



The Royal Geographical Society of Queensland Inc

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2018 Council Report to Members

The Council is pleased to present its report for the Financial Year, 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2018.

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OVERVIEW

The twelve months to 30 June 2018 has been a full and active year with many challenges and achievements. The 2017 Annual Report identified for 2018:

- “Gregory House,” 237 Milton Road, Milton Qld 4064: As reported in the 2016-2017 Annual Report, an investigation into refurbishing or selling Gregory House was to be undertaken due to loss of income in the Ground Floor offices and drainage and water issues. In August 2017 the remaining tenant did not renew the lease when it expired. As a response, the Society’s Council established Gregory House Standing Committee to investigate the future of Gregory House. Soon after, the Society received a reasonable offer to purchase the 237 Milton Road premise and a sale of the property settled about 20 December 2017. Since it looked likely the Society would sell 237 Milton Road, the Standing Committee commenced looking for a new property; however, by 30 June 2018 the Society was still searching for a new property.
- The Society has addressed its online presence with the support of two members, Graham Rees and John Fairbairn and a new Society website was developed and launched in May 2018.
- Establishment of the Sunshine Coast Group has proved a great success and the Group has organised a program of lectures and activities over the last twelve months.

- The Ken Sutton Trust has been reinvigorated and a Committee was formed resulting in the award of the Ken Sutton prize of \$500 to Professor James Watson of the University of Queensland and the inaugural Memorial lecture to be presented by Professor Watson in October 2018. While the Trust is external to the Society, the Trust outlines the Trustees to be appointed by the Society.

RGSQ Academic Prizes

The Society provides Academic Prizes (\$500 bursary, an engraved medal, and twelve months membership to the Society) for high achieving university students majoring in geography. Three (3) institutions currently offer qualifying study programs:

- James Cook University – the 2017 awardee was Grace Marion Derrick,
- University of Queensland – the 2017 awardee was Katelyn Doyle,
- University of the Sunshine Coast – the 2017 awardee was Bethany Williams-Holthouse.

J. P. Thomson Address

Professor Patrick Nunn was presented with the 2018 J P Thomson Award and gave his oration entitled “Whose Dreaming? Ancient Stories as Memories Not Fiction” at the May Lecture on Tuesday 1 May.

Community Heritage Grant – National Significance Assessment

The Society completed its National Significance Assessment and the final report was submitted to and accepted by the National Library of Australia. This is a key report on the Society’s collection and provides the Society and public with an overview of the Society’s current collection.

MEMBERSHIP

The membership/member profile, by membership category as at 30 June 2018 compared to this time last year is shown in the following table. Over the last year five (5) Household bundle, 10 Ordinary, one (1) Educational, and 35 Student/Youth membership did not renew or resigned; however, overall the Society’s membership has increased.

Membership Category	To June 2017		To June 2018	
	Memberships	Members	Memberships	Members
Ordinary	107	107	116	116
Household Bundle	65	138	68	125
Educational	4	4	2	2
Student	39	39	56	56
Life	53	54	57	57
Honorary Life	3*	3	2*	2
Total	271*	345	301	358

Over the last twelve months it has been great to see the Society’s: Map, Archives, Library, Sunshine Coast and Young Geographers Groups establish themselves or expand their activities. The Archives and Library Groups have worked hard on revising and managing the Society’s collections’ while the other Groups have provided opportunities to the broader members to become involved with activities of geographical interest. Further details on these groups can be found later in this report.

I would like to thank Society members Neil Simson for accepting the role of Honorary Planner, and Paul Trotter the role of Honorary Architect.

At the Society's 2017 Christmas Party, it was an honour to recognize Dal and Wendy Anderson's long contribution to the Society. Dal served over 30 years on the RGSQ Council, including in the roles of President, Vice-President and Treasurer, during which time he made many contributions to various committees and activities. He was continually supported by Wendy.

I would like to note the recognition of Society Member Sydney Lorrimar Kirkby MBE in the 2018 Queen's Birthday Honour Awards as "Officer in the General Division (AO)" for his distinguished service to surveying, particularly in the Antarctic, to polar exploration, research and mapping expeditions, and to professional scientific societies.

Finally, with regards membership, it is with sadness that we note the death of the following members:

- Andrew Nommensen
- Rob Simson
- Norman Traves
- John Walker

MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION

In the 2017-2018 Financial Year the formation of RGSQ Traveller, the Australian Geography Competition, the review and sale of Gregory House, and the development of the Society's new website have been the Society's major projects supported by the Society's staff: Executive Officer, Bernard Fitzpatrick; Business Manager, Lilia Darii; and Administration Assistant, Rosie Catt.

FINANCIAL RESULTS AND POSITION

The Society had a reported overall surplus of \$1,114,167 for the year to 30 June 2018, but that is including the profit we made on selling Gregory House over the value carried in the books. The real operating surplus, after taking out extraordinary items, was \$14,801 compared to a deficit of \$12,019 in the previous year.

This is all better explained on Page 3 of the published accounts as attached, and see following:

	Note	2018 \$	2017 \$
Australian Competition Income	2	330,024	317,135
Other Income	2	317,028	280,498
Distribution of profit to AGTA		(10,609)	(6,043)
Exploration and research		(323)	(17,755)
Employees benefit expense		(194,780)	(183,267)
Depreciation expense		(9,323)	(14,076)
Competition expense		(308,808)	(305,048)
Administrative expense		(108,408)	(83,463)
Profit / (Loss) from ordinary items		14,801	(12,019)
Extraordinary items:			
Gain on disposal of Gregory House		1,123,205	-
Agent's fee – disposal of Gregory House		(45,000)	-
Reversal of building maintenance provision	10	32,513	-
(Decrease)/Increase in market value of investments		(11,352)	90,862
Realised gain/(loss) on investments		-	8,742
Profit for the year		1,114,167	87,585

Figure 1: Income and Expenditure Statement for Year Ended 30 June 2018.

Gregory House was sold in December 2017 and the proceeds of \$1.75m were put into a term deposit to be used for the purchase of another property and any refurbishments. Meanwhile The society leased the office space back at \$5000 per month pending a move to new premises.

RGSQ. The Society had a small surplus of \$7,328 for the year. We benefitted from very solid commissions from RGSQ Traveller and also increased interest due to the new term deposit. This was offset by the loss of rent from our tenants. Most costs were in line with the previous year.

AGC. AGC had a surplus of \$21,217 for the year of which half is attributable to RGSQ. Entry fees were up by about \$6,000 (or 2.3%) partly due to better publicity and follow up with the schools, and sponsorship was also up by \$6000. Costs were actually down from the previous year with a timing difference of about \$11,000 printing and design costs not being incurred until after 30th June.

Investments. No change during the year. A loss of \$11,352 was incurred due to market movements.

Balance Sheet. The Society continues to carefully maintain and manage its assets. Underlying cash balances increased by \$19,000 during the year. In addition, the term deposit was \$1,762,453 at the end of June. Cash varies throughout the year depending on receipt of AGC income and subsequent costs and also the cash flows from RGSQ Traveller.

Williams Hall Chadwick, the Society's auditors, has provided an unqualified audit report as attached to the accounts.

COMMITTEES, SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS, TRUSTS

Committees

Australian Geography Competition Committee (AGCC)

Members: M McIvor (Chair, RGSQ), *vacant* (RGSQ), A-M Gerlach (AGTA), J Clothier (AGTA), K Berg (Independent, RGSQ), B Fitzpatrick and L Darii (non-voting).

The AGC, is a joint initiative of the Society (which operates and manages the Competition) and the Australian Geography Teachers' Association (AGTA). The AGC continues to promote the study of geography and is a heavy commitment of Society resources which is covered from the Competition's income.

In 2018, the Competition was run in schools from Thursday 17 May to Thursday 31 May with 782 schools participating with over 72,000 entries.

Member's assistance was again fundamental to the running of the Competition, especially with mailouts of Competition materials and the scanning of the returned answer sheets.

Geography's Big Week Out

The 2017 Geography's Big Week Out was held on Kangaroo Island in October 2017. This is a field geography experience for 16 high performing Year 11 students who competed in the School Round of the AGC: one female and one male from each State and Combined Territories, and the next nationally high performing female and male students. Society and AGC Committee members Margaret McIvor and Kath Berg were actively involved in the week's activities, as were Geography Teachers Liam Sloan (coordinator), James Holden, and Roos-Freeman from the Geography Teachers' Association of South Australia (GTASA).

Liam, supported by the Geography Teachers' Association of South Australia (GTASA), will be the coordinator of the 2018 GBWOs to be held on Kangaroo Island, South Australia. The hosting of the GBWO is rotated between State Geography Teachers' Associations every two years and is one of the Australian Geography Teachers' Association's contributions to the overall Australian Geography Competition. Participation in the GBWO is a major prize for students sitting the competition.

The students who participated in the 2017 GBWO were:

<u>State</u>	<u>Student</u>	<u>Her/His School</u>
Combined Territories	Hannah Coppell	Radford College
	Vishaal Varma	Canberra Grammar School
NSW	Jake Aghajani	Epping Boys' High School
	James Burns	Knox Grammar School
	Kate Edwards	Merewether High School
	Sophie Ohlin	Sydney Girls High School
QLD	Anton Immaraj	Brisbane State High School
	Arabeth Ireland	Loreto College
SA	Hannah Wright	Walford Anglican School for Girls
	Harry Hall	Trinity College - Gawler
TAS	Bethany Becker	Marist Regional College Burnie
	Mitchell Scott	Marist Regional College Burnie
VIC	Gareth Cassidy	Mazenod College
	Zeynep March	Ruyton Girls' School/Trinity Grammar School
WA	Mackenzie Tulip	Perth Modern School
	Phoebe Blaxill	St Mary's Anglican Girls' School

International Geography Olympiad

Four (4) students, selected from among the 2017 Geography's Bid Week Out participants will represent Australia at the 15th International Olympiad held in Quebec City, Canada in August 2018. Competing against 43 countries, the Australian Team members are:

Sophie Ohlin from Sydney Girls High, NSW
 Harry Hall from Trinity College (Gawler), SA
 Hannah Wright from Walford Anglican School for Girls, SA
 Phoebe Blaxill from St Mary's Anglican Girls' School, Karrinyup, WA

Kath Berg (AGC Committee member and RGSQ member) and Liam Sloan (GTASA and Coordinator of the 2017 and 2018 GBWOs) as Australian Team leaders will accompany students to the Olympiad.

Building Committee

Members: Nowill (Chair), P Broad, D Anderson, T Hillier

The activity of this Committee was limited as the Gregory House Standing Committee investigated the refurbishment or sale of "Gregory House," 237 Milton Road, Milton.

Collections Committee

Members: P Griggs (Chair), B Abnett, Peter Lloyd, P Nunan, J Graham and J Fairbairn

During this year, the Council established the Collection Committee to oversee the Society's collection and provide advice to the Archives, Map Collection, and Library Groups. The Committee has since drafted a Society's Collection Policy.

Finance Committee

Members: C Spriggs (Chair), J Nowill, P Griggs, I Childs, L Darii, B Fitzpatrick (advisory).

The Finance Committee provides financial advice to the Society's Treasurer and Council and met once during the year.

Gregory House Standing Committee

Members: B Abnett (Chair), P Broad, C Spriggs (as required), B Fitzpatrick (advisory).

The following is a Report of the Standing Committee on Gregory House over the past 12 months from September 2017 to August 2018.

Sale of Gregory House, 237 Milton Road, Milton: This occurred over the last few months of 2017, and the building was sold to the neighbouring medical supplies business operated by John Mills. The sale was achieved in December 2017, with a sale price of \$1.8m minus the Real Estate Agent's sale fee of \$50,000. John Mills then leased back to RGSQ the first-floor office space for \$5,000 per month for a period of 12 months from the end of December 2017 to the end of December 2018, whilst RGSQ searched for a replacement premises.

Search for a Replacement Premises: The Committee looked at 27 buildings and premises across Metropolitan Brisbane starting in 2017 and going well into 2018. Free standing buildings proved to be too expensive for the Society and would have still required modifications. Smaller Strata Titled premises within an office type building were found to provide enough space for RGSQ office uses, library, storage and a range of member activities in a large and smaller meeting rooms, once alterations were undertaken. Price was once again a determinant of what RGSQ could afford, within the sale price of the Milton building.

Final Choice of Premises: A Strata Titled Office of 316m² floor area was finally chosen at 28 Fortescue Street, Spring Hill, at a sale price of \$1.35m, leaving enough funds for alterations, removal costs and various legal and other fees associated with the purchase of premises. The premises are within walking distance of public transport (trains and buses), and there is minimal on-site parking of 4 car spaces, with on-street parking and parking station car parks available for evening lectures.

The Contract of Sale process was completed during the second half of August 2018 with Settlement on August 30th. This now enables the Staff and the Library, plus Storage, to be moved into the premises by the end of September 2018, saving 3 months of rent at Milton. Member activities are not likely to occur within the premises until alterations are completed later in 2018.

Honours Committee

Members: P Griggs (Chair), J Holmes, L Isdale, L Scanlan, D Wadley, D Cook

The Honours Committee met in the first half of the year and provided recommendations to the Society's Council on their choice of the J P Thomson awardee, Prof Patrick Nunn as well as assessed other Honours related matters referred to it by the Council.

Incorporation Temporary Committee

Members: L Darii (Co-Ordinator), R Grimley, C Spriggs

During the past year, the focus of the Incorporation Committee centred on developing a new Constitution and By-laws suitable for a conversion from Letters Patent - the structure under which the Society has operated since its inception. Legal advice sought suggested that a Company Limited by Guarantee (CLG) is a better structure for a not-for-profit of the size of RGSQ and its broad range of activities. It is the structure preferred by the RGSQ Council.

To meet selected requirements of the Corporations Act, the model constitution for CLGs published by the Australian Charities and Not for Profit Commission (ACNC) has been used as the core document in drafting a new RGSQ Constitution. This and accompanying By-laws have been reviewed for legal compliance and confirmed as suitable for a public Company Limited by

Guarantee, which is also registered as a charity with the ACNC.

An information session, attended by about 30 members, to discuss and obtain members' views on the proposed new Constitution and By-laws was held prior to the July lecture, with an explanatory note, outlining the major changes in the new Constitution, pre-circulated for member's perusal. The Committee has taken on board comments from several members and the proposed new Constitution and By-laws have been amended where required.

Converting the Society's basis of incorporation to a CLG requires several matters to be approved by members via special resolutions and it was intended to progress these at this AGM. However, due to the unavailability of Committee members and to give the matter the required attention and due diligence, it was decided to postpone the process until February 2019, once we have settled into our new premises. Members will be informed via the Bulletin and direct emails about the progress in this regard.

Website Temporary Committee

Members: G Rees (Coordinator), J Fairbairn, I Francis, L Darii, B Fitzpatrick

This Temporary Committee was formed to develop and implement the Society's new website which was launched in May 2018. An initial investigation and evaluation were undertaken by G Rees and J Fairbairn who provided advice and recommendations to the RGSQ staff and Council. The online membership management software, Wild Apricot which provides the ability to build a website around its membership management capabilities was used to implement the Society's website.

RGSQ Traveller Committee

Members: L Scanlan (Chair), I Childs, L Darii, S Scanlan, L Law

Our business name 'RGSQ Traveller' was registered as a business on 5th August 2017. Since the creation of RGSQ TRAVELLER there does seem to be a good deal of misunderstanding and confusion amongst our members on where RGSQ Traveller fits in the overall committee structure and the various activities under the RGSQ banner. I would like to dispel this confusion by explaining what has happened so far.

The Royal Geographical Society of Queensland is the parent body of RGSQ Traveller. RGSQ Traveller is the registered name of RGSQ's travel business and has been created with the prime purpose of earning commissions to support the many other aspects of RGSQ's activities in the promotion of geographical research and providing geographical experiences both here in Australia and overseas for the benefit of our members and the general public. We have also designed our own RGSQ Traveller business logo which is now in the process of being registered and will appear on any future correspondence and travel clothing attire. So far, RGSQ Traveller has been involved in two overseas excursions, Papua New Guinea towards the end of 2017 and An Eye on Southern Africa in April/May 2018.

The Royal Geographical Society of Queensland has been organising overseas treks since 1993 so we are following a tried and true formula that has so far produced some modest returns. Hopefully, as time unfolds, we will add a number of different destinations to our portfolio of treks and our program of geography on the ground will build our brand and encourage more people to travel with RGSQ Traveller. Over a considerable period of time we have established a working relationship with Jenman Safaris in Southern Africa and have built on this during this year's safari to Southern Africa. A similar relationship, while quite new, has been created with Coral Expeditions when our members travelled to Papua New Guinea in the latter part of 2017.

We have successfully negotiated insurance contracts for our products and working staff, created working relationships with domestic and overseas wholesalers, designed and developed a list of duty of care responsibilities and provided and tested from Southern Africa our Satphone communications system to name a few of the business-related responsibilities that we have

already put into place. Our business construction has been both thorough and thoughtful and our travel business should continue to grow as we design further RGSQ Traveller Treks in the future.

Treks and Activities Committee (TAAC)

Members: vacant (Chair), M Comer, R Gardner, A Johnston, P Lambert, J Lamont, W Mackenzie, C Spriggs

Date	Description	Co-Ordinator
2017		
July 26	Rocks and Coals of the Ipswich Basin	Graham Rees
August 3	Gold Coast Waterways- Sustain and Enhance	Jeanette Lamont
August 23-28	4WD Trek to Fraser Island – 5nights/6days Guided by Mike West	Wayne Mackenzie
September 6	Visit to Brisbane Tramway Museum	Kay Rees
September 21	Totems and a Temple	Audrey Johnston
October 26	Southern Moreton Bay Islands	John Mc Watters/Ross Gardner
November 14	Morning Tea Coast to Coast across England A presentation of Wainwright's Classic 304 km walk across England	Ron Owen
December 5	Christmas celebration RGSQ Auditorium	
2018		
February 6	Welcome to 2018	Kay Rees
March 22	Tea with Sugar Madura Tea Estate and Robert Quirk's Sugar cane farm- Northern NSW	Jeanette Lamont
April 17	Mooloolah River Landcare Nursery Sunshine Coast	Wendy Davis
April 24	Osprey House Environmental Centre	Audrey Johnston
May 30	Beenleigh Rum Distillery and Poppy's Chocolate Factory	Wayne Mackenzie
June 22	North Stradbroke Island - cancelled	

Special Interest Groups

Archives Group

Coordinator: P Griggs

The Archive Group has consistently worked nearly every Monday to assess and sort the Society's records into a better organized collection which will make these documents more accessible to both members and the public. The work has also included the Society's image collection. As a result of the Group's work, additional materials of significance have been discovered.

Ken Sutton Memorial Library Group

Coordinator: J. Graham

With the recent death of Rob Simson, the former convener of the Society's Library Special Interest Group, numbers have been reduced to one member, the current convener Jim Graham. This SIG needs to be rejuvenated and an appeal made to members who may be able

to assist. There is plenty of work to be done.

Over the past 18 months the Library Group has assessed the Society's collection of books, audio-visuals and journals and written several reports for council. In addition, the convener has taken on the task of accessioning newly received journal issues and cataloguing donated books. A start has also been made on the large project of fully cataloguing books in the stack area onto the society's DBtextworks system.

The primary aim of this SIG currently is to produce a full catalogue of the Library's book collection on the Society's DBtextworks single user system. With this task complete we can investigate the possibility of loading a file from our system onto the National Library of Australia's Trove system and so make the Library's resources accessible to Society members and the wider public.

Map Group

Coordinators: B Abnett and Ian Francis

The Map Group has gone from strength to strength and has very active participants, with a full monthly calendar for 2018. Due to the sale of the 237 Milton Road property, the Map Group thanks Kathryn and David Carstens for hosting the Map Groups meeting at their home during 2018.

Date	Description	Co-ordinator / Presenter
2017		
July 19	Visit to Army Museum, Victoria Barracks	Bob Abnett
August 7	Presentation - Using Drones for Mapping & Understanding Every Day Use and Safety of Drones	Mark Hickey
September 20	Map Members - Show and Tell	
October 9	Thematic Mapping – 50 Years Ago	Peter Lloyd
November 20 – 24	Map Group Canberra Trip:	Bob Abnett
December 4	Map Group END OF YEAR SOCIAL	
2018		
February 5	Presentation - Aeronautical Charts	Bob Abnett, James Hansen and Ian Francis
March 20	Visit - Brisbane City Council Archives	Bob Abnett
April 2	Presentation - The Jardines and Exploring Cape York	Grahame L. Jardine-Vigden
May 16	Visit - Queensland Maritime Museum	Ian Francis
June 4	Presentation - Mapping Brisbane History	Neville Buch

Sunshine Coast Group

Coordinator: J Carter

This year was the second year of the Sunshine Coast group's activities. Professor Greg Hill opened the year with his public lecture on "Geography and its relevance to leadership in a regional university – the USC experience" in February. The University of the Sunshine Coast co-hosts the public lectures and provides the lecture theatre, lecture recording, advertising, and a table and hot water urn for supper. Mr Ken Granger gave a public lecture in June on "Balloons to Blackbird: a short history of photo intelligence". Mr Ian Stehbens is scheduled to present on

“Transforming conflict: a geographer making a difference in war zones” in September and Professor James Watson will give the 2nd Sutton lecture in November. Public lectures are well attended, ranging from approximately 40-100 participants, averaging around 60-70. A field trip to Mooloolah River Landcare Nursery at Glenview was held in April, and attended by fourteen members, coordinated by Wendy Davis. Another field trip to the Upper Yabba Catchment, specifically Yabba Falls and Kingaham Gorge (including Ochre Falls, Tumbled Valley, Broken Femur Falls) is scheduled for September with several expressions of interest. Ian Stehbens is the field trip coordinator. A schedule of activities for 2019 is currently in preparation.

Young Geographers Group

Coordinators: G Pickering and J Tasker

Over the past six months of 2018, the RGSQ Young Geographers (YGs) group has grown from an idea to reality. Using social media and university connections, the group is successfully attracting student members to RGSQ and is helping to provide a social forum for geography students and young professionals to meet. Social media platforms, including Facebook, have been critical for growing the group, advertising activities and spreading geography related news and developments. Key YGs activities in 2018 have included a welcome BBQ at Roma Street Parklands and a board games night. Members of the YGs group have also started to attend broader RGSQ activities, including the lecture series and recent trip exploring the upper Yabba catchment. The profile of the YGs group is continuing to increase, with keynote presentations by YGs members at the 2018 Geography Teacher’s Association of Queensland Conference receiving very positive feedback and resulting in several requests for presentations and collaborations with high-school geography classes across the state. Looking into 2019, there is significant potential for growth within the Young Geographers group and the potential for collaboration and exploration across Queensland.

Trusts

Ken Sutton Trust

Trustees: I Childs (Chair), M McIvor, Jamie Shulmeister

Under the Ken Sutton Trust, members of the Royal Geographical Society of Queensland are Trustees.

The Ken Sutton Trust, established via a bequest from the Ken Sutton estate in 1988, provides a platform for the best Geographical or Geographical Education work in Australia to be promoted through an endowed lecture mini-series and publication. The prize is awarded for the most exciting new research in a geographical field or geographical education undertaken by an Australian geographer.

Ken Sutton B.Ed., F.R.G.S., F.R.F.S.A., M.A.C.E. was prominent in geographical education in Queensland and Australia. A geography teacher for many years, he was a founder of the Geography Teachers Association of Queensland and served as its President from 1972 to 1974. He was also founder of the Australian Geography Teachers Association of which he was President from 1974 to 1976. From 1983 to 1985 Ken Sutton was President of the Royal Geographical Society of Australasia (Queensland) Inc.

The Trust serves as an everlasting legacy of Ken Sutton’s work in geographical education.

STRATEGIC PLAN

The Society; Council, staff and members have worked together addressing the five strategic objectives of the Society’s Strategic Plan. The Society broadly contributed to our five 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 day activities; short and long treks within Australia and overseas; lectures; scientific expeditions; and, opportunities to be involved with activities that support the promotion of geography.

Over the last twelve months the Society has continued to provide a full program of lectures and activities in Brisbane and these have been expanded through the efforts of Sunshine Coast Group with lectures held at the University of the Sunshine Coast.

Services and opportunities have been introduced and/or consolidated for members which have included: the annual Map Group program; and the Archives and Library Groups have continued to provide opportunities for member participation.

The formation and active Young Geographers Group have helped to engage the Society with younger geographers through several activities.

Enhancement of the content and presentation improvements of the Society's monthly newsletter, the "Bulletin" have been achieved during 2018.

The increase in the number of schools and students entered in the 2018 Australian Geography Competition have also helped to address this strategic objective.

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.*

The efforts of the Sunshine Coast and Young Geographers Groups have helped widen the Society's membership base and provided opportunities for a wider membership.

The increased use of Facebook has helped to expand awareness of the Society, particularly the Society's lecture program both in Brisbane and on the Sunshine Coast. Along with the implementation of new RGSQ website, it is envisaged that greater communication between members will result.

3. ***Knowledge and understanding*** – *To promote geographical understanding amongst the Society's members and the wider community, to advance geographical knowledge.*

The activities as reported in the above two objectives have progressed this objective; however, it is accepted that more work could be done in the coming twelve months to address this objective.

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.*

Involvement in

Queensland Science Network - The Society has collaborated with other like-minded science based organisations facilitated by the Royal Society of Queensland which resulted in the formation of the Queensland Science Network which has developed a website to improve communication between member groups and provide an interface to the public.

Student Volunteers. An initiative of the President, Dr Iraphne Childs in 2018 was to engage in closer relationships with University of Queensland through with School of Earth and Environmental Sciences to provide voluntarily opportunities for students to work on Society projects. Commencing in January 2018, this has been a great success with students undertaking tasks related to the Society's Collection while supervised by the

Executive Officer. These students have also helped with aspects of the Australian Geography Competition.

National Committee for Geographical Sciences the Society continued its participation in this national Committee which assist to increase the Society's profile within the wider geographical sciences community.

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.*

Sale of property at 237 Milton Road, MILTON is a positive move to help the financial sustainability of the Society.

The Society's progress in implementing the use of technology was achieved by the development and implementation of the Society's new website and ongoing improvements in data management and analysis for Australian Geography Competition.

2019-YEAR AHEAD

The coming year is again envisaged to be a busy year with the following being addressed:

- A new home for RGSQ - When it finally moves, there will be a focus on ensuring that the Society's new premises will provide new opportunities for the Society to engage with its members and the public. It is envisaged that there will be an official opening of a new property in the first quarter of 2019.
- A new structure and constitution are envisaged to be finalised and accepted by Society members in the coming Financial Year.
- Review and documentation of TAAC procedures was commenced this year and will continue in the 2018-2019 year.
- With the new website, the Society has opportunities through this new capacity with will allow the Society to engage with members and the wider community.
- The Ken Sutton Trust will be presented at the University of Queensland in October 2018.

On behalf of the Council,



Dr Iraphne Childs,

President

10 September 2018