



# RGSQ Bulletin

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## In this issue

- Lecture - Brisbane's Suburban Floodplains
- Southern Africa Trek
- Irish Travel and Tucker
- Canefields Trek
- Volunteers Needed
- Camping Bigriggen Park
- Scenic Rim Safari
- Goods for Pungalina Study
- Governor's Speech

## From the President

On behalf of all at The Royal Geographical Society of Queensland I would like to sincerely thank Her Excellency Ms Penelope Wensley, AC, Governor of Queensland for once again visiting our premises and addressing Society members on the occasion of the Diamond Jubilee of Her Majesty The Queen.

It was rather fitting that this lecture was to open our Geographical Lecture series for 2012.

I note in Her Excellency's response to Messages of Welcome during her Swearing-in Ceremony on 28 July 2008, and I quote "As a proud Queenslander, conscious of my heritage, I pledge that I will do all I can to serve the people of Queensland and to promote and enhance the welfare and standing of the State". (Government House website)

With 192 Vice-Regal Patronages to attend to, I can only comment that the amount of research, time, and effort Her Excellency obviously displayed in her lecture was ample

evidence of her determination to uphold her dedication pledge made during her Swearing-in Ceremony in 2008.

See page 4 of this *Bulletin* for more on the Governor's speech.

## Membership

I would like to continue my President's message for March with an urgent appeal for members with communications or marketing interest, skills or qualifications to come forward and join a new membership committee to work to entice new members to our Society.

On the first Tuesday of every month it's great to see those familiar faces, those stalwarts of our Society, members who organize our functions, and are enthusiastic participants on our excursions and treks. Average attendance is in the sixty to seventy range with some exceptions – depending on the topic.

I first joined RGSQ in 1987 along with a considerable number who joined at that time to participate in a trek to the Salvator Rosa Section of Carnarvon National Park and the later Centre Safari which took place the following year. Many of those who participated in RGSQ activities all those years ago are the same faces we see at many of the activities we're conducting today.

We have an ageing membership and we do need to encourage younger and new members to our Society. This ageing membership is possibly the biggest problem we face as we look forward into the future.

Targeting the younger members of the 'Baby Boomers' may perhaps be the way to start – but we do have to start to address this problem.

If you do have any of those marketing skills, or ideas on how to entice new members to our Society we would appreciate your help. Please phone either Kath in the office or myself at home on 3343 4398. I would welcome your help and participation.

Leo Scanlan

## New Members

We have much pleasure in welcoming as new (and returning) members:

Eileen and Michael Bunney; Paul Lambert; Muriel Lilley; Patricia Lye; Elizabeth and Michael McInnes; Lesley Trotter

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

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)

## Lecture - Brisbane's Suburban Floodplains

The March lecture is sure to be of particular interest to our Brisbane members. Assoc Prof Peter Skinner will give an address on: *Up the Creek: Rethinking Brisbane's Suburban Floodplains*.

This presentation looks at architectural and urban design responses in the aftermath of the January 2011 Brisbane River floods. It draws on the speaker's experience in the immediate clean-up, through processes of community engagement and interim planning responses, to research into long term interventions that may increase the resilience of those communities that live in the floodplain.

In particular the study looks at the riverine flooding into suburban creeks and proposes redevelopment options for Oxley and Western Creeks. It argues for simple flood mitigation measures to prevent recurrence of disastrous inundation from future floods similar to the 2011 event. It further proposes that a program to stimulate more robust residential redevelopment along the edges of the floodplain may assist the city in meeting regional planning targets for increased residential density and affordability. Such redevelopment is seen to provide needed support to many residents of the area stranded with insufficient insurance payments or resources to rebuild.

Associate Professor Peter Skinner is Director of the Master of Architecture program at the University of Queensland and Queensland President of the Australian Institute of Architects. His youth was spent in regional Queensland, where he experienced flooding in a number of river catchments. His first week of study as a UQ architecture student was spent in the muddy suburbs of Chelmer and Graceville documenting damage caused by the 1974 Brisbane River flood. His experience of the power of the Brisbane river in flood informed his successful campaign against the North Bank project from 2004 to 2008.

In January 2011, as Queensland President of the Australian Institute

of Architects, he helped coordinate the profession's post-flood activities and represented the Institute on State and City reconstruction advisory panels. With Christian Duell (State Library of Queensland) and Alan Hoban (Healthy Waterways) he established the Flood Of Ideas web-project and exhibition. The projects for Oxley Creek and Western Creek to be presented in this lecture are the focus of his current research and teaching projects at the University of Queensland.

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## Southern Africa with RGSQ

Due to a most unfortunate accident, two of our Society members have reluctantly withdrawn from one of RGSQ's Southern African treks – we now have a double room vacancy we need to fill urgently.

This trek takes in a guided tour of Table Mountain, Cape Point and a full day Winelands tour. Wildflowers of West Coast National Park, Ai Ais Richtersveld Transfrontier National Park, Fish River Canyon, Sossusvlei Dunes, Etosha National Park, Okavango Delta, Chobe National Park, Victoria Falls, high tea at the Victoria Falls Hotel, a sunset cruise on the Zambezi and a lion cub experience.

If you're interested please phone Leo Scanlan on 3343 4398 any evening for further details or Lynn Law at Travel Concepts 3420 6397 or mobile 0419 779 448. This tour leaves Brisbane on 18 August and returns 12 September 2012.

Leo Scanlan



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## There's a Little Bit of Irish

Irish travel and tucker on St Patrick's Day.

What: Aussie nibbles and drinks, a 3-course Irish meal, slide presentation and talk

When Sat 17 Mar, 6.00 for 6.30 pm

Where: RGSQ

Cost: \$35.00 per person

Book: with the office; pay by 6 Mar

So green and fertile, Ireland is a beautiful country. Although small, there is so much for the traveller to explore. St Patrick brought Christianity to Ireland between 432 and 451 AD. Archeology includes dolmens, gallery tombs, passage tombs, circular forts, Megalithic and early Bronze Age remains.

The scenery is magic; there are ancient religious sites; magnificent historic buildings, churches and cathedrals; national monuments; island cruises; quaint villages, national parks and much more.

My first visit was in 1984, beginning in Dublin, braving narrow and winding roads, following the coast to Galway, then zipping back to Dublin because we'd run out of time – but not places to visit. In 2002, I joined a walking group from Limerick, travelling around the coast with many adventures and collecting millions of slides and stories to share.

Bring your friends and introduce them to your Society. And wear something green.

*Audrey Johnston*

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## Canefields Trek

We've had a great response to this trek and it is full. The information below is provided for the benefit of those already booked.

These are the pick-up and drop-off points. If you haven't already told the office where you want to be picked up, please notify us:

6.55am Brighton Shopping Centre – bus stop on Beaconsfield Tce  
7.15am Carseldine Rail Station – bus interchange  
8.15am City – Ann St, outside People's Palace (Backpackers)  
8.25am Stones Corner – bus stop outside library, Old Cleveland Rd  
8.35am Upper Mt Gravatt – Palmdale shopping centre, Logan Rd bus stop

The expected return time to the city stop is 4.45pm, with appropriate adjustments for other stops.

*Jeanette Lamont*

## Volunteers Please

We need to call on our generous members again for help with the school geography competition – to mail out the question sets. For those with experience, this is the mail-out where you use the counting scales to weigh questions and answer sheets.

We already have enough volunteers for the first day, but we're looking for help from **Wednesday 14 March to Friday 18 March**.

Please ring Kath in the office (3368 2066) if you can help – or see her at the March meeting.

And thanks to the members who mailed out the competition information packs in January:

David and Kathryn Carstens; Mary Comer; Elizabeth Hindson; Ben and Sarah Jeffrey; Audrey Johnston; Bev Leggett; June McNicol; Maureen Meier; Karen and Peter Nunan; John Rhoden

The next main working bee is scheduled for **Tuesday 29 to Thursday 31 May**. There will also be need for a few helpers on Tuesday 3 April, Wednesday 11 April, and a few other days around those dates.

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## Camping Bigriggen Park

**Fri 30 March - Tues 3 April**

As advertised in the last *Bulletin*, the Bigriggen camping weekend is planned so that families can participate. It is at the start of the school holidays for that reason, and children and grandchildren are especially welcome.

The Park has good facilities and many activities are available. The Logan River is running so bring togs, bodyboards and canoes, bikes if you have them. Grassy, shady campsites are plentiful on the river flats, and fires are permitted (bring your own firewood). Bunkhouse rooms are available also. A kiosk and showers (20 cents) are on site.

The surrounding area provides many fine touring opportunities, such as Lakes Maroon and Moogerah, Mt Barney, Boonah Markets and Beaudesert Pioneer Museum. Queen

Mary Falls is not far away. Other activities could include visits to an alpaca farm, wineries, Lions Road.

The Park is located just off the Boonah-Rathdowney Rd; the turn-off is just past the Rathdowney School.

Members should make their own bookings for campsites online, at [www.bigriggen.com.au](http://www.bigriggen.com.au) (put "RGSQ" in the 'Group' box). Bookings for Bunkhouse rooms must be made by phone – 5463 6190. Due to school holidays it is advisable to book early.

Please also register with, and send payment to, RGSQ – admin fee \$20 per family or \$10 per individual. A more detailed list of suggested activities and directions will be provided; please leave your email address.

*Brian Mealey 3379 2783*

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## Scenic Rim Safari

A camping trek around the Scenic Rim is planned from Friday 18 May to Saturday 26 May. Two camping places have been chosen, spending 4 nights at each spot:

- Fri 18 - Mon 21 May: Queen Mary Falls Caravan Park near Killarney offers cabin accommodation as well as camping on powered and unpowered sites
- Tues 22 - Fri 25 May: Mt Warning Rainforest Retreat which has cabins, caravans and powered and unpowered camping sites.

If you wish to participate in the total trek, the RGSQ fee will be \$40 pp and will cover a group BBQ dinner and a group lunch. However, if you only want to join us for one sector or the other, you will be most welcome and the fee will be \$20 pp. Please book with, and pay the fee to, the RGSQ office.

There are many places to visit in this area and we will be doing some of the less strenuous walks, taking in the views, partaking of some of the local food but most of all, enjoying peace and quiet away from the city.

Members will need to make and pay for their own bookings for accommodation, online or by phone,

mentioning RGSQ (approx. \$30 for a powered site):

Queen Mary Falls - [www.queenmaryfalls caravanpark.com.au/index.html](http://www.queenmaryfalls caravanpark.com.au/index.html); ph 07 4664 7151  
Mt Warning Rainforest Park - [www.mtwarningrainforestpark.com/rates](http://www.mtwarningrainforestpark.com/rates); ph 02 6679 5120.

It would be worthwhile to make your bookings sooner rather than later.

A more detailed list of the planned activities will be furnished to those who register for this trek.

*Kay Rees*

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## Pungalina Scientific Study

As mentioned in previous *Bulletins*, the Society is organising a scientific study in partnership with the Australian Wildlife Conservancy at the Pungalina Seven-Emu AWC Sanctuary. This study will be held in June and July 2012. The Society has always prided itself on the contribution of its members to these studies. In the lead up to this big event we are sending a "Call Out" for loans or donations of items we will need while at Pungalina. They are:

- 1 x large fridge
- 5 x bread makers
- 2 x old style washing machine (no computerised components and in good condition)
- 8 x gas operated small camp fridges
- 50 x 2 litre ice-cream containers **with lids**

The volunteers will bring the camp fridges and bread makers back from Pungalina, but the large fridge and washing machines will remain behind.

If you have any of the above which you can loan or donate to us, please contact Hayley at the office, email [projectofficer@rgsq.org.au](mailto:projectofficer@rgsq.org.au), or phone 07 3368 2066.

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## Change of Date - Maritime

Please note this change of date for our visit to the Queensland Maritime Museum. This will be held on Wednesday 8 August, not the date in the programme of 15 August, which is the Exhibition public holiday.

## DON'T MISS OUT!

In October, the Society is planning a weekend at the Millmerran Camp Oven festival. A very interesting programme for 5th to 7th is planned – more details later.

Accommodation will be in great demand, so if you are intending to come, please book your accommodation as soon as possible with Tony and Dawn Smith at the Millmerran Village Caravan Park, phone 07 4695 2020, email [mvcaravanpark@bigpond.com](mailto:mvcaravanpark@bigpond.com) mentioning you are part of the RGSQ group. Per night costs are powered sites \$26 for 2 persons, studio cabins \$85 for 2 persons; book for the nights of Friday 5 and Saturday 6 October.

Please let the RGSQ office know when you have booked.

Brian McGrath

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## Governor Salutes Mapmakers

In her address to the Society on the occasion of the Her Majesty the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, the Governor of Queensland, H.E. Ms Penelope Wensley AC chose "to praise and honour map-makers and maps". The Governor drew comparisons with mapmaking during her lecture.

"The Queen has plotted a safe course through enormous geopolitical, social, economic and technological change and often turmoil," said Her Excellency Ms Wensley.

"In the process, she has created for us all milestones to follow: of dignity, of grace, of duty and of service."

Her Excellency paid tribute to the navigators and cartographers whose achievements in mathematics, exploration, and graphical invention represented the world in a form that was readily comprehensible. Even the earliest maps, such as a 2300 BC Babylonian clay tablet, had made the connection from reality to map using symbols still instantly recognizable.

"I come this evening to praise and honour map-makers and maps".

"Like many in my generation and previous generations, I have always found maps almost irresistible", she said.

The Governor referred to her 40 year career as a diplomat, dealing with the management of relations between countries, in which "I became ever more intrigued by the paradox of maps: how it is that they can lead double lives, some acting as a disinterested representation of the surface features of our planet, and others as a cipher of change over the centuries, tracking geopolitical upheavals through the expansion, contraction, appearance and disappearance of those imaginary lines we call international borders."

The Babylonian map, she said, uses symbols that clearly represent mountains, a river valley, and fields.

"The representation of real space and real features in this way was surely a radical step, as radical, in its way, as the invention of writing, because expressing information in the form of a map made possible the transfer of knowledge from an individual no longer living to individuals who were yet to be born, without the intermediary of oral transmission through multiple generations. (And it works: we are still talking about this map even though it is over four thousand years old.)

"Moreover, maps express this knowledge in a particularly potent form. They harness basic human instincts, locating ourselves in the landscape ...

"Maps created a basic language of symbols from the landscape around us that we all instantly understand: no one who has ever seen a river will fail to recognise its representation on a map... The range, sophistication and abstraction of that symbolic language grew as map-making developed, but that does not disguise the fact that the Babylonian map, for all its simplicity, is a true predecessor of all maps up to and including those generated by modern-day GPS-driven technology".

Her Excellency offered her "celebratory Jubilee address" as a "grand tour" in appreciation of maps

and map-making. She spoke of "the enormous debt that our current understanding of our world, our capacity to make representations of it and to find our way around it, owe to geographers and map-makers born thousands of generations ago" and to the "giants of the map-makers' art and craft".

"But where has all their innovation, art, craft, brilliance and sometimes genius brought us? One answer lies in the 2011 Oxford English Dictionary's second, broader and less traditional description of a map as: *a diagram or collection of data showing the spatial arrangement or distribution of something over an area.*

"Such is the astonishing diversity of maps and map-making tools in the twenty-first century that the traditional definition of a map no longer serves. We now have the capacity to generate maps of a mind-boggling variety of specialised data."

It was a notable speech to mark a significant historical occasion, enthusiastically received by Society members.

The Governor noted that Queen Elizabeth II is the most travelled monarch of all time and in keeping with the geographical analogies, she borrowed William Shakespeare's quote "*in thy face I see, the map of honour, truth and loyalty*".

"Few, surely, whether monarchists or republicans, would refute the proposition that the Queen has expressed these qualities fully in a lifetime of service to those she pledged to serve, as a young woman of 25 – and only yesterday, on the Anniversary of Accession Day, at age 85 years and nine months, she recommitted to serve."

A great night for royalists, and for cartographers.

Les Isdale

You can read the full speech at [www.govhouse.qld.gov.au/the\\_gov\\_ernor/speeches\\_articles.aspx](http://www.govhouse.qld.gov.au/the_gov_ernor/speeches_articles.aspx).

ABC 612 has a recording of the speech on their website. Visit What's New on the RGSQ website for a link.

## Vale Alan Bowman

Life member of the Society, Alan Wollaston Bowman, lately of Geelong, died on 25 November 2011, aged 97 years. Alan Bowman served on Council from 1960 to 1969, including as President from 1964 to 1966. Condolences have been extended to his family.



## Flinders Ranges Trails

Our sister Society, the Royal Geographical Society of South Australia, is involved in development and maintenance of walking tracks in the Flinders Ranges. Since our respective centenaries in 1985, our two Societies have endeavoured to develop closer ties. Most recently we met at Haddon Corner in September 2011, and subsequently some RGSQ members joined RGSSA members in a trek through the Flinders Ranges.

The Flinders Ranges walking track activities offer further opportunities for closer involvement between members of these, the last surviving of the Royal Geographical Societies in Australia.

The RGSSA Walking Trails Support Group has a website [www.walkingtrailssupportgroup.org.au](http://www.walkingtrailssupportgroup.org.au) on which you can find full details of its plans for 2012. If you are interested in joining in any one of these activities, please contact the Walking Trails Group through their website.

*Brian McGrath*

## Flinders and Donington

On a recent visit to England, we spent several productive hours in Donington, Lincolnshire, the birthplace of Matthew Flinders and wish to encourage RGSQ members to do likewise whilst in that part of the world. Thanks to the magnificent effort and passion of a geography teacher, Alan James, there is much information on display in the 13th century church of St Mary and the Holy Rood.

After exploring the churchyard and finding graves of a grandfather, father and brother Samuel who sailed on *The Investigator* with Flinders, we obtained the key for the church from Mr James and, with him as guide, were shown the collection within the church – his own wonderful display of photographs and accompanying text which details areas of Australia and their connection to Matthew Flinders; a stone donation in 1974 by the Matthew Flinders Bicentennial Council of Victoria; a bust of Matthew Flinders and other memorabilia.

There is a commemorative stained glass window to the great cartographer and, on a separate wall, marble plaques which bear the names of Matthew Flinders' father, grandfather and great grandfather.

Mr James, as part of the church library, has first editions of Matthew Flinders' journals of his voyages and we were most fortunate to see them at his residence. The church itself is

in need of repair and, with a tiny congregation, any donation – however small – from visitors is desperately needed to keep this wonderful collection intact in the place where it rightly belongs.

In 2006, the town of Donington unveiled a bronze statue of Matthew Flinders with faithful Trim by his side. Although the house where Matthew was born was demolished in the very early 1900s, a plaque to record his birthplace is erected on the current property occupying that site.

At nearby Boston, in St Botolph church (aka 'The Boston Stump', as the spire provided a landmark for bombers returning from raids over Europe in WW2), there is an impressive marble memorial to honour locally born explorers and sailors who had a particular connection with Australia. Included are Matthew and Samuel Flinders, George Bass and Joseph Banks. The memorial is headed by the Australian Coat of Arms and the flag of Australia is displayed proudly.

*Les and Janette Embrey*

Flinders' fans might want to sign the petition to the British Parliament to gift the original map of 'Australia or Terra Australis', to Australia in time for the bi-centenary of Flinders' death in 2014 (organised by Greg Hunt, federal member for Flinders).

[www.greghunt.com.au/Pages/matthew-flinders-map-petition.aspx](http://www.greghunt.com.au/Pages/matthew-flinders-map-petition.aspx)

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## 2012 Membership Renewal

Membership fees for 2012 were due on 1 January. According to our records, your membership has been paid up to the year shown in the top right corner of your mailing label. (For life members this space is blank.) Please contact the office if you think there may be a mistake in our records. If you have not yet paid, please circle the appropriate fee and send this in with your payment. The mailing label on the back of this sheet gives your name and address. Please correct it if there are any errors. You may like to consider making a tax-deductible donation for the Society's environmental and educational work at the same time. Thank you.

Ordinary	\$40.00
" Pensioner rate	\$25.00
Household	\$55.00
" Pensioner rate	\$35.00
Student/Junior	\$25.00
Schools/Non-profit organizations	\$55.00
Corporate	\$150.00
Life	\$400.00
Donation	\$.....
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$.....</b>

I enclose a cheque/money order payable to RGSQ; or, please debit my  Visa  Mastercard

Card no.: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp date: \_\_\_\_\_

Cardholder name: \_\_\_\_\_ Cardholder signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Yes, I'd like my Bulletin delivered by email. My email address is: \_\_\_\_\_

## KymRoundOz

Some Society members may be interested in this book *KymRoundOz: an Australian Odyssey*. It's an account by Kym Ninnes who spent 120 days and did 28,200 km making the trip around Australia in his home-built "Clubman" sports car. Kym kept a log and posted info and photos on his website during the trip, all of which was interesting reading. This formed the starting point for the writing of the book.

It's a good bit of Australiana, adventure, travel, dreams and cars. It comprises 170 pages, full colour with lots of photos and maps. It costs \$29.95 plus \$3.50 p&h ordered over

the internet. Kym's website, [www.kymroundoz.com](http://www.kymroundoz.com) contains other info that may also be of interest to other members.

*Rob Wilson*

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## Transit of Venus

On 6 June 2012, Venus will pass in front of the Sun in an event known as the Transit of Venus. During the event, Venus will appear as a tiny dot on the face of the Sun (ingress), slowly moving across it before finally exiting from the face of the Sun (egress) about 6 hours later. The Transit of Venus is historically

important as a method of determining the scale of the solar system. Transit observations allow the distance from Earth to Sun to be calculated – the fundamental unit for determining distances within the solar system. Throughout the 18th century many scientists travelled the globe to take observations of the Transits of Venus, perhaps most notably James Cook in 1769 who observed the transit in Tahiti, before exploring Australia and New Zealand. (The next Transit is in 105 years time.) See the website at [www.transitofvenus.com.au](http://www.transitofvenus.com.au).

The Society is planning an event to safely view the Transit on this day.

# RGSQ Bulletin

March 2012

**Lecture**, Tues 6 Mar, 7.30pm  
Speaker: Assoc Prof Peter Skinner  
Subject: Up the Creek: Rethinking  
Brisbane's Suburban Floodplains

**Volunteer Days**, Tues 13 - Fri 16 Mar  
For: Australian Geography Competition

**Social**, Sat 17 Mar, 6.00pm  
What: Talk and Themed Dinner - Ireland

**Day Trek**, Wed 21 Mar  
What: Commentary in the Cane Fields

**Geography Competition**, 26 Mar - 4 Apr

**Long Weekend Trek**, 30 Mar - 3 Apr  
What: Camp at Biggigen

**Evening Meeting**, Tues 3 Apr 7.30pm  
Speaker: Dr Maruicio Taulis  
Subject: Coal Seam Gas Water and  
Potential Environmental Implications

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

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