



RGSQ Bulletin

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From the President

Once more I'm writing from afar. In order to fulfill my obligations and write my monthly passage for the *Bulletin*, I'm writing this in Nero's coffee shop on the front in Weymouth on the south coast of England. I've found this my most difficult assignment so far.

Sharyn and I have been in Paris over the past couple of weeks staying in a second floor flat, above a bakery on the Rue des Petits and close to the centre of the city. We were within comfortable walking distance of the Louvre, Notre Dame, The Pompidou Centre, the Metro, and, of course, many other cultural and historical attractions situated in central Paris.

The village atmosphere right outside our door here was our biggest surprise. The restaurants and sidewalk cafes, like elsewhere in Paris, were plentiful along with the local butcher, baker, fruiterer, fishmonger, boutiques and patisseries that create a village and social atmosphere that is very pleasant indeed. All this exists on a multiple scale in this city of eleven or twelve million people.

I suppose when we travel we tend to compare what's at home in our own neighbourhood. By way of comparison, Brisbane City Council's attempt at rejuvenating parts of Brisbane to help encourage more community and social cohesion has met only partial success. On my own side of town, Mt Gravatt Central, Stones Corner and possibly elsewhere have had street upgrades to try and encourage a feeling of belonging and community.

With the development of American style malls, I feel we've lost a lot more social cohesion than we've gained. Some of what I saw in Paris would have taken many of our older members back to their younger days in places like Stones Corner and Nundah before the malls took hold in Toombul, Garden City and Chermside.

Last Wednesday we moved on to London via that marvel of engineering and technology the Channel Tunnel, and the Eurostar where we entered the United Kingdom at the brand new station at St Pancras. We were in the tunnel for exactly twenty minutes.

To say London is anything less than a hive of frenetic activity at the moment is an understatement. Olympic excitement, building and activity is everywhere.

Wimbledon was on our agenda this time and was every bit as good as it appears on television. On previous visits we missed Kew Gardens (The Royal Botanical Gardens) but managed to fit it in on this occasion –

a full three hundred acres in London and the largest collection of plants in the world.

Last Wednesday we caught the train down to Weymouth on the English south coast. The town here is also caught up in Olympic hype as it is the site of the Olympic sailing events. We're here for the next two weeks.

Climate change is in the news over here too. We had a number of wet days while in Paris, it rained lightly in London over the week we were there, and it's pouring this morning in Weymouth. The previous week the United Kingdom recorded its wettest week since records were taken with some disastrous floods in the north of England. It seems climate change is not only taking its toll in Australia but having considerable impact here as well.

Again this month there's too much to see and report and too little time. Hope all is well at home in Brisbane. Regards to all at RGSQ.

Leo Scanlan

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

Lecture - Geography and Diplomacy

The Society is proud to be hosting His Excellency Mr Paul Madden, British High Commissioner to Australia, as the guest lecturer at our August meeting.

Mr Madden will talk about the links between geography and diplomacy. Drawing on his academic background as a geographer, and his quarter of a century of diplomatic postings, he will argue that geography remains a vital influence in the world of international relations in the 21st century. His speech will discuss the impacts of natural resource endowment; natural hazards and disasters; the relationship between history and geography; political units and boundaries; and the importance of place identity.

Paul Madden has been British High Commissioner to Australia since January 2011. Prior to this he was British High Commissioner in Singapore from February 2007.

A career diplomat, he was previously Managing Director at UK Trade and Investment (2004-2006), responsible for co-ordinating and implementing international trade development strategies to support companies across a wide range of business sectors.

As Assistant Director of Information at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) from 2003 to 2004 he was responsible for public diplomacy policy, including managing the FCO funding of the BBC World Service, the British Council and the Chevening Scholarships programme. He led the team responsible for the award-winning UK pavilion at the Aichi Expo in Japan 2005.

He was Deputy High Commissioner in Singapore from 2000 to 2003 and has also served in Washington (1996-2000) and Tokyo (1988-92). From 1992 to 1996 he worked on EU enlargement and environmental issues at the FCO in London.

Before joining the FCO he worked at the Department of Trade and Industry (1980-87) on a range of industrial sectors and trade policy,

including two years as a minister's Private Secretary.

Paul Madden has an MA in Economic Geography from Cambridge University, an MBA from Durham University, studied Japanese at London University's School of Oriental and African Studies, and is a Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society. His first book, *Raffles: Lessons in Business Leadership*, was published in 2003.

Maritime Museum

Bookings for this have now closed. Members who have already booked are reminded to meet at 9.45am Wednesday 8 August, Maritime Museum, Southbank. Lunch is included. There will be an interesting talk from one of the Museum staff after lunch.

Hinze Dam & Numinbah

Members and friends are invited to join this day trip on Sunday 9 September, which includes a guided tour of Hinze Dam. Early birds could make a full day of it, taking in the Nerang River's source area at Natural Bridge, while others could opt for the core afternoon activities.

For early birds, gather at the beginning of the Natural Bridge walking track at 10.30am. The Natural Bridge walk takes about half an hour and is well worth seeing. Nearby, the Qld/NSW border gives brilliant views over the Tweed Valley towards Mt Warning.

There'll be plenty of time to get back to the Hinze Dam picnic area in time for lunch.

We'll gather from about noon for lunch. The meeting point is the picnic area below the Hinze Dam wall, down Hoop Pine Road. (Look for the magnetic RGSQ signs on vehicles.) BYO picnic or purchase from the kiosk at the top of the dam wall.

Our tour of the dam starts at 2.00pm with Michael Fiechtner of SEQ Water. After the tour, there's still plenty to take in – like a walk across the dam wall or through the adjoining park area.

To get to Numinbah/Hinze Dam, you take Exit 71 off the Pacific Highway at Nerang and turn right at the top of the exit ramp. Follow the signs indicating Murwillumbah or Numinbah Valley or Natural Bridge – (route 90, then route 97).

Hinze Dam turn-off is 10 km from Exit 71 where you left the motorway.

Natural Bridge is 29 km further on from the Hinze Dam turnoff through the beautiful Numinbah Valley.

Please register with the RGSQ office, including payment of a fee of \$5.00 per person. Bookings will close on 4 September at the latest, but the guided tour may reach capacity before then.

John McWatters

(Please note that the 7-10 Sept trek shown in the printed programme has morphed into this one.)

Office Hours

In August, Society Administrator Kath Berg will be attending the International Geography Olympiad in Cologne. Kath will be out of the office from 20 to 31 August. During this times the office should be open every day, but not for full hours. Please ring and check the hours before visiting.

New Members

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

Sam and Lois Bateman; Judith Coles; Christine Leahy; Margaret Tiainen; Maurizia Turco

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

Q: *What do geographers grow in their gardens?*

A: *Compass roses*

Q: *What did the sea say to the shore?*

A: *Nothing, it just waved!*

Lambert Centre Trek 2013



RGSQ is planning to revisit the **Lambert Centre** to recognise the 25th anniversary of the erection of the **Flagpole** by our Society in **1988**.

Itineraries have been prepared for both **4WD** and **coach travellers**.

The **4WD Trek** will start at Broken Hill on 28 August 2013. Running for 23 days we will visit many iconic places in Central Australia, such as **Uluru, Kata Juta, Lake Eyre, Coober Pedy, Kings Canyon** and **Alice Springs**. Registration fee for **4WDs approx \$250 per vehicle**

The Coach Trek will be of **16 days** from **Brisbane and returning to Brisbane**, starting **7 September** 2013. The Coach will offer some **accommodation options**, such as **cabins** for about **half the nights**. The itinerary will **visit many of the sites noted above**.

Cost is likely to be **below \$3000 p/p**.

The **Lambert Centre** is the **Geographical Centre of Australia**. It was determined at the request of the **RGSQ** in **1988**, and named in honour of **Dr Bruce P Lambert** from the **Division of National Mapping**. The Lambert Centre is situated about **25 km west of Finke NT**.

A **Simpson Desert crossing** is also being considered, and some members have already expressed interest. The route across the desert is still in the planning stages.

Members interested in joining this trek are asked to:

register with the **RGSQ office**, email admin@rgsq.org.au, ph 07 3368 2066; or contact **Brian Mealey** ph 07 3379 2783, email bsmealey@bigpond.net.au

Millmerran Festival

The Society has organised a long weekend at the Millmerran Camp Oven Festival. A very interesting programme is planned from Friday 5 through Sunday 7 October.

On Friday we will be visiting the original R. M. Williams retail outlet in Toowoomba, Cecil Plains Homestead, Yandilla Anglican Church (originally part of the Gore family's run, est. 1841), and the Millmerran Coal Mine and Powerhouse. Mr Grant Unergang, of the Millmerran Historical Society, will be presenting a slide show on the Millmerran District on Friday evening, at the Millmerran Village Caravan Park.

Saturday, we'll be joining enthusiastically in all the Camp Oven Festival has to offer: bush poets' breakfast, music, demonstrations, stalls, displays, camp oven cooking competitions, and best apron competitions.

On Sunday we will be visiting the Millmerran Museum, Mt Basalt, Commodore Peak, and then Forrest Estate Olive Grove, for a tour of the Estate's olive grove production and lunch.

Accommodation is at the Millmerran Village Caravan Park, e-mail mvcaravanpark@bigpond.com; phone 07 4695 2020. Accommodation is now very limited — mention RGSQ. If you miss out, there is an alternative temporary camp ground in the showground; enquiries to dtwidale2@bigpond.com.

Cost: \$35.00 per person which covers a 1-day entry to the Camp Oven Festival, and lunch at Forrest Estate Olive Grove and Wine Cellar.

When you have booked accommodation, please pay RGSQ office the fee of \$35.00 per person.

Greg Lewis

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 4 September 2012.

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 the Secretary of this by 14 August 2012. Any changes to the business to be transacted thus arising shall be notified to members via the What's New page of the Society website by 21 August 2012.



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 2012-2013 by completing the nomination form on the next page and returning it to the Secretary by 21 August 2012. Only if at the commencement of the AGM there is an insufficient number of candidates nominated, may nominations be taken from the floor.

A couple of current Council members will not be standing for re-election, so members are needed to fill vacancies. If you would like more information on serving on Council, please ask a Councillor at the next meeting, or ring Keith at the office. Members are asked to think seriously about contributing to the Society in this way.



AUSTRALIAN GEOGRAPHY COMPETITION

The National Geographic Channel Australian Geography Competition Final for students under 16 years old was held in Sydney on 18 June. Eight students (six boys and two girls this year) represented their state or territory.

As part of their prizes the students won a weekend in Sydney. The programme included climbing the Sydney Harbour Bridge (surely the highpoint!), a behind-the-scenes tour with the reptiles at Taronga Zoo, and a performance in the Sydney Opera House of *Opera Warriors* by the visiting Shanxi Huajin Dance Art Troupe.

The Final was held at Foxtel Studios in Sydney. It was compered by ex-*Temptation* host Ed Phillips in front of an audience of students, teachers and other invited guests. National Geographic Channel later broadcast a one-hour programme on the Final.

The questions in the Final covered a large range of topics, including landforms, resources, demography and questions linked to the International Year of Sustainable Energy for All. The stimulus material included video footage, photos and maps.

The results of the Final were:

- 1st James Abel, Shore School, Sydney
- 2nd Sebastian Summersby-Mitchell, Canberra Grammar School
- 3rd Yianni Van Gelder, Newington College, Sydney

Have a look at the photos on the competition website:

www.geographycompetition.org.au.

James won a place on the Australian team which will compete in the 2013 National Geographic World Championship in St Petersburg, Russia. The other team members will be the top intermediate student from 2013, and either Sebastian or next year's second-placed student.



International Geog Olympiad

The 2012 International Geography Olympiad will be held from 21 to 28 August in Cologne, Germany. The team is selected from students who have excelled in the senior level of the Australian Geography Competition, via a fieldwork-based selection/training event Geography's Big Week Out. These four students have been chosen based on their outstanding performances:

- Anthony Chen, Radford College, Canberra
- Sarah Godman, Cootamundra High School
- Sarah Naco, Canberra Girls' Grammar School
- Kate Parrott, Hobart College

The team will be accompanied by Society Administrator Kath Berg and Society Councillor Margaret McIvor. Kath is currently Secretary of the International Geographical Union Olympiad Task Force so will be at the Olympiad with two "hats" on.

Following the Olympiad, the Australian team will join some of the other teams for a short trip in Germany. This includes time in Heidelberg, Leipzig, Dresden and Berlin. However, being for geography students, it also includes: Neuseenland, where they are reclaiming old industrial and mining sites for recreation; the Saxon loess fields; the glacial series in Brandenburg; and the south German scarplands.

Rocks and Landscapes

The Geological Society of Australia Qld Division has published a revised colour edition of *Rocks and Landscapes of Brisbane and Ipswich*.

This guidebook looks at the geological origins and landscapes of the region. This second edition includes new content on Brisbane's building stones and tunnels, as well as a revised section on excursions where the rocks and landscapes can be seen.

As we have done with previous guidebooks in this series, the Society will be coordinating a bulk order. If you'd like a copy (or more than one), please let the office know and pay by 4 September.

The cost is \$11.00 if the book is collected from the Society, or \$14.00 for it to be posted out to you.



Floodlines

You might like to visit this multi-part exhibition at the State Library of Queensland, if you haven't yet been. It closes 19 August.

Through stories, exhibitions and events, Floodlines shares your contemporary and historical memories of Queensland's floods – making sense of the past and celebrating the spirit of recovery.

Floodlines: a living memory. As we recover, remember, reflect and rebuild, Floodlines: a living memory pays tribute to the resilience and community spirit of Queenslanders in the face of devastating natural disasters of the summer of 2010-11. Queenslanders – through film, sound, ideas and photos in the Flood and Cyclone Mosaic – help tell the rich and complex story of a summer we will never forget.

Download the Floodlines app for iPhone, iPad or iPod touch to see flood waters rise in 3D as part of the exhibition. Using augmented reality technology, the app allows you to simulate the rise and fall of the Brisbane River across the CBD and surrounding areas. [One of our members was really impressed with this app.]

Floodlines: 19th century Brisbane. Brisbane, the 'River City', has a long history of floods – and the 'great floods' of 1893 remain in our memory as a benchmark against which all subsequent floods have been measured.

Floodlines: 19th century Brisbane, curated by respected historian Helen Gregory, probes the history of 19th century flooding and examines the lessons learned and opportunities lost. Through items from the John Oxley Library, stories of survival, loss and recovery unfold in ways that eerily mirror contemporary experiences, and remind us that at the heart of every disaster, communities shine.

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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 2012-13 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.

Water Education Toolkit

Water plays an important role in Australian society. Not only is water vital for life, but it also sustains our unique and treasured environment, contributes to our economic health and a range of social, recreational and cultural activities. In acknowledgement of this vital role, the Australian Government has released the Australian Water Education Toolkit and made the material freely available at www.environment.gov.au/water/education.

The website provides a repository of hundreds of teaching and learning opportunities, assisting teachers at all year levels to access national,

state, territory, regional and urban water resources, with free access to:

- lesson plans
- student activities
- resource sheets
- maps and charts
- and Australian Curriculum links.

Free Online Geog Ed Jnl

If it's of interest but you haven't caught up with this yet – RIGEO (Review of International Geographical Education Online) is an international online, refereed geographical education journal which publishes articles on all aspects of

geographical education in all levels of education systems.

RIGEO seeks to build bridge between geography teachers, researchers, policymakers, and practitioners on best theories and practices.

RIGEO has an international scope; therefore, authors are encouraged to focus on the aspects of their research/activities that make the work relevant for the larger community of geography educators.

RIGEO provides immediate free open access to its content at:

www.rigeo.org

RGSQ Bulletin

August 2012

Lecture Meeting, Tues 7 Aug 7.30pm
Speaker: H.E. Mr Paul Madden
Subject: Geography and Diplomacy

Day Trek, Wed 8 Aug, 9.45am
What: Guided tour + lunch
Where: Maritime Museum

Overseas Trek, 18 Aug - 12 Sept
Where: Southern Africa

International Geog Olympiad, 21-28 Aug
Where: Cologne, Germany

Meeting, Tues 4 Sept, 7.30pm
What: Annual General Meeting

Day Trip, Sun 9 Sept
Where: Hinze Dam, and optionally
Numinbah Valley

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

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