

# 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 18 July. Items of interest include:

- Ella Schirru has been awarded the Society's prize for the highest-performing student at James Cook University.
- Preparations are nearly complete for the Australian team to compete in the 2023 International Geography Olympiad, 8-14 August, Bandung, Indonesia.
- Access to the Society's eHive catalogue is now available via Trove (operated by the National Library of Australia).
- The latest Geography Matters lecture attracted a large audience (see item elsewhere in this *Bulletin*).
- Stuart Watt had given an interesting talk to the Map Group on his fossil research during the Society's Cravens Peak Scientific Study.
- Running the Binna Burra Caves walk on a Saturday had proved effective in catering for members who could not attend on a weekday.
- The Young Geographers' camp at Carnarvon Gorge National Park was very successful, and a great team-building activity to engage younger members.
- With most of the Soils for Science kits now distributed, more had been ordered.
- The deadline to apply for a student Geography Research Grant had been extended until after the semester break.

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](mailto:info@rgsq.org.au).

## 2023 AGM and Council Nominations

RGSQ's Annual General Meeting will be held on 17 October. If any member would like to nominate for the 2023-2024 Council, please email [info@rgsq.org.au](mailto:info@rgsq.org.au) for a nomination form as there will be vacancies on Council. Alternatively, to discuss a Council role, please feel free to contact John Tasker, RGSQ President, at [president@rgsq.org.au](mailto:president@rgsq.org.au).

## Thank you Stephen

Stephen Schwer has resigned from Council due to the pressure of his other responsibilities. The Council will miss his considerable experience gained as a director on other boards. Stephen will continue to be actively involved in the Society through his membership of the Geography in Conversation Committee.

## Monthly Lecture: Connecting Agricultural Data Across Scales to Maintain Food Supply

with Professor Scott Chapman, UQ

Tuesday 1 August 7.30pm

Delivery: on premises and Zoom

Register: <https://rgsq.org.au/event-5345401>

For more than 10,000 years, farmers have used local knowledge of their soils, climates and ecologies to guide the production of food, and to create new varieties of crops and ways to manage them in sustainable ways. Modern methods of production are efficient in terms of resource-use, and we continue to try to refine crop genetics and management to feed the world.



Over the last 150 years or so, weather monitoring systems became part of quantifying environments, while, in the last 30 years, the mapping of DNA in crop genomes now allows plant breeders to develop more adaptable varieties of crops. In our research we study how varieties of crops adapt to climate across the entire wheatbelt. In doing this, we are utilising many sensing methodologies – using weather stations, imaging from phones and drones and satellites, and building computer models of how crops grow in current and future climates. New methods of deep learning and artificial intelligence contribute to building solutions to maintain food production under challenging conditions like increased heat and drought due to climate change.

**Biography:** after completing studies at UQ in the early 1990s, Scott went to Mexico for 4 years, working at CIMMYT – the home of the Green Revolution where dwarf wheats were invented in the 1960s averting massive food crises in East Asia. On returning to Australia, he worked for UQ and then for CSIRO for 24 years. Scott's career research has been around genetic and environment effects on physiology of field crops, particularly where drought dominates. As a Professor at UQ since 2020, his research portfolio now includes multiple projects in applications of machine learning and artificial intelligence into the ag domain.

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## GEOGRAPHY MATTERS

### Mount Isa: The First 100 Years and Outlook for the Future

Tuesday 8 August

Time: 7:30pm - 8:30pm EST

Delivery: ZOOM Only

Register: <https://rqsq.org.au/event-5346398>

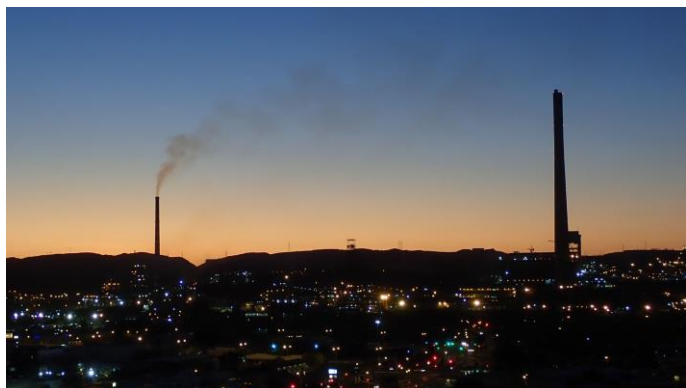


Photo credit: Dr Richard Lilly

We are proud to introduce *Dr. Richard Lilly*, FSEG, MAusIMM, MAIG the Program Leader and co-founder of the National Exploration Undercover School (NExUS), which aims to prepare Australia's most promising geoscientists for a career in the minerals industry. Between 2007-2015 Richard worked for Mount Isa Mines exploration, and, since 2015, as an industry-funded economic geology researcher and lecturer at the University of Adelaide. In 2022 Richard was named the STEMM Educator of the Year (University or RTO) at the South Australian Science Excellence and Innovation Awards for his work with NExUS. Richard is passionate about rocks, ore systems, exploration, and teaching/mentoring the next generation of geoscientists.

Richard will be interviewed by *Damian Kelly*. An internationally experienced petroleum geophysicist, with experience working in New Zealand, India, Egypt, Argentina, Ghana and Ireland. Damian's key focus is onshore and offshore 2D and 3D seismic data interpretation (seismic stratigraphy), structural model building, and reservoir characterisation (QI); and managing key in- and out-sourced geo-technical projects.

This presentation will consider how Mount Isa is one of the great Cu-Pb-Zn ore deposits of the world and how it has driven economic development of the NW Queensland minerals province, as well as great geological debate.

This talk will look at the discovery and first 100 years of mining at the deposit, and the outlook for the future.

**Please note:** the Zoom link will be emailed to all registrants closer to the event date. This event may be recorded. If you have any questions, please email us at [info@rqsq.org.au](mailto:info@rqsq.org.au).

## GEOGRAPHY IN CONVERSATION

### South East Qld Regional Plan – Shaping SEQ

Tuesday 29 August

Register: <https://rqsq.org.au/event-5348689>



Three topics of *Shaping SEQ* will be addressed. **Ms Stephanie Wyeth**, representing the Australian Institute of Planning, is an urban planner, researcher and strategist who specialises in the social dynamics of cities and communities. Ms Wyeth will speak on the plan itself.

**Professor Hugh Possingham** FAA (Fellow of the Australian Academy) is currently the Chief Councillor of the newly created Biodiversity Council and Chief Scientist of Accounting for Nature and has recently been Queensland Chief Scientist 2020 - 2022 and Chief Scientist of The Nature Conservancy. Professor Possingham will speak on the topic of biodiversity.

**Ms Fiona Caniglia**, Executive Director of Q Shelter since 2018; although, her history with the peak body dates to the 1990's when she was involved in various committees and working groups striving for housing and homelessness solutions. Ms Caniglia will speak on the topic of housing.

The South East Queensland Regional Plan will be available for public consultation in August. The Plan known as *ShapingSEQ*, is the regional plan for the SEQ region. *ShapingSEQ* provides a regional framework for growth management, and sets planning direction for sustainable growth, global economic competitiveness, and high-quality living by identifying a long-term sustainable pattern of development which focuses more growth in existing urban areas. At the Queensland Housing Summit in October 2022, a commitment was made to review *ShapingSEQ* to directly respond to the immediate housing and growth management needs of the region. The review will be a targeted amendment of the existing *ShapingSEQ* that will reflect updated population and dwelling growth assumptions and will include a more robust approach to data and monitoring of supply to address specific areas of housing supply pressure.

For information relating to the SEQ Regional Plan the following links are available:

<https://planning.statedevelopment.qld.gov.au/planning-framework/plan-making/regional-planning/south-east-queensland-regional-plan>

<https://www.planning.org.au/documents/item/12377>

<https://sdgs.un.org/2030agenda>

Come along for light refreshments before settling in for an informed conversation on a topic of interest to us all.



Members registering please post your questions on notice to the GIC forum:

<https://rgqs.org.au/geographyinconversation/>

OR non-members email [questionsonnotice@gmail.com](mailto:questionsonnotice@gmail.com)

Time 5.30pm light refreshments – doors open @ 5.15pm

Q&A Forum 6.00 – 7.30pm. Mingling 7.30 – 8.00.

**Address:** Gregory Place, Leve 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**



## Treks and Activities

### REPORT: RGSQ Archerfield Airport Visit 22 June 2023



Photo credit: Graham Rees

*"I've driven past but had no real idea what's there"* was a sentiment expressed by several of the twenty-five (25) RGSQ members who visited the Archerfield Airport on 22 June. Gathered in the Airport Passenger Lounge located in the delightfully restored art-deco building, and making way for transiting charter flight passengers, historian Peter Dunn OAM provided our group with an engaging account of the airport's origins, its role during WWII, and a profile of the airport's current status. For some idea of the depth of Peter's credentials in military aviation, search the website he established in 1996 - [www.ozatwar.com](http://www.ozatwar.com). Peter was very generous in sharing his knowledge with our group.

The land on which the airport is situated was initially acquired in 1855 by an early district pioneer, Thomas Grenier. Considered to be rich agricultural land, various crops were grown (or tried) - potatoes, maize ... and cotton. By 1927, through land and family divisions, the area now occupied by Archerfield Airport was known as Franklin's Farm, and it was on Franklin's Farm that a Qantas pilot landed in 1927 to test suitability as an airstrip. Land was acquired by the Federal Government and Archerfield Airport commenced operations as Brisbane's primary airport (including international) in 1931, with Qantas, ANA and later TAA operations. Archerfield continued in this role until 1949.

Archerfield Airport has quite a story to tell about the part it played during WWII: from 1939 through to 1946, it was home and host to multiple operational and military aviation support units from Australia, the United States and the Netherlands (Dutch East Indies). Camps were established at a number of locations in and around the airport, as were facilities for maintenance, aircraft assembly and engine testing. The range of different types of aircraft operating from Archerfield over this period was extensive and Peter provided an absorbing commentary on airport and military aircraft

operations during the war years - including the comings and goings of Gen. Douglas Macarthur.

As a defence strategy, a number of airstrips were developed at locations away from Archerfield - some reasonably close by and accessible by taxiing, others, such as at Logan and Kuraby, further afield. Little evidence remains of these today.

An adjacent display area - the War Room - houses an extensive collection of photographs, narrative boards, documents and plaques which reference some of the material referred to in Peter's talk. Whilst intense military aviation presence at Archerfield ceased in 1946, the airport continued to host some RAAF operational aircraft until the mid-1950's.

Land ownership of the airport remains with the Commonwealth Government; however, airport operation and management was privatised in 1998, and is currently conducted by the Archerfield Airport Corporation (under the Australian Airports Act) who hold a 99-year lease. Whilst no scheduled commercial air services operate from Archerfield, a number of charter operators, pilot training schools, and private ownership aircraft are active airport users. The airport carries the largest number of general aviation movements of all Queensland airports, with approximately 140,000 movements annually. CareFlight and the Queensland Police Air Unit are based at Archerfield. The airport precinct, with 68 hangars, accommodates over 80 businesses, and is home to a range of aviation (and some non-aviation) related industries.

Sitting quietly just inside the main entrance to the airport is God's Acre Cemetery. To the opening words to this report, might be added *"... but with a cemetery at the gates, it's probably the final resting place of Archerfield airport accident victims."* How wrong that would be.

Robin Barke, from the Friends of God's Acre Inc., provided our group with a fascinating account of some of the early pioneers in the Archerfield district, how the cemetery came into being, and survives as Brisbane's second oldest cemetery. As with the airport itself, it all started with Thomas Grenier, who, after leaving England with his family in 1838, arrived in Brisbane in 1845, and as mentioned earlier, acquired 640 acres in the district in 1855.

It was an on-farm tragedy involving Volney, the 16-year-old son of Thomas Grenier that led to the creation of the cemetery, with his burial on the site in October 1859. At that time, the formalities of Queensland's separation from NSW were yet to be completed. Over the ensuing years, up to the cemetery's closure in 1931, 83 pioneering families buried 234 of their descendants on the site. The area of the cemetery is excised from the Archerfield Airport Corporation lease, and is now owned by the Brisbane City Council, however, preservation and maintenance is undertaken by the Airport Corporation, and Friends of God's Acre Inc. - a wholly voluntary organisation. The site and surrounds are very well maintained.

Both Peter Dunn OAM and Robin Barke specifically acknowledged the support given by the Archerfield Airport Corporation, and notably the corporation's principal, Gavin Bird, to retention of the airport's wartime role legacy and the piece of history that is God's Acre Cemetery.

Following the formalities of the visit, a number of members enjoyed light refreshments at the adjacent Run-Up Bay café. Peter Dunn was able to join our group - a pleasant conclusion to an interesting outing.

**Roger Grimley**, Event Coordinator

## REPORT: Geography Matters

### IS QLD GOING BATTY? Flying Foxes in the Townsville, Ingham, Charters Towers, Burdekin Diamond



This presentation was delivered by Dominique Thiriet, wildlife campaigner and wildlife carer and Tyron de Kauwe, Natural Areas Conservation Officer from Sunshine Coast Regional Council. Dominique prepared an excellent set of slides with video clips on the life cycle of the Little Black and Little Red Flying Fox in Australia. Flying Fox have attracted our attention as they are social mammals that prefer to set up resident colonies in trees close to water and fruiting and flowering trees. When their preferred site is next to urban areas, this can cause problems with people. Flying Fox travel enormous distances across northern and eastern seaboard of Australia. Dominique's specific data was focused on the Burdekin Triangle from Ingham – Charters Towers – Home Hill. Flying Fox are an ecologically important species as they are pollinators and seed spreaders which is critical to the health of our rainforest and savannah areas. In 2013, the Queensland Department of Environment and Science gave local government the responsibility to manage the Flying Fox colonies close to residential areas. The noise and odour around colonies has required local government to respond to requests from the community.

Tyrone provided the local government perspective on the challenges faced with respect to wildlife management issues and efforts to disperse the colonies when close to urban areas. Councils' dispersal techniques have tried water jets, noise, bright light, fogging and fireworks to no avail. Sunshine Coast Regional Council has an active program of education and community consultation on the Flying Fox issue. Should the tourist potential of the lifecycle of our Flying Fox be explored?

An excellent presentation from both speakers and available on RGSQ's YouTube channel:  
<https://youtu.be/uKfyco592lc>.

**Contributed by:** Len Lowry

### Welcome New Members

We have much pleasure in welcoming Cathryn Duffy, Abbie Rankin, Maryanne Smith, Margaret Flecker, Chao-Han Kong and Garrick Flynn as new members. We hope your association with your new Society is mutually enjoyable.

**Contributors:** Kath Berg, Scott Chapman, Iraphne Childs, Roger Grimley, Damian Kelly, Richard Lilly, Len Lowry, Kay Rees, Graham Rees, Stella Rush, Daphne Stephens, Pamela Tonkin

## REPORT: Geography in Conversation

### Native Bees, Biodiverse Environments, and Innovations in Horticulture



*Photo l-r: Prof Robert Henry, Ryan Newis, Dr Tim Heard and John Tasker; photo credit: Kay Rees.*

On 27 June 2023, RGSQ members and other attendees gathered to hear from three experts about recent technological advances which are leading to innovative practices in horticulture.

The expert panel comprised: Professor Robert Henry, Director of the Queensland Alliance for Agriculture and Food Innovation; Dr Tim Heard, Sugarbag Bees and an executive (Past President) of the Australian Native Bees Association (ANBA); and Mr. Ryan Newis, a member of the "Sustainable Agriculture Systems Theme", Centre for Planetary Health and Food Security at Griffith University. The discussion was moderated by RGSQ President, Mr. John Tasker.

The speakers discussed mechanisms by which increased yields and improved sustainability practices can be achieved for commercial tropical plant species including macadamia, avocado, mango, bananas, pineapples, and custard apple. Efficacy of pollination presently is a limiting factor in crop production systems.

Dr. Heard and Mr. Newis demonstrated the potential for Australian native bees to augment European honeybees in pollinating tropical crops. Biodiversity - specifically retaining linked corridors of abundant and diverse native and introduced plants - is integral to ensuring that sustainable strong colonies of healthy native bees are available to pollinate crops when they are in bloom.

DNA metabarcoding technology enables the identification of the plant origin of foraged bee pollen, nectar, and resin resources. Foraging preferences for species in particular landscape and agricultural contexts can be understood, in turn facilitating the targeting of crops for pollination.

Professor Henry highlighted key initiatives in respect of the conservation and capture of plant diversity for food security and the engineering of plants, including to sustainably replace fossil carbon fuels.

DNA sequencing is a fast moving and cost-effective technology which enables gene-editing, whereby molecular structures can be engineered ("edited") to produce higher yielding crops – ideally self-pollinating varieties – with enhanced nutritional and medicinal benefits. Insights gleaned from historic Indigenous communities (e.g., Lake Eyre and Channel Country) are being used to focus investigations on likely conducive crops.

**Contributed by:** Damian Kelly



## REPORT: Mapping at Craven's Peak



A talk about RGSQ's 2007 Craven's Peak Expedition was given by Stuart Watt at Gregory Place on Friday 23 June. Stuart used notes from his diary, and photos he had

taken, to put together a slideshow. In the beginning he included a soundtrack of the sound of Diamond Doves which can be heard frequently in this outback setting. Of course, as is often the case, rain blocked some of the roads in their journey to reach the homestead.

Apart from being a 'helper' on this expedition, his focus was looking at fossils. By using GPS, he was able to map out areas of interest and along with another volunteer, was able to identify marine fossils from approximately 470 million years ago. To discover more about a strange greenish sandstone they had observed, they returned the following year to investigate further. The use of GPS on this expedition has enabled Stuart to put this new technology to use, with his interest in orienteering allowing him to produce great maps for folk to use.

Map Group members enjoyed the talk very much. Thank you, Stuart, for making the trip to Brisbane to share your experiences. A recording of this talk can be found here: [https://youtu.be/-nlyzn\\_TtGs](https://youtu.be/-nlyzn_TtGs)

**Contributed by:** Kay Rees

## RGSQ Map Group: Canungra Outing



Over the 9<sup>th</sup> to the 12<sup>th</sup> of May, in the company of 12 RGSQ members, Neville McManimm led us on a 3-night, 4-day adventure exploring the Canungra area.

All of us had visited this area before and walked in National Parks around O'Reilly's, but this trip took us to places inaccessible to the general public as well as treating us to Neville's extensive knowledge of the local history, geography, geology and biology of the area.

Our base camp was Spring Gully Stays, Sarabah Valley, an excellent privately owned campground along the banks of Sarabah Creek. After carpooling for the day drives in 4WD's, we returned to the base camp each afternoon for shared nibbles and a drink before dinner. One evening we enjoyed a delicious BBQ dinner prepared by the owner, and another evening we dined at the Canungra Hotel.

We had a wonderful four days in a beautiful part of the world. 4WD tracks rewarded us with great views and an insight into the work of early surveyors and explorers. Short walks (often between cow pats) opened up the countryside for us. The discovery of old fence lines or surveyor's reference trees gave great excitement.

Our visit to the Kokoda Barracks Museum was a most interesting and informative part of the trip. After watching a short video on the importance of the Army Intelligence Unit, we were free to explore the museum and have questions answered by volunteer staff. Information on all the wars in which Australia was engaged was presented well. A visit to a Heritage Church also added to the local History content. The company was bright and fun, each person adding something of their own knowledge and experience to the conversations.

Thanks again Neville for the superb organisation right down to so many keys for so many gates! Thanks to all the participants for great company on this shared experience.

**Contributed by:** Stella Rush

## 2023 PHOTO COMPETITION is On! "Queensland's Weather: the good, the bad and the ugly"

**So, get your cameras rolling!**

Members are invited to submit geographical weather-themed photos which must be:

- Taken by RGSQ members only
- Unpublished
- Taken in 2021-2023
- High resolution. Camera or mobile phone capture is usually fine
- Entry fee is \$5 for up to 5 photos
- Submit to [info@rgsq.org.au](mailto:info@rgsq.org.au) from 1<sup>st</sup> September – 31<sup>st</sup> October 2023
- Winners will be announced at the 2023 Christmas party

- |            |   |
|------------|---|
| 1st Prize: | 1 night accommodation at Binna Burra's Sky Lodge                      |
| 2nd Prize: | Framed wildlife illustration by local Brisbane artist Alison Carlisle |
| 3rd Prize: | BOM 2024 calendar   |

*By submitting your photos to the RGSQ Photography Competition, you agree to share the photos with RGSQ for future use. All photos will be copyrighted under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 license, which means that each photo is owned by the creator (you as the photographer), and it can be shared and adapted freely when appropriate credit is given.*

**Inquiries to:** Iraphne [i.childs@uq.edu.au](mailto:i.childs@uq.edu.au) or Kay [kayrees@gmail.com](mailto:kayrees@gmail.com)

## RGSQ's Zoom Lectures Reach Has Now Expanded Exponentially

For some years now RGSQ has been pushing to expand their influence and lectures via the internet to encompass the wider Queensland area and elsewhere in Australia. This intention has recently been shown to gain traction.

Success at last: the July Geography Matters lecture "Is Queensland going batty? Flying Foxes in the Townsville, Ingham, Charters Towers and Burdekin Diamond" had a total of 96 zoom registrants – 3 overseas with 2 in New Zealand and 1 in Germany, 1 each in Victoria and Western Australia, 10 in NSW, and 70 were in Queensland outside the greater Brisbane area.

One of the forces in RGSQ creating this effect is having the organisers of 'Geography in Conversation' and 'Geography

Matters' reaching out each month to a large variety of different experts in various fields, exposing these lecturers to our organisation.

**Contributed by:** Daphne Stephens

## **RGSQ Collections Committee Visit to State Library of Qld**

On Monday 19 June, Mr. Reuben Hillier, Collections Librarian at the State Library of Qld (SLQ), hosted a visit to the SLQ by three members of the RGSQ Collections Committee (Kerry Raymond, Ralph Carlisle and Jim Graham) and past President, Iraphne Childs. Thanks to Kerry for organizing the visit. Under the guidance of Peter Lloyd and Neville McManimm we donated the RGSQ lantern slides collection to the SLQ in February 2023.

Reuben gave us an overview of how the RGSQ slide collection is being conserved and managed. This included a tour of the physical conservation and digitization labs and the area in the mobile compactus shelving area where our slides are now being stored long-term. We were very impressed with the work being done to conserve our slides, and of the size and scope of the compactus store which also houses the Oxley library collection. Many thanks to Reuben for a very interesting visit. Donating the lantern slides to SLQ enables them to be accessible to the public. At this stage, the physical slides are accessible to the public by visiting the State Library ([RGSQ lantern slide collection](#)) and after digitisation, many of the slides will be accessible online via the library catalogue entry [library catalogue entry](#) and its [collection guide](#).

**Contributed by:** Iraphne Childs

# RGSQ

August 2023

## Bulletin

**Lecture/Meeting: Tue 1 August** *Connecting Agricultural Data Across Scales to Maintain Food Supply*

**Geography Matters: Tue 8 August** *Mount Isa: The First 100 Years and Outlook for the Future*

**Geography in Conversation: Tue 29 August** *South East Qld Regional Plan – Shaping SEQ*

**Trips/Activities: Friday 25 August** *Our Water Supply – Tugun Desalination Plant and Hinze Dam*

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

The Royal Geographical Society of Queensland Ltd  
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