



RGSQ Bulletin

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From the President

One of the things I like most about travel is that it exposes us to new people, new ideas and new experiences. On our current travels we have had many such exposures, one of which has set me off on a train of thought that I will share here.

We took a tour from Jabiru out to Oenpelli to visit the Injalac Hill rock art site, perhaps one of the greatest such sites in the world. Our guide was a local Aboriginal elder who was fantastic in his explanations of the art and his insights into the culture of his people. One of our fellow 'tourists' was a young German backpacker who had recently finished her undergraduate degree in Human Geography from a university in Berlin. In the course of conversation I asked her what she had in mind to continue her studies or career in geography. She said that she had plans to go on to do a masters degree with a focus on migration, especially in Latin America. Apart from her native tongue and English she was also fluent in Spanish and Portuguese and had visited Mexico several times.

Her interest in migration geography started me thinking about how little I knew about research into Australia's migration geography. I am sure that there have been studies on the origins of the tens of thousands of migrants that arrive through our airports each year, though I must say that I have not really been exposed to such work – if indeed it exists. But the external migration issue is certainly not the only form of migration that displays some very interesting geography. We have been caravanning for the past eight years. It struck me that the annual 'grey nomad' internal migration, or the even larger 'on the wallaby' internal migration would be an interesting topic to investigate.

Certainly the impression I have gained over the past three months on the road is that the numbers involved probably outnumber those external migrants by a substantial number. On some stretches of road, for example, between Katherine and Mataranka I counted over 70 caravans, motor homes and so on heading north (while we were heading south). A similar concentration was noted between Barkly Homestead and Camooweal. In conversations with fellow travellers in caravan parks, the range of points of origin, destination and motivation was incredible, as was the diversity of demographics. This internal migration is certainly not the preserve of the 'geriatric gypsies', nor is it confined to Australians. The numbers of young families on the road, even outside school holidays, is most impressive – young families having a travel experience before

their kids started high school or just giving the kids a real life experience away from TV and computers. The number of foreign tourists on the road in hired motor homes is also significant.

For many such travellers there are clear destinations in mind – places such as Uluru, Cairns, Kakadu and Broome are all priorities. For others their destinations are set by a desire to catch barramundi, or to fossick for gems, or to follow the wild flowers down the Western Australian coast, or to attend specific events such as the Birdsville or Brunette Downs races, or to search for a specific species of birds, and so on. At some popular destinations it is often difficult to find a spot to camp unless you have booked ahead. At extremely popular destinations such as Karumba you almost have to inherit a site if you want to stay for more than a few hours! The duration of visits also varies greatly from a night or so to several months.

All of this is should be rich pickings for geographers. I am sure that some

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budding post-graduate student, or indeed secondary students, would find researching our internal migration patterns, both recreational and business, a worthwhile field to investigate. Given the very significant economic impact of these movements, especially, for small rural centres that are typically way points for travellers, the benefits to government and business planners would also be beneficial.

Ken Granger

Lecture – RGSQ: the Past 25 Years

The June lecture will be delivered by Peter Lloyd on the topic, *RGSQ: the Past 25 Years*.

Peter Lloyd was President of our Society from 1987 to 1989 after being a Vice-President since 1982. He had joined the Society in October 1980.

In October 1982, in the absence of the President who was overseas, and with the sudden death of Vice-President Norm Bauer, he was asked to represent the Society at a State function for the Queen and Prince Philip who had come to Brisbane to open the Commonwealth Games. By another set of unusual circumstances he and his wife Sharyn were presented to the Queen by the Society's Patron the Hon Joh Bjelke-Petersen. Peter took the opportunity to apprise the Queen of the Society's forthcoming centenary.

Peter's passion for geography was kindled in the mid-1950s after experiencing of one of its benefits. He was allowed to go home early from school as he was the only one in the class who knew the capital of Venezuela. After a shaky secondary education, during which he actually failed geography in a dodgy night-school class, Peter graduated Bachelor of Arts in 1966 with majors in geography and economics and then Bachelor of Economics in 1972. In 1967 he began his career in Canberra in the Geographic Section of the Department of National Development and joined the Institute of Australian Geographers in the following year.

A six-year hiatus from pure geography followed with a move to the Department of Trade in 1969. In the following year, and as acting head of the East Europe Desk, he was involved in preparing information and documents for the opening of the first Australian Trade Office in a communist country, in Moscow. Then Peter moved back to Brisbane for family reasons as Research Officer in the Australian Bureau of Statistics.

In 1975 he returned to geographical work as an Extension Officer in the Queensland Department of Primary Industries, responsible for producing shire handbooks for use by field officers, other departments and the general public. Peter's work with rural statistics and with environmental and production data for the *Atlas of Australian Resources* and the Burdekin and Fitzroy Regions Resources Series held him in good stead.

In the late 1980s Peter co-authored the Department's centenary history *Guiding Queensland Agriculture* and contributed to *Reef, Range and Red Dust, the Adventure Atlas of Queensland*. He also contributed several articles to the *Queensland Geographical Journal* and the chapter on Rural Production Systems for the 1986 volume "Queensland: A geographical Interpretation".

Another hiatus in 1991 saw Peter's geographic work discontinued when he was made manager of the Department's research project information system after a restructure. However his final years in the Department were both geographical and historical in a 2001 project to assess the heritage value of Departmental sites and a small project in 2005 to document and celebrate 150 years of Government biosecurity activities in Queensland. Peter has been retired since September 2006.

In 1985 Peter edited Peter Griggs' centenary history of the Society, *A Dream in Trust*, and was responsible for both its title and its often-quoted "Thomson's dream of 1885". After having reduced involvement with the Society since 1991, Peter is well-placed to provide an impartial review of the Society's progress over the past 25 years.

Peter will look at our last 25 years in the context of our first 100 years, and at the differences and similarities in the Society's aspirations and activities, then and now.

125th Birthday Lunch

A goodly crowd of old and new members are coming to our birthday lunch and we're looking forward to a great function. Bookings are now closed. **Members already booked, please read this information.**

Where: Map Room, Hotel Conrad,
130 William St, Brisbane
When: 11.30am for 12.00 Sat 10 July

There are two entrances to the Hotel Conrad. One is from Queens Gardens via the foyer and the other is the car drop off, 130 William St. This is closest to the Map Room.

There is a lobby bar in the foyer of the Hotel. Anyone wishing to purchase an alcoholic beverage before the luncheon may do so and take it into the Map Room. Only non-alcoholic drinks will be served with the lunch (our way of keeping the price down!). We suggest arriving at about 11.30am.

As Her Excellency the Governor of Queensland is due to arrive at 12.00, members and guests should be seated in the Map Room (around to the right of the foyer) by 11.55am. Please check your table number on the list near the door.

Dress is smart casual. Members please wear your RGSQ name badges if you have one.

Enjoy the Birthday celebration.

New Members

We have much pleasure in welcoming the following new members:

Linda Austin; Paul and Margaret Coghlan; John Farmer and Jan Godfrey; John Martinez; Robert Raven; Jim Trevethan; Annie West.

We hope your association with your new Society is long and mutually enjoyable.

SE Qld Geography Trail 3

Bookings for this trek **close on 14 Jul, or earlier** if the accommodation fills. Don't miss out. Send your booking and payment in to the office ASAP.

This trek continues our South East Queensland Geography Trail on July 24 and 25, visiting **Rosewood** and **Allora** and some sites in between. The planned tours of the Emu Farm at Marburg and historic house Glengallen at Allora will be highlights of this weekend. Remember, this trip, as with most RGSQ trips, is quite suitable for children and young adults.

There is no camping ground or motel in Rosewood. Accommodation has been reserved at the Rosewood Hotel, 6 John St, phone 5464 1402. There are 2 other hotels in Rosewood if we fill the Rosewood Hotel. You may be lucky (?) enough to catch a glimpse of the resident Rosewood Hotel ghost! The programme is:

On **Saturday 24** July we drive to Marburg (50km) on the Warrego Highway and join a conducted tour of the Emu Heaven Emu Farm, Marburg, commencing **10.00am**. Then onto Rosewood calling into the Cabanda Station on the Rosewood Historic Railway en route. After lunch (BYO) in Johnston Park, John St, Rosewood, we'll visit the St Brigid's Catholic Church in the afternoon for a conducted tour over Queensland's largest timber church, 100 years old and Arnold and Joyce Rieck's Arboretum. Dinner that evening your own arrangements.

On **Sunday 25 July**, after breakfast at the Rosewood Hotel, we'll drive through Laidley and Forest Hill to Gatton, and then on to Allora passing through Grandchester, the terminus for the first railway in Queensland (Ipswich to Bigge's Camp as Grandchester was formerly known) and pausing to view the Thiess Memorial at the Heifer Creek campground. We'll stop for a morning cuppa at Centenary Bridge, Dalrymple Creek in Allora and then drive on to Glengallen Historic House for a self-guided tour commencing **10.30am**.

Returning to the Commercial Hotel, Allora for its Sunday Roast Lunch, we'll visit the Allora historic museum in the afternoon and then walk part or all as time allows the Allora Historic Heritage Trail. **4.00pm** Depart Allora for home by own chosen route – you might consider through Warwick, Killarney and Boonah.

Costs: The cost for this weekend is \$85 per person. This covers overnight accommodation Saturday, Sunday breakfast in Rosewood, Sunday lunch in Allora and tours of the Emu Farm, Arboretum, St Brigid's Church, Glengallen homestead and Allora historic museum.

Any queries re details may be directed to Brian McGrath, email brian.mcgrath@bigpond.com, phone 3378 5960.

Icons Trek Reunion

When: 8-11 August

Where: Woodgate Beach

Book: register your attendance with the RGSQ office by 30 July, and book your own accommodation (see below)

On 9 August 2009, the *RGSQ Q150 Icons of Queensland Trek* commenced with a two-night camp at Woodgate Beach. To renew the friendships made on that 9-week journey, and to share memorabilia and stories of the Icons Trek, a relaxing camp is being organised for Woodgate Beach in August 2010.

On Sunday 8 August 2010, people will drive to Woodgate Beach (348km from Brisbane), booking into the Woodgate Beach Tourist Park (phone 4126 8802). Dinner that night will be a group function at the Bowls Club.

Monday and Tuesday will be spent relaxing, walking on the beach and in the National Park, fishing, swimming, etc, and re-living the wonderful moments – including the Happy Hours – of the Icons Trek.

Leaving Woodgate on Wednesday 11 (Exhibition Wednesday public holiday in Brisbane), we drive back to our homes.

All Icons Trekkers are invited to attend, and of course **everyone else is welcome too**.

Please register your intention to attend with the office before July 30. There is no registration fee; make and pay for your own accommodation bookings. You can find full details of the costs of cabins and campsites at the Tourist Park at www.woodgatebeachtouristpark.com but you must phone the Tourist Park to book your accommodation/campsite. It is a busy time at Woodgate, so an early booking is advised.

For any further enquiries, please contact Brian McGrath, email brian.mcgrath@bigpond.com, or phone 07 3378 5960.

Haddon Corner Trek

There are still seats available on the Safari Coach and bookings are still open for the 4WD group on the Haddon Corner Trek (from 13 to 27 September) celebrating our 125th Anniversary. Please contact the office for an itinerary and booking form if you are interested. Those who have already registered are reminded that the balance of the registration cost must be paid by August 1.

There will be an Information Night for all participants in this Trek on Wednesday 18 August, commencing at 7.30pm in Gregory House, 237 Milton Rd, Milton. There is no cost, but please advise the office if you intend coming along for catering purposes – a light supper will be served.

Mark this date in your diaries and come along to meet with your fellow Trekkers.

New Website

The Society's website has been revamped – still at www.rgsq.org.au. Check it out for information on forthcoming trips, where we are up to with Queensland by Degrees, etc.

Let us know if you find any missing photos or links that don't work. We're still working our way through it.

Geography Curriculum

ACARA has released the draft *Shape of the Australian Curriculum: Geography* for public consultation from 21 June to 27 August 2010. The draft paper outlines the direction for the development of the national geography curriculum for years K-12. All feedback will be analysed and used to revise the draft document. The final version will be an integral document to guide the next stage of geography curriculum development.

We would encourage all members to look at the draft paper, which can be accessed from <http://www.acara.edu.au/geography.html>. An online survey is available. ACARA asks for

feedback from all sectors of the community. You don't have to be a geography academic or teacher. The Society will be making a submission on the draft. It would be very useful if members could send comments to the office so that they can be taken into account in formulating our response.

Geog Competition Final

The Final for students under 16 y.o. was held in Sydney on 7 June. The state winners spent the previous weekend in Sydney. The programme included behind-the-scenes tours of both Taronga Zoo and the Australian Museum. The students also explored

the historic Rocks area, went up a Sydney Harbour Bridge pylon and visited the Opera House to see *Glow* – a performance that mixed live theatre, animation and comic book elements. The Final was held at the Foxtel Television Centre, and filmed for later broadcast. It was expertly compered by ex-*Temptation* host Ed Phillips in front of a live audience.

Riley Kernaghan, of MacGregor State High School in Brisbane, had an emphatic win. His main prize is a place on the Australian team which will compete in the 2011 National Geographic World Championship.

More details and some photos at www.rgsq.org.au/high.htm.

RGSQ Bulletin

July 2010

Lecture, Tues 6 Jul 7.30pm
Speaker: Peter Lloyd
Subject: RGSQ: the Past 25 Years

Social, Sat 10 July, 11.30am for 12.00
☆☆☆☆ 125th Anniversary Lunch ☆☆☆☆
Speaker: Mr Bill Kitson

SEQ Geography Trail (3), 24 - 25 Jul
Where: Rosewood and Allora

Lecture, Tues 3 Aug, 7.30pm
Speaker: Malcolm McInerney
Subject: Geography for the 21st Century Citizen

Icons Trek Reunion, 8 - 11 Aug
Where: Woodgate Beach

Trek Briefing, Wed 18 Aug, 7.30pm
For: Haddon Corner Trek

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