

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 April. Items of interest include:

- Final arrangements were confirmed for the Thomson Oration by Emeritus Professor Lesley Head, and the presentation of the Thomson Medal by The Honourable Chief Justice Helen Bowskill, Acting Governor of Queensland.
- Processes to draft the 2023/24 budget are underway with Committees asked to submit budget requests by early May.
- Council expressed interest in joining with other organisations to mark the 200th anniversary of Alan Cunningham's exploration of SE Queensland.
- Council established a new committee – IT Management – to advise on best practice of managing the Society's diverse uses of IT and ways that its uses can be maximised to advance the Society's objectives. Thanks to Rob Cook for adding chairing this Committee to his already busy workload.
- The Australian Geography Competition will take place in schools 10-24 May. Shifting to the new online platform has gone smoothly – Janison, the same platform that schools use for NAPLAN. Thanks to three of our regular Competition volunteers – **Graham Rees, Kay Rees** and **Chris Spriggs** – for joining Committee members and some Councillors in trialling the tests and giving feedback.
- Members can now access the Society's library catalogue online – see information elsewhere in this *Bulletin*. Many thanks, in particular, to **John Fairbairn** and **Jim Graham** for this achievement. Journals, maps and other elements of the collection will be added in due course.
- Geography Matters, our new online event, will kick-off on 13 June. Speakers from regional Queensland are already lined up for the first three events.
- The photo competition has been launched – see information elsewhere in this *Bulletin*.
- The Society trip to South Island New Zealand later this year is booked out. Thanks to Iraphne Childs for her work on this.
- Young Geographers had held an event the previous evening, with a focus on planning.
- The Society is exploring becoming a partner in the citizen science project, Soils for Science.

- Councillors will be improving their governance skills and expertise by working through some online modules now available from the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission.

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.

Tuesday 2 May

Thomson Medal Presentation and Thomson Oration

The Social Life of Australian Nature: the case of Barka/Darling River ecocide

***Emeritus Professor Lesley Head
Recipient of the 2023 J P Thomson Medal***

Register: <https://rgsq.org.au/event-5246498>

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

We are pleased to announce that the 2023 J P Thomson Medal will be awarded to Emeritus Professor Lesley Head. The Honourable Chief Justice Helen Bowskill, who will be Acting Governor of Queensland at the time, will present Lesley with the medal.



The J P Thomson Medal is the most prestigious award given by The Royal Geographical Society of Queensland. It was established in 1900 to honour Dr James Park Thomson, the Society's founder. The award recognises Lesley's high qualities of scholarship and her contribution to the discipline of geography.

Following the medal presentation, Lesley will deliver the Thomson Oration on the topic - The social life of Australian nature: the case of Barka/Darling River ecocide.

Abstract

Geographers have shown that the ways we frame nature and environment affect how we manage them. These framings are often taken for granted and need to be exposed before they can be discussed and changed.

The powerful modernist framing of Big N Nature and Big S Society leads to misdiagnoses and inappropriate solutions. As extreme weather and environmental hazards become more intense under climate change, politicians increasingly invoke Big N Nature to downplay their own agency and responsibility. Witness the Barka/Darling River fish kills of 2019, the Black Summer bushfires of 2019-20 and the NSW/Queensland floods of February 2022.

The lecture focuses on a particular example of this naturalising trend, using the case of another wave of Barka/Darling River fish kills, at Menindee in March 2023. Menindee is in socio-ecological crisis, but official declarations maintain that the fish deaths are due to 'natural' causes. Lesley examines the collapse of the river system, showing how it and its people were made vulnerable, not by nature but by historical socio-political processes and recent management decisions.

Menindee and its grieving community provide a harbinger of future changes. Climate change is exacerbating the intensity and complexity of socio-ecological crises and testing how we govern the environment. Can we imagine nature and ourselves differently to stave off the worst of those crises?

Biography

Lesley is Redmond Barry Distinguished Professor Emeritus at the University of Melbourne where she was Head of the School of Geography from 2015 to 2021. Prior to that, she worked for many years at the University of Wollongong where, for the final five years, she was an Australian Research Council Australian Laureate Fellow and Director of the Australian Centre for Cultural Environmental Research.

Her research examines human-environment relations, both conceptual and material, to understand how humans have physically changed earth's systems, how we think about our place in nature, and how these two things are connected. Her research – focused on long-term changes in the Australian landscape and the interactions of both prehistoric and contemporary peoples with these environments – has positioned her as an international leader in geographical debates about the relationship between humans and nature.

Lesley's leadership of the geography profession is evident in her current role as President of the Australian Academy of the Humanities, as a former Chair of the Australian Academy of Sciences National Committee for Geographical Sciences, and as a former President of the Institute of Australian Geographers.

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.

GEOGRAPHY MATTERS

Announcing a new online series!



Wetlands in urban environments, Annandale wetlands, Townsville. Sophie Walker

From June 2023, an exciting topical discussion will be offered by RGSQ on the second Tuesday of each month: **Geography Matters.**

Exploring significant topics in the geographical sciences, the series aims to broaden RGSQ's engagement by focussing on topics relevant to a wider audience, including rural and remote Queensland.

Geography Matters will be delivered via Zoom and will run for an hour each month. An expert presentation will be delivered, with an interviewer contributing to the analysis. Topics for the first events will be chosen by the **Geography Matters** coordinators. The coordinators are welcoming of any topics you wish to suggest – please get in touch with an RGSQ representative if you have any ideas by emailing info@rgsq.org.au.

Dates: 13 June, 11 July, 8 August, 12 September, 10 October, 14 November

Time: 7:00 – 8:00 pm AEST

Cost: The first three events (June, July, August) will be free to members and non-members

Contributed by: *Stephen Schwer*

Geography in Conversation Tuesday 23 May

Transport Infrastructure Corridor Gold Coast to Sunshine Coast

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

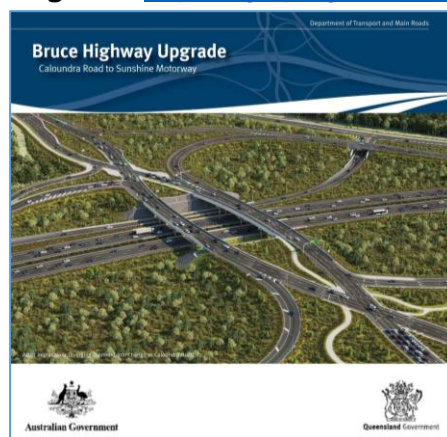


Image credit: TMR

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 one 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 (TAAC)

The Treks and Activities Committee have finalised the dates for the activities for the rest of the year.

APRIL: Thursday 27th *Caloundra Cruise*. Fully Booked

JUNE: Saturday 10th *Binna Burra Caves walk*. 8 places remaining for a one way walk down to the information centre with an accompanied guide from the Natural History Society and lunch at the Tea Room.

JUNE: Thursday 22nd *Archerfield Airport*. Fully Booked

JULY: Friday 21st *UQ Geography Unearthed*. Fully Booked

AUGUST: Friday 25th * *SEQ Water: Tugun Desalination Plant and Hinze Dam Coach Trip*.

SEPTEMBER: Monday 3rd – Friday 8th * *Burnett River Basin, Cooyar to Bundaberg* using own or shared vehicle

OCTOBER: Wednesday 16th * *Awassi Cheesery and Grantham Town* including post flood actions

OCTOBER: Thursday 19th - Thursday 2nd November *New Zealand* Fully Booked

NOVEMBER: Thursday 16th * *Brisbane/Gold Coast Cruise on Lady Brisbane*

DECEMBER: Tuesday 5th * *Christmas Party*

*Details to come. Please see full details on the website www.rgsq.org.au. Waiting lists are available if fully booked.

The Lamington National Park Environment

Binna Burra Caves Walk

Saturday 10 June

Full details and to 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.

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).

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.

Coordinator: Bob Reid

Report: Map Group Presentation - Moving Maps and Maps for Industry

On Thursday, March 30th, RGSQ Map Group members were treated to a fascinating presentation by Alan Mayne of Mayne Maps. Originally a science and maths teacher with Education Queensland, Alan started using computers in education in the 1980s. Necessity being the mother of invention, Alan began designing and producing his own computer-generated worksheets and diagrams for teaching. A chance browse at a weekend flea market procured a five dollar copy of the CorelDRAW program. CorelDRAW introduced Alan to the wonders of vector graphics and the ability to publish his own detailed diagrams and maps for teaching, way finding and emergency evacuation at his school. Using vector graphics (lines) rather than raster graphics (shapes), Alan soon discovered that maps could be easily enlarged without pixelation. Initially feigning disinterest in Alan's maps, the school featured Alan's maps and diagrams in the following year's student handbook.



Moving into semi-retirement in the Stanthorpe area, Alan found a market for designing and producing maps of wineries and other agricultural enterprises in the granite belt region. Alan found the initial measuring of fence lines, demarcating vineyards and paddocks using GPS somewhat tedious and time-consuming. Enter Google Earth and the ability to geolocate fence lines and other topographical features relevant to vintners and farmers. Alan has since been able to combine data from other sources such as Queensland Globe and NSW Spatial Information Exchange (SIX) into his maps. Alan can also accurately calculate the acreage of individual paddocks and plots of land for clients and display these on his maps along with other information relevant to property owners.

Over time Alan's knowledge base grew along with the evolution of technology, culminating in his ability to move effortlessly between Google Earth, CorelDRAW, and mapping programs such as OziExplorer. Using the layers function in CorelDRAW, Alan can provide highly accurate and sophisticated interactive PDF maps for farmers, horse stud owners, schools, property managers and realtors. The explosion of demand has been especially dramatic in the property industry in the past eight years. The ability to mask and isolate different areas within maps and print off relevant sections is a very useful tool for Alan's clients. In addition, clients can geolocate within digital versions of the maps named "moving maps" without Wi-Fi, making remote geolocation and wayfinding using an offline mobile device possible. Alan detailed the process of turning an image into a map using latitude and longitude from Google Earth

to add a "Placemark", bringing saved images into OziExplorer to calibrate map images.

Alan is seeking to share his expertise and knowledge in order to keep up with client demand. Map Group members were highly enthusiastic about Alan's map building process and many engaging questions were asked followed by the usual refreshments. Alan can be contacted on 0409 800 211, alan53@yahoo.com and at <https://maynemaps.com.au/>. Photo credit: Kay Rees

Contributed by: Darren Brookes

Report: Geography in Conversation Sustainable Action for Climate Change



On March 28th we were delighted to have the opportunity to hear from a panel of three experts on climate change: Dr. Aysin Dedekorkut-Howes, Senior Lecturer of Urban and Environmental Planning at the Griffith School of Engineering and Built Environment and a member of the Cities Research Institute; Clare Silcock, the Queensland Conservation Council's Energy Strategist, and renewable energy engineer; and Dr. Michelle Maloney, the Co-Founder and National Convenor, for Australian Earth Laws Alliance (AELA).

The speakers addressed actions and leadership needed in the climate change and energy space. All speakers agreed that having the different levels of government making and implementing policy, causes problems in policy implementation. For real measurable success, benchmarks relating to lower greenhouse emissions and the projected sea level rise due to global warming need to be consistent across jurisdictions. The Safeguard mechanism places a hard cap on emissions but is heavily reliant on offsets. The clean energy future, green hydrogen systems are not yet set up and historical extractivism supports the existing hierarchy in a top-down government. Localising economies and only producing what we need could be a positive move. All speakers agreed that government decision-making in the environmental space is a frustratingly slow process.

The evening was highly informative and engaging, providing valuable insights into the decisions by governments and industry in order to reach sustainable actions to address climate change. The reduction of greenhouse emissions is a complicated and challenging area. Keith Treschman, in moderating the evening, ably moved the questions along and channelled the conversation back to climate when population topics threatened to become the issue.

Photo credit: Kay Rees

Contributed by: Pamela Tonkin

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 from 1st September – 31st 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

3rd Prize: book prize



The poster features a background image of a landscape with a tree and mountains. On the left, the word 'WEATHER' is written vertically in large white letters. At the top left is the RGSQ logo. The main title 'RGSQ 2023 PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION' is in blue. Below it, the theme 'Queensland’s weather: the good, the bad and the ugly' is in blue. Two yellow boxes list prizes: '1ST PRIZE 1 NIGHT ACCOMMODATION AT BINNA BURRA SKY LODGE', '2ND PRIZE FRAMED WILDLIFE ILLUSTRATION BY LOCAL BRISBANE ARTIST', and '3RD PRIZE BOOK PRIZE'. A blue box contains submission details: 'Submit your entries to info@rgsq.org.au from 1ST SEPTEMBER to 31ST OCTOBER 2023 ENTRY FEE: \$5 FOR UP TO 5 PHOTOS PAYABLE VIA RGSQ.ORG.AU'. A blue box on the right says 'Members are invited to submit geographical weather-themed photos. Photos must be unpublished and taken in 2021-2023. Photos should be high resolution'. At the bottom left, contact info is provided: 'Inquiries to: lchilds@uq.edu.au or kayrees@gmail.com'. At the bottom right is the Binna Burra Lodge logo.

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 lchilds@uq.edu.au or Kay kayrees@gmail.com

Now Available - Online Access to the List of Books in the RGSQ Library

The Society currently holds an extensive collection of books, serials, maps, images, archives and artifacts, which are not well known to members. The new Strategic Plan has an objective to:

Develop member and public digital strategies to optimise the use of modern technologies to increase engagement and accessibility.

To this end, in 2021, the Society received funding under the Community Heritage Grants scheme, operated by the National Library of Australia, to move the PC based records of the materials held in the RGSQ library to an online service where it can be more accessible to members of the Society and to the public.

With this funding RGSQ has subscribed to a web-based collection cataloguing system called “eHive” which provides services to museums, galleries, libraries, and archives around the world. The collections on eHive comprises some 850,000 items including art, artefacts, books, photographs, specimens, and more.

You can find out more about eHive at the following link:

<https://ehive.com>

The first stage of the conversion of the RGSQ library records has now been completed and is available to members.

The Society now has a public “Front Page” on eHive at the following link:

<https://ehive.com/collections/203532/the-royal-geographical-society-of-queensland>

And you can begin to explore the books held by the RGSQ library at:

https://ehive.com/objects?accountId=203532&facet=account_name_facet%3AThe+Royal+Geographical+Society+of+Queensland

This is only the first stage of an extensive project. Future tasks include:

- Adding records for the serials, maps, images, archives and artifacts;
- Integrating eHive into the RGSQ website and providing members with a richer “logged in” experience;
- Selectively digitising items in the collection so they can actually be seen “online”;
- Implementing a regular feed to the National Library of Australia Trove website which will provide more national access and exposure for the RGSQ collection.

This work will be co-ordinated by the Society’s Collection Committee.

Contributed by: John Fairbairn

Welcome New Members

We have much pleasure in welcoming Mary Oliver, Damian Kelly, Teagen Coyle, and Anuradha Roy as new members. We hope your association with your new Society is long and mutually enjoyable.

Contributors

Kath Berg, Darren Brookes, Iraphne Childs, John Fairbairn, Lesley Head, Kay Rees, Bob Reid, Stephen Schwer, Pamela Tonkin

RGSQ

May 2023

Bulletin

Lecture/Meeting: Tue 2 May

Thomson Oration: The Social Life of Australian Nature: the case of Barka/Darling River ecocide

Geography In Conversation: Tue 23 May

Transport infrastructure corridor gold coast to sunshine coast

Trips/Activities: Tue 9- Thurs 11 May

Canungra Extended Outing

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

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