



# RGSQ Bulletin

ISSN 1832-8830

Vol 46 no 4 May 2011

Published by The Royal Geographical Society of Queensland Inc, a nonprofit organisation established in 1885 that promotes the study of geography and encourages a greater understanding and enjoyment of the world around us.

## In this issue

- Lecture - Australia's Coast
- Spatial Technologies W'shop
- Trek - Maidenwell + Bunya Mts
- Trek - Gayndah Bridges
- Haddon Corner Rescheduled
- Volunteers for Geog Comp
- Trek - Elanda Point
- Government House Open Day

## From the President

This month's President's Message is a message from afar as Sharyn and I are staying in a private home in the suburb of Stoke, Nelson, in the very north of the South Island of New Zealand. While we have in the past visited New Zealand on a number of occasions we haven't had the opportunity to explore quite as extensively any of the regions in any depth, this time being the exception as we will be here for several weeks.

Nelson is nestled almost at the southeast corner of Tasman Bay in a quite sheltered area that looks toward Richmond, Motueka and Separation Point which separates Tasman Bay from Golden Bay at the northern extremity of Abel Tasman National Park and further west towards the north western corner of the South Island.

Nelson is reputed to have one of the mildest climates in the whole of New Zealand, resulting in many New Zealand South Islanders being drawn here to live during their retirement years. So far it has lived up to its reputation with some quite sunny days, and pleasant temperatures which do tend to make being a tourist more enjoyable and interesting.

It's plain to see the emphasis placed on the sea's importance by the early settlers in this part of the world as you can't travel very far without being reminded by various place names of that quite defining part of British naval history, The Battle of Trafalgar. Add to those names the names of three extraordinary seamen, namely Abel Tasman, James Cook, and the French explorer D'Urville (extreme geographers in their day), also prominent in this area in that they either named or had places named honouring their exploits of early exploration in this part of NZ.

We have travelled to the west and Cape Farewell named by James Cook as he sailed west across the Tasman Sea towards the east coast of Australia. This Golden Bay area was a large producer and exporter of flax to America, Canada, Britain and Australia in earlier times. Today it is very scenic with many orchards, vineyards (wine production), extensive dairying, and of course tourism. East of Cape Farewell is Farewell Spit, that eastern sand spit stretching outwards approximately 30 km towards Golden Bay. It's an interesting exercise travelling along the beach to the lighthouse where all but the first 4 km is closed to the public and is a declared nature reserve. There is a large gannet colony at the furthest extremity of the Spit.

10 April 2011 – Since my first instalment of this report (5 April) we have moved all around this northern part of the South Island. Travelling east we've followed the Queen Charlotte Sound to Picton before

turning southwards towards Blenheim and the beautiful wine region south of the Marlborough Sounds. Down the coast still further as far as Kaikoura before turning west towards the Central South Island, Hanmer Springs, and then the Nelson Lakes area at the northern end of the Southern Alps, passing some rather breathtaking scenery on the way. The weather here has just started to turn a little cool with a slight dusting of snow on the tops of the mountains. This afternoon we undertook a cruise along the many coves and inlets of the Abel Tasman National Park on the western side of Tasman Bay – truly beautiful.

Over these past 23 or so years of involvement with RGSQ I have enjoyed a wealth of experience in travel to many parts of the world but I can't say I've visited or enjoyed anywhere more than this part of New Zealand. The geography is outstanding – it really has it all – adventure, the food, the wine, some really spectacular scenery, fascinating wildlife and friendly people.

Patron: H.E. Ms P Wensley AC,  
Governor of Queensland  
President: Mr Leo Scanlan

The Royal Geographical Society  
of Queensland Inc  
237 Milton Road  
Milton Qld 4064

Tel: (07) 3368 2066  
Fax: (07) 3367 1011  
Email: [admin@rgsq.org.au](mailto:admin@rgsq.org.au)  
Web: [www.rgsq.org.au](http://www.rgsq.org.au)

Christchurch and the recent earthquake are never far from the print or electronic news over here with much discussion regarding what's to be removed for future safety, what can be saved, the psychological impact, and of course the effect the whole disaster is having on the New Zealand economy. Architects and town planners are already wading in with futuristic plans for central Christchurch and other devastated parts of the city.

It's a very poignant exercise in disaster management, cleanup, recovery, careful planning, and some new demographics, with the possibility of some large scale (temporary and permanent) resettlement in the Canterbury area.

It's extremely interesting to move away from your own back yard and actually live (if only for a few weeks) in a foreign environment and see how things are done over here. I believe some of the New Zealand psychological renewal approach displayed on television and in the print media would go a long way toward helping flood victims in South East Queensland.

Leo Scanlan

---

---

## Thomson Address – Australia's Coast

The Thomson Address is named after the Society's founder, Dr James Park Thomson. The 2011 Address will be delivered on 3 May by Prof Andrew Short on the topic, *Australia's Coast: A Status Report*.

Australia has one of the longest, most diverse and pristine coastlines in the world. Our coast is a dynamic, ever-changing suite of dramatic landforms and productive ecosystems. From iconic beaches such as Bondi and long unbroken sands of the Coorong to the endless curtain of the Nullarbor cliffs along the Great Australian Bight, Andy Short has been to them all (literally), studying how they were formed and continue to change, and the various coastal processes at work on beaches, dunes, estuaries, deltas, rocky coast and coral reefs.

Andrew Short, BA Hons (Sydney), MA (Hawaii), PhD (Louisiana State), is one of Australia's most eminent geographers. His many current positions include: Honorary Professor, Geosciences and Marine Science, University of Sydney; Adjunct Professor, Griffith University Centre for Coastal Management; Scientific Adviser, Surf Life Saving Australia; Executive member, World Surfing Reserves; Member, NSW Government Expert Panel on Coastal Erosion; Executive member, Coastal Education and Research Foundation, USA.

Andy's main interests are beach and dune morphodynamics, coastal evolution and management. He has studied the coasts of North and South America, the Alaskan Arctic, Hawaii, New Zealand, Europe, the British Isles and the entire Australian coast. His publications include 12 books, and over 150 book chapters, articles and reports. The books include *The Coast of Australia*, co-authored by Colin Woodroffe and published in 2009 – the first comprehensive account of the Australian coast, covering 36,000 km of shoreline.

Andy has specialised not just in coastal processes, but in their application to safety and coastal management.

---

---

## Spatial Technologies Workshop

When: 4.00-6.00 pm Wed 11 May  
Where: Brisbane State High School,  
South Brisbane (park in grounds)  
Cost: \$15.00

Book: for members only. Email the office on [admin@rgsq.org.au](mailto:admin@rgsq.org.au) so we can email back instructions. There are a few places left, so please book **now**.

This 2-hour hands-on workshop will be run by Mick Law. It will investigate simple spatial technologies, all of which are available free on the internet, for example, Google Maps and some websites that embed GIS (Geographical Information Systems). Mick will take participants through how to access and use each of the technologies that we cover, showing you the basics of navigating and creating maps online.

There were details of Mick's excellent credentials to run this workshop in the last *Bulletin*.

Please note, the workshop fee is for the hire of the computer room only. Mick is very generously donating his time to organise this workshop, which is available to members only.

We are planning a second workshop on 10 August. This will focus on Google Earth and the many different ways you can use it. Preference will be given in the second workshop to those who have attended the first workshop.

---

---

## Maidenwell & Bunya Trek

21 to 22/25 May 2011

The Astronomical Observatory at Maidenwell has three 35 cm telescopes and, with special street lighting to reduce light flare, gives excellent views of the night sky. Free camping has been arranged behind the Maidenwell Hotel. Arrive for the Observatory Day Show starting at 14:00. We'll have dinner at the hotel and then take in the Night Show.

Hotel accommodation is also available for those who don't camp at about \$25 per person but you must arrange this yourself. Ring the hotel on 4164 6133.

On Sunday we'll visit a historical museum at Boobie in the morning and lunch at a Pitaya (Dragon Fruit) farm, returning to Maidenwell with afternoon tea at Coomba Falls. Some may choose to leave after lunch to head home. The stalwarts will camp Sunday night at Maidenwell in case the previous night's observation was cancelled because of cloud.

On Monday we will drive via the pretty village of Kumbia for morning tea to Bunya Mts National Park for 2 nights' camping and gentle walking in this most beautiful national park.

The cost is \$75 pp, \$60 child or \$230 for a family (2 adults + 2 children) for the weekend only and \$85 pp or \$70 child for the 5 days. This includes all entry fees and dinner at the Maidenwell Hotel on Saturday. Please email Graham Rees [Graham@wombatshollow.com](mailto:Graham@wombatshollow.com) for further details.

## Gayndah Bridges

17-21 June

*Please note change of date; the long weekend proved too problematic for bookings.*

The Gayndah area contains several of the most fascinating and different railway bridges in Queensland. We are aiming to visit seven of these bridges, designed by William Pagan and built between 1905 and 1914. The view of the surrounding country and watching the sunset with a glass or two from Mt Gayndah is a must; as is a visit to the museum where the enthusiastic curators have restored many items to working order. Gayndah is noted for its mandarins and lemons so we'll visit a working citrus farm (no picking required).

The RGSQ cost for the trip is \$15 per person or \$10 per child. Please book and pay the office. We have arranged motel / caravan / camping accommodation, but you **must book this yourself**. Because of this year's late picking season we suggest you book in as early as possible and mention that you are with RGSQ. Prices are \$19 per night per camp/ caravan site (powered) and \$74 per night per couple/twin room. Contact:

Karin & Tom Marinucci  
Manda-Inn, 11-15 Dalgangal Rd,  
Gayndah 4625  
Tel: 4161 1911  
Email: mandainn@bigpond.com

For more information email  
GrahamRees@wombatshollow.com

---

---

## Haddon Cnr Rescheduled?

The Treks and Activities Committee is seeking expressions of interest from members interested in another attempt at visiting Haddon Corner. Several members have already put their names forward. Due to other planned events, late September/October is tentatively being suggested, and a short trip of 8-10 days, 4WD only, would be planned if the weather forecasts look favourable. A decision will be made in July. Interested people should advise Brian Mealey: ph 3379 2783, bsmealey@bigpond.net.au.

*Brian Mealey*

## Volunteers Please

We'll soon be sorting the results of the Australian Geography Competition to send back to schools. We're calling on our wonderful members to help us again. This will be from Wednesday 25 May to Friday 27 May.

This is the job where you have to walk along a line of certificates and results, matching them by school code. (Not to put you off, but this is the job that some opt out of – though we have new high tables for the job.) Please ring Kath on 3368 2066 if you can help.

Thanks to the members who helped sort the returned answer sheets:

Helen Bismire, Mary Comer, Barb Lapworth, Peter Nunan, Judy Gale Rechner, Graham and Kay Rees

---

---

## Elanda Point

If the kids or grandkids are bored during the school holidays, here's an opportunity to keep them occupied and active.

When: Fri-Sun, 1-3 July

Accommodation: At Elanda Point. Tent or caravan sites \$9 per person per night. No powered sites and no BBQs. No site bookings are taken.

Facilities: toilets and hot showers; canoes, kayaks and wave skis for hire (or BYO small boat)

Bring: sunsafe gear, warm gear, water bottle, walking shoes that can get muddy, bathers, insect repellent, all food and camping requirements, torch (for tunnel walk)

Meet: 10.30am Fri 1 Jul at Mooloolah Railway Station, or,

10.00am Sat 2 Jul at Elanda Point

Book: with the office by 21 June, including payment for boat cruise option (\$30 see below). Please indicate if you are joining on Friday or Saturday. Pay camping fees direct on arrival.

On Friday morning we'll visit Dularcha National Park and walk to, and through, an historic curved railway tunnel, 100 m long and cut in 1890 – about 3.5 km return walk. Then we'll drive to Elanda Point.

On Saturday we'll set off from Elanda at about 10.30 am. The energetic can hire canoes and paddle to Kinaba NP information centre. The less energetic can walk via Mill Point and perhaps a bird hide – about 5 km return.

Sunday morning, hire a canoe, swim, fish, just laze or take another walk. We may be able to take a trip across the lake by motorboat and walk to Mt Seawah for a view of the ocean and Teewah Beach. It's fairly steep and is about a 2 hour return walk. The boat holds 12 people and would cost \$30 per person. We need a full boat to make this viable.

After Sunday lunch at the historic Apollonian Hotel at Boreen Point, take a stroll on the beach, then it's back to Brisbane with a detour to climb Wild Horse Mountain lookout for fantastic views across the coast and inland to the Glasshouse Mts.

I have space for one person in my car or tent. For that, or for other queries, ring me on 3283 4494 or 0438 159 218.

*Audrey Johnston*

---

---

## Gov't House Open Day – Helpers Needed

As we did last year, the Society will be putting up a display at the Open Day at Government House on Queensland Day, 5 June. If you can spare two hours to help staff this between 10.00 am and 3.00 pm, please ring the office to volunteer. Two members will be rostered together. If you have any queries, please ring David Carstens on 3848 5649.

---

---

## New Members

We have much pleasure in welcoming the following new members:

Marion and Robert Curtis, Robert Dutton; Andrew Junge; Nicola Stromsoe; Jessica Walker

We hope your association with your new Society is long and mutually enjoyable. We look forward to getting to know you at Society functions.

## Burke and Wills Seminar

In the last *Bulletin* there was a short item that this seminar, organised by the Royal Historical Society of Queensland would be held at RGSQ on 4 June. The venue has been changed to the State Library. Please ring RHSQ on 3012 7703 if you would like further information.



## Rocks and Landscapes

The Geological Society of Australia, Queensland Division has published a 'new, improved' 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of *Rocks and Landscapes of the Gold Coast Hinterland*, by geologist and author Warwick Willmott.

This book explains how the Gold Coast hinterland has been formed over many millions of years, and how its landscapes and scenery have developed. Chapters describe the ancient geological history, the history of coastal areas, useful rocks and minerals, landslide problems, issues of acid sulfate soils, and a major section describing excursions where typical rocks and landscapes can be seen around the coast and hinterland. tourists.

As a service to members, the Society will be placing a bulk order for this book. Cost is \$10.00 if collected from RGSQ, \$13.50 posted to you. Please **order and pay by 3 May**. A sample is available at the Society.

## Environmental Ed Congress

The 6th World Environmental Education Congress will be held 19-23 July at the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre – the first time it will be in the Asia-Pacific region. For those interested in environmental and sustainability education the Congress will be an opportunity to hear from global experts about the latest in environmental research, industry and policy developments, and educational programs. The program will encourage participants to learn and share new ways of thinking and to explore new trends in research and practice in environmental education. For more information, visit [www.weec2011.org](http://www.weec2011.org).

# RGSQ Bulletin

May 2011

**Thomson Address**, Tues 3 May, 7.30pm  
Speaker: Prof Andrew Short  
Subject: Australia's Coast: A Status Report

**Workshop**, Wed 11 May, 4.00pm  
What: Spatial technologies  
Where: Brisbane State High School

**Weekend Trek**, 21-22/25 May  
Where: Maidenwell Observatory + Bunyas

**Volunteer Days**, 25-27 May  
For: National Geographic Channel  
Australian Geography Competition

**Open Day**, Sun 5 June  
What: RGSQ display at Government House

**National Final**, Mon 6 June, 11.00am  
For: Australian Geography Competition  
Where: Foxtel Studios, Sydney

The Royal Geographical Society of Queensland Inc  
237 Milton Road, Milton Q 4064

POSTAGE  
PAID  
AUSTRALIA