



2017 Council Report to Members

The Council is pleased to present its report for the 2016/17 year.

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OVERVIEW

The twelve months to 30 June 2017 have been a full and active year with many challenges and achievements. The 2016 Annual Report identified for 2017 the continued focus on the Australian Geography Competition and the program of activities for members (day activities, lectures, treks and activities) with major activities expected on outcomes from the Membership Survey and the review of the Strategic Plan. However, the latter was not to be the case due to other influences which are further addressed later in this report, which included:

- Receipt of funding for undertaking of a National Significance Assessment of the Society's collection (i.e. book and periodical library, maps library, glass slides and other items).
- A significant loss of income due to the Society's inability to attract tenants to the vacant ground floor office, and indications the existing tenant would be unlikely to renew their lease after August 2017.
- Drainage and water issues of the Society's building during heavy rainfall events.
- The development of RGSQ Travel as a means for raising funds for Society activities.
- A review of the Society's current incorporation and alternative structures.
- A review and re-organisation of the Ken Sutton Trust.

These were, in addition to the regular matters that Council, Society staff and members undertake each year, which together with further assistance of Society members resulted in some important achievements including:

- An increase in Society membership numbers.
- The commencement of regional lectures held on the Sunshine Coast.
- Identification of nationally significant items within the Society's collection.
- The consolidation of the Map and Library Special Interest Groups (SIGs) including the establishment of an Archives Group.
- The development of an annual program by the Map SIG.
- The completion of the Pungalina Scientific Study report.
- Continued improvement in the Society's monthly newsletter, the "Bulletin".
- The inclusion of an additional monthly lecture in September at the same time as shifting the date of the Society's Annual General Meeting (AGM) to mid-September with a short lecture/presentation immediately before the AGM was successfully trialed in 2016, and will be continued in 2017.

The Society's year 2017 calendar year began with the Treks and Activities Committee (TAAC) organising a successful "Welcome to 2017" evening on Friday 17th February 2017. This social evening provided a review of the 2016 calendar year, and an introduction to the Society's 2017 activities. The evening included displays from the Society's Map and Library Groups and was attended by 41 members and guests. The TAAC proposed, and it was accepted by the Society's Council that the first Tuesday in February, usually the Society's first lecture of the year will in future be a social evening welcoming members and guests to the Society's calendar year.

The TAAC must be congratulated for again organising and running ten activities over the year, as well as co-organisation with Map Group of a successful two-day mapping workshop. Commencing the 2016-2017 year, thirty-three members braved the cold and enjoyed four days in Warwick over the weekend 23 and 24 July during the "Jumpers and Jazz" festival. TAAC also experimented with successfully rerunning past treks such as the Robotic Dairy and LARC at Caloundra which were well attended. Again, this year, a day activity at Spicers Gap was organised and run by society members who were not members of the TAAC under the guidance of TAAC. This approach is seen as a development to assist TAAC in continuing to provide a great program of services for members.

Eleven meeting/lectures commencing at 7:30pm on the first Tuesday of each month, February to November were held during the 2016-2017 year. These included the annual J.P. Thomson Address, and an additional ANZAC Day lecture presented by Associate Professor Martin Crotty. Attendance at each of the meeting/lectures attracted between 37 and 64 attendees (members and guests), with seven lectures having 51 or more members and guests in attendance. Mary Comer continued to coordinate members providing supper for these evenings which contributes to their success.

The reduced rental income from the ground floor offices over the last 18 months have presented the Society with some financial challenges, and this will be the case in the coming year. Given the state of the offices, and the current commercial lease market in Brisbane, and Milton

specifically, the income from these offices over the short-term is likely to be nil. This presents the Society with some challenges going forward, and highlights the need for the Society to explore new sources of funding to support its objectives.

MEMBERSHIP

Of the 225 memberships at June 2016 (around 297 individual members, reflecting multiple members included in Household memberships), 17 memberships either formally resigned or did not renew. However, the past year has seen a positive increase in membership with 61 new memberships (6 household, 17 ordinary, and 38 student) to 30 June 2017 which resulted in an increase in membership to 271 memberships and 345 members. The membership/member profile, by membership category as at 30 June 2017 compared to this time last year is as follows:

Membership Category	To June 2016		To June 2017	
	Memberships	Members	Memberships	Members
Ordinary	99	99	107	107
Household	65	136	65	138
Educational	4	4	4	4
Student	3	3	39	39
Life	53	54	53	54
Honorary Life	1	1	3*	3
Total	225	297	271*	345

* In reviewing the Society's records entry anomalies in the data base masked two Honorary Life Memberships which were not recorded in the 2016 Annual Report.

As reflected in responses to an 'Exit survey' last year, members formally resigning in 2017 advised that age, health issues, and/or inability to participate in Society activities, were the dominant factors in their decision not to renew Society membership in 2017.

The increase in membership numbers between 2016 and 2017 is welcomed, and it is believed with the increase in Society activities that an increase in members number and involvement will be seen over the coming years. By far, the largest increase in membership numbers has been in student membership, and it was great to see student members attend several lectures during 2017. However, to expand and maintain this younger membership, the Society must explore and develop programs that provide opportunities for the students to engage in activities. Student input and advice is most welcomed to assist the Society address student member expectations.

The member survey was undertaken in the second half of the 2106 Calendar Year (see Appendix A for a summary of responses). The survey results provided valuable member input to the Council's 2017 deliberations. However, the intended face-to-face member meetings to follow up the member survey did not eventuate during 2017 due to other pressing issues outlined in this report.

Finally, with regards membership, it is with sadness that we note the death of member, Maureen Meier who passed away on the 18th May 2017. Maureen was a regular and willing volunteer, helping with the mailing of the monthly Bulletin and other tasks around the office from time to time, and tasks associated with the Australian Geography Competition.

GEOGRAPHY PROMOTION

Australian Geography Competition (AGC)

The AGC, now in its 23rd year, is a joint initiative of the Society (which operates and manages the Competition) and the Australian Geography Teachers' Association (AGTA). The importance

of the AGC, both in terms of its contribution to promoting the study of geography, and the heavy commitment of Society resources applied to its conduct, will be well recognised by members.

In 2017, the timing of the competition remained in the second school term to accommodate differences in school holiday periods around Australia, and changes to Australia Post's delivery services. The Competition again attracted school and student support with an encouraging increase in student entries to 70,679 (67,000 in 2016) across 742 (670 schools in 2016) from all states and territories, and three international schools. 2017 Competition winners will be announced in mid-September.

Following changes to the Competition in the previous year, little changed in relation to the format of the Competition in 2017; however, there was substantial work undertaken in relation to information processing and, procedural and administrative changes undertaken by the RGSQ staff behind the scenes. These included:

- The introduction and development of the use of MailChimp (a digital email and marketing platform) to more easily and frequently communicate with schools and teachers.
- A review, modification and implementation of modified packing and dispatch processing of Competition materials to adapt to Australia Post's new (and at the times, evolving) pricing and delivery products.
- Changes in procedures to the processing of the Competition returned answer sheets.
- Extensive data checking and cleansing of the Competition's database in preparation to migrate to a new system.

Member volunteer assistance was again fundamental to the smooth running of the Competition.

Geography's Big Week Out

The 2016 Geography's Big Week Out - an infield geography experience for 16 high performing Year 11 students –was held on North Stradbroke Island in December 2016. Society and AGC Committee members Margaret Mclvor and Kath Berg were actively involved in the week's activities, as were retired Geography Teacher Melva Hobson, Anne-Marie Gerlach from the Geography Teachers' Association of Queensland (GTAQ) and Liam Sloan representing the Geography Teachers' Association of South Australia (GTASA).

The students who participated in the 2016 GBWO were:

Christian Flynn, Canberra Grammar, ACT
Claire Yung, Narrabundah College, ACT
Claudia Duffy, Narrabeen Sports High, NSW
George Wolfe, Sydney Grammar School, NSW
Dharmesh Sharma, Sydney Boys High School, NSW
Maddison Mckittrick, Wauchope High, NSW
Eliza Spriggs, Scots PGC College, Warwick, QLD
Jacob Stiles, Scots PGC College, Warwick, QLD
Joyce Fang, Pembroke School, SA
Isaac Tennant, St Peter's College, Adelaide, SA
Sofia Weerts, Hobart College, TAS
Callum Somerville, Marist Regional College, Burnie, TAS
Mitchell Helm, McKinnon Secondary College, VIC
Madeleine Lezon, Kilmore International School, VIC
Teale Lyon, St Mary's Anglican Girls School, WA
Jake Tepass, Eastern Hills Senior High School, WA

Liam, supported by the Geography Teachers' Association of South Australia (GTASA), will be the coordinator of the 2017 and 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,

International Geography Olympiad

Four (4) students, selected from amongst the 2016 Geography's Bid Week Out participants will represent Australia at the 14th International Olympiad held in Belgrade, Serbia in August 2017. Competing against 40 countries, the Australian Team members are:

- Christian Flynn, Canberra Grammar School, Australian Capital Territory
- Madeleine Lezon, The Kilmore International School, Victoria
- Teale Lyon, St Mary's Anglican Girls School, Western Australia
- Isaac Tennant, St Peter's College, Adelaide, South Australia

Margaret McIvor (Chair of the AGC Committee, and RGSQ Councilor), and Kath Berg (AGC Committee member and RGSQ member) as Australian Team leaders will accompany students to the Olympiad.

Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) - RGSQ and AGTA

Formal arrangements between the Society, and AGTA governing the AGC were documented and agreed between the parties last year. Schedules A (Terms of Reference for the AGC Committee) and B (Roles and Responsibilities of the AGC Coordinator) of the MoU were finalised at that time. However, Schedules C (Geography's Big Week Out Agreement) and D (International Geography Olympiad Australian Team Leader Agreement) are in the process of finalisation. The MoU will be reviewed in the fifth year of operation, 2020.

Other Educational Support

The Society provides Academic Prizes (\$500 bursary and an engraved medal) for high achieving university students majoring in geography. Three (3) institutions currently offer qualifying study programs - James Cook University (no prize presented in 2016), University of Queensland (2016 awardee John Tasker) and the University of the Sunshine Coast (2016 awardee Peter Sanson).

J. P. Thomson Address

At the May lecture, Dr Steve Turton was awarded the J.P. Thomson Medal. and presented his Thomson Address "Revisiting the multifunctional transition in Australia's Wet Tropics: the climate change crisis."

Community Heritage Grant - National Significance Assessment

The Society was awarded a grant to engage consultants to assess the national significance of our collection (i.e. book and periodical library, maps library, glass slides and other items) under the Community Heritage Grants program which is funded by the Australian Government through the National Library of Australia. Consultants, Dr Judith McKay, and Mr. Bill Kitson were engaged to assess the Society's collection. However, before this could commence, Society members of both the Map and Library SIGs undertook substantial work in listing and identifying items within the Society's collection which may have been of national significance. During this project, a few unexpected rediscoveries of items were made which highlighted the need for the Society to review its cataloging and provenance recording procedures and systems.

One tangible and important output of the project, is the consultants' positive report on the

assessment of the Society's collection. This report is will be reviewed with the view of the Society applying for further grants to support the management and preservation of the Society's collection.

Special Interest Groups

The two Special Interest Groups – Mapping and Library formed in the previous year, continued to define and consolidate their activities. As members would have observed in the 2017 Program and via the Bulletin, the Map Group has established an annual program of meetings and activities. The Group's membership now consists of over 20 members.

Attending Gregory House on various days, but mostly Mondays, the Library Group have established their valuable work program for the Society's Ken Sutton Memorial Library. They have undertaken the evaluation the Society's Journal and book holdings, including the overview of the conversion of AV materials to DVD with assistance from Margaret Keates; and, accessioning and cataloging of a backlog of books that have been sourced and/or donated over recent years.

Starting in early 2017, an Archives Group was formed. This Group have been meeting regularly on Mondays with a view to creating a proper Society archives that will integrate with the day to day record keeping activities of the office staff and accommodate donations of photographs, objects and memorabilia from society members or members of the public.

The three Groups provided valuable input and assistance with the work contributing to the National Significance Assessment previously reported.

Scientific Studies

During the year, it was pleasing to see the digital publication of the Pungalina Studies Expedition Report. Society Council Member. Margie Keates spent many hours following up paper reviewers and authors' edits, diagrams and figures; and liaising with the publisher to complete this task.

RGSQ Regional Lectures, Sunshine Coast

Sunshine Coast RGSQ member, Dr Jennifer Carter, with assistance from RGSQ staff has organised three lectures for 2017 presented at the University of the Sunshine Coast. The first two lectures held in February and July 2017 were great successes, and have encouraged Jennifer to propose the establishment of an RGSQ Regional Chapter on the Sunshine Coast.

MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION

The Australian Geography Competition continues to be the Society's major project; however, over the last twelve months staff resources with assistance of members were allocated to other important management and administration tasks which have included:

- Review and investigation of the Society's incorporation, governance, and structure with work progressing on a proposed Society restructuring and registration as a Company by Limited Guarantee.
- A review of the office rental market due to the failure to secure ongoing leasing of the RGSQ ground floor offices. The finding that there was limited prospect to secure lessees in the current market resulted in a review of the Society's building being undertaken.
- Investigation of a verbal offer to purchase Gregory House as well as options to refurbish the building. A likely decision is to be made in the early part of the coming twelve months.

- Investigation and establishment of RGSQ Travel as a means of raising funds to support Society's activities has been pursued.

Over the last twelve months, Society staff levels (remunerated resources) as in the previous year were maintained: Executive Officer (Bernard Fitzpatrick-full time); Lilia Darii (Business Manager-65%); and Gail Orr (Administration Assistant – 50%). However, Gail Orr resigned at the end of May 2017.

The anticipated increased use of the Gregory House Auditorium was not realised over the last twelve months; however, security issues related to the separation of the auditorium and the Society's office contributed to this.

FINANCIAL RESULTS AND POSITION

The Society had an overall surplus of \$87,585 for the year to 30 June 2017, compared to a surplus of \$7278 in the previous year. The large surplus was dominated by the pleasing increase in the value of the investments, as shown below.

It is more helpful to consider the operating performance of RGSQ and the AGC (Australian Geographic Competition). The AGC surplus or deficit is shared equally between RGSQ and AGTA (Australian Geography Teachers Association)

	2016/17	2015/16
Operating Surplus/Deficit for:		
RGSQ	-18,062	13,782
AGC	12,086	44,540
Half of AGC attributable to AGTA	-6,043	-22,270
Operating Results	-12,019	36,052
Profit/Loss on sale of Investments	8,742	-40,153
Increase in Value of Investments	90,862	11,379
Overall Surplus	\$87,585	\$7,278

The operating results for the year show a large turnaround from the previous year.

RGSQ. The Society's income was up from last year, with increases from investment income and commissions from overseas travel, as well as the allocations of the RGSQ overheads and salaries to the AGC. Costs were contained throughout the year in most areas. However, staff costs increased due to the full year employment of an Administrative Assistant and adjustment to salary levels. Costs also increased due to the finalisation and publication of the Pungalina Scientific Expedition and new initiatives on preservation and identification of the library and map collections. Overall RGSQ had a deficit of \$18,062.

AGC. Entry fees were up by about \$10,000 mainly due to better publicity and follow up with the

schools. Costs were apparently up from last year but in fact there was a timing difference with some printing and postage costs being understated last year due to a change in the timing of the AGC. The AGC had a surplus of \$12,086 in 2016/17 of which half is attributable to RGSQ.

Investments. One investment (DUET) was realised during the year due to compulsory scheme of arrangement creating a profit of \$8742. This was replaced by investments in Harvey Norman and IOOF. Overall, we gained \$90,862 on the portfolio of investments during the year.

Balance Sheet. The Society continues to carefully maintain and manage its assets. Cash balances increased by about \$17,000 and Investments are valued at \$1.27 million. The land and building at Gregory House are valued at \$675,432 in the Balance Sheet, well below market. Cash varies throughout the year depending on receipt of AGC income and subsequent cost, and managed carefully to enable the Society to keep solvent at all times.

Much appreciation goes to Lilia Darii for her work in maintaining the accounts and preparation of the monthly reports to Council throughout the year.

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

COUNCIL, COMMITTEES

It has been a busy twelve months for the Society's Council and associated Committees. The regular Committees (Building and Finance, Honours, Treks and Activities) functioned effectively during the 2016-2017 year. With Leo Scanlan dedicating his volunteer hours on the RGSQ Travel Temporary Committee. Thanks to member Frank Birchall for stepping up to be the Chair of the Treks and Activities Committee this past year. It should be noted that it was the first time for some years that the Treks and Activities Committee did not have a Council Member on the Committee.

To address many issues that arose over the last year, the Council established Temporary Committees which could co-opt Society members as required to investigate, review, and provide advice on nominated topics to the Society's Council. The following is an overview of the Committees which have been active over the last twelve months.

Australian Geography Competition Committee (AGCC) – Under the MoU with AGTA, this Committee comprises two AGTA and two RGSQ voting representatives, and a fifth voting member agreed to by both parties. Margaret McIvor (Chair of the AGCC) and Iraphne Childs, both RGSQ Council members represented RGSQ as voting members on this Committee. Kath Berg, RGSQ member was the independent member providing valuable input and guidance based on her previous 23 years involvement with the Competition.

Building and Finance Committee – continued to address building maintenance and management of Gregory House, as well as provide the Council with advice on financial investments.

Honours Committee – provided advice to the Council on matters related to the bestowing Society honours on individuals and/or organisations. During the year, this Committee also took on the role to assess the Society's University awards.

Treks and Activities Committee (TAAC) – an important Committee providing member services were accomplished much this year as in past years. It was good to see new members join this committee; however, further member involvement on this Committee is most welcomed. It should be noted that this year was the first year that a Society Council member was not a member of this Committee, and alternative administrative processes were put in place to provide the linkage between the TAAC and Council.

Ken Sutton Trust Trustees - During 2016 and 2017 a review of the Ken Sutton Trust was undertaken at the request of the Council. Initial work undertaken by Roger Grimley while he was on Council was continued. A reinvigorated Ken Sutton Trust will become obvious to members over the coming year.

Auditorium Temporary Committee - This Committee was formed in the 2015-2016 Year to review and investigate the facilities and use of the Society's auditorium. One outcome of this Committee was the recommendation and installation of an upgrade data projector and audio system which was installed in early 2017.

Streaming of the Society's Brisbane lectures was investigated; however, technology and current internet speeds available at 237 Milton Road preclude this exercise at this time. Investigations into recording lecturers and making them available online via hosting facilities (e.g. an RGSQ YouTube Channel) are being investigated.

Strategic Plan Implementation Temporary Committee – This Temporary Committee which was instigated in 2015 to address matters related to the implementation of the Society's Strategic Plan adopted by the Society in May 2015, achieved its goal by early 2017.

Building Review Temporary Committee – Because of ongoing building maintenance issues over recent years at Gregory House and, the inability to secure tenants in the ground floor offices, the Council tasked a Temporary Committee to review the building. Various building consultants were engaged to provide advice on the building's status, and cost estimates to address identified issues. Indications suggest the Society needs to expend significant monies to bring the Society's building up to acceptable standards.

During the review and deliberations, the Society was notified of a potential buyer and this resulted in the Temporary Committee being tasked to investigate the options for sale against refurbishment of Gregory House.

RGSQ Travel Temporary Committee – was formed to investigate the establishment of RGSQ Travel as a fundraising activity to provide financial support to Society's activities. Major progress has been made by this Committee over the last twelve months, and members will hear more of this venture over the coming twelve months.

Incorporation Temporary Committee - The Council tasked a Temporary Committee consisting representatives of Council Members, Society members, and staff to review and report to Council on the current incorporation under Letters Patent and other alternatives given the Society's current and potential future activities.

STRATEGIC PLAN

The Society; Council, staff and members have worked together towards addressing the five strategic objectives of the Society's Strategic Plan. While some tasks were not addressed this year, other opportunities and tasks presented themselves which needed to be addressed. 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. Additional services and opportunities have been introduced and/or consolidated for members which have included: the introduction of lectures on the Sunshine Coast; an annual Map Group program has been established; the Library Group has continued to establish their work which is open to more member involvement; and the Archives Group has been established.

Enhancement of the content and presentation improvements of the Society's monthly newsletter, the "Bulletin" have been achieved during 2017. At the same time, the introduction of MailChimp has enhanced communication with members.

The increase in the number of schools and students entered in the 2017 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 increase in membership numbers over the last twelve months, and the commencement of regional lectures held on the Sunshine Coast have helped enhance the Society's membership.

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.

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

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.

Over the last twelve months the Council and staff have concentrated on the financial sustainability of the Society given challenges with office rental and building maintenance. While the anticipated work in relation to an online presence was not achieved, things have been put in place to address these in the coming year.

2018- YEAR AHEAD

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

- A decision will be made on a path of refurbishment or sale of Gregory House. Either outcome will require substantial work by the Society's Council, staff, and members over the next twelve months.
- The establishment of the Sunshine Coast Chapter will have occurred, and a program of lectures and activities based on the Sunshine Coast will be developed. This is an exciting and important development for the Society.
- With many other issues and tasks nearing completion, the Society online (web) presence/profile will be enhanced over the next twelve months.
- The Ken Sutton Trust will become active with the establishment of a likely annual Ken Sutton Lecture.

On behalf of the Council,

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

Jamie Shulmeister,
President
15 September 2017

Appendix A – August 2016 Member Survey Summary

The membership survey undertaken in August 2016 was used to inform the Society's Council in 2017. All Society members were invited to participate in the survey by either completing an online or returning a paper-based version of the survey. 95 responses (30% of membership) were received. The following is a summary of the responses received.

General overall comments:

- Expectation of strong geographical content in all activities;
- Level of social contact generally about right;
- Strong support for a range of different types of tours – duration, destination, level of physical fitness required
- Strong support for monthly lectures but little support for more frequent (i.e. fortnightly) lectures;
- Milton location & parking not an issue;
- Age and health related issues pose limitations for participation in some activities; and,
- Strategic planning & future directions should be led by elected Council rather than general membership.

Comments on specific areas:

Daytime activities:

- 60% of respondents never or rarely participate in daytime activities.
- mix of activities offered seen as interesting; geographical content OK, but could be stronger.
- cost generally not an impediment to participation.

Overseas tours:

- 32% have participated in an overseas tour.
- 86% expect strong geographic content.
- 60% have not participated – some reasons: not interested in overseas travel, too physically challenging, duration too long, too expensive.

Australian tours and treks:

- 50% have participated.
- 64% of non-participants cite lack of appropriate vehicle.
- 64% would be interested in coach tours.

Lectures:

- 41% rarely or never attend; 45% attend more than half of the lectures.
- 78% consider the topics to be always/mostly interesting.
- Suggestions for topics: geology/geomorphology, current affairs, climate change, scientific expeditions, history of RGSQ.
- 70% would view lectures online; 70% would also continue to attend lectures at Milton.
- 44% would be interested in daytime lectures.
- Non-Brisbane members would attend regional lectures (but only 21 respondents).

New Programs - Special interest groups

- 55% interested, 45% not interested.
- 80% not interested in, or confident to lead an SIG.

Suggestions for future directions - only 25 respondents answered this question.

- Student sponsorships; more liaison with universities.
- Stronger association with likeminded organisations e.g. RHSQ, National Parks Assoc.
- Improve website, increase social media presence.
- Introduce a professional journal.
- Citizen science.
- Agreement that objective of “promoting and stimulating the study of geography” is correct, Suggestion: change ‘study’ to ‘value and relevance’.
- 75% would recommend joining RGSQ.