

RGSQ Bulletin

ISSN 1832-8830

July 2023

Vol 58 no 06



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: [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 20 June. Items of interest include:

- John Tasker congratulated Councillors and volunteers for their work in increasing the number of activities for members, with five to seven events now held each month.
- The main item of business was the discussion and approval of the 2023/23 budget. Councillors discussed ways of increasing revenue and curtailing expenditure.
- The Collections Committee is trialling a method of digitising the more important maps in our collection so they would be available online.
- The first event in the Geography Matters series was very successful with 46 participating. The programme has been planned for the rest of the year.
- The new IT Management Committee had met for the first time. Thanks to Rob Cook (chair), Lilia Darii, John Fairbairn, Kerry Raymond and Graham Rees for their contributions to this increasingly important aspect of our operations. The Society is thankful it can call on their considerable expertise.
- The Map Group had explored Canungra Valley and, courtesy of Neville McManimm, had been able to see areas not usually open to the public.
- There was an update on the building's lift replacement, with work now likely to occur from January to March.
- The Society is establishing a small grant scheme for university geography students to assist with their research. This will be funded from our Environmental Fund. Donations to this fund are tax-deductible if members are interested in adding to it.
- The Young Geographers' event at the end of May, on opportunities in the geospatial industry, was their best attended ever.
- The meeting on Soils for Science was very successful. If you would like to take part in this citizen science project, we still have some kits left.

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.

Monthly Lecture: Tuesday 4 July

Pandemics: Warnings from the Past, Lessons for the Future

*Dr Gayle Pollard B.Sc. (Hons) Ph.D.
Advanced Epidemiologist, Queensland Health*

Register: <https://rgsq.org.au/event-5309005>



The events of the past three years as we have dealt with COVID-19 from the local to the global level have put pandemics at the forefront of society's collective consciousness. As the effects of COVID-19 on our community start to wane, the obvious question that many are posing is: 'Are we ready for the next one?'

In this lecture we will take a journey through past pandemics from Roman times, through the Black Death, the 1918 'Spanish' flu, several 'hidden' pandemics and finally up to the current COVID-19 pandemic. We will cover the varying characteristics of the different pathogens involved and the responses of the affected societies to these pandemics. Finally, we will look at what we can learn from past pandemics and how this may affect our preparation for future events.

The question of preparedness is complex, and we will explore the different factors that will determine just how prepared humanity is or is able to be for 'the next one'.

Biography: Dr Gayle Pollard currently works as an Advanced Epidemiologist in the Metro South Public Health Unit of Metro South Hospital and Health Service, Queensland Health. Prior to 2020, her role encompassed

such diverse areas of epidemiology as food-borne illness outbreak investigation, childhood immunisation program monitoring, communicable disease monitoring, and reporting on health indicators including hospitalisations, cancer incidence, cancer screening, maternal and child health and chronic disease risk factors.

In February 2020 her life changed when she and her colleagues found themselves at the forefront of the COVID-19 pandemic response, providing data to support contact tracing, following up COVID-19 outbreaks and reporting on local-level COVID-19 statistics.

Gayle's background is in marine ecology with her Ph.D. studies taking place in part at UQ's Heron Island Research Station. Statistics saw her move sideways into epidemiology with Queensland Health. She has spent 27 years working with health data, initially as an analyst and for the past 15 years as an epidemiologist.

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

Images: Clockwise from top left: "The Plague" by C. Audran after P. Mignard. US Library of Congress/Corbis; A plague doctor in protective clothing, circa 1656; engraving by Paul Fürst after J. Colombina; Emergency hospital at Camp Funston, Kansas, 1918. New Contributed Photographs Collection/otis historical Archives/US National Museum of Health and Medicine; US Food and Drug Administration images; US Centres for Disease Control images; US Food and Drug Administration images.

GEOGRAPHY MATTERS

Is Queensland Going Batty? Flying Foxes in The Townsville, Ingham, Charters Towers triangle

Date: 11 July 7:30pm - 8:30pm EST

Delivery: ZOOM Only

Register: <https://rgsq.org.au/event-5323463>



Photo credit: Baby little red flying fox; Jon Luly

RGSQ is proud to present Dominique Thiriet who has been a flying fox rescuer, carer and advocate in North Queensland for 30 years. Dominique has a background in science, administration, law and politics. Dominique will be interviewed by Tyron de Kauwe, the Natural Areas Conservation Officer with the Sunshine Coast Council.

This presentation will consider the ecological importance and roosting behaviour of the two main species of flying foxes found in North Queensland. It will examine the multiple attempts to remove colonies from various locations and assess their impact on the animals, the environment, and the communities.

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@rgsq.org.au.

Geography in Conversation

Who calls themselves a Geographer? University to Workplace

Tuesday 25 July

Register: <https://rgsq.org.au/event-5323524>



Image supplied by Dr Kithsiri Perera

Guest Speakers: **Dr Kithsiri Perera**, lecturer in geospatial systems and surveying at the University of Southern Qld, Toowoomba; **Mr. Alistair Byrom**, Deputy President, Geospatial Council of Australia; **Mr. Sam Hudson**, representing students from the University of Queensland, Geography and Environment Management Society (UQ GEMS); moderator - Dr Keith Treschman.

Our Society's first President was Sir Augustus Gregory, the first Surveyor General of Queensland. Surveyors and cartographers were perhaps the first to consider themselves Geographers. But who are the professionals who call themselves Geographers today? We no longer even have a Surveyor General in Queensland!

The panel of speakers that we have organized for this discussion includes a tertiary **lecturer**, a **student** undertaking tertiary studies and a **surveyor**.

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

Members registering 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 @ 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

Graeme & Stella Rush Co-Convenors

the huge flash flood, 12 people died and many houses and other buildings were destroyed.

See and hear how a town was relocated. It is a story of resilience.

Arrive **home:** stop B - 4pm; stop A - 4.30pm

Participants please note: the outing involves sitting on a bus for 90mins there and back. Some standing during the dairy talk (15 mins). Wear closed shoes, sun safe clothing, hat and bring camera.

Cost: members \$81; non-members \$91

Register and pay by **Wednesday 22 August**. Limit **30 participants**. A waitlist will operate.

Images courtesy of the Lockyer Valley Regional Council.

Coordinator: Jeanette Lamont



Treks and Activities

Grantham and Awassi Cheesery Tour - a story of Resilience and Industry

Wednesday 11 October

Register: <https://rqsq.org.au/event-5302006>



Pick up: Please indicate when booking!

- A.** Arrive 7.50am for 8.00am departure Bus stop 27 Park Av (Clayfield) near EJ station
- B.** Arrive 8.20am for 8.30am departure Brittain Park (near 172 Troughton Rd). Coopers Plains Car Parking available

What: 10.30 – 1.30 pm

See a boutique sheep farm and dairy in the Grantham hills owned by Di and David Piggott. They have created a lactose and gluten free range of premium cheeses and ice cream from a historically rare breed of sheep.

Tea and coffee on arrival.

Light lunch in Avocado grove **included** - 3 courses: a cheese platter, quiche and salad, and sheep milk ice cream.

There is the opportunity to purchase products, so bring a small esky.

Afternoon 1.40pm: Hopefully Jamie Simmonds (author of the book *Rising from the Flood*) or Narelle Poole, who was also involved with relocating Grantham, will accompany us.

On 10 January 2011 a 3-metre wall of water swept out of the Lockyer Creek. This town was severely damaged in



Brisbane to Gold Coast Cruise

Thursday 16 November

Register: <https://rqsq.org.au/event-5287809>



Cruise in the classic 'Lady Brisbane' from Brisbane (Hamilton) to the Gold Coast (Southport); returning by coach.

Cost: includes morning and afternoon teas and BBQ lunch; members: \$100; non-members: \$110

Departing at 9.00am from the Commercial Pontoon, 449 Kingsford Smith Drive, Hamilton* (150m up-river from Brett's Wharf City Cat Terminal) on a 6-hour sheltered water excursion, explore the lower reaches of the Brisbane River, turn right and meander past and around the array of islands – large and small – which populate the sheltered waterways of southern Moreton Bay, to Southport. Supported by a comprehensive on-board commentary, and tides and wind permitting – sneaking into spots boaties like to keep secret – experience something of a marine geography which is right on our doorstep.

Disembark at Southport and return to Hamilton by coach by around 4.30pm (traffic permitting).

The Lady Brisbane is a relatively large (two (2) level) vessel with seating, covered areas and restrooms. As all sailing is in sheltered waters, sailing is (generally) smooth. The vessel docks at fixed jetties. Embarking/disembarking requires modest agility, however accessing the upper deck (steep steps) requires a higher level of mobility.

The RGSQ participants group will share the Lady Brisbane (and the return coach) with other patrons.

Please register on the website. Subject to availability, registrations will be accepted up to 29th September 2023.

Minimum number of participants – 15, maximum – 35.

*Ample on-street parking is available in the vicinity of the departure/return point at Hamilton.

There is a regular ferry service from the Apollo Street (Bulimba) City Cat Terminal to the (directly across the river) Brett's Wharf Terminal, and street parking available near the Apollo Street Terminal.

Photo credit: Brisbane Cruises

Coordinator: Roger Grimley

REPORT: Geography Matters

A Geography journey for all ages and stages



This was the first in a new series of addresses and was solely on Zoom. The presenter was Dr Karen Joyce, Associate Professor at James Cook University, Cairns campus. Her topic was “A Geography journey for all ages and stages”.

Her work has made use of drones at 20 m over the Great Barrier Reef capturing 3-dimensional profiles. Allied with satellite imagery, Karen accesses data for information, trends, and maps. She commenced She Maps (<https://shemaps.com/>) to work with teachers and students from age 5 through primary and secondary schools to tertiary level. Her aim is to expose the young to the thrill of geospatial learning.

The passion Karen exudes in her love of what she does would be the catalysis for students becoming interested in remote sensing, GIS (Geographic Information System), and geospatial careers. She believed it was necessary for students to actually see a geospatial professional, and her enthusiasm would be a great model for aspiring learners.

After her initial presentation, Karen was interviewed by President, John Tasker, who also asked some questions provided by the audience. She indicated there was a shortage of people and skills in the area, noticed that while women are well represented in environmental courses, this does not translate into the geospatial arena. She gave the statistic that 40% of those teaching Geography are not trained in this field.

She indicated there was a need for people to marry this area with Information Technology. However, the emphasis needed to be on creativity to solve a geographical problem. This initiative has set the scene for the standard expected from further items of Geography Matters.

Contributed by: Keith Treschman

REPORT: Geography in Conversation

Transport Infrastructure Corridor Gold Coast to Sunshine Coast



Photo credit: Kay Rees

On 23 May the present and future needs for transport connections across the Gold Coast to Sunshine Coast corridor were the focus of the latest Geography in Conversation evening. The panel consisted of Professor Ian Lowe AO, Sustainable Population Australia; Ms Deborah Tabart OAM, Chair of the Australian Koala Foundation and Cr Joe Natoli, Division 4 of the Sunshine Coast Regional Council. Sustainable Population Australia helped to plan the event and were represented on the night by Queensland Executive member Dr Jane O'Sullivan and several of their members. Led by moderators Stella and Graeme Rush, the discussion also heard from several attendees on their concerns on the environmental consequences of several planned developments across Southeast Queensland.

Cr Natoli spoke of the difficulties in achieving good public transport and higher density living encountered by the planned Sunshine Coast Light Rail. The Sunshine Coast needs public transport which is reliable, affordable and convenient; however, many residents along the proposed route are opposed and prefer a rapid bus system. Residents fear the light rail would disrupt their existing lifestyle by attracting Gold Coast-style high rise developments and large numbers of newcomers to the Caloundra-Maroochydore corridor when it is already vulnerable to the impacts of climate change.

A sustainable future for the “Noosagatta” corridor is still possible with proper planning. All panellists agreed on the need for governments to engage in meaningful consultation which genuinely considers the voices of existing communities and the needs of the local environment. An example of a new method of planning was the Human Management Plan model being trialled by the AKF in Gwydir Shire, NSW.

Members can explore these challenging topics further thanks to Ms Deborah Tabart's generous donation to the RGSQ library of 4 copies of her book, *The Koala Manifesto* and the copy of the 2022 Sustainable Population Australia discussion paper *Population and Climate Change* by Ian Lowe, Jane O'Sullivan and Peter Cook, also held by the RGSQ library.

Contributed by: Riley Kernaghan

Soils for Science – Citizen Science



Dr Zeinab Khalil from S4S at IMB, UQ and RGSQ's S4S Project Leader - Annie Nguyen

The Royal Geographical Society of Queensland (RGSQ) is delighted to announce its partnership with the Soils for Science Citizen Science project. The Soils for Science (S4S) project, led by the Institute for Molecular Bioscience at the University of Queensland, is dedicated to acquiring a comprehensive collection of subsurface soil samples from various regions across Australia. Dr. Zeinab Khalil, in her presentation to RGSQ members on 5 June, elaborated on the project's objective of conducting microbial studies to uncover potential novel strains of bacteria that could significantly contribute to disease prevention and the fight against antibiotic resistance.

As part of the partnership, RGSQ has committed to redistributing 100 soil samples to our members, and their families and friends, who have access to private properties suitable for sampling. To acquire a soil sampling kit, interested individuals are encouraged to attend any of the upcoming events scheduled over the next month or send an email to info@rgsq.org.au.

We are immensely proud to collaborate with the Soils for Science project, as it aligns with RGSQ's commitment to scientific exploration and environmental stewardship. By participating in this citizen science initiative, our members have a unique opportunity to contribute directly to groundbreaking research while gaining valuable insights into Australia's diverse microbial ecosystems. Stay tuned for further updates on this exciting partnership and join us in this remarkable endeavour to unveil the hidden secrets of our soil.

Contributed by: Annie Nguyen

REPORT: THE LAMINGTON NATIONAL PARK ENVIRONMENT BINNA BURRA CAVES WALK 10/06/23

The Treks and Activities Committee organised a short walk from the Binna Burra Teahouse area along The Caves Track down to the Information Centre on the Binna Burra Road at the base of Mount Roberts in Lamington National Park. We were extremely fortunate to have Barry Davies, principal of Gondwana Guides and President of the Natural History Association, to lead our walk and explain what we were seeing. Barry gave us a little of the history of Lamington National Park and took us along the track. As we went, he explained the key features of the vegetation and landscape, identifying a number of birds and plants for us and explaining some aspects of how the ecosystems function. It was also pleasing to see four student members among the eleven walkers.

The track runs a little south from the Teahouse area then zig zags down the slope to the west before running north, along the top of the cliffs on the eastern side of the Coomera River Valley. The Coomera River is one of a number of streams that

radiate from north-north-east north-north-west from the dissected remnants of the Mount Warning shield volcano that was active some 23 to 25 million years ago.

We started in basalt, which is cooled lava relatively low in quartz, for the first 1.5 km or so. This generally carries vine thicket (often called rainforest). Barry identified a number of plants including stinging trees (*Dendrocnide excelsa*) strangler figs (*Ficus spp.*) and crows ash (*Flindersia australis*). Of course, there were numerous orchids and other epiphytes. The strangler figs start as epiphytes until their roots grow down the tree trunks to the ground. Barry talked about the fires of 2019, their movement patterns and impacts and the recovery process. He also spotted a Paradise Rifle Bird and pointed this out to us.



From the basalts, we moved into rhyolitic material. This is a volcanic material higher in quartz than basalt. We saw a mix of tuffs, ash deposits usually weakly cemented, breccias (fragmentary material generally in a matrix of finer tuff fragments) and some cooled lava. The soils on these materials hold less water than those on basalt so vegetation varies between mixed forest and eucalypt forest depending on sun and wind exposure and soil water conditions.

We went through a couple of caves (large overhangs), first Kweebani Cave, then Aboriginal Cave. These have formed where harder breccia overlies softer material that is mostly perlite (very dark glassy, rapidly chilled rhyolite lava).

At a couple of the lookouts over the Coomera valley, Barry was able to point out areas that had been burnt in 2019, and a small area burnt more recently. Also, we were able to see the vegetation pattern variations of eucalypt forest and rainforest with rainforest in the sheltered gullies and some of the less exposed southern slopes.

The Triassic-Jurassic sandstones underlying the volcanic rocks from the Mount Warning complex are exposed in bottom of the Coomera valley at the northern end of the National Park, but we were too far away to see any associated vegetation changes.

Towards the end of the walk, Barry explained to us the critical role that figs play in the rainforest. They fruit all year providing continuous food for seed and fruit eating birds, mammals and insects, whereas, in other species, fruiting is largely dependent on rainfall with no clear annual cycles. In turn, the figs depend on tiny fig wasps that burrow into the fruit and ensure pollination. Each fig species seems to have a specific wasp species associated.

At the end of the walk, we drove up the hill to the Teahouse for lunch before returning to the Information Centre for a look at the exhibits. These covered some of the history of the area and included a topographic representation that illustrated how the Queensland streams on the northern slopes radiated out from the Mount Warning volcanic centre.

Photo: The Binna Burra walking party in one of the caves with perlite in the foreground; Hilary Cao

Contributed by: Bob Reid

Welcome New Members

We have much pleasure in welcoming *Ella Schirru, Joel McKechnie, Lessa Gore-Brown, Sheena Gillman, Daniel Alarcon, Huaran Cao, Yi Tak Judith Ip* and *Thomas Kavanagh* as new members. We hope your association with your new Society is long and mutually enjoyable.

Contributors: Kath Berg, Ralph Carlisle, Jim Graham, Roger Grimley, Riley Kernaghan, Jeanette Lamont, Annie Nguyen, Gayle Pollard, Bob Reid, Stella and Graham Rush, Keith Treschman

RGSQ Library Loans

With our Library's Book Collection available online: <https://ehive.com/collections/203532/the-royalgeographical-society-of-queensland>, the Society believes that we are now in a position to allow loans of books.

Journals issues will have to wait until all journals have been catalogued which will take a while. Previously the RGSQ Library was a Reference Collection only.

The Council has approved the following simple manual procedure: three (3) items to be borrowed for one (1) month; complete your details and the borrowed books on the Loan Form at the reception counter; when you return the book, add the return date on your entry and place the book in the Loan Returns box. I will shelve the book when I am next at RGSQ and keep stats, etc.

Jim Graham, Honorary Librarian

RGSQ

July 2023

Bulletin

Lecture/Meeting: Tue 4 July *Pandemics: Warnings from the Past, Lessons for the Future*

Geography Matters: Tue 11 July *Is Queensland Going Batty? Flying Foxes in The Townsville, Ingham, Charters Towers triangle*

Geography in Conversation: Tue 25 July *Who calls themselves a Geographer? University to Workplace*

Trips/Activities: Fri 21 July *GEOGRAPHY UNEARTHED: What are the UQ Geographers doing?*

Thu 27 July *Caloundra - Eco Explorer Cruise*

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

The Royal Geographical Society of Queensland Ltd
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