

# 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 16 May. Items of interest include:

- With the May Council meeting taking place during National Volunteers Week, all Councillors joined with President John Tasker to **thank all Committee members and volunteers** for their essential contributions to the work of the Society. The Society's increased number of events this year is testament to the work of our many volunteers.



*A special thanks to all our volunteers during National Volunteers Week*

- The first of our new online series, Geography Matters, will be held on 13 June, presented by A/Prof Karen Joyce, James Cook University, Cairns – *A Geography Journey for all Ages and Stages*, focussing on Karen's work with She Maps, automatic remote sensing tools and geospatial mapping.
- The Society has become a partner in the citizen science project, Soils for Science, run by the University of Queensland Institute for Molecular Bioscience. An information night on how to contribute will be held on 5 June. Thanks to Ngoc (Annie) Nguyen for agreeing to lead this project for the Society.
- The next Young Geographers' event, a panel discussion and Q&A on *Mapping Your Future: experiences, challenges and opportunities in the geospatial industry*, already has 22 registrations.

- Entries in the Australian Geography Competition had been received from 714 schools for over 65,000 students. Teacher feedback on the new online platform has been very positive. We'll soon be putting out a call for volunteers to assist the mailing back of certificates.

- Now that the library catalogue (starting with books) is accessible online, a limited borrowing system for members will be implemented.

- Councillors discussed the first of the governance education modules offered by the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission. We recognised the lack of a complaints process, a necessary component of good governance, and will create one.

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).

**Tuesday 6 June**

## Can Southeast Queensland survive the climate crisis?

*Dr Stephen M Turton, DFIAG, RGSQ Thomson medallist, Adjunct Professor in Environmental Geography, CQUniversity*

Register: <https://rgsq.org.au/event-5271287>

Australia has been classified as a "climate change hotspot", with its natural, economic and social systems considered vulnerable or highly vulnerable to climate change (IPCC 2023). It has long held the global distinction of being the driest continent with permanent habitation, with most of its population located in the more temperate coastal southeast, south and southwest of the country. Sixty-six per cent of Australia is arid and semi-arid. Over



the past 50 years, there has been a detectable drying and warming of continental south-eastern and particularly south-western parts of the country in response to climate change. In the face of climate change, Queensland has been identified as being the most highly exposed and vulnerable jurisdiction in Australia. This dire status is due to its dominant tropical climate, a highly decentralised population and a strong reliance on the health and sustainability of its natural capital for its main industries (particularly agriculture and tourism).

This lecture will address three compelling questions:

1. How has Australia's climate changed since reliable records began in 1910? What are the likely future changes in regional climate attributes this century, including land and sea temperatures, rainfall patterns, sea level rise and severe climate-driven events, such as heatwaves, storms, floods, droughts and bushfires?
2. How can Southeast Queensland cope with a changing climate and increasing climatic variability? What are the options to build climate-resilient development pathways for the region's natural, economic and social systems?
3. How can policy- and decision-makers integrate these pathways with the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at a range of planning scales?

## Biography

Steve is now retired and an Adjunct Professor in Environmental Geography in the Research Division at Central Queensland University. From 2005 to 2016, he held several senior roles as Director and Professor of Geography at James Cook University in Cairns. From 2003 to 2005, he was an Associate Professor and Director of Research for the Rainforest Cooperative Research Centre. From 1984 to 2003, he was a Lecturer, Senior Lecturer and Associate Professor in Geography at James Cook University. He is a former Councillor of the Royal Geographical Society of Queensland and the Institute of Australian Geographers. He is a Past President of the Australian Council of Environmental Deans and Directors, the Institute of Australian Geographers and a Past Chair of the National Committee for Geographical Sciences, Australian Academy of Science. He was also an expert reviewer for the Intergovernmental Panel for Climate Change's (IPCC) Fifth and Sixth Assessment Reports, Working Group 2 (Impacts and Adaptation). He is a Distinguished Fellow of the Institute of Australian Geographers and was a recipient of the J.P. Thomson Medal from the Royal Geographical Society of Queensland. He has published over 130 scientific reports, book chapters and journal articles in rainforest ecology, environmental geography and climate change adaptation in tourism and natural resource management. His latest book, *Surviving the Climate Crisis: Australian Perspectives and Solutions* was published by CRC Press (Taylor & Francis: New York and London) in December 2022.

## Citizen Science: Soils for Science

Monday 5 June

Register: <https://rqsq.org.au/event-5281773>



RGSQ has become a partner with the University of Queensland Institute of Molecular Biology (UQIMB) in an Australian-

first citizen science program dedicated to finding new antibiotics needed in the fight against the scourge of drug-resistant infections, better known as superbugs.

Our members will be collecting soils samples for the UQIMB researchers to help them discover microbes that could be developed into new antibiotics, and other life-saving medicines.

More than half of all antibiotics available worldwide have been developed from microbes found in soil and nature, and Australia is one of the most biodiverse environments in the world, spanning beaches, rainforests, wetlands and deserts.

This vast, untapped landscape is ripe for the discovery of microbes that could be developed into new antibiotics, anti-fungals and other medicines.

There will be a presentation by Dr Zeinab Khalil, IMB Research Fellow and Soils for Science Project Manager to members and friends, to explain the aims of Soils for Science, and the need to develop new antibiotics - plus, to go through the mechanics of what you need to do. Members unable to attend who wish to participate will be given comprehensive instructions.

Date: 5 June 2023

Time: 12:00 – 1:00 pm

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

Tea, coffee and sandwiches provided.

**Project Coordinator:** Ngoc (Annie) Nguyen

## GEOGRAPHY MATTERS

### A Geography Journey for all Ages and Stages

Date: 13 June

Time: 7:30 – 8:30pm EST

Delivery: ZOOM

**Register:**

<https://rqsq.org.au/event-5285415>



For the inaugural **Geography Matters** event we are proud to present Dr Karen Joyce, Associate Professor - Remote Sensing and Spatial Science, James Cook University

presenting on her topic and interviewed by **John Tasker**, Remote Sensing Specialist and RGSQ President.

Dr Karen Joyce is a biographer for Mother Earth, using satellites and drones as her scientific illustrators. She shares her experiences drawn from more than 20 years as a geospatial scientist in academia, military, industry, and small business to help people discover science beyond lab coats and test tubes. But she has an ulterior motive. Karen is passionate about how we can use drones and geospatial technology to watch over our environment and its changes. So, the more people she can inspire to join her, the faster we can put plans in place to help keep our environment healthy into the future.

Photo supplied by Karen Joyce.

**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).

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## Geography in Conversation

Tuesday 27 June

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

Register: <https://rqsq.org.au/event-5281766>



Photo: Nest architecture for the species *Tetragonula Carbonaria*/Dr Tim Heard

Guest speakers, **Professor Robert Henry**, Director of the Queensland Alliance for Agriculture and Food Innovation, **Dr Tim Heard**, Sugarbag Bees, and **Mr Ryan Newis**, a member of the 'sustainable agriculture systems theme' in the Centre for Planetary Health and Food Security at Griffith University, Nathan. Moderated by John Tasker.

Stingless bees, also known as meliponines, native to Australia are pollinators for some of our valuable horticulture; macadamias, mangos, chokos and lychees. Recent technological advancements are leading to innovations in horticulture, including the use of stingless bees as pollinators, aiming for increased yields and improved sustainability practices.

You have 60 minutes to ask questions of the experts on the effect and value of native bees in horticulture and innovations in agriculture.

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://rqsq.org.au/geographyinconversation/>

OR non-members

Email: [questionsonnotice@gmail.com](mailto: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

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## Treks and Activities

### OUR WATER SUPPLY – TUGUN DESALINATION PLANT AND HINZE DAM

Friday 25 August **only 8 places left**

Register: <https://rqsq.org.au/event-5257743>



Seqwater provides drinking water to the South-East Queensland water grid. Sources include the desalination plant at Tugun and

numerous surface reservoirs such as the Hinze Dam in the Gold Coast hinterland (<https://www.seqwater.com.au/>). Travel by comfortable coach for a tour of these locations.

The Tugun desalination plant turns seawater into drinking water by the process of reverse osmosis. While it is commonly said the Tugun desalination plant is 'mothballed', that is not correct. The plant supplies water to the City of Gold Coast though it operates at reduced capacity.

The Hinze Dam is the main water supply for the Gold Coast region.

Both plants are connected by pipeline to the SEQ water grid (Gold Coast to Noosa and west to the Upper Brisbane Valley), as part of the strategy to ensure water supply in event of prolonged drought.

The coach will leave Eagle Junction (Bus Stop 27, Park Av, between Sydney St and Junction Rd) at 7.30am, with a second pick-up at Coopers Plains (Brittain Park, Troughton Rd, opposite Sherrington St) at 8.00am. Parking is available at both locations, either on-street or off-street (Brittain Park). The first pick-up is close to Eagle Junction rail station.

After the second pick-up, the coach will go directly to the desalination plant at Tugun, where we will have a guided tour by staff of Seqwater and Veolia (the operator). Then we go to Hinze Dam where we can tour the dam and there are picnic facilities and a café overlooking the impoundment.

The return journey will drop off at both pick-up locations. Expect to return to Eagle Junction by mid-afternoon.

**Health and Safety:** Fully enclosed flat-heeled shoes, full-length trousers and long sleeves are needed for the visit to the desalination plant. Hard hats, vests and safety glasses are supplied. A good level of fitness and mobility is required. There may be some steps to negotiate.

**Bring:** a hat, camera, sunglasses, sunscreen and wind jacket.

**Numbers:** The trip is limited to 30 people.

**Cost** (not including lunch): \$50 per person (members), \$60 per person (non-members)

**Registration:** When registering, please indicate whether you want to be picked up at Eagle Junction or Coopers Plains.

*Photograph of Hinze Dam on the Gold Coast at full capacity. Triki-wiki at English WikipediaW., CC BY-SA 3.0 <<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0/>>, via Wikimedia Commons [https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Hinze\\_Dam\\_-\\_Gold\\_Coast.JPG](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Hinze_Dam_-_Gold_Coast.JPG)*

**Coordinator:** Ralph Carlisle

## Brisbane to Gold Coast Cruise

**Thursday 16 November**

**Register:** <https://rgsq.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 9.00 am 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 your participation on the website. Subject to availability, registrations will be accepted up to 29<sup>th</sup> 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

## Modernising research assessment in Australia



The Australian Council of Learned Academies (ACOLA) and the Academy of the Social Sciences in Australia are seeking the views of researchers in Australia on how assessment practices in universities, governments, and the private sector shape research careers and how they influence researchers' choices and priorities. The consultation is being undertaken for Australia's Chief Scientist, Dr Cathy Foley AO PSM FAA FTSE and will inform her advice to the Australian Government on the future of assessment practices in Australia's research system.

Find out more at <https://acola.org/research-assessment> and take the 15-20min survey here: <https://researchassessment.acola.org>.

Responses are confidential and the survey closes on Monday 12 June 2023.

## Restoring Historical Works from our Collections



Back in November, RGSQ was awarded a National Library of Australia Community Heritage Grant (CHG) in the 2022 round to conduct much needed preservation work on some of the older and rarer books and maps in the RGSQ collections. Now the preservation work has been completed and the thirteen items are back in RGSQ's library and map collection in a much-improved condition. The preserved items are looking great and can be viewed and handled without wearing kid gloves.

The photo shows a set of five maps forming a *Geological Map of Queensland* dated 1892, a copy of *Round the World* by JP Thomson, RGSQ's founder, dated 1904, one of the sets of three *Picturesque Atlas of Australasia* volumes from 1886, reports of the *North Australia Commission* from 1928 and a *Statistical Account of the Seven Colonies of Australasia* dated 1902. Behind them are Lydia Eggunike, principal of LE Conservation and Ralph Carlisle, Jim Graham, Peter Nunan and Rob Cook from the RGSQ Collections Committee. Also preserved were a map of the *East Central Queensland Gold Minerals and Coalfields 1910*, and *The Distribution of the More Important Trees of the Genus Eucalyptus*. RGSQ will continue to apply for CHG and other grants to upgrade and conserve its collections.

The CHG program provides non-profit community organisations with funding to assist with the preservation of locally owned, but nationally significant collections. The grants also aim to make these collections more publicly accessible. CHG is funded by the Australian Government through the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts (Office for the Arts); National Library of Australia; the National Archives of Australia; the National Film and Sound Archive and the National Museum of Australia.

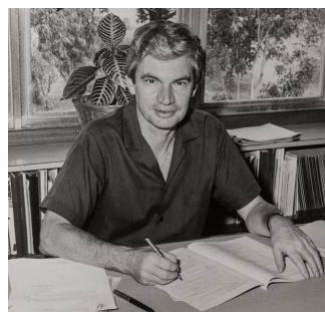
Photo: Return of conserved maps & books, 8 May 2023/Iraphne Childs

**Contributed by:** Rob Cook

## April Lecture Recording

The recording of Society's April lecture **A Triple La Nina and SEQ Coastal Changes: Implications for Management** can be found on our YouTube channel: <https://youtu.be/AmQNOF1SaCE>. Feel free to share the link!

## Farewell P. Philip Courtenay (1931-2023)



*Philip Courtenay in his James Cook University office, Townsville.*  
Source: Courtesy of Professor Linda Courtenay-Botterill, Philip's eldest daughter.

Noted geographer, trained secondary school teacher and ethnographer Philip Courtenay has died recently. Originally from London, Philip had obtained a BA (1953) and Certificate of Education (1957), before being awarded his PhD in 1962 for a thesis titled "Penang: the economic geography of a free port" (University of London). Philip and his wife, Pam, emigrated to Australia in 1965, after he accepted a position as a senior lecturer in geography at the then expanding University College of Townsville, which later became James Cook University of North Queensland in 1970. From 1990 to 1997, Philip was Rector of the Cairns Campus of James Cook University, working to establish a university presence in that growing city.

The Society awarded Philip a bronze J.P. Thomson medal in 1989 for his "outstanding contribution to agricultural knowledge through publications on agricultural geography and for publications on geographical education." <sup>i</sup> Philip's numerous publications fall into five broad categories. His first major work was the book *Plantation Agriculture* (1965; revised & updated 1980). This monograph in economic/agricultural geography has become a classic and is still the standard work on the topic. In conjunction with M.C. Milliken, Philip was the co-author of two secondary school geography textbooks which were widely used in Queensland's high schools in the 1980s and 1990s. They were *Man and the Challenge* (1978) which was updated and revised as *Meeting the Challenge* (1988-1992) and *Cities and factories* (1979-1993). Philip also authored other secondary school texts, the most noted being *Geographical Themes in south-east Asia* (1986) and *Geography and Development* (1994).

Philip also wrote on issues associated with European settlement of Australia's tropical regions. The most well-known work in this area was his book *Northern Australia. Patterns and problems of tropical development in an advanced country* (1982). Philip had spent time at Alor Setar in then British Malaya (1957-1960) teaching secondary school students, so he was interested in the development of the country we know today as Malaysia. His most significant works in this area were the books *A Geography of trade and development in Malaya* (1972) and *The rice sector of peninsular Malaysia* (1995). Philip's extensive collection of books, periodicals and official reports relating to Malaysia and Singapore, including some now scarce items, were donated to the National Library of Australia in 2010. <sup>ii</sup>

<sup>i</sup> Anon, 1989. Notes on Thomson Medal Awardees, 2 pp. In File 15: Thomson Medals, 1982-2012, Box 18 (b): Thomson & University Medals, The Royal Geographical Society of Queensland Ltd. Archives, Brisbane.

<sup>ii</sup> Personal communication, Sue Chan, Reference Librarian, National Library of Australia.

**Contributed by:** Dr Peter D. Griggs FRGSA, staff member, Discipline of Geography, Cairns Campus of James Cook University, 1991-2016.

## Probus Sherwood Club invites a presentation on the RGSQ

On Friday 21 April past president and councillor Iraphne Childs gave a presentation covering the Society's history, work of committees, activities and treks, to the Sherwood Probus Club. RGSQ members Paul and Joan Coghlan, who are also members of Sherwood Probus, had recommended a speaker from RGSQ for the Club's monthly meeting. Thanks to Paul and Joan, and to Martin Finbow, the Club's Program Coordinator, for organising the visit.



Several of the 43 Probus members present at the meeting commented how surprised and interested they were to hear about the wide range of activities the RGSQ supports. Iraphne is happy to give similar presentations to other Societies or Clubs if any of our members have connections and wish to recommend visits.

Photo: Paul Coghlan and Iraphne at Sherwood Probus club

**Contributed by:** Iraphne Childs

### Contributors

Kath Berg, Ralph Carlisle, Iraphne Childs, Rob Cook, Peter Griggs, Roger Grimley, Pamela Tonkin, Stephen Turton

# RGSQ

June 2023

## Bulletin

### Lecture/Meeting:

**Tue 6 June** *Can Southeast Queensland survive the climate crisis?*

**Mon 5 June:** *Soils for Science-Citizen Science*

**Geography Matters: Tue 13 June** *A geography journey for all ages and stages*

**Geography in Conversation: Tue 27 June** *Native bees, biodiverse environments and innovative horticulture*

### Trips/Activities:

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

**Thur 22 Jun** *Visit to Archerfield Airport*

**Map Group Presentation: Fri 23 June** *Mapping at Cravens Peak*

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

The Royal Geographical Society of Queensland Ltd

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