibbles (BYO) on the creek bank before dinner.

Registration costs: \$65.00 for RGSQ members and \$80.00 for non-members which includes one barbeque meal at the campground. Accommodation costs are additional to the registration costs. If staying at the camping ground, please contact Neville at nevmcm@onthenet.com.au to organise. Accommodation external to the camping ground to be organised privately.

For all details, please see website:

<https://rgsq.org.au/event-5142632>. Further information will be provided to the registrants closer to the event.

Trip manager: Neville McManimm

Report: Geography in Conversation Water and Soils as Natural Resources



On February 28th, RGSQ members and friends gathered to hear from three experts on the topic of natural resource management. The guest speakers included Dr. Andrew Biggs, a pedologist and soil surveyor with the Department of Natural Resources, Dr. Piet Filet, the Queensland Water Modelling Network Engagement and Collaboration Manager with Griffith University's Australian Rivers Institute, and Dr. Robin Thwaites, a Senior Research Fellow with Griffith University's Precision Erosion and Sediment Management Research Group (PrESM).

The speakers discussed the crucial roles that water balance and soil health play in agricultural production and the wider community. Dr. Biggs explained how the role of government departments has evolved over time and the various ways that soil health impacts public health, utilities, and services such as salinity.

Dr. Filet proposed a framework for collaboration between organizations and communities, emphasizing the need for greater integration and engagement of stakeholders in the region, including professionals, practitioners, industry leaders, and the general public. He encouraged consumers to be more mindful of where their produce comes from and to engage with local farmers on their practices.

All speakers agreed on the lack of training and communication among professionals, especially in government departments, and the growing gap in knowledge in the industry. The high rotation of Natural Resource Management (NRM) staff every few years

results in the continual loss of knowledge and training efforts to other markets such as the mining sector.

Dr. Thwaites expressed optimism that better incentive programs could target upper stream catchments, benefiting those downstream. Dr. Biggs emphasized the need for better alignment between government and industry bodies to streamline engagement strategies for implementing solutions that benefit the wider community.

Overall, the evening was highly informative and engaging, providing valuable insights into the important roles of water and soil as natural resources and the challenges and opportunities involved in managing them effectively.

Contributed by: Annie (Ngoc) Nyugen

Treks and Activities Report

Cross River Rail Centre and Macarthur Museum visits

On 16th March, 23 RGSQ members visited two locations in central Brisbane.

Cross River Rail Experience Centre

Construction of the project which will reshape public rail transport across and within Brisbane and extending to the Gold Coast - generally referred to as Cross River Rail - commenced in earnest in 2019, and \$5.6 billion later, it is scheduled to be completed in 2025.

Through a visit to the Cross River Rail Experience centre which included very informative presentations, RGSQ members gained some insight into the enormity and complexity of this massive development. What is seen daily at ground level around Brisbane at many locations of CRR related activity, masks the reality of the construction and engineering marvel which is emerging right under us.

Many of the photos covering public transport arrangements in times past included in the presentation twiggged a few memories with many of our group and provided an excellent background to a comprehensive briefing, provided by Centre staff, on the scope and scale of the overall project, and the shape of the public rail transport system of the future.

After 120 years, Brisbane is getting its first new railway station – in fact, four of them, all underground - Roma Street, Albert Street, Boggo Road and Woolloongabba. Three new stations on the Gold Coast, and eight station upgrades including Exhibition, which will become a ‘full time’ station, and not just an “Ekka” stop.

Of the 10.2 kms of new inner city rail line encompassed in the development, 5.9 kms is twin underground tunnel – tunnelled (and excavated) through a surprising variety of rock types under the CBD and the Brisbane River. The tunnels are 41 metres below the river surface.

The tunnelling machines employed - a 165-metre-long boring machine with a cutting face diameter of 7.2 meters, and a smaller (22 metre) RoadHeader - are colossal; each taking two months to be assembled, bit by bit, underground in the vast excavation for the Woolloongabba station. To a lay observer, it is hard not to be astounded by the planning, design, engineering and construction complexities, the scale and challenges involved in this

undertaking. The presentation included a brief insight into digital tools developed in this process. Utilizing advanced Computer Aided Design (CAD) technologies, every element of the project is covered by static and moving visual representation - quite literally, down to every nut and bolt. The use of visual representation will feature heavily in driver and operator training.

Whilst our group (or any group) was not able to ‘get to the coalface’ for a really close look, we were able to see something of the works - albeit from a small window on the 18th floor of a nearby building, overlooking the new Albert Street Station. This station starts 40 meters below ground level. Construction has been underway for a few years, and we were able to see the works that have progressed almost to street level. What we viewed was just a fraction of the vast cavern below.

‘Impressive’ hardly describes Cross River Rail!

Macarthur Museum

Now known as Macarthur Chambers, the classical 10 story sandstone building in central Brisbane started life in the early 1930’s as the offices of the AMP Society. Requisitioned in 1941 for WWII service, the building functioned as the command centre, and the Head Quarters of Gen. Douglas Macarthur, Supreme Allied Commander - South West Pacific until August 1944.

Today, one floor of the building houses the Macarthur Museum (the other floors are private residences).

The visit by RGSQ members commenced with a presentation by Museum volunteers, supported by photos and newsreel footage, which provided a fascinating snapshot of aspects of life in Brisbane at that time, and wartime activity close to home that shaped the lives of the city’s inhabitants - around 350,000 in 1941 and rising to 700,000 by 1944. By 1943, some 100,000 US troops were stationed in and around Brisbane, with variable outcomes in the interactions with locals.

The geography of Brisbane also changed reflecting wartime preparations - 200 surface air raid shelters were built (remnants of which can be seen in public parks); river water reticulation for fire control; back-yard (and school yard) trench air raid shelters.

The Museum retains the office used by Gen. Macarthur, set up as it was in 1942, complete with a (replica) of his desk, stained, as is the original (now kept in the Macarthur Museum, Norfolk, Virginia) with pipe burns and ink spots.

The displays and artifacts, presented in the Museum, covering Macarthur’s early life and military career, and comprehensive coverage of the Pacific region military campaigns, battles, and actions make for absorbing perusal, and visiting RGSQ members availed of the opportunity to browse-and for many, to reminisce.

Footnote

Both the Cross River Rail Experience Centre and the Macarthur Museum are open to the public and well worth a visit, although the presentations provided to RGSQ members are available only for organised group visits.

Contributed by Roger Grimley

History of Australian tea consumption

Contributed by Kath Berg



ABC Radio National recently broadcast an interesting programme on tea consumption that featured historical geographer and past RGSQ Councillor, Peter Griggs.

Tea's long shelf life, easy transportation and thirst-quenching ability had us brewing in record numbers. Demand for tea leaves grew steadily up until the second world war. Shipped in from Asia, we couldn't get enough of it.

But during the 1950s our habits began to change. Rationing compelled us to seek alternatives, and post war migrants brought new tastes. But the tea bag fought back!

You can listen to the programme via this link: <https://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/the-history-listen/the-kitchen-table-tea/102042504>

Contributors

Kath Berg, Roger Grimley, Javier Leon, Neville McManimm, Annie (Ngoc) Nyugen, Kay Rees, Bob Reid, Pamela Tonkin

RGSQ

April 2023

Bulletin

Lecture/Meeting: Tue 4 April

*A triple La Nina and SEQLD coastal changes:
Implications for management*

Trips/Activities: Thur 27 April

Caloundra - Eco Explorer Cruise

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P: 07 3368 2066

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

The Royal Geographical Society of Queensland Ltd

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