



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

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## What's happening on Council?

The Society's Council met on Tuesday 12 December. Items of interest include:

- Congratulations to Society member Prof Jonathan Corcoran on his election as a Fellow of the Academy of the Social Sciences in Australia.
- The lift in our building was now expected to be out of service no earlier than 5 February. Consequently, the first big mail-out for the Australian Geography Competition would be held at the usual time of mid-January. Many thanks to the members who volunteered to help.
- Council considered the quotes and accepted the recommendation from the IT Management Committee for the upgrade of our internet and phone service. The change to Aussie Broadband would be made as a priority. Council thanked the Committee for their thorough and fast work.
- The Map Group had held a successful Show'n'Tell as their last event of 2023.
- The Society had applied for an Australian Government Volunteers Grant to train some members to better deliver virtual events.
- Council welcomed Nuzhah Tarsoo and Broderick Skinner as new members of the Geography in Conversation Committee.
- The results of the Photo Competition had been announced at the Christmas Party. Council was pleased that Tim Medhurst (Binna Burra Lodge), Alison Carlisle (wildlife artist and RGSQ member) and Jenny Woodward (ABC Weather presenter) were able to present the relevant prizes.
- The programme for the Housing Conference, to be held on Friday 22 March, was nearly finalised.
- With the lift expected to be out of action on the night of the Welcome Night, it was decided that the presentations part of the evening would be available via Zoom. Access to the Society's premises on the first floor will be by a set of stairs. If you want to confirm whether the lift will be working that evening, please ring the Society that day (Tuesday 6 February).

For further information on any item, please talk to a Councillor at a Society event, or send an email to [info@rgsq.org.au](mailto:info@rgsq.org.au).

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## Supper Volunteers

Council would like to express its appreciation to Ron Owen for coordinating the refreshments following the monthly lectures for the last few years. We need to find a replacement for Ron, and are also calling for volunteers to help with the suppers. If you'd like more information, please ring Lilia at the Society's office.

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## WHAT'S ON

For all upcoming RGSQ events, please visit the Society's website [www.rgsq.org.au](http://www.rgsq.org.au) under '[What's On](#)'.

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### Welcome Night 2024

Tuesday 6 February @ 7:30pm

Gregory Place, Level 1, 28 Fortescue St, Spring Hill

Register: <https://rgsq.org.au/event-5563023>

**Please join us for the first social evening of the year when the Society's 2024 program of activities and events will be presented.**

This is a social function with drinks and light supper served, and plenty of time for conversation, commencing at 7.30pm.

*Entry is free to everyone, members and non-members. We would appreciate a small donation on the night to help cover the cost of the food and drinks.*

It is probable that the lift may be out of action on the day, but people will be able to use the stairs to the first floor.

Attendance by Zoom will be available.

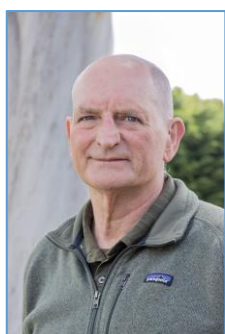
## GEOGRAPHY MATTERS

### FROM LITTLE THINGS BIG THINGS GROW: PRACTICAL AND SUSTAINABLE PATHWAYS TO HUMAN COMMUNITY COEXISTENCE WITH WILDFIRES

Tuesday 13 February 7.30pm Zoom only

Register: <https://rgsq.org.au/event-5533681>

There is a global wildfire crisis. Extreme wildfire events, such as the 2019-20 fires, have multiple adverse environmental impacts, including unexpected and remarkable effects on the Earth System. Reducing the risk of extreme wildfires, and adapting to them, is a huge transdisciplinary global challenge. Prof David Bowman introduces a research program he leads that seeks to find practical and sustainable pathways for people to coexist with wildfires in the Anthropocene, with a focus on Hobart - one of the most wildfire-vulnerable cities on Earth.



**Professor David Bowman** is an Australian Research Council Laureate Fellow and the Director of the transdisciplinary Fire Centre at the University of Tasmania, where he holds a research chair in Pyrogeography and Fire Science. He is recognised as a thought leader in wildfire science and management, publishing influential research in high-impact journals, providing policy

advice to government, and serving as an expert media commentator.

Professor Bowman will be interviewed and discussing the topic with **Ms Katelyn Doyle**. Kate studied Geographical Science at the University of Queensland with a focus on fire and emergency management. Upon completion she was awarded the Royal Geographical Society of Queensland's Keith Smith Prize for 2017. Kate went on to work for the ABC reporting on the weather and natural world. In the last year she has made the move to the Bureau of Meteorology where she continues to talk all things weather.

## GEOGRAPHY IN CONVERSATION

### WATER SECURITY – DAMS, DESALINATION AND DRINKING

Tuesday 27 February 5:30 PM - 8:00 PM

Register: <https://rgsq.org.au/event-5522426>



Three things are critical for water security: good-quality, well-managed water resources; well-managed water supply services; and management of disaster risk.

On 10 October 2023 Seqwater released the 2023 Water Security Program, outlining a 30-year strategic plan for ensuring a sustainable, secure and resilient water supply for a growing population of South East Queenslanders and adapting to climate change.

<https://www.seqwater.com.au/news/30-year-plan-sets-water-security-strategy-growing-south-east-queensland>

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](mailto:questionsonnotice@gmail.com)

**Date: Tuesday 27 February 2024**

**Time: 5:30pm light refreshments – doors open @ 5:15pm**

**6:00 – 6:30pm Presentations**

**6:30 – 7:30 Q&A Forum**

**7:30 – 8:00 Mingling**

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

Cost: \$5.00 for refreshments, included in registration.

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

\$5.00 Students

## Geography Writing Competition

Competition in 2 categories: 19 years and under; Open (all ages)

Prize in each category: **First** place - \$300 and publication in the *RGSQ Bulletin* and on the RGSQ website, **Second** place - \$150. **Third** place - 1 annual membership to the Queensland Writers Centre.

Length: Short fiction up to 500 words

Opening date: 1 February 2024

Closing Date: 30 April 2024

Entrance fee: \$10.00

You are invited to write short fiction themed on Queensland. You will have a story which you want to tell. This is your opportunity to write a narrative using imaginative, creative and wide interpretations on any geographical concept.

This competition is open to all writers, nationally and internationally, at any stage of their writing career.

## HOUSING FORUM

Friday 22 March 2-5pm

Venue: University of Queensland, St. Lucia campus



The Royal Geographical Society of Queensland and the University of Queensland School of the Environment have organised a public forum on the housing crisis with an excellent panel of speakers to present some critical perspectives.

**\$30 General public**

**\$20 RGSQ & SENV members**

**\$10 Zoom attendance**

**Free for students**

We hope you can join us for this important event.

See further details and register on the RGSQ website late January.

## How K'gari (Fraser Island) was born

*By Iraphne Childs summarising work from Prof Jamie Shulmeister, Head of School of Earth and Environment, University of Canterbury and RGSQ member and Fellow*



Photo: Chyarne Harding

K'gari island at more than 123km long and up to 25km wide, the largest sand island in the world, with its beaches, freshwater lakes and ancient dunes, is a UNESCO World Heritage-listed area. No volcanoes and/or continental uplifts were involved in building this island - just immense amounts of drifting sand, transported via a longshore drift

system over thousands of years along the east coast of Australia from rivers such as the Hawkesbury and Hunter in NSW.

Pushed north by south-easterly winds and waves, building the dune islands of Stradbroke and Moreton, the sand eventually reached K'gari where the conveyor belt stopped and the sand accumulated. This is partly due to the shape of the Australian coastline in this location that makes a fairly definite curve to the north west, making it difficult for sand to continue northwards. K'gari was built in "pulses" as sea level oscillations heaped sand that had been pushed just offshore back on to the island.

Research by Professor Shulmeister and colleagues has established the age of K'gari as being around 900,000 years, older than the Greater Barrier Reef.



K'gari formed at a time of sea-level change. Rising sea-levels eroded sand that had been stored for millions of years on the outer part of the continental shelf, pushing sand into what is now K'gari.

The formation of K'gari may have played a key role in the formation of the Great Barrier Reef by acting as a "seawall" to prevent sand from smothering coral to its north. This suggests the reef became established only after the island protected it from the northward drift of sand. The main limiting factor for the southern extent of the reef is the drowning of corals by the rivers of sand going north.

*"If you took K'gari away, the sand that was going north along the eastern side of Australia would continue onto the southern Great Barrier Reef."*

So, in this way the whole of the east coast of Australia is linked together as a single story and K'gari has played a key role in the formation and protection of the Great Barrier Reef.

## References

ABC Science, Anna Salleh *Eight amazing Australian islands and how they were born.*

[https://www.abc.net.au/news/science/2024-01-07/eight-amazing-australian-islands-geology/103216878?utm\\_campaign=abc\\_news](https://www.abc.net.au/news/science/2024-01-07/eight-amazing-australian-islands-geology/103216878?utm_campaign=abc_news)

8 January 2024

Shulmeister, J and Ellerton D. *At least 700,000 years ago, the world's largest sand island emerged as the barrier that helped the Great Barrier Reef form.* *The Conversation* November 15, 2022. <https://theconversation.com/at-least-700-000-years-ago-the-worlds-largest-sand-island-emerged-as-the-barrier-that-helped-the-great-barrier-reef-form-192014>

## Welcome New Members

We have much pleasure in welcoming *Julia Marler* and *Lynda Aldridge* as new members. We hope your association with your new Society is long and mutually enjoyable.

## RGSQ donates maps to the State Library



RGSQ has once again taken the opportunity to contribute items to the State Library of Queensland (SLQ). On Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January, Rob Cook and Ralph Carlisle, met with Reuben Hillier, Specialist Librarian (Collection Building) with SLQ, to donate a collection of more than 600 maps showing Collection Districts across Queensland for the 1976 Census. Each map showed the streets for individual collectors to work to. The maps were prepared for many locations across the State, from the South-East corner to Mount Isa to Torres Strait. Together, they give a unique snapshot of communities across the State at that time.

In November 2022, the RGSQ donated to the State Library about 2,000 lantern slides of Society activities taken since its inception.

RGSQ Council is pleased to continue this relationship with the SLQ.

Photo: Reuben Hillier collects the maps donation from Rob Cook and Ralph Carlisle.

**Contributed by Ralph Carlisle**

## Geography in Conversation Report: Impact of coastal erosion on Moreton Bay Ecosystems



Professor Peter Nielsen, a coastal engineer with the University of Queensland and an international consultant, has been conducting research at Amity Point since 2014. Dramatic erosion events occur there predictably. The rock wall needs regular restructuring as the sand underneath it disappears. His video showed the phenomenon of a flow

slide, an event which occurs over a period of two to three hours and at a rate of 30cm/minute. The shoreline recedes dramatically resulting in a vertical face up to 7m tall. The result is a semicircular bay at the end of the established rock wall. Sand comes back in 2 to 3 weeks to fill in the bay again, but the damage has been done. The long-term effects are not known. Flow slides occur every few weeks, and it is quite an enigma as scientists do not know what triggers them and cannot predict when they will happen next.

Mrs Vivienne Roberts-Thomson is the principal of Moreton Bay Educational Centre. This is a state education department initiative, where students can go to study Marine Biology and Coastal Erosion. She has won an excellence in teaching award for her work at this centre. There are age specific programs for each year from Prep to year 12. The Centre is in partnership with the Port of Brisbane, looking at the effects of land reclamation. Students map mangroves around White Island and study changes. The pedagogy emphasises discovery, engagement and learning outside the classroom. Practical work for the students includes plankton trawls, drones under water and benthic grabs. This is real life science in action for the students, raising awareness and hopefully inspiring future champions of the bay.

Ms Dianne Aylward is the president of the Coochiemudlo Island Coast Care. This group started in January 2013 and raises issues and undertakes action plans to protect the island which is part of the Moreton Bay Ramsar Site. The crucial eastern shoreline is the most sensitive to storm damage and erosion. The group works in collaboration with the Redlands City Council and SEQ to conduct mass plantings, sand relocation and dune fencing. There is nearly 20ha of melaleuca wetlands and bush beaches, with over 200 different plant species including some endangered ones. The group has also undertaken a four-year wetland weed eradication program, taking out species like Singapore daisies and replacing them with native species such as marine couch, pigface and spinifex. The Coast Care Group relies on motivated volunteers to share the workload.

After the three speakers had delivered their address, question time was lively, delving further into the concerns and issues and exploring possible solutions. Professor Peter believes that the donation of sand from the Port of Brisbane would be beneficial to counteract global warming on Coochiemudlo Island. The sand would come from the dredging of the 16m deep navigation channel. The proposed development of Toondah Harbour together with the filling in of wetlands would also cause a plume to affect Coochiemudlo Island. Traditionally sand has always moved into Moreton Bay from NSW because of prevailing currents, and there have also been historical storm surges through the decades. However, current development projects are having a massive effect. Scientific research must show the way forward.

The audience benefited from the expertise of these three speakers highlighting different aspects of the impact of coastal erosion. President John Tasker ably moderated the conversation and made the speakers feel at home.

Photo: Kay Rees

**Contributed by Stella Rush**

## Map Group Report: A story behind the Stinson crash

Map Group was fortunate to have Phil Castle present his research into this aviation disaster. Phil is a retired print journalist and has unearthed a wealth of information and has come up with the reason this aircraft was flying when storms were active on the flight path to Sydney.



At this time, aviation was in its infancy without any regulation or any safety measures. While the Stinson was built by a reputable manufacturer in the USA the aircraft had inherent defects. The passenger list for the flight represented a cross section of society and Phil has researched their occupation and interests and why they were on the flight.

The reasons for air travel in 1937 can be compared to why we travel this vast country today. Bernard O'Reilly's epic feats of stamina and bushcraft and the rescue of the two survivors, Proud and Binstead, have been well documented in books, movies and newspaper reports. Phil gave a very lively and entertaining presentation and this was evident with the discussion that followed over morning tea.



The presentation is available on the RGSQ YouTube channel and will interest all members: [https://youtu.be/\\_vkPBnjDROY?feature=shared](https://youtu.be/_vkPBnjDROY?feature=shared)

Photos: Kay Rees

**Contributed by Len Lowry**

## The 2023 RGSQ Photographic Competition Results

Thank you to members who submitted entries to the 2023 photo competition and to all members who voted online for the winning images. A total of 66 images were submitted by 15 members. Prizes were presented at the Christmas party on 5 December. The winning entries were as follows:

### 1<sup>st</sup> prize - Keegan McGuffie

#45 *Storm approaching, SW Kurumbul near Rainbow Reserve, Goondiwindi region.*

Special thanks to [Binna Burra Lodge](#) for donating the first prize of one night in the Binna Burra Skylodge, and to Tim Medhurst for coming along to present the 1<sup>st</sup> prize.



### 2<sup>nd</sup> prize - Ian Peacock

#15 *Dickabram bridge emerging, the Mary River, Gympie Region.*

Special thanks to [Alison Carlisle](#) for donating and coming along to present the 2<sup>nd</sup> prize, beautiful 'Banksia, Bees and Pygmy Possums' drawing.



### 3<sup>rd</sup> prize - Sam Hudson

#22 *Reflection of sunset on Lake Moogerah.*

Special thanks to Jenny Woodward from ABC TV Weather for coming along to present the 3<sup>rd</sup> prize ABC & QCWA Weather Calendar 2024.



All entries can be viewed via the RGSQ website home page <https://rgsq.org.au/pcresults2023>.

**Remember to keep your cameras and phones rolling** for the 2024 photo competition. Watch for details in the RGSQ calendar of events.

## Cities cannot be planned without hearing the voice of people!



More than half of the world's population is living and ageing in cities. As the global and Australian population of older adults continues to rise, it is crucial to explore how urban areas can cater to the needs of this social organisation. As the main host of the world's population, urban green spaces can play a significant role in decreasing this condition.

A research group at the [UQ School of Social Science](#), is conducting interesting research to understand the relationship between urban planning and healthy ageing, focusing on the role of urban green spaces in the social lives of older adults in both inner cities and outer suburbs. The findings will inform the development of healthier and more just cities at a national scale, accommodating the diverse needs of the growing population of older adults.

To participate in this research and contribute to the future of Brisbane, if you are over 70 years old and a resident, please click the link below to fill out a survey.

[https://uniofqueensland.syd1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_b4318Fn2nzwHtk2](https://uniofqueensland.syd1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_b4318Fn2nzwHtk2)

## Contributors

Kath Berg, Ralph Carlisle, Iraphne Childs, Len Lowry,  
Kay Rees, Stella Rush, Pamela Tonkin, Chris Spriggs

## Find RGSQ on social media:

 [Facebook.com/The Royal Geographical Society of Queensland](https://www.facebook.com/TheRoyalGeographicalSocietyofQueensland)

 [YouTube/RGSQ Channel](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC...)

 [The Royal Geographical Society of Queensland](https://www.linkedin.com/company/the-royal-geographical-society-of-queensland)

 [http://twitter.com/The\\_RGSQ](http://twitter.com/The_RGSQ)

# RGSQ Bulletin

February 2024

## Tue 6 February

*Welcome Night 2024*

## Tue 13 February: Geography Matters

*From Little Things Big Things Grow:  
Practical and Sustainable Pathways to Human  
Community Coexistence with Wildfires*

## Tue 27 February: Geography in Conversation

*Water Security – Dams, Desalination and Drinking*

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

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