



# RGSQ Bulletin

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## From the President

Recent discussion has raised the question of what type of people are the Members and potential Members of our Royal Geographical Society of Queensland. The answer is that membership is for the community, to enable interaction and learning and to be an influence in development.

The breadth of disciplines and interests of the Membership of our RGSQ is the evidence to show this, as is the existence of Geographical Societies worldwide. As in our case the longevity of such organisations, contributing successfully and in various ways, to development of community and infrastructure is also proof.

A few dates for comparison:- RGSQ (1885); National Geographic Society (1888); Royal Geographical Society London (1830), Australian Geographic (1986).

Recently I found a definition of geography which I found useful. This is contained in *The National Geographic Reference Desk* published in 1999 by National Geographical Society in USA and I quote in part:-

"Geography gives us a way to look at the Earth as a whole – both the physical world and its people. Geography is much more than the name of the world's highest mountain or longest river or the capital of Brazil. As a science, it seeks to understand where things are and how and why they got there, by studying – and with an emphasis on location – the connection and interactions among people, places and environments."

This definition goes on to expand the role of a geographer to link many sciences to involve human and physical geography with cartography to understand and manage the development of the planet on which we live.

The full definition is worth reading and is very much in accord with the definitions, aims and objects of RGSQ, discussed in 1883 as the reason for establishment of a geographical society in Australia. This reasoning and ultimate action is well recorded in the Centenary History of the Society, *A Dream in Trust*, which is also worth reference for completeness. The header for this Society *Bulletin* gives a succinct precis of these definitions.

The Society continues to work towards these ideals, striving to be abreast of geographical knowledge in the twenty-first century. Our wide range of Membership is interested in learning about the many aspects of Geographical Science and in influencing how the community decides appropriate application of this science.

On my most recent motoring visit to Maitland, I was especially observing the evidence of the stages of development along the highways followed:- Pacific Highway south and New England north.

The signs of the initial exploration, settlement, the land clearing of early days by ringbarking techniques, later by bulldozer, the development of the road system from cart tracks to broad highways with mighty strips of pavement carrying fast mechanical vehicles, large and small, and the associated industrial facilities, are in evidence along the way, each established to meet the requirements of its day. Old and modern farm machinery seen along the way tells its own story as do the old and new railways.

Geographical Societies, and many kindred associations, have influenced this development by the bringing together of people to learn and discuss the geography of the requirements from time to time, with mostly successful results.

Patron: H.E. Ms P Wensley AC,  
Governor of Queensland  
President: Mr David Carstens

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)

Here is a further example of this contribution and community influence. Associated with a recent stay at O'Reilly's Guest House, it was pleasing to find reference to the activity of our Society, then RGSA(Q), in the establishment of Lamington National Park in 1915. The process is recorded in some detail in *History of Lamington National Park* by J. Keith Jarrott, and commences with a paper presented to RGSA(Q) in September 1896. Mr R.M. Collins was the presenter and he used the paper as a reference in a letter to the Lands Department in 1905, urging action. Dr J.P. Thomson was well involved in the process, both as a representative of the Society and in field inspections. It was slow but sure progress.

The popular tourist destination of Carnarvon Gorge and Ranges can also be claimed as a development by Members of the RGSQ, based on the exploratory excursions into the area in the late 1930s and through to 1961. In more recent years the Scientific Studies and the many geographic treks within Australia and overseas have continued the tradition of exploration, learning and influencing community activity, all in accord with present requirement.

The now published program of lectures and activity for 2013 should facilitate the continuing aims of the Society.

David Carstens

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## Africa Revisited

You are invited to a multi-media presentation on both of the RGSQ 2012 Africa Treks. This will be held at the Society on Thursday 31 January 2013 at 7:30 pm. Light refreshments will be served.

Preliminary information on the Peru Trek later in 2013 will also be available.

This is the Society's first activity of the year, is free, and is open to ALL MEMBERS. For catering numbers, please advise the office by Friday 25 January if you are attending.

Enquiries to Kay Rees  
KayRees@wombatshollow.com

## Lecture: St Helena

We start the 2013 lecture programme with a presentation by Jeanette Covacevich – *Big Lessons from a Small Island*.

St Helena is one of the most remote islands in the world, still accessible only by sea, and famous because of Napoleon's incarceration there in 1815 following his defeat at Waterloo. It can be viewed as a microcosm of the world at large. As such, St Helena and islands like it, have much to teach us about the imperative to limit population growth and its destructive consequences.

Jeanette Covacevich AM, PSM, BA, MSc is a member of our Society, and former curator (vertebrates) at the Queensland Museum, where she continues her association as an Honorary. She has had a life-long interest in islands and has published extensively on their biotas. In retirement she has been able to "step up" her visits to many of the remote volcanic islands (Pitcairn, St Helena, the Chathams among them) which have intrigued biologists for so long.

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## D'Aguiar Dalliance

We kick off our 2013 Treks programme with a day Trek on **Wednesday 13 March** to D'Aguiar National Park, South Section. Known until 2009 as Brisbane Forest Park, it features a wide range of habitats and plant communities and forms the western limit of the catchments of many streams north of Brisbane, including South Pine River, Kedron Brook and Enoggera, Gold, Moggill, Gap, Cabbage Tree and Cedar Creeks.

The Walkabout Creek Visitor and Wildlife Centre (60 Mount Nebo Road, The Gap) opens at 9am, and we'll meet there by 9.30am to view the static displays and wildlife and see the platypus feeding. Travelling up Mount Nebo Road, we'll stop at Jolly's Lookout to view the vista to the coast and for a BYO morning tea.

After short walks at Manorina and Westridge Outlook, we'll arrive at Mount Glorious Restaurant and Café for a 2-course lunch on the deck, with tea and coffee (buy your own drinks).

A walk around the Rainforest Circuit nearby should settle the lunch down, and we'll then drive on to the Wivenhoe Outlook and the Red and White Cedars picnic areas where we'll have our afternoon snack.

The return trip is via Lake Wivenhoe and Fernvale and we should be back in Brisbane shortly before 5pm.

The route is all sealed roads, and the cost – \$35 per person – covers the entry fee at Walkabout Creek, lunch at Mount Glorious and the afternoon snack.

Bookings are essential, and close with the office on Tuesday 5 March.

Enquiries to Brian McGrath  
phone: 07 3378 5960  
brian.mcgrath@bigpond.com

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## Peru Trek 2013

Think of the Amazon and Machu Picchu – doesn't that sound exciting! Then add Santiago, Lima, Cuzco, Arequipa, Colca Canyon, and Lake Titicaca.

Combine that with a heady mix of food, wine, colour, music, markets, and some exceptional history of the Spanish conquest of the New World and the Inca civilisation. This is what's in store during our Peru Trek.

I invite you to join us on tour and once again promise a very rewarding geographical experience in 2013 when The Royal Geographical Society of Queensland, in conjunction with Travel Concepts, travel to Peru, **departing 12 Oct**.

Since advertising in the December *Bulletin* we have registered a good start, but there is still room for a number of interested trekkers. Don't delay if you are at all interested.

Cost all inclusive \$10,990 per person; deposit \$1,200 per person.

For further information regarding a detailed itinerary or to book, contact Mel Haycock at Travel Concepts, phone (07) 3368 3733 or email melh@travelconcepts.com.au, or for information only phone Leo Scanlan on (07) 3343 4398 or email trekabout@inet.net.au.

## South of the Border Trek

A trek suitable for families and people who prefer not to camp, as well as campers, has been arranged for the school holiday period after Easter 2013. The period involved is from **1 to 11 April 2013**. Participants will meet at Stanthorpe, where we will spend 2 nights, visit wineries, and view local scenery.

Then travel via Moree (1 night) to Coonabarabran (2 nights) and visit the Warrumbungles and local Observatory.

Next to Armidale (3 nights), for waterfalls and national parks, art galleries, museums and a local tour.

Finally to Yamba (2 nights) for some beach, surf, and visits to nearby centres, such as a ferry trip to Iluka for lunch. The formal Trek will finish at Yamba on 11 April, but people may elect to stay on, or visit other beach-side places like Lennox Head on the way home.

The itinerary has been planned on good roads, and with caravan park/motel accommodation every night. The Easter/school holiday period may make bookings difficult, so please advise the office of your interest as soon as possible. Let us know of your accommodation needs, caravan, tent or cabin, etc. We will then contact caravan park venues, and circulate a firm itinerary.

Members will be required to make their own accommodation bookings, after we advise the venues.

The Treks and Activities Committee is really desirous of having a good number of children/grandchildren along on this trek, so please encourage the "young ones" to come along and enjoy RGSQ hospitality and our interesting and informative treks.

A registration fee of \$25 per individual or \$50 per family, is payable **before 28 February 2013**.

Enquiries to Brian Mealey  
phone: 07 3379 2783  
bsmealey@bigpond.net.au

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## Vale: John Ranford

Society members will be saddened to learn of the death of member Richard John Ranford, who passed away on 30 December. Our sympathies are with Margaret and family.

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## New Member

We have much pleasure in welcoming Shawn Phua as a new member. We hope your association with your new Society is long and mutually enjoyable.

## Lambert Centre Trek

### Aug/Sept 2013

This Trek (by coach or 4WD) commemorates the 25th anniversary of the Society's trek to the Lambert Centre in 1988 to mark the centre point of Australia.

### Coach Section

Stonestreet Coaches of Toowoomba will provide their well-appointed, spacious outback touring coach for a 16 day, 15 night trek from Brisbane to the Lambert Centre and return. The coach will depart Brisbane on 7 September and return 22 September. Overnight stops are planned for Mitchell, Longreach, Boulia, Harts Range, Alice Springs (2 nights), Yulara (2 nights), Lambert Centre, Coober Pedy, Marree, Birdsville (2 nights), Windorah, and Mitchell – an exciting round-trip itinerary!

7 nights will be in twin-share tents and 8 nights in shared cabins or bunkhouses. Tent camping will feature stretcher beds; no more inflating mattresses! Almost all meals – breakfast, lunch and dinner – morning teas and Happy Hour nibbles will be included in the cost.

**The total cost for this coach trek is \$2995 per person.** A deposit of \$300 is required with your booking; the booking deadline is 28 February 2013. The balance of \$2695 is to be paid before 31 May 2013. The deposit is non-refundable, unless the trek is cancelled.

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## 2013 Membership Renewal

Membership fees for 2013 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: \_\_\_\_\_

Seats are filling on the coach. If you haven't already reserved your place on what promises to be a great trek, please contact the office for a booking form without delay. Enquiries to:

**Brian McGrath**, ph 07 3378 5960  
brian.mcgrath@bigpond.com

#### **4WD Section**

The 4WD Group will assemble in Broken Hill on 28 August, and disperse from Alice Springs about 18 September. More information was in the November *Bulletin*, or contact:

**Brian Mealey**, ph 07 3379 2783  
bsmealey@bigpond.net.au

## **Celebrate Australia Day at Government House**

The Governor of Queensland, H.E. Ms Penelope Wensley AC and Mr Stuart McCosker invite you to an Open Day at Government House to celebrate Australia Day – 10.00am to 3.00pm, Saturday 26 January, 168 Fernberg Road, Paddington.

Features are: the historic house and gardens both open, with volunteer guides on hand; informative displays in the Investiture Room; musical entertainment; refreshments for purchase or bring a picnic; free parking with shuttle service from Norman Buchan Park (cnr Baroona and Rainworth Rds).

## **Surveying Brisbane**

When: 12.30pm Sat 23 Feb  
Where: RGSQ, 237 Milton Rd, Milton

The Brisbane History Group has organised a seminar on the theme of "Surveying Brisbane". Presentations will cover: Indigenous history as interpreted through linguistic groups; the 1837 survey of the region; surveyors' reports and what they reveal about the lost vine forests of Brisbane; a survey of marine archaeology.

Further details (and bookings):  
Janet Spillman  
Brisbane History Group  
jspillman@optusnet.com.au

# **RGSQ Bulletin**

**February 2013**

**Trek Show**, Thurs 31 Jan 7.30pm  
What: Africa Revisited

**Lecture Meeting**, Tues 5 Feb 7.30pm  
Speaker: Ms Jeanette Covacevich  
Subject: Big Lessons from a Small Island

**Lecture**, Tues 5 Mar, 7.30pm  
Speaker: Prof Ciaran O'Faircheallaigh  
Subject: Extractive Industries and  
Indigenous Peoples: Changing Dynamic

**Day Trek**, Wed 13 Mar  
What: D'Aguilar Dalliance

**Geography Competition**, Mar 25 - Apr 5  
Held in Schools

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

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