



RGSQ Bulletin

ISSN 1832-8830

Vol 46 no 6 July 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 - Geology in the Torres Strait
- Social - Travel and Tucker: Croatia and Slovenia
- Office Hours
- Trek - Gold, Grampians and Great Outdoors
- Pungalina Scientific Study
- Spatial Technologies Workshop
- International Competitions

From the President

On Sunday 5 June I attended Her Excellency Ms Penelope Wensley AC Governor of Queensland's Open Day at Government House in celebration of Queensland Day. I would firstly like to thank David and Kathryn Carstens, Neal O'Connor, and Brian McGrath for their efforts in organizing and staffing the RGSQ information stand at this celebration. A very broad section of our community was represented.

I thought it rather apt that our June evening presentation is entitled "Sustainability, Crime Prevention and Design" and is related to the design of the built environment and strategies for social sustainability. Many of the strategies mentioned here were part and parcel of Governor Wensley's distinguished diplomatic career and were related to humanitarian concerns, the environment, and sustainable development.

"Fernberg", the official residence of the Governors of Queensland, is a fine example of 19th century architecture and a fine reminder of the history and sustainability of our

built environment over the past 152 years. Erected in 1865, it was one of the first homes built in the Paddington area.

Sustainability: Last November in the *RGSQ Bulletin* I invited you, our members, to continue the debate on issues related to sustainability, your concept of it and how it affects your life. While I'm sure many of you would be quite sick of the on-going media debate related to the pros and cons of a carbon tax, the debate is geographical, it's ongoing, it's topical, it's important, and it's related to climate change and how we might manage our physical environment to ensure a sustainable future for ourselves and future generations.

In the updated Garnaut Report, the Government's key climate change adviser has indicated since his 2008 report he has shifted from believing the science right "on the balance of probability" to "beyond reasonable doubt". All this evidence for and against is certainly food for thought.

I would like to draw attention to an article entitled "Climate is already changing" (*Courier-Mail*, 4 June). The International Energy Agency indicates that carbon dioxide emissions rose to 30.6 billion tonnes last year, 1.6 billion tonnes more than predicted. All the reliable evidence is changing the way many of us go about our lives.

The UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change is assessing the connection between extreme weather events and climate change. There has been mass loss of volume

of Arctic ice, low-lying Pacific Islands at risk from rising sea levels, loss of land in the Indian Sub-Continent, famine, lower crop yields, desertification, and in many cases water scarcity. The impact on Australia's future food production is unavoidable, e.g. the decimation of Australia's banana crop by cyclone Yasi, drought, and water shortage in Australia's food bowl the Murray Darling Basin, and these are just some of the side effects related to climate change.

The continual availability of 'productive work' to sustain our community is one of the tenets of a sustainable community (*RGSQ Bulletin*, September 2010) and the prospect of 'work sustainability' is what makes the current debate regarding climate change and a carbon tax so volatile an issue right here in Queensland.

Mention 'work sustainability' within our community and it's hard to divorce one's thoughts from Queensland's extremely vibrant industry involving coal extraction and

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
Web: www.rgsq.org.au

export, and the even newer coal seam gas (CSG) industry centred in one of the fastest growing industrial cities in Australia, Gladstone. Both these industries employ many thousands of people throughout regional Queensland. Selling LNG to Asia is expected to generate \$32 billion in revenue for Queensland in the first decade of this industry's development (*Courier-Mail*, 11-12 June).

In the same newspaper and on the same day, "Finding the energy to fix climate" (*Courier-Mail*, 11-12 June) indicates renewable green energy is fast becoming the investment of choice with the old fossil fuels clearly on their way out. Our gas industry has to perform environmentally and cannot be allowed to make mistakes and fix them later. How do we dispose of enormous amounts of salt extracted as a bi-product from CSG operations and how do we regulate the industry' ensuring world's best practice so we don't contaminate increasingly important aquifers, and at the end of the day leave our best cropland intact?

Population is also at the heart of this mix and at a national level there are arguments and counter-arguments related to a healthy and sustainable future. For example "More Aussie workers needed" said the Business Council of Australia (*Courier-Mail*, 27 May), countered by Dick Smith warning Australia's rising population and growing consumption puts our children's future at risk, and "Population boom risks starvation". Counteracted again with "Population policy risks wealth". In the defence of members' future employment we have Union attacks on the Greens over coal bans (*The Australian*, 27 May), and Treasury secretary Martin Parkinson reminding us last week that trade is at the heart of economic prosperity.

Here in our home state of Queensland we are facing a dilemma of enormous proportions regarding how we handle our resources boom. This is where the argument gets really complex, "Game changer or the road to ruin?" (*Courier-Mail*, 11-12 June). This story by John McCarthy comments "If simple economics was the only issue, the debate would be over and the critics

marginalized." While sifting through the available evidence as presented in the media one might again ask the question – without significant change is a sustainable future achievable?

I have just read *The Legacy: An Elder's Vision for our Sustainable Future* by the world renowned environmentalist Dr David Suzuki. Dr Suzuki poses the question towards the end of his vision (page 88): "Let's raise our eyes beyond the conventional horizon of a year and ask, 'What kind of world would we like to have in a generation?'"

Leo Scanlan

Lecture – Geology in the Torres Strait

Please note that Mayor Melva Hobson, who was to have given the presentation at the July meeting, is now unavailable. Melva will be rescheduled in 2012. Council thanks Friedrich von Gnielinski for stepping in at short notice.

The July meeting will feature a presentation by Friedrich von Gnielinski on *Geological Reconnaissance in the Torres Strait: a multi-disciplinary field trip to the Mabuiag Island Group*.

The Torres Strait has seen a violent geological history in the late Carboniferous to Permian era (around 295 million years ago). Granitic intrusions and extended volcanic calderas formed a mountain range from Cape York to Papua New Guinea which in more recent times has submerged below sea level.

Over the years geological data was collected and compiled from various sources including from the first-pass mapping by Bureau of Mineral Resources in 1968 and the Cape York National Geoscience Mapping Accord Project and Friedrich von Gnielinski's own MSc in 1991-1996.

Friedrich has been involved with various multi-disciplinary projects in this region, involving archeological and environmental sciences. Field work in the Mabuiag Island area in 2009 will be included in the presentation. That team comprised

an archaeologist, anthropologist, botanist, zoologist and geologist. Various aspects of sensitive field work preparation in this unique region will be discussed. The hospitality of the Geomulgal people in particular is highly appreciated.

Challenges of getting around in Torres Strait, and observation and sampling procedures taking into account cultural heritage considerations will also be illustrated.

Friedrich von Gnielinski was born in Melbourne in 1959. He left Australia in 1964 when his family returned to Germany. After studying, teaching and working in places as diverse as Liberia, Bavaria, Tanzania, the Austrian Alps and South Africa, Friedrich returned to Australia in 1989 and soon joined the Geological Survey of Queensland, the organisation he still works for.

Friedrich is a Fellow of the Geological Society of Australia, and is the long-standing Treasurer and Membership Secretary of its Queensland Division.

Elanda Point

This information is repeated here for the benefit of those booked on this trip. More details in the last *Bulletin*.

When: Fri 1 July - Sun 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 for visit to Dularcha National Park and historic railway tunnel, or, 10.00am Sat 2 Jul at Elanda Point for walk or paddle to Kinaba National Park information centre

Book: with the office by 21 June. Please indicate if you are joining on Friday or Saturday. Pay camping fees direct on arrival.

Travel and Tucker – Croatia and Slovenia

What: Nibbles and drinks, a 3-course meal and a slide presentation and talk about these two countries
When: Fri 22 Jul, 6:00pm for 6:30pm
Where: RGSQ
Cost: \$35.00

Book: with the office and pay **by 5 July**. Numbers are limited so book and pay early. No late booking will be accepted because of catering.

In the summer of 2005, I travelled through Croatia and Slovenia, situated along the east coast of the Adriatic Sea. Each country has its own special personality. Such a contrast of environments – beaches and rocky shores, with lots of nearby islands; coastal plains and cultivation; wetlands; limestone escarpments and caves; thermal regions; forests; spring and summer flowers; Alps and national parks, including Plitvice with 16 lakes and 92 waterfalls. All this contrasting with limestone karst gorges of Paklenika National Park. Much walking and much ... puffing.

Then there were the walled cities, ruins of fortresses, Diocletian's 4th century AD palace, monasteries and churches, magnificent architecture and so much more, much more.

Bring your friends and introduce them to your Society.

Audrey Johnston

Office Hours

Society Administrator Kath Berg is coordinating the Australian student teams at the Asia-Pacific Regional Geography Olympiad and the National Geographic World Championship.

Kath will therefore be absent from the office between 1 and 14 July and again from 21 July. Following the World Championship, Kath will be attending the annual conference of the US National Council for Geographic Education, and taking some holidays, so she will be away until 24 August. During these times the office should be open every day, but not for full hours. Please ring and check the hours before visiting.

Gold, Grampians & Great Outdoors

Only 13 places available.

What: 17 days in Victoria
When: Thurs 13 Oct - Sat 29 Oct
Transport: 25-seater mini bus
Accommodation: self-contained cabins

Geography, geology, history, magnificent Victorian architecture, Chinese artifacts, Botanic Gardens, State and National parks, the Grampians, Aboriginal art sites, underground tours, many mining ruins and gold, gold, gold!!!

Brief Itinerary:

- 13 Oct - Fly to Melbourne. Melbourne to Ballarat to begin exploration. O/N Ballarat.
- 14 Oct - Ballarat, Creswick, Daylesford and Hepburn Springs, Mount Franklin, Guildford, Castlemaine. 3 nights Castlemaine
- 15 - 16 Oct - Explore Castlemaine, south to Kyneton and west to Maldon.
- 17 Oct - To Bendigo via Harcourt, Mt Alexander. 4 nights Bendigo.
- 18 - 19 Oct - Talking Tram Pass and exploring Bendigo in depth.
- 20 Oct - Explore Bendigo environs
- 21 Oct - Via Inglewood, Rheola, Moliagul, Dunolly, Timor and Maryborough. O/N Maryborough
- 22 Oct - Explore Maryborough then via Avoca and Stawell to Halls Gap. 4 nights Halls Gap.
- 23 - 25 Oct - Explore the Grampians, Stawell and Brambuk Cultural Centre
- 26 Oct - Via Ararat, 2 state parks and Beaufort to Ballarat. 3 nights Ballarat.
- 27 Oct - Sovereign Hill and "Blood on the Southern Cross"
- 28 Oct - Continue to explore Ballarat
- 29 Oct - Return to Melbourne for flight home.

Maps and further details are on the RGSQ notice board. Comprehensive passenger notes are available from the office or on the website: www.rgsq.org.au.

Cost: \$2600.00. Includes transport in Victoria, accommodation, breakfasts, morning teas, a couple of lunches, "happy hour", 2-course dinners and admission to attractions listed. **Excludes airfares** to/from Melbourne, bedding and towels in

some cabins (BYO or hire at own expense), admissions to extra attractions of your choice.

Book with the office as soon as possible as numbers are limited. Bookings close on 19 August. Include a non-refundable (unless trip is cancelled by RGSQ) deposit of \$600.00. A Booking Form is available from the office. The balance of \$2000.00 is due by 5 September 2011.

The bus has restricted luggage space (stored inside the bus). Luggage is limited to a soft bag (e.g. duffle bag) no more than 60 cm long and 15 kg, plus a sleeping bag and a day bag.

Accommodation is in 6-berth self-contained cabins, with 4 people per cabin. Following our usual custom everyone will help with food shopping, food preparation and clean-up.

Members will need to make their own airline bookings once we confirm the trip has the minimum number to go ahead. If you want to travel with the group, rather than meet us at Melbourne airport, we'll be travelling from Brisbane to Melbourne on QF 609 6.55am 13 Oct, and returning QF 620 2.05pm 29 Oct (or extend your stay after the trek).

A trek briefing will be held at 6.45 pm on 5 September, prior to the AGM.

For further information phone me on 3283 4494 until about 11.30 am on most mornings.

Audrey Johnston

Say Cheese

At the end of August there is a "Say Cheese" trip being organised. On Friday 26 August we will visit two cheeseries, at Beaudesert and North Tamborine, returning home that day. On Saturday and Sunday 27-28 August, we will visit Maleny and Kenilworth, staying overnight in Maleny. More details in the August Bulletin.

For more information contact Kay Rees, kayrees@gmail.com

Pungalina-Seven Emu Scientific Study

The Royal Geographical Society of Queensland is organising a multi-disciplinary scientific study in 2012 to Pungalina - Seven Emu Wildlife Sanctuary, a property of the Australian Wildlife Conservancy (AWC) in the Northern Territory.

Our Society organises these multi-disciplinary scientific studies every few years. The last one was in 2007 to Cravens Peak in southwest Queensland.

The aim is for scientists from various disciplines to investigate, through a diverse range of terrestrial and aquatic-based studies, the natural resources of the Pungalina-Seven Emu Wildlife Sanctuary in the remote northern area of the Gulf Coastal Bioregion. Invitations to the scientific community have been sent and we have received some very enthusiastic responses.

Pungalina - Seven Emu covers more than 3000 km² in the catchments of the Calvert and Robinson Rivers. The underlying geology comprises Proterozoic sandstones and dolomite (with extensive caves) and Tertiary sediments. Major ecosystems include savannah woodlands, rocky escarpments and freshwater springs in the upper reaches of the catchments, riverine habitats, and cypress pine woodlands, grasslands, saline flats and monsoon forests on the coastal plains. The Calvert River and its main tributaries are classified as 'Regionally Important Wetlands'. Seven Emu has extensive swamp and dune areas, flanked on either side by the Robinson and Calvert Rivers.

AWC is a non-profit organisation whose mission is the effective conservation of Australia's animal species and their habitats. AWC currently manages 21 wildlife sanctuaries across Australia, covering over 2.5 million ha. AWC's management activities are underpinned by a science programme, which includes inventory, monitoring and targeted research projects.

The fieldwork period will extend from 25 June to 23 July 2012.

We are asking for expressions of interest from members interested in **volunteering** to help with the Study. Volunteers are needed from a week or two before the study period to prepare the site, to a week after for the clean-up.

There is more information on the Study and its components on our website, www.rgsq.org.au/whatson. If you think you might be available to come and share the Pungalina-Seven Emu experience with us, please contact Hayley Freemantle at the office, on 3368 2066 or email her at projectofficer@rgsq.org.au.

Spatial Tech Workshop 2

When: 4.00-6.00pm Wed 10 Aug

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 so we can email back instructions later. Preference will be given to members who attended the first workshop if they book by 15 July. After that, places will be allocated in order of booking.

This 2-hour hands-on workshop will be run by Mick Law. It follows on from Workshop 1 held in May, which is why preference is being given to the members who attended it. However, if you have some basic familiarity with Google Maps and similar sites, you would benefit from Workshop 2 without having attended Workshop 1.

Like the first workshop, this one will investigate spatial technologies that are available free on the internet (i.e. you're not learning how to use a GIS program). This workshop will focus on Google Earth and the many different ways you can use it.

Mick is a Queensland geography teacher who taught at Ferny Grove State High School and Brisbane Grammar School before moving into the role of ESRI Australia's GIS in Schools Program coordinator. Since 2008 Mick has run his own consultancy aimed at helping teachers get spatial technology programs established in their schools with training, resources and mentoring.

Mick will be ably assisted by Rebecca Nicholas, Acting Head of Humanities at Brisbane SHS, and very experienced in using spatial technologies.

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.

Congratulations Peter OAM

Congratulations to Society member Peter Nunan who received a well-deserved Medal of the Order of Australia for "service to the community as a volunteer with maritime and geographical organisations" in the Queen's Birthday Honours List.

Peter has been a regular volunteer with the Society since his retirement in 1994. He has re-organised and maintained our map collection, including adding substantial new holdings. Peter has been a valued member of our hard-working Competition Committee since it was formed in 1995. He was awarded a Fellowship of the Society in 2008.

Peter is also a volunteer researcher at the Queensland Maritime Museum; Treasurer of the Brisbane Chapter, East-West Center Alumni Association; and volunteer at 4MBS Classic FM.

Peter is the author of *HMAS Diamantina: Australia's last River Class Frigate (1945-80)*, and co-author of *Master Mariner: The Story of Captain Harold Chesterman and US Subs Down Under: Brisbane 1942-45*.

New Members

We have much pleasure in welcoming the following new members:

Sarah Barry & John Fairbairn;
Moreton Bay College; Helga Stelzhammer

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

Aust Geog Competition

The main work of the 2011 National Geographic Channel Australian Geography Competition is now over – though we still have the pleasurable activities of the Asia-Pacific Regional Geography Olympiad, the National Geographic World Championship, and Geography's Big Week Out (fieldwork for our high-scoring senior students). These of course also involve significant amounts of organisation.

Thanks to the Society's hard working volunteers who did a fantastic job of sending back the results, doing this quickly and accurately:

David and Kathryn Carstens, Mary Comer, Audrey Johnston, John and Mary Nowill, Anne and Neal O'Connor, Pat Peek, John Rhoden, Saren Starbridge, Ron Wallace

Thanks as well to the members who volunteered but weren't needed.

The Final for students under 16 y.o. was held in Sydney on 6 June. The state winners spent the previous weekend in Sydney. The programme included climbing the Sydney Harbour Bridge (surely the highlight), and exploring Fort Denison and the historic Rocks area.

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 packed audience. The results were:

- 1 Michael Gu, Victoria
- 2 Jesse Tong, Queensland
- 3 Liam Kearney, Western Australia

Asia-Pacific Geog Olympiad

Hosted by the Mexican Academy of Sciences, the 3rd Asia-Pacific Regional Geography Olympiad will be held in Mérida, Yucatán, Mexico, from 4 to 9 July 2011. Representing Australia are four of our brightest geography students who won their places on the team after taking part in Geography's Big Week Out held in Western Australia in December 2010, and before that, the senior level of the National Geographic

Channel Australian Geography Competition.

The Australian team members are:

- Bridget Anderson, St Mary's College, Hobart
- Laura Bennett, Coffs Harbour Senior College
- Tarang Immidi, Sydney Grammar School
- Jonathan Steven, Camberwell Grammar School, Melbourne

The Olympiad is overseen by the International Geographical Union Olympiad Task Force, of which Kath Berg is Secretary.

The competition consists of three parts: a written response test (40% of total marks), a substantial fieldwork exercise (40%), and a multimedia quiz (20%). Students mainly complete the test assignments individually, although part of the fieldwork test is done in groups.

Bridget, Laura, Tarang and Jonathan will answer questions relating to a very wide range of geographical topics from hazards and hazard management to cultural geography and regional identities. They will need to draw upon analytical and problem-solving skills, and graphicacy skills (read, analyse, interpret and create maps, images, graphs).

Kath Berg and RGSQ member, Competition Committee member and geography teacher, Margaret McIvor will accompany the Australian team to Mexico. Kath and Marg have also been responsible for the preparation of the written response test.

As well as the hard work of the tests, the Olympiad programme includes visits to the iconic Mayan ruins of Chichén Itzá, and to the 19th century Hacienda Sotuta de Péon.

In the hacienda grounds we'll be swimming in one of the limestone sinkholes that dot the Yucatán Peninsula. This is sure to be very welcome because Mérida is currently getting temperatures in the high 30s, and with high humidity.

Following the Olympiad, the team will go to Mexico City for three days.

They'll explore the historic centre, visit the world-class National Museum of Anthropology and tour the pyramids at Teotihuacán.

Australia's team is supported by the Australian Government through the Quality Outcomes Program, administered by the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations. It also receives support from the Ken Sutton Trust.

National Geographic World Championship

The 2011 National Geographic World Championship will be held 23-28 July, in San Francisco, USA. This biennial competition is organised by the National Geographic Society.

Australia's team is chosen from the 2010 and 2011 Finals for under 16s of the National Geographic Channel Australian Geography Competition. Our team (with two Queensland students!!) is:

- Michael Gu, Melbourne Grammar School
- Riley Kernaghan, MacGregor State High School, Brisbane
- Jesse Tong, Brisbane Grammar School

The World Championship has two preliminary tests which are completed as teams. Based on those, three teams make it into the Final. The Final this year is at Google headquarters in Mountain View, California. The students, as well as the leaders, are looking forward to touring Google.

The World Championship programme includes visits to Muir Woods to see the redwoods and to Point Reyes National Seashore. The Australian team has also organised to visit Alcatraz with the Taiwanese and UK teams. We'll also ride on the cable cars, and visit the cable car museum.

The countries taking part are: Australia, Bulgaria, Canada, China, Czech Republic, Germany, Ghana, Hungary, India, Mexico, Nigeria, Poland, Russia, Singapore, Slovak Republic, Taiwan, United Kingdom and USA.

Helping Geography in Japan

This letter comes from Prof Yoshiyasu Ida, of Tsukuba University in Japan, whom Kath Berg has met through her work with the International Geographical Union.

You will know that north-east Japan has been devastated by the big earthquake and tsunami on March 11th 2011. It is believed that more than 25,000 people have died because of these accidents. Many students in Iwate, Miyagi and Fukushima prefectures are now finding it hard to study, because school buildings have been badly damaged and flattened. In addition, teaching materials are in great

shortage. The Government is distributing text books to students who have suffered, but other teaching materials, such as maps are not being distributed.

The Association of Japanese Geographers has started to collect donations for providing geography teaching materials such as maps and globes to suffering schools. Many Japanese geography teachers and their pupils will be supported by this activity.

I would like to ask you to support this activity. If students who have suffered are informed that teaching materials are offered by not only

domestic but overseas geographers, they would feel connected with the World. A donation of any amount will be very welcome.

If members would like to send a donation directly to the Association of Japanese Geographers, please contact the RGSQ office for their address and/or bank account details. Alternatively you could send your donation to RGSQ by 31 August. Cheques/credit card payment should be made to RGSQ and accompanied by a note directing the donation to Japan. We'll then consolidate the donations and add a donation from the RGSQ itself, before transferring the money to the Association of Japanese Geographers.

RGSQ

Bulletin

Weekend Trek, 1-3 Jul

Where: Elanda Point, Lake Cootharaba

Lecture, Tues 5 Jul, 7.30pm

Speaker: Friedrich von Gnielinski
Subject: Geological Reconnaissance in the
Torres Strait

June 2011

International Competition, 4-9 Jul

What: Asia Pacific Regional Geography Olympiad

Where: Merida, Yutacan, Mexico

Social Function, Fri 22 Jul, 6.00pm

What: Slide presentation and dinner with a
Croatian and Slovenian theme

International Competition, 23-28 Jul

What: National Geographic World
Championship

Where: San Francisco, USA

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

**POSTAGE
PAID
AUSTRALIA**