



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 20 February. Items of interest include:

- The Society will be participating in the City of Science event, 23-24 March, South Bank Parklands, a component of the Science Festival. We will be part of the Queensland Science Network stand.
- The IT Management Committee has been very busy with the various steps involved in swapping our internet and phone services to Aussie Broadband, including new cabling from the basement. We're expecting the quality of Zoomed lectures and meetings to be much improved. Particular thanks to John Fairbairn and Rob Cook for giving so freely of their time and expertise.
- Expressions of interest in the August trip to Norfolk Island reached the maximum number in only a couple of days.
- The Society organised its successful New Zealand trip via Integrity Travel Durack and they will also be handling the bookings for the Norfolk Island trip. Council has decided to enter into an agreement with Integrity Travel Durack that will generate some income for the Society. See the details elsewhere in this Bulletin.
- The public forum, *A Housing Crisis: Queensland Perspectives*, to be held on 22 March, has been advertised. Registrations are being received.
- The Geography Writing Competition is underway, with a positive response from organisations that have been sent the details. Thanks to Graham Rees for setting up the website so that entries can be submitted online.
- Michael Papageorgiou, a member of our Property Committee, has been appointed Secretary of the Body Corporate Committee for our building. Pam Tonkin previously held this role.
- Thanks to the members who helped with mailing out information on the Australian Geography Competition to schools. Entries are coming in.
- The Collections Committee is continuing work on making accessible digital copies of significant material held by the Society – copyright allowing.
- Council would like to remind members that the lift to our premises is out of action. There is no handrail in the stairwell though there is an open grill that it is possible to hold onto.
- Council reviewed and approved a complaints policy and procedure. This will be accessible to members on our website via The Society/Governance pathway. The current Strategic Plan can be accessed from the same place.

Monthly Lecture

Energy and Emissions: Impact on our Landscapes

Professor Ian Mackinnon

Tuesday 5 March @ 7:30pm

Register: <https://rgsq.org.au/event-5589828>

Australian policy makers have been slow to understand the implications of past and continuing studies on climate change since the first USA Senate committee hearings in 1988 at which James Hansen testified. As noted by Hansen in his preface [1], "...*Politicians are happy if scientists provide information and then go away but science and policy cannot be divorced.*" Today, Australia's energy policies at State and Federal level offer an opportunity to deliver a powerful transformation that matches the impact of electricity transmission over 100 years ago. These policies suggest that by the 2040–2050 period regional communities may enjoy access to energy resources orders of magnitude greater than today.

Two well established technologies, among many evolving rapidly, may greatly assist Australia's energy transformation to a low emissions regime if deployed with careful thought. Best use of DC power and DC-DC conversion is a simple and effective first step in pathways to energy efficiency [2]. New and efficient materials, such as superconductors, for transmission/distribution of electricity or for motors and generators [3] is also key to an energy efficient power system for Australia's rewired grids. Combined with low to zero emissions practices, such as use of hybrid renewable energy systems for transport, manufacturing and/or sustainable waste recovery, Australians may – with care and attention – retain a high standard of living while minimizing the impacts of extreme climate conditions.

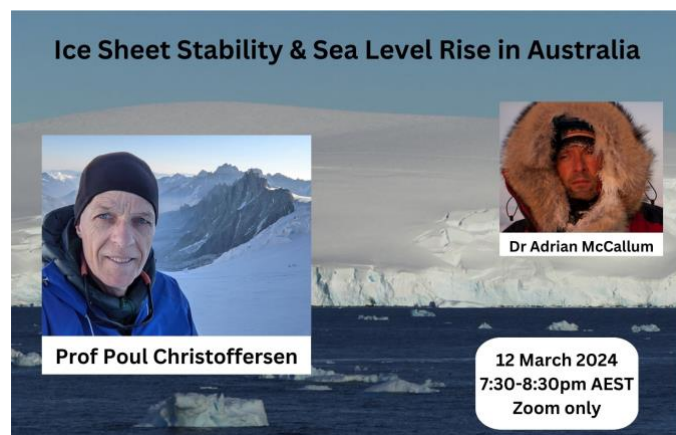
References: 1: Hansen, J. "*Storms of my Grandchildren*", Bloomsbury NY, 320pp., ISBN 978-1-60819-502-2, 2009. 2: Ertugrul, N. and D. Abbott, *Proc. IEEE.*, 108(5) 651-624. 3: Mackinnon, I.D.R., and R.R. Taylor, *The Conversation*, February 7th, 2023.

GEOGRAPHY MATTERS

ICE SHEET STABILITY AND SEA LEVEL RISE IN AUSTRALIA

Tuesday 12 March 7.30-8.30pm Zoom only

Register: <https://rgsq.org.au/event-5615687>



Professor Poul Christoffersen will share his research and discuss the Western Antarctic ice sheet dynamics and climate change in polar regions.

Professor Christoffersen is a glaciologist who specialises in ice sheets and climate change. He was a Professor at the University of Cambridge before joining University of Tasmania in 2023. At UTAS, Poul is a member of the Centre of Excellence in Antarctic Science and the Australian Antarctic Program Partnership. He has received a major EU grant from the European Research Council to investigate the effect of climate change in Greenland Ice Sheet and he was also a Lead Scientist of the International Thwaites Glacier Collaboration in Antarctica, funded by research agencies in the UK and USA. His work on Thwaites Glacier and before that Pine Island Glacier, both in the Amundsen Sea region of West Antarctica, has contributed to a better understanding of some of the most vulnerable drainage basins in Antarctica.

Professor Christoffersen will further extend discussion of the topic with Dr Adrian McCallum, who currently serves as Head of Engineering at University of the Sunshine Coast and manages courses in soil mechanics, geotechnical engineering and weather and climate. He is fortunate to have led a life of adventure and exploration around the globe and is an expert in remote area science and engineering. Adrian holds a PhD from the Scott Polar Research Institute, University of Cambridge and additional degrees in oceanography, meteorology and civil engineering.

Welcome New Members

We have much pleasure in welcoming *David Newport, Ken Mewburn, John Macfarlane, Gillian Mary Warry, Kai Ching Cheong, Sophia Dow, Sydney O'Hare, and Bohao Dong* as new members. We hope your association with your new Society is long and mutually enjoyable.

GEOGRAPHY IN CONVERSATION

Climate Resilience in Communities

Tuesday 26 March 5.30-8.30pm

Register: <https://rgsq.org.au/event-5615765>



Speakers: *Ms Jen Basham*, QLD Conservation Council, *Major General Jake Ellwood*, CEO for the Queensland Reconstruction Authority, *Professor Ali Cheshmehzangi*, incoming Head of the School of Architecture, Design and Planning, UQ and formerly Architecture and Urban Planning, Head/Director of Centre at Qingdao City University.

A series of natural events have sharpened our awareness for the requirement for planning for resilience in communities. Research into environmental impacts and resilience of the built environment, including investigation and assessment of multiple intervention strategies for low to positive energy buildings and urban districts is the focus of many institutions. The Queensland Strategy for Disaster Resilience 2022-2027 promotes a systems approach to resilience that connects with a range of agencies and sectors to deliver improved outcomes for Qld.

Each speaker will have 8 minutes to spotlight their work.

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

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://rgsq.org.au/geographyinconversation/>

OR non-members email questionsonnotice@gmail.com

Date: Tuesday 26 March 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

HOUSING FORUM

Friday 22 March 2-5pm

Venue: University of Queensland, St. Lucia campus

Register: <https://rqsq.org.au/event-5580729>



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.

AN EXPERT PANEL AND PUBLIC FORUM

Chairs: Dr Iraphne Childs, RGSQ, and Assoc Prof Thomas Sigler, UQ

Keynote address: Ms Julie Saunders, URBIS

Observations on the Queensland government housing policy

Assoc Prof Elin Charles-Edwards, UQ School of the Environment

The demography of the housing crisis

Mr Murray Benton, Q Shelter

Community Housing Futures Program Queensland

Ms Rachel Gallagher, UQ School of the Environment

Character contradiction: how Brisbane planning excludes low-income households from desirable suburbs

DATE Friday 22 March

TIME 1.30-5pm; please arrive by 1.30pm

VENUE University of Queensland

St Lucy's café for social drinks 5-7pm

PLEASE REGISTER by Wednesday 20 March

COST (includes afternoon tea)

We hope you can join us for this important event.

See further details and register on the RGSQ website.



Treks and Activities

Port of Brisbane Tour

Wednesday 10 April

Register: <https://rqsq.org.au/event-5606135>

Join us on a tour of the Port of Brisbane - Australia's third busiest port!



Time and Place: please indicate when booking

A. North side: Arrive at 7.45 for 8.00 departure
Bus stop 27 at 15 Park Av Clayfield (near EJ station)

B. South side: Arrive 8.15 for 8.30 departure outbound
Bus stop 26 Ison St, cnr Thynne Rd Morningside (opp School of Arts)

Arrive 8.40 Colmslie Beach Reserve – **Morning Tea** – BYO and cup - hot water provided.

Depart: 9.15 - Arrive 9.30: OZ fish - with Robbie Porter. See the Moreton Bay Shellfish Recycling Centre. Hear how oyster shells are recycled to restore reefs.

Depart: 10.45 - Arrive 10.55: Port of Brisbane office for 11am tour (approx. 60 mins),

Visit the Observation Deck for an overview of the site of Fisherman's Island reclamation area. Drive around the stockpiles of coal, grain, wood chip. See the multi modal rail track, container facilities of DP world and Patricks with robotic handling cranes. The import cargo varies from cars to huge wind blades and turbines for wind farms. Learn how an efficient and sustainable port operates. It is truly a port of the future.

12 noon: Lunch at the Port **Observation Deck**. Please state special dietary requirements when booking.

Enjoy shared boxed platters – sandwiches mixed fillings e.g. ham, turkey, beef, and vegetarian OR flat bread wraps or rolls. Includes a soft drink can, juice or water.

1.00 - 2.00: Visit Shorebird Roost and Hides for Ramsar Wetlands (Environmental protection)

Depart: 2.00 for return drop-offs B and A

Arrive: 3.15 (approx.) 15 Park Av Clayfield

Cost: members \$74 and non-members \$84

30 registrants. Register and pay by Friday 22 March

Participants please note. The outing involves bus travel up to an hour and standing of 1 hour during the OZ fish visit.

Please wear closed shoes, sun safe clothing, hat, sunscreen. Bring water and camera.

Jeanette Lamont (Event Coordinator)

Introducing RGSQ's preferred travel agent: *Integrity Travel Durack*

RGSQ Council has accepted an agreement with a local travel agent which can benefit the Society and its individual members. **Mr Stuart Betlem** of Integrity Travel Durack is now the Society's preferred travel agent. Under this agreement the Society will receive financial benefits in the form of commissions for RGSQ group bookings and also on any individual travel bookings made through Stuart by RGSQ members and their family or friends. Stuart is happy to assist with travel plans within Australia or overseas in all aspects – car hire, accommodation, flights, train or cruise bookings and travel insurance. He will process all payments for such bookings. Stuart worked with the Society for the 2023 New Zealand Geotour and is now developing arrangements for the forthcoming 2024 Norfolk Island Geotour. Integrity Travel Durack is registered with the International Air Transport Association (IATA) and the Australian Travel Accreditation Scheme (ATAS).



So, please contact Stuart directly for any of your future travel inquiries, tell him you are from RGSQ, and assist the Society to gain financial benefits.

INTEGRITY TRAVEL DURACK

V33/356 Blunder Rd
DURACK Qld 4077
PH: 07 3714 9111
Mobile: 0414 903 047
Email: sturat@integritytravel.com.au
<https://www.travelagentfinder.com.au/durack/stuart-betlem>

Disclaimer: The Society is only making a recommendation about the services of Integrity Travel Durack and cannot be held responsible for the actions and outcomes arising from this.

Geographers in the Spotlight

Hawaiian traditional navigator, Nainoa Thomson, awarded AAG 2024 Honorary Geographer



Explorer, **Pwo Navigator***, Charles Nainoa Thomson, is the **2024 Honorary Geographer**, an award given annually by the **American Association of Geographers (AAG)** to recognize an exceptional leader in the arts, research, teaching and writing whose work addresses geographic topics.

Thompson is being recognized for his ground-breaking efforts in reviving **ancestral wayfinding practices**.

He learned to sail across the vast Pacific Ocean from **Mau Piailug**, a legendary master navigator from Micronesia and learned lessons on astronomy from **Bishop Museum Planetarium**



Lecturer Will Kyselka. In 1980 Thomson embarked on his first journey as a navigator from Hawai'i to Tahiti, guiding the Hōkūle'a, a traditional double-hulled canoe, using only observation of the stars, the winds and the waves. Since then, he has led many more voyages of Hōkūle'a to reconnect with the diverse cultures and lands of Polynesia. Thomson currently serves as CEO of the **Polynesian Voyaging Society**, where he continues to pass down knowledge to students of navigation and voyaging.

He received his Honorary Doctorate in Humane Letters from University of Hawai'i in 2016. In May 2015 the Hōkūle'a visited Brisbane as part of its worldwide conservation-themed *Malama Honua* (caring for earth) voyage.

Photo: Hokule'a berthed at Redlands, May 2015. I. Childs

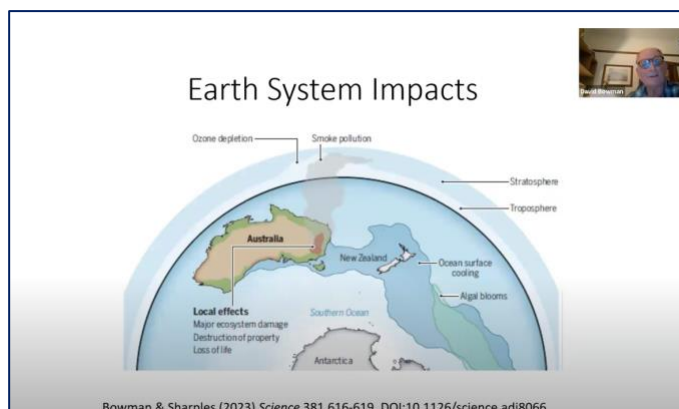
***Pwo** is a sacred ceremony in which those who have successfully concluded a rigorous course of training are initiated into the secrets of master navigators.

References: AAG Honolulu April 2024
<https://www.aag.org/2024-aag-awards-recognition/-charles-nainoa-thompson>; Polynesian Voyaging Society
<https://hokulea.com>

Contributed by: Iraphne Childs

GEOGRAPHY MATTERS REPORT

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



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.

Professor Bowman opened the Zoom meeting by acknowledging that there is a global wildfire crisis. The Canadian fires in 2023, the destruction of the town of Lauhinia on Maui, except for one fire-proofed house, and the Black Summer fires of 2019-20, are examples of six extreme events with triple the previous energy and severe effects. The Black Summer fires increased economic health costs from smoke inhalation. There was eighty times more carbon dioxide than a typical bushfire season. A satellite view showed algal bloom, ozone depletion and smoke pollution in the stratosphere.

The 1967 Hobart Fire on 7 February travelled southeast and in three hours destroyed houses and lives. Since then, Eucalyptus trees have encroached closer to South Hobart, and it is again endangered. The insurance industry is taking a lead in estimating the risks and consulting with Professor Bowman on possible solutions. It is feared that Hobart will soon become uninsurable. Governments alone cannot solve the crisis.

Asked by interviewer **Katelyn Doyle** about Brisbane, Professor Bowman did not want to be alarmist but said our situation needed to be treated seriously. Brisbane was a sitting duck for a similar disaster to Hobart because of our undulating terrain, bush in suburbs, complicated road network for escape and residents' lack of situational awareness.

Positive steps can be taken such as developing a fire-safe house and garden at a demonstration site, holding field days, downloading an app to self-assess our home, or employing a contractor, and incentivising people with a prize for best fire awareness practice. There are two commercial companies in Victoria selling quality bunkers, unlike the failed containers of 2019-20. Encourage other states to introduce bunkers. The ABC documentary "People's Republic of Mallecoota" is recommended viewing.

Professor Bowman ended by challenging the cost of all the future lost houses against the cost of good management practices now.

Contributed by Cathie Duffy

Vale JW Greenwood

Former President of the RGSQ, Colonel The Honourable John Ward Greenwood, RFD QC (Ret'd), passed away on 23 December 2023 aged 89 years. His daughter, Kate Greenwood, wished the notice of her father's passing be shared with RGSQ members who may remember him, saying that the Society had held a special place in his heart.

John W Greenwood was RGSQ President 1986-1987. He and Peter Lloyd served as Vice-Presidents together during Ken Sutton's reign which was extended to 31 December 1985 to complete the Centenary year. John had been elected President in August 1985. He was the Member for Ashgrove in the Queensland Legislative Assembly (1974-1983). In his role as a QC he appeared as Counsel for conservation interests at the Royal Commission into Oil Drilling on the Great Barrier Reef from 1970 to 1972.

As Minister for Geographic Information, he was always interested in the activities of the RGSQ. For example, as President of the RGSQ, he allocated some Society funds and was successful in obtaining a Federal grant to preserve the "Gregory W tree", west of Hebel, which Sir Augustus Gregory had marked on his 1865 survey of the 29th parallel border between Qld and NSW.

The funeral was held at St John's Cathedral in Ann Street on Monday 22 January. RGSQ Past President, Dr. Iraphne Childs, represented the Society at the funeral.



(1987?) RGSQ President John W Greenwood at the opening of the Ken Sutton Memorial library.



Tree marking by Sir Augustus Gregory during his 1865 survey of the Qld-NSW border.

27 May 1987 RGSQ group, including JW Greenwood along with the Hon W. Glasson, Minister for Lands and Mr Kevin Davies, the Surveyor-General at a ceremony to

preserve the tree marked by Sir Augustus Gregory during his 1865 survey of the Qld-NSW border.



(1985?) RGSQ VPs, John W Greenwood and Peter Lloyd, helping the Duke of Kent present James Park Thomson medal to Prof. Arthur Brownlea during the Centenary celebrations.

Photos: Peter Lloyd & RGSQ archive

Contributed by Iraphne Childs

ANZGG/IAG Regional Webinar - Oceania Tuesday 5th March 3 pm AEDT

See IAG website <https://www.iag.org.au/>

The event will be on Zoom, Register (for free) with Eventbrite. Eventbrite will send you a Zoom link ahead of the event.

Contributors

Kath Berg, Iraphne Childs, Cathie Duffy, Jeanette Lamont, Kay Rees, Bob Reid, Pamela Tonkin

Find RGSQ on social media:

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

 [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

RGSQ Bulletin

March 2024

Tue 5 March: Monthly Lecture

Energy and Emissions: Impact on our Landscapes

Tue 12 March: Geography Matters

Ice Sheet Stability and Sea Level Rise in Australia

Fri 22 March: Expert Panel

A housing crisis – Queensland perspectives

Mon 25 March: Treks and Activities

Samford Valley & Camp Mountain Rail Disaster 1947

Tue 26 March: Geography in Conversation

Climate Resilience in Communities

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

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