



RGSQ Bulletin

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From the President

For as long as I've been a member of RGSQ our program of 'geography on the ground' has attracted people to our Society to enjoy many of the outdoor activities we organize. These activities are educational, interesting, have lots of geographical content and they are lots of fun.

I've have just trawled through a number of photos sent from Brian McGrath regarding some of the last few events RGSQ has held at Maidenwell, Wivenhoe, and Bribie Island. I know by the smiles on your faces while at these events that I'm speaking to the converted. It's obvious you've all enjoyed yourselves immensely. There is, however, one thing missing and that is the almost complete absence of members of various younger generations.

Over these past couple of years my daughter has provided me with a subscription to *Camper Trailer Australia* for Father's Day. This publication does a great job in promoting many of the 'off-the-beaten-track' destinations around Australia. The colour photography is excellent, the

message is simple, go out and explore, empathize with nature, go camping, travel, and enjoy this beautiful country of ours.

On opening (Page 127 of the July 2011 *Camper Trailer Australia*) I came across a story entitled 'Nature Deficit Disorder: is your child in touch with nature?' This term was first identified by Richard Louv in his 2005 book, *Last Child in the Woods*. I thought I'd get onto the internet and explore this comparatively new term 'Nature Deficit Disorder'. What does it really mean?

Like many of you, I too have a couple of small grandchildren. Statistics suggest most parents spend hours driving around to regimented sports, and small children, younger than six, spend at least two hours a day watching some screen medium. I can't say my eldest grandchild is any exception to these published statistics.

How much time do children spend outdoors? According to the Australian Institute of Family Studies children aged six to nine spend under two hours a day outdoors on the weekend? The sight of a child roaming free outdoors is now a relic of the past. There's no longer time for imaginative play. Louv notes the biggest obstacle to tackle is fear fuelled by the media. 'Parents are scared to death of stranger danger'. He notes that, 'We might be approaching a time when it is no longer normal for kids to go outside to watch the leaves move' and that kids who don't get enough 'nature time' are more prone to anxiety,

depression and attention-deficit problems.

For a number of years now we have debated how we might attract new and younger members to RGSQ. The Royal Geographical Society of Queensland's program of 'Geography on the Ground' is tailor made to provide more 'nature time' for ourselves, our children, and our grandchildren. Next time you register for a camp or weekend excursion with RGSQ invite your children and grandchildren along. Maybe if we can set the ball rolling we can encourage younger members to our Society.

There is a growing body of scientific evidence that children given an early positive exposure to nature thrive in intellectual and physical ways that their 'Web Generation' peers do not. They'll learn all about conservation, our landforms, our history, our culture, and our rich biodiversity and you will be promoting their health, development and well being.

This I believe is just one more compelling reason for all of us at

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RGSQ to persevere, promote, and explore our unique natural world and teach our children and grandchildren the importance of the discipline we call geography. Next time you log onto the Internet Google the name Richard Louv and see what it's all about.

Leo Scanlan

Lecture - Water in China

The August meeting will feature an address by Toby McGrath, Technical Sector Leader for Water Resources, Infrastructure and Minerals Division, KBR, Brisbane. Toby is a water resources engineer with extensive knowledge of the flooding behaviour and water supply characteristics of Queensland's river systems, having undertaken numerous water resource studies with KBR and with previous employers SunWater and the Department of Natural Resources.

He is the Queensland representative on the National Committee for Water Engineering, Engineers Australia's peak representative body for water engineering. Toby holds a Bachelor of Civil Engineering with First Class Honours and a Masters of Science in Environmental Management.

Toby will address Society members on a project he was involved in to develop a framework for water management and training in China. China's recent rapid economic development has been accompanied by significantly increased water demand, water pollution, and environmental concerns. In recognition of these serious issues, the Australian and Chinese Governments joined forces to undertake the Water Entitlements and Trading (WET) project.

The WET project aimed to develop a comprehensive and integrated framework to provide defined water rights, enable water rights trading, and allow China to sustainably manage its water resources. Over a 6-month period an Australian-Chinese team investigated water management in China, applied international water reform experience, and developed the proposed comprehensive framework.

Given all the interest in Australia in water trading, particularly regarding the Murray-Darling system, it will be interesting to see how another country is dealing with this.

"Say Cheese"

Fri 26 Aug – Sun 28 Aug

Your Choice of a 1, 2 or 3 day trek, built around sampling a variety of SE Qld's wonderful cheeses.

On Fri 26 we will have a tour and tasting at Towri Sheep Cheeses at Beaudesert (meeting there at 9am, 206 Saville Road, Allenvue), have a BYO picnic lunch in the Cedar Creek Falls National Park, followed by a cheese tasting at Witches Chase Cheese North Tamborine (and for those so inclined, beer tastings at the Brewery within the same building). We return home that day.

On Sat 27, we will enjoy a cheese tasting at Kenilworth Country Foods (meeting there at 11am, 45 Charles St, Kenilworth), BYO picnic lunch will be in a nearby National Park before enjoying a walk.

Overnight in Cambroon Caravan Park. (You will need to organise and pay for your own accommodation. Powered and unpowered sites \$10/8, cabins \$80. Phone 5446 0002) Happy Hour nibbles and BBQ dinner will be provided at the Caravan Park.

Sun 28 Aug, the Maleny Markets will keep us occupied in the morning before a cheese tasting followed by lunch at Maleny Cheese. There will be walking in Mary Cairncross Park in the afternoon before returning home.

Cost per person: Fri only \$25; Weekend only \$45; Fri/Sat/Sun \$65. Please **book before Fri 19 August**. For more info contact Kay Rees, kayrees@gmail.com

Office Hours

Society Administrator Kath Berg is coordinating the Australian student team at the National Geographic World Championship.

Following this, 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.

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.

This 2-hour hands-on workshop will be run by Mick Law. It follows on from Workshop 1 held in May, 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.

The Royal Geographical Society of Queensland Inc



GOLD, the GRAMPIANS & the GREAT OUTDOORS

Come join us on a 17 day RGSQ adventure tour, led by RGSQ Councillor Audrey Johnston, featuring the historic gold mining areas and spectacular Grampian Mountains of Victoria.

Travel in comfort in a 25-seater coach driven by RGSQ members John and Mary Nowill.

No camping – accommodation in shared self-contained cabins.

The tour commences in Melbourne on 13 October and will conclude there on 29 October. The full cost is \$2600 and includes transport, accommodation, breakfasts, morning teas, a couple of lunches, "happy hour", 2-course dinners and some admissions. It excludes costs to/from Melbourne and bedding and towels in some cabins.

A deposit of \$600 is required by 19 August.



ONLY THIRTEEN PLACES AVAILABLE - BOOK NOW!

For more details and for bookings contact the office on 3368 2066.

Brief Itinerary

13 Oct - Fly to Melbourne. Melbourne to Ballarat to begin exploration. O/N Ballarat.
14 Oct - Ballarat, Creswick, Dayles-ford 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.

Haddon Corner Revisited

As mentioned in recent *Bulletins* it has been decided to reschedule the Haddon Corner Trek in September of this year. At present most of the roads are open albeit with care, and the planned itinerary will allow for people wishing to join or leave the expedition to suit their own travel plans.

In addition there is a number of functions in country towns – race meetings, district shows and festivals on the weekend of 9 and 10 September. These events are Goondiwindi Food and Arts Festival, Roma Food and Fire Festival, Quilpie Show and Rodeo. Other events could be accessed after the Trek, such as Boulia Min Min Light Festival, 15-18 Sept, Cloncurry Races, and Winton Festival 20 Sept.

Trekkers will meet in Quilpie on:

- Monday 12 Sept - Overnight Quilpie
- 13 Sept - to Windorah, o'night Windorah
- 14 Sept - to Haddon Cr, O/N Kulpie Waterhole
- 15 Sept - to Birdsville O/N. Birdsville, Dinner at Pub
- 16 Sept - Birdsville O/N Birdsville, visit Museum and local sights, sunset Drinks at Big Red (BYO)
- 17 Sept - Birdsville O/N Birdsville, free day, fishing etc
- 18 Sept - Travel to Windorah O/N Windorah. Southern travellers will branch off to the Birdsville Track. Innamincka and Strezlecki Track travellers will also branch off today.
- 19 Sept - Optional. End of formal Trek today, from Windorah.

Choice of routes home or north from Windorah:

- Brisbane via Charleville 1190 km
- Brisbane Via Moonie Hwy 1339 km
- Brisbane via Goondiwindi 1304 km (Gore Hwy)

Please complete a Booking Form, available from the RGSQ office. An administration fee of \$50 per vehicle will apply. Please register before Friday 19 August.

Brian Mealey

Vale

It is with regret that we inform members of the death of Denis Cleary. Denis was one of the Society's most long-standing members, having joined us in 1966. Although he hasn't been able to attend many functions of late, unlike in the past, we were pleased to be able to welcome him as an honoured guest to the Society's 125th anniversary luncheon. Our sympathies are extended to Deirdre and family.

Day Trip – Toowoomba

Members and guests are invited to join us for a day bus excursion visiting Toowoomba Gardens – native and exhibition.

When: Sunday 25 September 2011, 8.00am till 5.30pm
Where: meet Gregory Park, Baroona St, Milton
How: Sunstate Bus
BYO: lunch and drinks
Cost: \$35 per person.
Pay the office by 9 Sept 2011.

Members from Toowoomba and nearby are invited to join us at the lunch venue for the afternoon activities.

Jeanette Lamont

Victoria Falls to Cape Town Tour 2012

Departing Australia on 16 April 2012 and travelling to Victoria Falls, Chobe, Okavango Delta, Etosha, Cape Cross, Swakopmund, Namib Naukluft, Fish River Canyon, Cederberg, Stellenbosch, Cape Point and Cape Town.

Sound interesting?

All airfares Brisbane/Brisbane flying Singapore Airlines with 3 Star accommodation for 23 days. For further information and a copy of the itinerary/further details and cost please phone Lynn Law from Travel Concepts on 3420 6397 or mobile 0419 779 448, or Leo Scanlan on 3343 4398. Don't miss out, numbers are strictly limited.

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.

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.

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.

Annual General Meeting

Members are hereby notified that the Annual General Meeting of the Society will be held at RGSQ, 237 Milton Rd, Milton, at 7:30 pm on Tuesday 6 September 2011.

The business to be transacted at this meeting shall be:

- receiving the Council's report and the statement of income and expenditure, assets and liabilities of the Society
- receiving the auditor's report
- electing Council members
- appointing an auditor

If any member wishes to add an item of general business they should

notify Secretary of this by 16 August 2011. Any changes to the business to be transacted at the meeting thus arising shall be notified to members via the What's New page of the Society website by 23 August 2011.



Council Nominations

Any two members of the Society may nominate any other member to serve as an officer or other member of the Council during 2011-2012 by completing the nomination form below and returning it to the Secretary by 23 August 2011. Only if at the commencement of the AGM there is an insufficient number of candidates nominated, may nominations be taken from the floor.

If you would like more information on serving on Council, please ask a Councillor at the next meeting, or ring Keith in the office. Members are asked to think seriously about contributing to the Society in this way.



New Member

We have much pleasure in welcoming Maggie Overend as a new member. We hope your association with your new Society is long and mutually enjoyable. We look forward to getting to know you at Society functions.



Asia-Pacific Geog Olympiad

Australia has triumphed at the 3rd Asia Pacific Regional Geography Olympiad in Merida, Mexico, winning

one gold, two silver and one bronze medal. This gave the Australians the highest combined team score in the Olympiad.

The highest individual score was gained by Isaac Ramirez from Mexico. Tarang Immedi from Sydney Grammar School won the only other gold medal awarded. Two of the three silver medals awarded went to Australians – Jonathan Steven from Camberwell Grammar School in Melbourne, and closely behind Laura Bennett from Coffs Harbour Senior College. Bridget Anderson from St Mary's College in Hobart won a bronze medal, meaning that all four members of the team won medals.

The award ceremony followed a week of intense activity. The Asia Pacific Regional Geography Olympiad was held in Merida, in Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula, and the students experienced the region to the full.

The Australian team arrived a day early to aid recovery from jet lag. On the Sunday afternoon we wandered into the city centre, down an avenue lined with magnificent colonial buildings and modern sculptures. Being Sunday the town square was filled with market stalls and we were lucky enough to see a traditional dance performance with the girls in beautiful dresses, accompanied by a 12-piece band.

The Opening Ceremony on Monday was followed soon after by the first of the exams, the Written Response Test, worth 40% of the marks. In this test, students apply their own knowledge and skills to the

background material provided to answer questions on a range of topics. Those examined this year were cyclones, forest ecosystems, development aid and water footprints.

With Merida's heat, the tests were scheduled for the afternoons to take advantage of the comparatively cooler mornings for excursions. The first of these was to the Hacienda Sotuta de Peon. This was the perfect excursion for geography students, combining land use history of what had been an important agricultural industry in the Yucatan, sisal production, with the physical geography highlight of visiting a *cenote* (limestone sinkhole) – plus swimming in the large pool within the *cenote* while insectivorous bats flitted overhead.

The second exam, the Multi-Media Quiz, took place that afternoon back in Merida. This is a multiple-choice test where students answer questions related to photo interpretation, maps, graphs and tables. It is worth 20% of the final score.

The Fieldwork Test occupied all of Wednesday and, being such an important part of geography, was worth 40%. The fieldwork took place in the nearby town of Izamal, and the sites investigated included the town square, a 16th century Franciscan monastery and two Mayan pyramids! – somewhat different from any fieldwork sites in Australia. Part of the test is undertaken in the field, such as completing a land use map, and answering questions from their own observations and calculations.

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Council Nomination Form

We, being financial members of The Royal Geographical Society of Queensland Inc, nominate:

_____ for the position of:

- (Please circle one of) President
- Vice-President (2 positions)
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Councillors (8 positions)

on the Council of the Society for the 2011-12 year.

Nominator's signature: _____

Secunder's signature: _____

I, being a financial member of the Society, agree to the above nomination, and confirm my preparedness to serve if elected.

Candidate's signature: _____

Date: _____

Candidates may wish to provide a brief resume of their involvement with and interest in the Society.

The second part of the test, done at a desk, examined the students' understanding of what they had seen and their ability to apply it to a hypothetical situation.

The tests over, the students could enjoy a visit to the famous archaeological site of Chichen Itza, with its massive pyramid, ball court, and many associated buildings. The guide explained how the pyramid acted as a calendar, pointed out some of the most interesting carvings on the buildings, and filled us in on the way that the ball courts was used. The rumour is that it was the winner who was sacrificed to the gods, because you couldn't offer your god second-best!

Friday the students had free time to further explore the city, shop for souvenirs and swim in the hotel pool, while some of the leaders finished the marking and collated the results, ready for the all-important award ceremony where the students were presented with their medals.

Following the Olympiad, the students visited Mexico City where they visited the historic centre and the world-class National Museum of Anthropology, and took a tour to the Teotihuacan pyramids. Much to the delight of the students, unlike at Chichen Itza, you are still permitted to climb the Pyramid of the Moon and the Pyramid of the Sun.

Helping Geography in Japan

A reminder that the Society is collecting donations (money not goods) to supply geography teaching materials for schools in Japan devastated by the tsunami. The Japanese government is replacing text books but not materials such as maps or globes.

The donations will be sent to the Association of Japanese Geographers. If you'd prefer to donate directly to them please contact us for their address and/or bank details. Or donate to RGSQ by 31 August, and we'll include your donation in a consolidated foreign bank transfer.

RGSQ Bulletin

August 2011

Lecture, Tues 2 Aug, 7.30pm
Speaker: Toby McGrath
Subject: Water Management and Trading in China

Workshop, Wed 10 Aug, 4.00pm
What: Spatial Technologies
With: Mick Law

Weekend Trek, 26 - 28 Aug
What: "Say Cheese"
Where: Beaudesert, Kenilworth & Maleny

Meeting, Tues 6 Sept, 7.30pm
What: Annual General Meeting

Trek, 12 - 19 Sept
What: Haddon Corner Revisited

Day Trip, Sun 25 Sept
What: Coach to Carnival of Flowers
Where: Toowoomba

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