



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 outgoing Council met on Tuesday 17 October, immediately prior to the Annual General Meeting. Items of interest include:

- Next year's lecture programme was discussed. Consideration will be given to delaying the April meeting by one week as the usual time is the day after Easter Monday.
- John Tasker reported on the Geography's Big Week Out held in Litchfield National Park, NT. He was impressed with the quality and keenness of the Year 11 students who participated.
- Michael Papageorgiou, a member of the Property Committee, has been appointed to represent the Society on our building's Body Corporate. Thanks to Pam Tonkin for previously serving in this role, including as Secretary of the Body Corporate.
- A resident of our building has recently purchased an electrical vehicle and asked the Body Corporate about installing a charging station. This is complicated in an apartment block and is estimated to cost well over \$100,000. As the lift will be replaced next year, the Body Corporate is likely to delay any action on this.
- The Scientific Studies Committee is intending to hold a mini-conference related to housing in March next year, in cooperation with the University of Queensland School of Environment.
- The library catalogue should soon be available publicly online via Trove, run by the National Library of Australia.
- On the advice of the Finance Committee in consultation with our broker, the Society is shifting much of its direct share holdings into high-yield managed investments.
- The Society is planning to run a writing competition next year on a geographical theme. We are liaising with the Queensland Writers Centre on this. Elsewhere in this *Bulletin*, there is a call for people to serve on the planning committee.
- The Society is investigating establishing formal links with the Australian Citizen Science Association.

Following the Annual General Meeting, the incoming Council met briefly to elect the Executive – apart from the President, John Tasker, who was elected directly by the members. The meeting started with welcoming the new Councillors, Dr Javier Leon and Ngoc Nguyen.

The following Councillors were then elected to positions on the Executive – Giselle Pickering as Vice-President, Annie Lau as Treasurer and Kath Berg as Secretary.

2023-2024 Council

President: Mr John Tasker

Vice-President: Ms Giselle Pickering

Secretary: Ms Kath Berg

Treasurer: Dr Annie Lau

Councillors

Dr Iraphne Childs

Dr Duncan Cook

Mr Robert Cook

Dr Javier Leon

Dr Patrick Moss

Ms Ngoc Nguyen

Ms Pamela Tonkin

November Lecture

From Dinosaur Salad to Today's Vegetation: Pollen Studies in Queensland

Dr Jennifer Cooling, The University of Queensland

Tuesday 7 November 7.30 pm

Registration: <https://rgsq.org.au/event-5459923>

Since at least the Silurian, plants have been shedding their spores and pollen into the environment to contribute their genes to the next generation of plants. Thanks to the incredible chemical resilience of the walls of these grains, and their conveniently small sizes, these palynomorphs are often incorporated into accumulating sediments. If these sedimentary records manage to survive to the present day, they can be sampled and those same palynomorphs can then be extracted for study.



We will be looking at what the study of these microfossils can tell us about the past vegetation of Queensland, with a focus on the period between the extinction of the dinosaurs and the beginning of the Holocene.

Dr Jennifer Cooling is a casual academic at the University of Queensland. Having completed a PhD on the palynology of the Jurassic–Cretaceous transition of the northern Surat Basin (Queensland), she has since worked on a variety of younger material. This has included study of a 'Tertiary' aged channel deposit near Moranbah, as well as more modern material from the south-west Tasmanian World Heritage area, and Queensland channel country and central coast.

Image: Nothofagus pollen grain from the Cenozoic of Queensland. Credit Jennifer Cooling

GEOGRAPHY MATTERS

The Great Artesian Basin, a Truly Great Resource

Guest speakers: Adrian McKay and Henk van Paridon

14 November, 7:30 PM – 8:30 PM Zoom Only

Register: <https://rgsq.org.au/event-5443801>



Adrian McKay is a hydrogeologist with the Queensland Department of Regional Development, Manufacturing and Water based in Toowoomba. Adrian has been involved in the assessment and management of groundwater resources in Queensland for over 30 years and has a particular interest and fascination with the Great Artesian Basin (GAB), its history, management and protection.

Adrian will be interviewed by **Henk van Paridon**. Henk is an exploration geophysicist with over 40 years' experience. He has spent much of his career exploring for oil, gas and even vanadium in the GAB. His field trips include visits to mound springs and flowing bores in South Australia to outcrops in Eastern Queensland. Most of his experience has been viewing the big picture of the GAB through a seismic lens.

Adrian will give a brief overview of the history of the basin, hydrogeology and springs, water saving initiatives in Queensland, as well as hopefully providing some interesting information and 'busting some myths' along the way.

Recordings of Lectures and Presentations

If you missed one of our presentations, recordings are published on RGSQ's YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/@rgsq/videos>. Remember to subscribe and share!

GEOGRAPHY IN CONVERSATION

Impact of Coastal Erosion on Moreton Bay Ecosystems

28 November, 5:30 PM – 8:00 PM @ Gregory Place, 1/28 Fortescue St, Spring Hill Qld 4000

Register: <https://rgsq.org.au/event-5459843>

Guest speakers, **Professor Peter Nielsen**, UQ School of Civil Engineering, **Mrs Vivienne Roberts-Thomson**, President of the Coochiemudlo Island Coastcare.

The wetlands of Moreton Bay are extremely varied and range from perched freshwater lakes and sedge swamps on the offshore islands, to intertidal mudflats, marshes, sandflats, and mangroves adjoining the bay's islands and the mainland. This variety in habitats contributes to the bay's biological diversity. The Moreton Bay coast experiences semi-diurnal tides, meaning there are two high tides and two low tides each day. Waves are generated by wind blowing across the water. Wind, combined with the morphology (shape) of the sea floor, drives the size, frequency, duration and energy of waves. Wave energy has the potential to move sediment both offshore, onshore, and along the coastline.



Each speaker will have 8-10 minutes to spotlight their work.

During the Q&A forum the audience will have 60 minutes to ask questions of the experts on their projects.

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: 5.15pm doors open

5.30pm light refreshments

6:00 – 6:30pm presentations

6:30 – 7:30pm Q&A Forum

7:30 – 8:00pm mingling

Place: Gregory Place, Leve 1, 28Fortescue St. Spring Hill

Cost: \$5.00 for refreshments, included in registration

Cost: \$5.00 Members; \$10.00 Non-Members; \$5.00

Students

Photo: Amity Point; by Nicole Lee.

Writing Competition

RGSQ is planning a Writing Competition to take place in 2024. If you would like to be on the planning committee which will be meeting in early November 2023, please contact info@rgsq.org.au, subject – Writing Competition.

2023 RGSQ Christmas Party

Tuesday 5 December 7.30pm

Register: <https://rgsq.org.au/event-5431242>



Treks and Activities welcomes you to the 2023 Christmas party to be held at our premises at Gregory Place, Level 1/28 Fortescue St, Spring Hill, on Tuesday 5 December at 7.30pm.

Christmas cake, tea and coffee and wine/beer/cider/soft drinks will be provided.

Please consider bringing a plate to share.

Short presentations, with slides, will be given covering the Society's events during 2023.

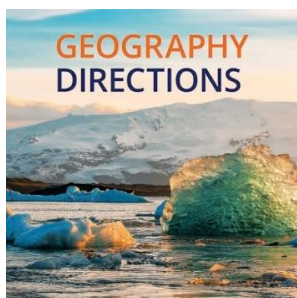
This is a free event for members and \$10 for non-members and guests.

Everyone is very welcome.

Geographical Research News

Geography Directions

The Royal Geographical Society (with the Institute of British Geographers) in London is the UK's learned and professional geographical society, supporting geographers across the world. Founded in 1830 for the advancement of geographical science, the society has been among the most active of the learned societies ever since. [Geography Directions](#) (GD), the research blog of the Royal Geographical Society, publishes posts written by geographers to connect geographical research to real world topics and issues, showcasing the importance of Geography to an understanding of the most pressing issues facing society and the environment. Recent GD posts include:



Further food price rises could cause up to 1 million additional deaths in 2023 (Feb. 2023) by Peter Alexander, Senior lecturer in Global Food Security, The University of Edinburgh.

Antarctica is missing a chunk of sea ice bigger than Greenland – what's going on? (Aug. 2023) by Ella Gilbert and Caroline Holmes, British Antarctic Survey.

With over 18,000 followers, the blog has international reach and is read by a diverse audience. The site also has a [portal gateway](#) for school teachers and pupils which

categorises posts into A Level and General Certificate of Secondary Education themes.

To subscribe to the blog simply enter your email address, scrolling down to the end at:

<https://blog.geographydirections.com/> and receive notifications of new posts by email.

References: <https://www.rgs.org/geographydirections/>

<https://theconversation.com/further-food-price-rises-could-cause-up-to-1-million-additional-deaths-in-2023-199120>

<https://theconversation.com/antarctica-is-missing-a-chunk-of-sea-ice-bigger-than-greenland-whats-going-on-210665>

Contributed by Iraphne Childs

REPORT: Awassi Cheesery and Grantham

On Wednesday, 11 October, 26 participants (24 members and 2 guests) left by bus from Clayfield with a pick-up at Coopers Plains and Marburg for Grantham. It was a fine, warm day and great to be outdoors.

We arrived 10.30am at 776 Sandy Creek Road, Grantham, where Di and David Piggott greeted us with a delicious morning tea or coffee and freshly baked biscuits. The area was shaded and had comfortable seats. There was a map of the Middle East on a table to show the origin of the breed from northern Iraq, Syria and Iran. It is a coarse wool and suitable for rugs as it dyes well and is good insulation. Here we greeted our guest speaker, Garry Fischer, who joined us for lunch.

David explained the farm and dairy. It is 157 acres with 75 ewes and rams. It was a good time to visit as most ewes had 2 lambs and they were so cute with their fat tails wagging. The next day was shearing time. The wool is used as mulch around their trees because the fibres are very coarse carpet wools and not enough of this type is produced in Australia to maintain a market. It breaks down in 6-7 years. Milking is done early morning, four at a time, with a yield of about one and a half litres per ewe per day. This breed is commercially good as the ewe lactates for approximately 286 days. The milk is used for the cheese and ice cream. The farm has nine mango trees, grapes and five varieties of avocado.



We then moved and were seated around two tables under the avocado trees for our cheese tasting. Di brought out platters with six cheeses, biscuits, fig and ginger jam. The sheep cheese is



lactose and gluten free. We sampled: chilli, pepper, and lemon myrtle Pecorino, along with their special Grantham style cheddar. The Labneh or yoghurt style cheese was spicy with Moroccan or Chilli flavour. Lunch was a generous platter of Mini quiches served on a bed of salad from locally grown produce. Dessert was a choice of Awassi sheep milk ice-cream. Many members purchased cheese, jam or avocados to take home.

After lunch we followed Garry into Grantham. He joined the bus and showed us the old butter factory, state school and the new suburb which was relocated to the hill. Garry was one of the residents whose house was flooded on 10 January 2011. Grantham was severely damaged when a flash flood destroyed a large number of houses. We saw the memorial park for the 12 people who died and walked under the railway bridge to the monument and plaque.

Garry explained the process of how in May 2011, it was announced that the town would be moved to higher ground. A 935-acre site was purchased so that landholders could be provided a voluntary swap of an equivalent sized block. By March 2022, 110 houses were on the hill and over 50 dwellings remained in the older part of town.

Garry kindly showed us his photo album and shared his painful memories. It was unbelievable to see the same bridge today and so few buildings left in the old town. We were very grateful to Garry for giving his time to share his story of relocation and resilience.

Special thanks to Jamie Simmonds and Narelle Poole (Project Manager) who facilitated our link to Garry.

We arrived home by 4.30pm after a very informative and enjoyable day in the Lockyer Valley.

Photos courtesy of Kay Rees.

Contributed by Jeanette Lamont

REPORT: Geography in Conversation



Geoff Heard

Sheena Gillman

Dave Harper

September's Geography in Conversation provided a valuable opportunity to hear expert perspectives on monitoring and managing threatened species populations across Queensland.

The Threatened Species Index (TSX) seeks to measure the change in abundance over time of 278 species by collating data from monitoring programs across Australia. *Dr Geoff Heard*, Science Advisor for the project at the Terrestrial Ecosystem Research Network (TERN) gave an overview of recent trends for birds, mammals and plants. From 1990-2022 the TSX has decreased by 56% in

Queensland; however, the TSX is stabilising in sites actively managed for conservation. More data is needed for frogs, fish and insects to better capture changes across the entire ecosystem.

Sheena Gillman from BirdLife Australia illuminated the practical difficulties of monitoring programs. There are believed to be up to 50 individual Eastern Bristlebirds surviving but there have been no confirmed sightings for 10 years. Its habitat consists of dense native grass close to rainforest along the northern NSW and South East QLD border. Some of this habitat is rugged terrain or private land neither included in the TSX nor accessible to volunteers doing field work. Analysing data from newly installed passive acoustic monitors and a captive breeding program underway at Currumbin will require significant funding and time to be successful.

The northern hairy-nosed wombat is one of the most critically threatened mammals in the world, but the population has rebounded from 100 wombats in 2006 to 300 today. Principal Conservation Officer *Dave Harper* from the Queensland Department of Environment and Science spoke of the activities underway among the two existing populations in conjunction with partner organisations. Traditional techniques (e.g. predator-proof fencing to keep dogs and foxes out) and innovative approaches (e.g. introducing grazing into conservation areas to control invasive buffel grass) are in place to sustain habitat suitable for the growing number of wombats.

The Geography in Conversation committee would like to thank John and Mary Nowill for their smooth moderation of a fascinating discussion.

Contributed by Riley Kernaghan

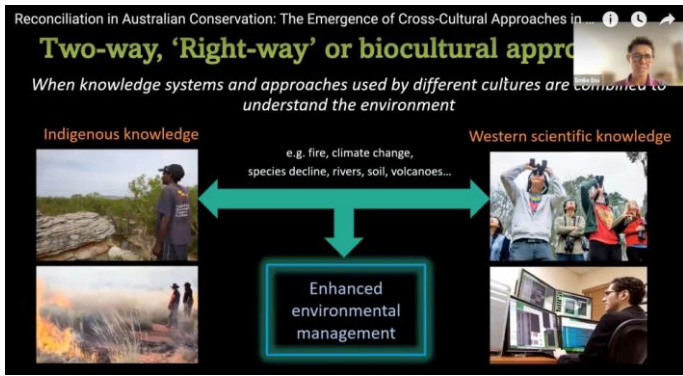
REPORT: Geography Matters

Bridging cultures: an insight into ecological reconciliation

In an insightful seminar presented by A/Prof Emilie Ens and moderated by Ishara Sahama as part of the Geography Matters series, the narrative of cross-cultural reconciliation in Australian conservation unfolded.

The talk titled "Reconciliation in Australian Conservation: The Emergence of Cross-Cultural Approaches in Ecology and Environmental Management" shed light on the convergence of Indigenous wisdom and contemporary ecological methods to address environmental and biocultural issues.

A/Prof Ens, a cross-cultural Ecologist at Macquarie University, illustrated her 15-year journey of forging alliances with Indigenous Elders and Rangers. Through site-specific projects across various regions and many topics ranging from invasive species management to cultural knowledge documentation, her Cross-Cultural Ecology Lab has been a cradle of ethical and socio-ecologically just conservation models. This synergy between Western and Aboriginal ecological paradigms is not merely academic; it is a practical stride towards a uniquely Australian approach to managing 'Country'.



The discussion underscored the imperative of recognising and involving Indigenous people when their intellectual property is accessed for research, marking a significant stride towards ethical research practices. The emphasis was on fostering place-based, in-situ solutions driven by local communities, ensuring their empowerment and equal footing in collaborative ventures. This not only enriches the scientific discourse but ensures the benefits of such collaborations are mutual and extend beyond the academic realm. The narrative was a call for a persistent commitment from researchers to engage in these difficult yet rewarding dialogues, facilitating trust and a shared vision in combating the ecological and cultural challenges of the Anthropocene era.

Overall, the seminar was enlightening about how respectful collaboration and a meld of diverse ecological philosophies can facilitate a path towards resolving the complex, intertwined crises of biodiversity loss, climate change, and cultural awareness.

Contributed by Annie Nguyen

Submissions open | Mike Smith Student Prize 2023-24 | National Committee for History and Philosophy of Science

Applications are now open for the **2023-2024 Mike Smith Student Prize for History of Australian Science or Australian Environmental History**, awarded by the National Committee for History and Philosophy of Science. The winning entry will earn a cash prize of \$3000, with minor prizes awarded at the panel's discretion, and may be considered for publication in the journal 'Historical Records of Australian Science'. Applications close 4pm, 15th January 2024.

Eligibility criteria: The prize is open to students (both postgraduate and undergraduate) enrolled at any tertiary educational institution worldwide. Submissions should be based on original, unpublished research.

Length: 4000–8000 words (exclusive of endnotes). Essays must be written in English and fully documented following the style specified for the Australian Academy of Science's journal, *Historical Records of Australian Science*.

For further criteria, application instructions and examples of past winners visit:

<https://www.science.org.au/supporting-science/awards-and-opportunities/mike-smith-student-prize-history-australian-science-or-australian-environmental-history>

The Royal Geographical Society of South Australia launches new research grants

The Society is offering two new grants that actively support and promote geographical research, contributing to the advancement of knowledge in the discipline of Geography. Applications for these grants in 2024 are due by **18 November 2023**.

Library Research Fellowship program was created in 2023 to give scholars from around the world an opportunity to pursue their work in proximity to a distinguished collection of primary sources. Up to three fellowships are awarded each year for periods of time usually ranging from two to four weeks. Fellowships are open to Australian and international researchers. More information is [available here](#).

Dorothy Pyatt Postgraduate Research Grants provide financial support to high-achieving postgraduate research students specialising in Geography. The Grants will support research work for two successful candidates each year - one annual award for research to be conducted within Australia, and one annual award for research to be conducted outside Australia. More information is [available here](#).

For further information on the Library Research Fellowship and the Postgraduate Grants program, write to, phone, or e-mail: Professor Guy M Robinson, Royal Geographical Society of South Australia, PO Box 3661, Rundle Mall, Adelaide, SA 5000; E: guy.robinson@adelaide.edu.au

Entries Close 31 October - RGSQ's 2023 Photo Competition *Qld's Weather: the good, the bad and the ugly*

We look forward to receiving your weather-themed photos! For all details and how to enter please visit the RGSQ website: <https://rgsq.org.au/event-5393404>



Welcome New Members

We have much pleasure in welcoming *Emer Cunningham, De Ayontika, Jack Hill, Nabila Solanke, Nuzhah Tarsoo* and *Sonya Underdahl* as new members. We hope your association with your new Society is mutually enjoyable.

Contributors: Kath Berg, Iraphne Childs, Jennifer Cooling, Riley Kernaghan, Jeanette Lamont, Annie Nguyen, Kay Rees, Chris Spriggs, Pamela Tonkin

RGSQ Bulletin

November 2023

Lecture/Meeting: Tue 7 November

*From Dinosaur Salad to Today's Vegetation:
Pollen Studies in Queensland*

Geography Matters: Tue 14 November

The Great Artesian Basin, a Truly Great Resource

Geography in Conversation: Tue 28 November

*Impact of Coastal Erosion on Moreton Bay
Ecosystems*

Trips/Activities: Thus 16 November
Brisbane to Gold Coast Cruise

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

The Royal Geographical Society of Queensland Ltd
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