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2022 Council Report to Members

The Council is pleased to present its report for the Financial Year, 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022.

Table of Contents

OVERVIEW	2
RGSQ 2021/2022 COUNCIL	2
RGSQ ACADEMIC AWARDS	3
LECTURES.....	3
MEMBERSHIP.....	4
MANAGEMENT and ADMINISTRATION	5
FINANCIAL RESULTS AND POSITION	6
COMMITTEES	8
SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS.....	15
KEN SUTTON TRUST.....	17
ADDRESSING THE STRATEGIC PLAN.....	18
THE 2022-2023 YEAR AHEAD.....	20
APPENDIX: Event and Activities	21

OVERVIEW

The past twelve months to 30 June 2022 have seen many challenges and achievements for RGSQ. Despite the lingering impacts of Covid-19, the hard work and passion of the Society's members, Councillors and staff have ensured that RGSQ has delivered on our primary objective to promote the study of geography. This report details the key achievements of the past year, which include:

- starting the successful Geography in Conversation event series
- undertaking collaborative projects with Binna Burra Lodge
- implementing recommendations of the Preservation Needs Assessment
- upgrading the Society's lighting and audio-visual equipment
- delivering the Australian Geography Competition online for the first time
- increasing RGSQ's presence on social media (LinkedIn, Instagram, Twitter)
- organising engaging Map Group, Young Geographer's Group, and TAAC activities and trips

On behalf of the RGSQ Council and members, I would like to thank everyone who has been involved throughout the past year. I am confident that the future of our Society will bring opportunities and growth, and the continued delivery of outstanding and engaging activities to promote Geography.



John Tasker
President
23 September 2022

RGSQ 2021/2022 COUNCIL

	<i>Executive</i>
1	President: John TASKER
2	Secretary: Kath BERG
3	Treasurer: Annie LAU
4	Vice President: Iraphne CHILDS
	<i>Councillors</i>
5	Robert COOK – appointed 19 October 2021
6	Jonathan CORCORAN
7	Ian HARDING – resigned 1 February 2022
8	Patrick MOSS
9	Giselle PICKERING – appointed 19 October 2021
10	Daphne STEPHENS – resigned 6 March 2022
11	Pamela TONKIN
12	Stephen TURTON

RGSQ ACADEMIC AWARDS

J P Thomson Medal

Emeritus Professor Peter J Rimmer was awarded the 2022 J P Thomson Medal. Peter was able to travel to Brisbane to present an in-person lecture, *China's Geologistics*, at Gregory Place on 3 May 2022. This was well received and attended. Peter has kindly donated his popular book, *China's Global Vision and Actions*, to the RGSQ library.



L-r: Em Prof Peter J Rimmer with Dr David Wadley, Chair of RGSQ's Honours Committee

University prizes

The Society provides academic prizes (an engraved medal, certificate and twelve months' membership to the Society) to high-achieving university students majoring in geography.

Two institutions offered the prize in the 2021-2022 period and the awardees were:

- University of the Sunshine Coast – *Ms Katherine Hill*
- James Cook University – *Mr Fredrick Holden*

LECTURES

The Society offered a diverse lecture programme throughout the year with exceptional presenters. Some lectures unintentionally perfectly coincided with important weather or political events such as the November 2021 lecture in which Prof Catherine Lovelock spoke on *Coastal wetlands provide opportunities for climate change mitigation and adaption* the night before she flew to the UN Climate Change Conference (COP26) or the April lecture on *The Realities of Rain in SE Queensland* which had 65 registrants and could not have been more topical given the April 2022 floods. Thanks to Ron Owen and his dedicated supper team of RGSQ members for providing the delicious suppers for the lectures.

While there were some disruptions to the originally announced lecture programme due to either presenters catching Covid or a clash of commitments, floods or lockdowns, most of the lectures were delivered both in-person and virtually via Zoom. The latter has become increasingly popular with both members and non-members. Recordings of past lectures can be viewed on the [Society's YouTube channel](#) or on the [website](#).

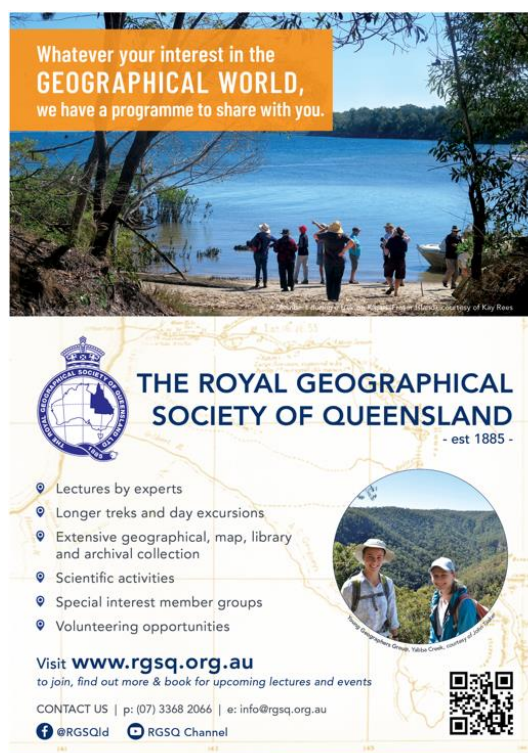
MEMBERSHIP

The membership/member profile by category as of 30 June 2022 compared to June last year is shown in the Table 1 below. In spite of Covid-19 restrictions on movement and reduced number of in-person meetings in the first half of the year, the Society has seen a stable membership in the past year, with a small increase from 214 to 220 members. This is even more pleasing given the increase in membership fees from 1 January 2022.

With the view to increasing membership, the Society produced an A3/A4 poster. A few copies are displayed at Binna Burra Lodge, including in the teahouse. The poster has also been used as part of campaign to target geography academics and students.

The Society is also trialling a programme to encourage member referrals and we are grateful to those who have referred a friend to RGSQ and benefitted from the part refund of membership fees.

Given the Covid-19 circumstances, the Council is appreciative of members for supporting the Society and renewing their memberships throughout the year.



Membership Category	To June 2021		To June 2022	
	Memberships	Members	Memberships	Members
Ordinary	87	87	93	93
Household Bundle	40	79	37	76
Educational	2	2	0	0
Student*	29	29	31	31
Life	16	16	16	16
Honorary Life	1	1	1	1
Total	175	214	178	220
*Student membership is free for the duration of student enrolment				

Table 1: Membership by category 1 July 2021-30 June 2022

Finally, it is with great sadness that we noted the passing of RGSQ member Annette Peacock, whom many members knew personally.

MANAGEMENT and ADMINISTRATION

The Society's paid staff consists of Lilia Darii (Business Manager), Rachel Honey (Competition Coordinator) and Rosie Catt (Administration Office Assistant). They work in collaboration with Councillors, Committee members and other Society members who contribute as volunteers.






The first half of the 2021-2022 financial year was characterized by continuous adjustments of operations and processes to the ever-changing Covid-19 environment and ensuing constraints on organizations e.g. on-premises check-ins, event attendance limits, etc. While some lectures and Committee/Council meetings had to be held online due to short-term lock downs, the Society adapted extremely well to the new circumstances. Having started the data migration from the local server to the cloud a few years ago and precipitated by Covid, this has now been finalized. This has allowed staff and member volunteers to continue working on and progressing RGSQ projects remotely. A full move to the cloud also meant a rationalizing of the Society's PCs, decommissioning of the server and a welcome reduction in IT costs.

In the second half of the year the Society moved from the MYOB accounting software to a new accounting platform Xero. While not without challenges, the conversion process was eased by the use of specialist conversion software and accounting advice from Leddy's and Associates pre- and post-conversion. The migration to Xero was done to allow seamless integration with the new online Competition database and full automation of registrations, invoicing, and payments of entries.

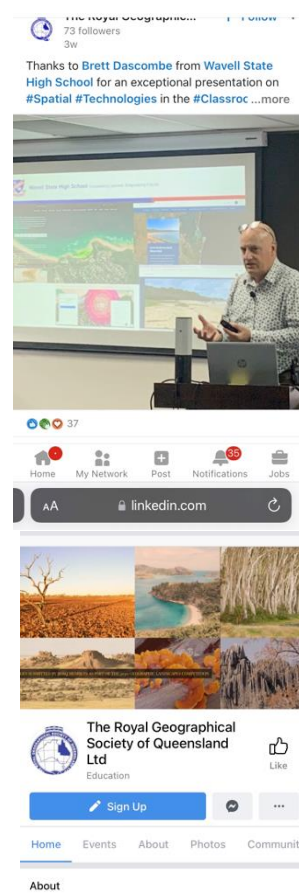
The Society's long-term auditors Hall Chadwick Qld resigned due to commitments to other projects, but their help in finding a new auditor was appreciated – Pilot Chartered Accountants. The latter have been appointed to carry out the audit of the financial year ending 30 June 2022. The Society also changed its long-term broker, from Shadforth's to Bell Potter after consideration of three options.

The Society secured two grants during the year: 1) Community Heritage Grant (CHG) for Conservation and Collection Management Activities and 2) Gambling Community Benefit Fund to help upgrade lighting in the library and the Society's audio-visual facilities. In June 2022, the Society applied for another CHG grant to fund the preservation and restoration of some books and maps in the collection in need of urgent work.

During the year the Society has also increased its social media presence with new accounts on Twitter, LinkedIn and Instagram. RGSQ has also seen a steady increase in its following to over 2,250 on Facebook over the past year.

	http://twitter.com/The_RGSQ
	Instagram: @thergsq
	YouTube/RGSQ Channel
	The Royal Geographical Society of Queensland Ltd LinkedIn
	Facebook.com/The Royal Geographical Society of Queensland

All activities have been enthusiastically and tirelessly supported and progressed by the Society's Council, dedicated volunteer members and office staff. Much appreciation and thanks are due to all who have assisted with these major projects. Special thanks to Graham Rees for managing the Society's website.



FINANCIAL RESULTS AND POSITION

The Society has reported an overall deficit of \$184,033 for the year to 30 June 2022, but this is after taking account of realised and unrealised losses on investments, somewhat offset by non-recurring special dividends from buy back schemes. The operating loss is \$28,107, compared to the surplus of \$37,275 in 2021. Included in the accounts were non-cash depreciation costs of \$32,792.

	NOTE	2022 \$	2021 \$
Australian competition income	2	380,704	368,412
Other income	2	162,637	162,238
Distribution of (profit)/loss to AGTA		(5,938)	(51,072)
Exploration and research		-	-
Employees benefit expense		(95,136)	(92,392)
Depreciation expenses		(32,792)	(27,139)
Australian competition expenses		(368,828)	(266,268)
Administrative expenses		(68,745)	(56,186)
Loss on disposal of asset		(9)	(318)
OPERATING PROFIT / (LOSS)		(28,107)	37,275
EXTRAORDINARY ITEMS:			
(Decrease) / Increase in market value of investments		(214,569)	271,073
Realised gain on investments		(34,093)	22,225
Special dividends received		92,736	-
TOTAL SURPLUS/ (DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR		(184,033)	330,573

Table 2: Income and Expenditure Statement for Year Ended 30 June 2022

RGSQ: The Society excluding the AGC had a deficit of \$34,045. Main sources of income were investments income (interest and dividends), AGC administration contribution to overheads, and membership fees. The Society's income in many areas (e.g., rent received, sponsorships, travel commission) was low this year. The Society has very carefully controlled expenditure but administrative expenses have gone up since last year. The largest administrative expenses include body corporate fees, insurance, rates and water, computer and web expenses, and telephone expenses.

Australian Geography Competition: The surplus of \$11,876 was split equally between RGSQ and AGTA. Although AGC income is shown as higher than last year, this is an effect of auditors' decisions on carrying income forward, and of AGC invoices shifting to accrual accounting from cash accounting. In fact, the AGC competition entry number was lower in 2022 than 2021 as some schools entered the competition but later withdrew, due to problems with using the digital competition platform, or teaching schedule changes because of Covid disruption. Note that this is the first year the AGC has been run on a digital platform. A provision for doubtful debts of \$20,000 was created to cover refunds in 2022/23 as well as potential non-payment by schools that withdrew some or all students. GBWO expenses increased because, with the cancellation of the 2020 GBWO, \$0 was spent in 2020/21, whereas in 2021/22 expenses for both the 2021 GBWO and much of the expenditure for the earlier than usual 2022 GBWO were included. IGeo expenses were comparable to last year, with both iGeos being held virtually.

Balance Sheet: The Society continues to carefully maintain and manage its assets. The Society continues to have a strong Balance Sheet, as shown below, but the investments were reduced reflecting the decline in the stock market.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

AS AT 30 JUNE 2022



	NOTE	2022 \$	2021 \$
ASSETS			
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash and cash equivalents	3	307,244	267,444
Trade and other receivables	4	61,629	38,870
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS		368,873	306,314
NON-CURRENT ASSETS			
Investments		1,567,633	1,755,303
Property, plant and equipment	5	1,378,903	1,414,162
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS		2,946,536	3,169,465
TOTAL ASSETS		3,315,409	3,475,779
LIABILITIES			
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Trade and other payables	6	76,115	14,301
Income in advance	7	-	51,961
Provisions	8	25,864	17,426
Amount due to associated party	9	82,994	77,056
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES		184,973	160,744
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Provisions	8	8,924	9,490
TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES		8,924	9,490
TOTAL LIABILITIES		193,897	170,234
NET ASSETS		3,121,512	3,305,545
EQUITY			
Retained earnings		3,038,518	3,228,489
Accumulated profits reserve - competition		82,994	77,056
TOTAL EQUITY		3,121,512	3,305,545

Table 3: Balance Sheet as at 30 June 2022.

Audit. Pilot Partners, the Society's auditors, has provided an unqualified audit report as attached to the published accounts.

Outlook. The Society's total asset position is still very favourable, but the Council is concerned about the low income and increasing expenses. Notably, inflation is going to increase next year's expenses significantly. The 2022/23 overall budget is showing a deficit of \$59,726 (including depreciation of \$28,484). This includes a deficit of \$20,384 in AGC (50% of total AGC deficit) due to inflation-driven higher expenses and a possibly conservative lower number of entries as schools are still adapting to the online competition. The budget deficit in RGSQ excluding AGC is \$39,342 (with depreciation). It is important to continue to minimise costs and to increase income by growing our member numbers and exploring new sources of income.

COMMITTEES

Australian Geography Competition Committee

Members: Co-Chair K Berg (RGSQ) and Co-Chair J Davis (AGTA), S Albertson (AGTA), T Bourke (Independent, Faculty of Education, Queensland University of Technology), J Tasker (RGSQ), R Honey (ex-officio, Competition Coordinator)

Overview: The Australian Geography Competition is a joint initiative of RGSQ and the Australian Geography Teachers' Association (AGTA), administered by RGSQ with oversight from the Competition Committee under a memorandum of understanding between RGSQ and AGTA. The in-school Competition and its associated events, Geography's Big Week Out (GBWO) and Australia's participation in the International Geography Olympiad (iGeo), received some funding from the Australian Department of Education, Skills and Employment and from sponsorship by the University of Melbourne and the University of New South Wales. A large group of RGSQ volunteers make an important contribution to the success of the Competition through their assistance with large mailouts.

2022 Competition in schools: The Competition underwent a major change in 2022, shifting to an online platform contracted to Education Perfect. Although a trial of the new format had been held in September 2021, there were still teething problems with the switch. Some teachers had difficulties with the technology vs the ease of a paper question booklet and answer sheet. There was less flexibility to accept very late entries, or to extend the set Competition time, but the new format allowed a more interesting range of question types, including using video, plus saved paper. The Competition was held in schools from 24 March to 6 April. Entries for 69,610 students were received from 710 schools – slightly down on last year. The number of students who subsequently competed was lower due to Covid-19 impacting classes, east coast flooding closing some schools, and a number of technical issues affecting access to the online Competition.



Surveying users of public space

Geography's Big Week Out: This is a fieldwork-based event for 16 top-performing Year 11 students from the Competition. Continually changing state border, quarantine and gathering restrictions made organising the 2021 GBWO particularly challenging. Each date change meant the location also had to change because of accommodation availability, and therefore a different programme had to be prepared for each new location. The 2021 GBWO was originally planned to be held in Perth in July; rescheduled to the Gold Coast in December; then to North Stradbroke Island in January; and finally and successfully to Brisbane in April 2022. Usually, GBWOs are organised in cooperation with a state Geography Teachers' Association, but with the uncertainties arising from Covid, it was organised directly by the Competition Committee. Committee members, and also RGSQ Councillor Prof Jonathon Corcoran, led activities. The fieldwork focussed on investigating the quality of public spaces in central Brisbane. Tasks included mapping, surveying users, estimating transient populations and analysis and visualisation of data.

The students completed an assessment on the final day. The four highest-scoring students were selected as the 2022 iGeo Australian team.

The geographical concepts and skills learnt through participation in fieldwork has inspired me to further analyse and evaluate urban environments in other parts of Australia. GBWO gave me opportunities to collect primary quantitative and qualitative data/observations which was a fun yet challenging experience that has deeply enhanced my geographical skills and understanding. Jessica

With the 2022 GBWO being held earlier than usual – in Darwin in early July – all preparations for it had been finalised by 30 June.

International Geography Olympiad: Due to Covid-19, the 2021 International Geography Olympiad was held virtually from 11 to 15 August. The Australian team members were:

Nikki Ballinger	Walford Anglican School for Girls, SA
Imogen Cooper	Wesley College St Kilda Road Campus, Vic
Rhea Sankar	Canberra Grammar School, ACT
Gemma Snyman	Roseville College, NSW



Imogen with her medal

I thought it was awesome how even though we all came from different cultures and backgrounds we were able to come together (virtually) because of a shared passion: geography. I loved that the Olympiad gave me the opportunity to learn about other countries and cultures, and make new friends. It's a shame we couldn't all meet in person, but it was still a fantastic experience. Imogen

It was planned that our team would come together in Brisbane to compete, but at short notice this was changed to the Darwin back-up plan due to state border restrictions and lock downs in the different states/territories. In the end, only Rhea and Nikki were able to travel to Darwin and compete together. Simon Roos-Freeman, an Australian leader at the 2019 iGeo, and his wife were able to step in to supervise them. Imogen and Gemma had to compete from their homes in lock down. The Australian team, including leaders Kath Berg and John Tasker – dispersed over Melbourne, Sydney, Darwin, Brisbane and the Gold Coast – regularly connected together virtually so that Imogen and Gemma remained engaged with the team.

All four Australian students won bronze medals. Australia was one of 14 out of 46 countries to win four medals.

By 30 June, preparations for Australia to compete, again virtually, in the 2022 iGeo from 11 to 18 July, had been completed.

Collections Committee

Members: R Cook (Convenor), R Carlisle, J Graham, P Lloyd, L Darii

Focus areas have been:

- Transitioning the collections catalogues to eHive, a web-based system that will allow members to access the catalogue online and link to the National Library of Australia Trove system, assisted by a Community Heritage Grant (CHG) Conservation and Collection Management Activities (CACM) grant.
- Transferring RGSQ's collection of glass lantern slides to the State Library of Queensland (SLQ), where they will be properly preserved and made available to a broader public. SLQ has expressed interest in acquiring images from RGSQ's collection for their Queensland Memories project.
- An exhibition of artefacts relating to RGSQ's founder, J P Thomson. This is the first exhibition displayed in RGSQ's new display cabinets, funded by the same CHG CACM grant. It can be viewed at the Society's headquarters. Thanks to Daphne Stephens for sewing light-proof covers for the cabinets.
- Applying measures recommended in the 2021 Preservation Needs Assessment (PNA) report to parts of the collection.

Led by the Committee, RGSQ has applied for a CHG CACM grant to assist the Society with preserving significantly deteriorated priority items from the library and map collections.

The Collections Committee continues to seek members who might be interested in volunteering to assist in all areas, and particularly in managing the archives, images, and artefacts collections.

Reports for the special interest groups of the Collections Committee follow.

Images Group

Members: P Lloyd

In May 2022 the Collections Committee mounted a display showing J P Thomson's long involvement with the Society and Queensland geography. This was launched in conjunction with the 2022 Thomson Oration. Thomson was the Society's founder in 1885, then Secretary for over 50 years. He also served as President in the 1890s. The display sourced material from the Society's artefact and document archive collections and used special display cabinets recently obtained with funds from the Community Heritage Grants programme. Future displays will present other interesting material and stories from the Society's collections covering a range of topics related to the Society's activities.

Library Group

Members: J Graham, N McManimm

Work has been completed to catalogue all library collection books onto the old DB/Text database. Files have been taken off DB/Text and are being edited and cleaned in preparation for loading onto the new eHive system. The Library Group is gradually working through the collection, cleaning the books as recommended by a 2021 PNA report.

Map Collection Group

Members: R Carlisle, P Nunan

During the year, many maps have been added to the current spreadsheet, in particular maps of Queensland and its regions since World War II. National Geographic and Australian Geographic maps have also been added, including pre-WW II National Geographic maps. A quote was obtained for the preservation of six turn-of-the-20th-century maps in poor condition to form part of an RGSQ grant application. Work has commenced on aligning the spreadsheet headings with eHive field names in anticipation of making the catalogue available online.

Finance Committee

Members: A Lau (Chair), C Spriggs, L Darii, I Harding, R Cook, J Tasker

The Finance Committee provides financial guidance to the Society's Treasurer and Council and meets during the year regarding budget, financing, and investments. We had two formal committee meetings to discuss budget items and how to deal with the challenges related to high inflation. We also communicate via email to actively manage the Society's investments to ensure a healthy income from interests and dividends.

This year, the Committee has successfully identified new auditors, Pilot Partners, for RGSQ as the previous one resigned.

Honours Committee

Members: D Wadley (Chair), J Holmes, D Cook, K Berg

Meetings: No formal meetings were either necessary or held during the financial year 2021-22 since electronic channels sufficed. From previous discussions, agreement had been secured regarding honours for 2022.

Thomson Medal 2022: The Committee recommended the award of the 2022 Thomson Medal to Emeritus Professor Peter J Rimmer of the Australian National University in recognition of his lifetime contributions to economic geography with a particular focus on the geoeconomics and geopolitics of East Asia. Members of the Honours Committee attended the dinner held for Peter before his lecture at the Society's rooms on 3 May 2022. It was entitled *China's Geologistics*. At this well-attended meeting, David Wadley presented Peter with the 2022 Thomson Medal.

Fellowship Recommendation: A Fellowship was conferred on Kath Berg at the 2021 Annual General Meeting, in recognition of her valuable services to the Society.

Ken Sutton Memorial Trust: It was decided in late 2021 that the Honours Committee should assume responsibility for nomination of outstanding persons in geography and geographical education as potential recipients of the Ken Sutton Memorial Trust award. This honour enlists the Society's support in a publication endeavour and in a lecture presentation, along with a monetary consideration. Changes to the Trust are currently in train involving legal advice and, until the necessary structures are in place, the award process has been delayed.

Comment: The Honours Committee was successful in its quest for a female member of the Society to join its ranks and welcomed RGSQ Councillor, Ms Kath Berg, at the start of 2022. A fifth position remains open should any member of the Society wish to forward an expression of interest.

Property Committee

Members: P Tonkin (Chair), D Stephens

The Property Committee completed a successful year managing the diverse range of property matters which presented.

Grant: The Property Committee successfully applied for a grant from the Queensland Government Gambling Community Benefit Fund. The grant was to enable:

- the fluorescent lights throughout the premises to be replaced with LED lights. This has achieved a saving in electricity and delivered stronger lighting. The lighting in the Ken Sutton Memorial Library area has been greatly improved
- purchase of a new overhead projector for the boardroom
- a lectern and media trolley to be added to the Society's presentation facilities
- the purchase of a new laptop computer to replace the existing one
- the end wall of the boardroom to be finished to a surface suitable for media projection
- minor repairs in the kitchen and installation of the Society's plaque.

The Collection Committee purchased two display cases. On advice from the conservators who undertook the Preservation Needs Assessment, the Property Committee was able to provide, with money from the

grant, elegant bespoke covers to preserve the fragile and historically important documents which will be displayed therein under a display rotation.

Stratacare: The lift has been the major item of discussion outside the routine matters. On expert engineering advice the lift can probably last another few years, given that it is not heavily used, there was only one call-out to Kone (elevator service company) over the past 12 months and it is being well maintained. It is proposed that the Body Corporate will build up the Sinking Fund over the next couple of years before tendering for a replacement lift.

New Neighbours: Over July and August FORTEng moved into Level 2.

A special thanks is owed to several individuals who have provided advice and technical expertise to the Property Committee. Thanks to John Nowill, Rob Cook, Neville McManimm, and Len Lowry.

Publications Committee

Committee members: I Childs (Chair), I Bailey, J Corcoran, K Rees, I Harding (resigned March 2022)

The Publications committee met in July, September, and November 2021 and in March 2022.

RGSQ Photographic Competitions: On 18 November 2021 the Committee judged anonymously the 43 entries in the 2021 photo competition. At the Society's Christmas party on 7 December the winners of the 2021 competition were announced and presented with prizes. In May 2022, the 2022 photographic competition, *Waterways or Wetlands of Queensland*, was launched.



1st prize to Ron Owen – one night stay in the Skylodge at Binna Burra, presented by Steve Noakes, Chairperson, Board of Directors, Binna Burra Lodge.



2nd prize to Neville McManimm – wildlife drawing of a sugar glider donated by local artist and RGSQ member Alison Carlisle, presented by Committee Chair, Irphne Childs.



3rd prize to Neal O'Connor – one year's free RGSQ membership, presented by Committee Chair, Irphne Childs.



Members Choice prize to Neville McManimm – book, *Rivers: The Lifeblood of Australia*, by Ian Hoskin donated by Kay Rees, presented by Irphne Childs and Kay Rees.

History of RGSQ update: The Committee has embarked on a project to identify and highlight significant events and turning points in the history of the Society from 1985-2020. This involves checking Society Council records and interviews with some long-standing RGSQ members to glean their perspectives. The aim is to seek grant funds for a publication. RGSQ members Ingrid Bailey and Margaret Hardy have volunteered to assist with this project.

Scientific Studies Reports: In the interest of making past RGSQ Scientific Studies Reports more widely available, the Chair, Iraphne Childs has been liaising with Kellie Ashley, Librarian for the School of Earth and Environmental Sciences at UQ, to upload the reports to the UQ Library's *eSpace* where publications are publicly available. The reports may also be made available on the National Library of Australia's Trove via the UQ-Trove partnership.

Scientific Studies Committee

Members: I Childs (Chair), A Lau, P Moss, T Sigler, J Tasker, S Turton

K Scott and P Nunn resigned from the Committee in November 2021 due to other commitments.

Climate Forum – *Is Queensland prepared for a warming climate?* In 2019 the RGSQ, Griffith University and the Royal Society of Qld had organised a public forum on climate change scheduled for April 2020. Unfortunately, by March 2020 with Covid-19 cases increasing and a Brisbane lockdown imminent we had to cancel the forum. In conjunction with the School of Earth and Environmental Sciences at the University of Queensland, the Committee is planning to resurrect this timely initiative as a full day forum to be held on Saturday 29 October 2022 at the University of Queensland. The program will include presentations on Qld's climate outlook, bushfire, and flood risk by invited expert speakers, followed by a panel discussion and public forum.

Collaborative projects with Binna Burra Lodge: Under a collaborative arrangement with Binna Burra Lodge, the RGSQ's Scientific Studies Committee is undertaking two projects:

- ***Mapping of walking trails:*** this project will map existing and currently closed tracks and assess locations for possible future tracks on Binna Burra Lodge land. Field surveys will collect data along tracks using GPS. Two student RGSQ members, Philip Gidley and Vrinda Eswaran, who are 3rd year Geographical Science students at the University of Queensland, will be doing the mapping as research course work. The final report will include maps to be presented to both Binna Burra Lodge (BBL) and the RGSQ. On 8 April 2022 team members Iraphne Childs, Ralph Carlisle and Neville McManimm met at Binna Burra with Steve Noakes, Chair, Board of Directors BBL and Tim Medhurst, Development & Infrastructure Senior Consultant BBL, to plan the project. A reconnaissance and planning mission is scheduled for 20 July 2022 and fieldwork mapping on site will commence in August 2022.
- ***Tales of the Binna Burra Trails:*** this project aims to capture RGSQ members' experiences of walking trails at Binna Burra by conducting, recording and transcribing interviews. Rob Cook, Chair of the RGSQ Collections Committee, has been assisting this project with transcribing software. Grant funds will be sought to publish these tales.

Treks and Activities Committee (TAAC)

Members: C Spriggs (Chair), J Lamont (Secretary), B Reid, R Grimley and R Carlisle

TAAC had an interesting and eventful year. Two Committee members resigned in December 2021 – Mary Comer and Wayne Mackenzie. We thank them for their commitment and skill in organizing many great walks, day and extended activities. We gained two new members: Roger Grimley and Ralph Carlisle. Most events were filled very quickly with waitlists.

We aimed to vary the days of the week, means of travel and destinations in Brisbane and regional areas, as shown in the table below.

It was a very successful year: we had a good variety of activities which were very well supported by members who were eager to get out, learn and explore our environment with fellow society members and guests. Our thanks go to Lilia and Rosie for their support.

Date	Activity	Coordinator	Comments
26 Jul 2021	Maleny Christmas in July	Jeanette Lamont	Bus trip (rescheduled from 13 July due to Covid); 17 members
17 Aug 2021	Chermside Milne Bay Memorial Library and Research Centre	Bob Reid	Self-drive; 23 members and 2 guests
8-10 Sept 2021	Warwick and District Echoes of the Past	Bob Reid	Self-drive; 21 members
13 Oct 2021	Scenic Rim Boonah and Mt French	Mary Comer	Self-drive; 19 members and 1 guest
24 Nov 2021	Brisbane River: Cultural Landscapes Past and Future	Roger Grimley	Guest speakers at Old Government House and Queen's Wharf development; 19 members and 1 guest, with waitlist
7 Dec 2021	Spring Hill Christmas Party at Society premises	Wayne Mackenzie manager and TAAC committee	Bring a plate to share event; speakers from outings; presentation to winner of photo competition; supper and social; over 50 members
1 Feb 2022	Welcome Night	Committees and Council	Cancelled due to Covid
17 Feb 2022	Brisbane River: Cultural Landscapes: Past and Future	Chris Spriggs	Repeat due to waitlist from November 2021 original event; guest speakers in attendance; very successful; 24 members
25 Mar 2022	UQ Antiquities and Anthropology Museums	Roger Grimley	Successful event; 22 participants; 2 guides
27 Mar 2022	UQ Sculptures of the Great Court	Roger Grimley	17 members
27 Apr 2022	Caloundra Gems	Bob Reid	Bus trip; 21 members from Brisbane and 2 from the Sunshine Coast
14 Jun 2022	Bremer River Junction Cruise	Jeanette Lamont	Boat trip from Brett's Recreational Hub, Hamilton; 37 members



Guided tour of Old Government House

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

Geography in Conversation

Members: G Rush, H Sutherland, K Treschman, P Tonkin, R Kernaghan, S Rush and S Schwer (Co-Chairs)



First forum organized by the Geography in Conversation special interest group. L-r: Jonathan Sriranganathan (Councillor for The Gabba), Margaret Cook (author/historian) and John Tasker

In early 2022 the Geography in Conversation (GIC) Group was formed with the intention of starting a new series of events to add to the RGSQ calendar.

With a pitch of ‘facilitated discussions on geographical topics’, the aim of the series is: to offer a new event to members, to attract new members, to raise the public profile of the RGSQ and to be a networking opportunity for members.

The calibre of speakers who have accepted our invitations to be on the panels is most impressive: a politician, an author, a civil society organizer, an advocate for consumers, and two policy makers in State Government and one in the private sector.

The first three events in the series, May, June and July, were offered with no extra charge to non-members. This was a deliberate move to attract non-members and showcase the Society. Light refreshments at a cost of \$5.00 per person covered by a registration fee, were provided to facilitate mingling. Held at Gregory Place, Fortescue St, the events were exceptionally well attended, and were an opportunity to showcase the Society’s premises to potential new members as well as remind members of the collegial Society they belong to.

The inaugural event held in May was on the topic ***Building a City on a Floodplain***. President John Tasker, moderated the questions and contributions to the conversation, put to the panellists, Cr Jonathan Sri (Greens member for Woolloongabba) and Dr Margaret Cook (author of the book *A River with a City Problem: a history of Brisbane floods*), by the over 50 attendees. Trying to tease apart the entanglement of Council planning, historical factors, and developer initiatives is daunting.

The June event ***Wetlands or Development***, saw the moderator Dr Keith Treschman deftly managing the conversation on the proposed residential and commercial development at Toondah Harbour in the RAMSAR listed site on Moreton Bay. The panellists, Mr Chris Walker, Redlands 2030 and Mr Joshua Wilson, PhD student researching use of drones in calculating populations of wildlife migratory birds, brought practical and theoretical examples to the discussion. This event, attended by 35, segued neatly

into a TAAC bus trip ***Roaming the Redlands***, and Chris Walker offered further on-site descriptions and understanding of the issues. Several RGSQ members were motivated to write to the Federal Government Minister for Environment and Water, Ms Tanya Plibersek, urging her intervention in the EIS and decision on Toondah. Engagement at this level between GIC, TAAC and community action is noteworthy.

Feedback from each of the events has been very enthusiastic. Small details have been rectified in time for the next event. Overall, the comments have shown that the members appreciate the in-house setting, the time-slot of immediately after work, the refreshments and networking on arrival, the seating arrangement, and the general ambiance. Most importantly, the attendees have been attracted by the topics and the speakers engaged for each event. The RGSQ Collections Committee, in particular the Map Curators, have helped with displays when possible.

The upcoming event in July will focus on the Queens' Wharf Development, Brisbane River Precincts and Lifestyles, and in August on the power network. The programme for the 2022-23 year will be participant driven, meaning that the Group will facilitate discussions on topics put forward by members and encourage members to participate in the planning and organization of events they have suggested. This can only make the GIC events even more topical, relevant to RGSQ interests and enjoyable for all. The hope is that GIC events will help attract new and retain existing members.

Map Group

Members: L Lowry, N McManimm and K Rees (Co-chairs)

In the past twelve months, the Map Group Committee has organised ten very successful events and would like to acknowledge Map Group members who gave their time for presentations. Keith Treschman gave two talks, on *Finding Life on Europa?* and on the *Struve Geodetic Arc. Where's Wallace?* by Kerry Raymond was a very enlightening look at how place names have changed, and she also held sessions on the use of Queensland Globe. Ralph Carlisle organised a 2-day trip to the Upper Brisbane Valley – much enjoyed by participants. Other guest speakers included: Michael Feichtner with his presentation following the screening of the movie *Deluge* about the 1893 Black February floods; Bill Kitson, whose talks are always entertaining, with his presentation on *The Marine Survey of Queensland's Coast Line 1860-1913*; and David James with his presentation on *Portuguese Maritime Explorers* focussing on the 15th and 16th centuries.

Covid did impact some of our activities, with Map Group having to postpone some events and possibly smaller attendances by some vulnerable members. However, we are a stalwart lot and take it in our stride. At the end of the year, our members always enjoy the camaraderie of our Annual "Show 'n' Tell" where members display an unusual item related to mapping. As always, a chat over a cuppa at the end of our sessions is most welcome.



'Marine Survey of Queensland's Coast Line 1860-1913' with Bill Kitson, October 2021 at Gregory Place

Young Geographers Group

Members: G Pickering (Chair), J Tasker

The Young Geographers Group continues to cultivate a programme of digital and in-person activities that foster engagement, networking and skill development for geography students and early career professionals. Embracing consistent digital communication on our Facebook community has increased our group membership by 20% and allowed us to share geographic articles, resources, stories, and events more readily with those living outside the local region. Converting online participation to active membership remains a key focus for the future.

We have enjoyed meeting several fresh faces at our in-person events this year, including at the annual 'Young Geographers Forum' and an ethnogeography-themed early career evening. Enlightening presentations shared at these events gave insight into the diverse perspectives, pathways and applications of geography used by our members in their everyday work and life.

In the next year we will continue to deliver engaging events and hope to expand our connection with the southeast Queensland universities so we may further support, connect and inspire young geographers in their academic studies and career journeys.

KEN SUTTON TRUST

Trustees: I Childs, C Spriggs, J Tasker

Selection Committee members: I Childs (Chair), D Cook, A Lau, A Powell (MLA)

The Ken Sutton Trust provides a platform for the best geographical research and/or geographical education work in Australia by an Australian geographer.

During 2021-2022 the Society has continued to liaise with our solicitor, Heather Beckingsale (LLB Hons; BSc; Notary Public) in the legal process to wind up the current Trust and establish a new, charitable foundation called the RGSQ Sutton Education and Research Foundation. This has required the preparation and submission of legal documents to the Queensland Supreme Court and the Attorney-General. The objects and purpose of the new Foundation would be the same as the existing Ken Sutton Trust and the Award would continue to be run through this new foundation in accordance with the wishes of Ken Sutton and as per the intention of the original Trust. The simplified and legally established management arrangements of the new Foundation will avoid the very cumbersome requirements of the current trust and may enable the funds to be used to support a wider range of educational and research awards for the Society.

Given the on-going legal transition in the fund, it was decided not to offer a Sutton award in 2022.

ADDRESSING THE STRATEGIC PLAN

Council, staff and members continue to address the objectives of the Society's Strategic Plan, contributing to our five broad strategic objectives.

1. ***Engaging people in Geography – To continue to offer a range of services and opportunities for the Society's members to participate in, engage with and enjoy Geography through daytime activities; short and long treks within Australia and overseas; evening lectures; scientific expeditions; and opportunities to be involved with activities that support the promotion of Geography.***
 - An important new initiative this year that addresses this objective has been a new series of events, Geography in Conversation, which engages members and visitors in a different style of event – a more interactive panel format at an alternate time slot.
 - The lecture programme, and a diverse range of activities organised by the Treks and Activities Committee, Map Group and Young Geographers Group (see relevant sections above and the Appendix), all continue to connect people with geography. That members enjoy these activities is attested to by the fact that they were often fully booked with waitlists. Attendance at events has grown post Covid, including guest attendance, particularly via Zoom.
 - The Australian Geography Competition and its associated activities, Geography's Big Week Out and participation in the International Geography Olympiad, engage young people with geography and offer volunteering opportunities to members to support the promotion of geography in schools.
2. ***Enhancing membership – To understand, appreciate and strengthen the Society's membership bonds and to widen the membership base, as the foundation of a vibrant and successful Society.***
 - Members' bonds to the Society are strengthened through the network of very active committees and special interest groups, who meet and work together, performing vital roles for the Society, as do other volunteers.
 - Lectures have returned to in-person presentations, but when the lecturer agrees, there is hybrid delivery by Zoom and later availability on the Society's YouTube channel. The same applies to some Map Group activities. This has enabled the Society to better serve its membership outside Southeast Queensland
 - Members' bonds to the Society are also enhanced through the photographic competition run by the Publications Committee, regular contact through the Bulletin, and the social aspect of lectures and activities.
 - Initiatives to grow the membership base included a member referral programme with discounted subscriptions, distribution of a poster and establishment of the Geography in Conversation special interest group.
3. ***Knowledge and understanding – To promote geographical understanding amongst the Society's members and the wider community, to advance geographical knowledge.***
 - The Society's lectures, and activities run by the Treks and Activities Committee, Geography in Conversation Group, Map Group and Young Geographers Group, all have components which increase the geographical understanding of those who participate.
 - The Publications Committee has been liaising with the University of Queensland to make digital copies of the Society's past Scientific Study Reports publicly available on the University's eSpace, and through that on the National Library of Australia's Trove.
 - The Scientific Studies Committee began initial work on a project to map current and disused walking trails on Binna Burra Lodge land.
 - With the shift to online delivery, the Australian Geography Competition has been able to offer more challenging and interesting questions using a greater range of stimulus material including video.

4. *Growing our reputation – To further build the Society's profile and reputation, nationally and internationally, reinforcing and publicizing its role as a leader amongst related societies and a partner of choice in geographical endeavours.*

- The Collections Committee has been working assiduously, not only on managing and preserving the Society's library, map, image and artefact collections, but also on preparing the catalogues to be available online to members and the wider public. The importance of the Society's collections has been recognised by successful applications for Community Heritage Grants from the National Library.
- The Society continues its membership of and participation in the Australian Academy of Sciences National Committee for Geographical Sciences, the closest that Australia comes to a 'peak body' for geography.
- A Society representative on the Australian Geography Competition Committee is a member of the International Geography Olympiad International Board and her work has been recognised by an award from the International Geographical Union.
- Through the Scientific Studies Committee, the Society has strengthened its bond with Binna Burra Lodge via two collaborative projects. Society posters have been displayed at Binna Burra Lodge in a bid to increase public awareness of Society activities and membership.
- Vice-President Iraphne Childs gave a well-received presentation on the Society at the Ashgrove-The Gap Rotary Club.

5. *Securing the future – To enable a robust future for the Society, by increasing income sustainability, using technology effectively, and enhancing staff capabilities. To support the Society's activities, through the effective use of good business practices and evolving technologies.*

- The Society has been successful in obtaining two grants to supplement other sources of income. A grant from the Queensland Government Gambling Community Benefit Fund was used to upgrade presentation facilities and lighting. A Community Heritage Grant Conservation and Collection Management Activities grant has been used to purchase two display cases and assist in preparing online access to the Society's collections.
- The Society has been able to increase its fees in the past year while maintaining a stable membership base.
- Data migration to the cloud has been completed with particular benefits during lockdowns, and a reduction of IT costs with the decommissioning of the server.
- The accounting system was transferred to Xero to integrate with the new data management system (a CRM) adopted for the Australian Geography Competition to reduce double handling of data.
- While advertising in the Bulletin is not utilised to its full potential, it has attracted advertisements from Binna Burra Lodge.
- The Geography Teachers' Association of Queensland has continued hiring space at the Society premises, and the Australian Geography Competition also pays for its use of space.
- Enhanced investment management has resulted in good returns, including through special dividends, and an expected receipt of \$53,400 in franking credits.

THE 2022-2023 YEAR AHEAD

There is much to progress over the coming twelve months, with the delivery of our 2023-2026 Strategic Plan the most immediate priority. The efforts of Council, volunteers and staff will be focussed on projects targeted to increase membership and reputation, while working to secure the Society's future, including:

- strengthening collaborative relationships to deliver projects and events
- increasing online accessibility of activities and content
- procuring grants and sponsorship for RGSQ projects
- preserving our collections and delivering the eHive web-based catalogue
- growing participation in the Australian Geography Competition
- implementing strategies to increase membership

On behalf of the Council,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J Tasker', written in a cursive style.

John Tasker
President
23 September 2022

APPENDIX: Event and Activities

2021-2022 RGSQ organised events and activities. Council meetings were held either on premises or zoom (or hybrid) each month except for January when there is no meeting.

JULY 2021

MON 26: Activity Christmas in July, Maleny. *Treks and Activities*

AUGUST 2021

TUE 3: Lecture Reimagining James Cook and Australian History. *Assoc Prof Martin Crotty*

TUE 17: Activity Milne Bay Memorial Library and Research Centre, Chermside. *Treks and Activities*

SEPTEMBER 2021

TUE 7: Forum Student Forum and Discussion Panel. *Young Geographers Group*

WED 8 – FRI 10: Activity Echoes of the past, Warwick area. *Treks and Activities*

TUE 14: Presentation Finding life on Europa? *Mr Keith Treschman. Map Group*

October 2021

TUE 5: Lecture Bushfire – an Intensifying Risk for Queensland. *Mr Lee Johnson*

THURS 7 – FRI 8: Activity Upper Brisbane Valley Road Trip. *Map Group*

WED 13: Activity Scenic Rim – Boonah and Mt French. *Treks and Activities*

TUE 19: Annual General Meeting

MON 25: Presentation The Marine Survey of Queensland's Coast Line 1860-1913. *Mr Bill Kitson. Map Group*

November 2021

TUE 2: Lecture Coastal wetlands provide opportunities for climate change mitigation and adaption. *Prof Catherine Lovelock*

WED 24: Activity Brisbane River Cultural Landscapes, Past and Future. *Treks and Activities*

December 2021

TUE 7: Activity End of Year Christmas Celebration

MON 6: Activity End of Year Show and Tell and Social. *Map Group*

FEBRUARY 2022

TUE 8: Lecture (Zoom only) Great Barrier Reef Regional Waterways Health Report Cards: what are they and how do they bring about change? *Dr Stephen Turton*

THURS 17: Activity Brisbane River Cultural Landscapes, Past and Future (repeat due to waitlist). *Treks and Activities*

MARCH 2022

TUE 1: Lecture **Linking the Binna Burra story to the 1885 origins of the RGSQ.** *Steve Noakes*

TUE 22: Presentation **Struve Geodetic Arc.** *Mr Keith Treschman. Map Group*

FRI 25: Activity **University of Queensland Museums.** *Treks and Activities*

SUN 27: Activity **University of Queensland Sculptures.** *Treks and Activities*

APRIL 2022

TUE 5: Lecture **The Realities of Rain in SE Queensland.** *Ms Michelle Bordignon*

WED 6: Presentation **Where's Wallace? Finding Lost Qld names.** *Ms Kerry Raymond. Map Group*

THURS 21: Presentation **Young Professionals Talk: Ethnogeography.** *Young Geographers Group*

WED 27: Activity **Caloundra Lighthouses and Military and Aviation Museums.** *Treks and Activities*

MAY 2022

TUE 3: Thomson Oration **China's Geologistics,** *Prof Peter Rimmer*

TUE 10: Presentation **Queensland Globe Tutorial,** *Ms Kerry Raymond. Map Group*

SAT 21: Activity **Brisbane City Council community tree planting, Annerley.** *Young Geographers Group*

TUE 24: Forum **Building a City on a Floodplain.** *Geography in Conversation*

JUNE 2022

TUE 7: Lecture **Big rocks moved by waves: storm and tsunami evidence on Pacific islands,** *Dr Annie Lau*

TUE 14: Activity **Cruise to Bremer River Junction.** *Treks and Activities*

THURS 23: Presentation **Portuguese Maritime explorers.** *Mr David James. Map Group*

TUE 28: Forum **Wetlands or Development.** *Geography in Conversation*