



RGSQ Bulletin

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From the President

The Lecture Programme for 2013 started well with an interesting presentation based on the Island of St Helena.

It was a very pleasing opportunity to again welcome the Society's Patron, H.E. Ms Penelope Wensley AC, Governor of Queensland, at this Tuesday 5 February presentation. Her Excellency advised, at short notice, that she wished to attend this lecture, as the speaker, Ms Jeanette Covacevich, is a long standing friend.

During the day Her Excellency had flown to the Burnett District on an official visit to that flood and cyclone damaged area. When she realised she would return to Brisbane in time to attend the lecture, the Society was advised of her wishes. It was a tight schedule – arriving at Government House at 6.45 pm, Her Excellency still met the 7.30 pm commencement time of the lecture for the well received presentation.

Jeanette Covacevich, a Member of the Society, used her recent visit to volcanic St Helena to describe and illustrate the effect of human settlement on a unique environment. This island provides a compact

visualisation of cause and effect that can be used to develop strategies for development of significant larger areas and design of necessary remedial action. Hence the title of the Lecture, *Big Lessons from a Small Island*. The illustration of the infestation of the Flax Plant on St Helena was just one example. The plant was introduced by travellers with a view to meeting needs for rope making in the days of sailing ships.

The pleasingly large attendance welcomed the presence of our Patron, but had attended to hear the speaker, not aware of our Vice-Regal audience.

Further to the Luncheon held last November to recognise the retirement of Keith Smith and Paul Feeney from the Council of the Society after so many years of service, Keith Smith has now also retired from his position as Business Manager. Below is an extract from the letter that was presented to Keith in tangible and personal recognition of this significant event for him and for the Society.

Expression of Appreciation Keith Smith FRGSA(Q) Hon. Life Member

The Council of the Royal Geographical Society of Queensland, successor to Royal Geographical Society of Australasia, Queensland Branch, expresses appreciation and thanks for the long and valued service provided by you to the Society as Secretary and Business Manager since your

installation in that capacity in 1986.

In that twenty-six years you have contributed your talent, expertise and enthusiasm towards the aims of the Society to promote geographical knowledge, through organisation of activities and especially the important funding and management of Society investments.

Your contribution is unique, yet comparable with other long-term Secretary positions which have so strongly influenced the work of the Society during the 126 years of existence.

In recognition of your contribution, the Council of the Society has decided that the RGSQ Prize at the University of Queensland be known as "The Keith Smith Award".

This letter is to express, as appropriately as possible, the esteem in which you are held by the Royal Geographical Society of

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

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Queensland and appreciation of your considerable contribution to the well-being of the Society.

David Carstens, President

Keith Smith has accepted that his name be attached to the RGSQ Prize at the University of Queensland.

Keith is certainly missed but continues to provide advice and expertise.

David Carstens

Lecture: Mining and Indigenous Peoples

The March lecture will feature a presentation by Professor Ciaran O'Faircheallaigh, titled *Mining and Indigenous Peoples: A Changing Dynamic?*

Indigenous peoples and other rural or remote populations often bear the social and environmental cost of mining and oil and gas development, while obtaining little of the wealth they generate. Recent developments in national and international recognition of Indigenous rights offer the prospect that for Indigenous peoples at least, their former economic and social marginalisation may be reduced.

A case study of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) development in the Kimberley region of Western Australia shows that these changes are indeed creating opportunities to shape the local impacts of extractive industries. It also illustrates that effective political mobilization by Indigenous peoples is essential if they are to grasp these opportunities, especially as growing pressures to expand extractive industries across the globe increase demands for access to Indigenous lands.

Ciaran O'Faircheallaigh is Professor of Politics and Public Policy at Griffith University, Brisbane. He has published numerous articles and books in the fields of public policy, resource economics and resources policy, negotiation, and impact assessment. For over 20 years he has worked with Indigenous organizations in Australia and Canada on social impact

assessments and on negotiation of agreements with resource development companies. He is currently advising the Kimberley Land Council on mining developments in the Kimberley, and the Autonomous Bougainville Government on options in relation to the possible reopening of the Bougainville copper mine in Papua New Guinea.

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're looking for help from **Tuesday 12 to Thursday 14 March**, with maybe one or two people needed on Friday 15 March to finish up.

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; Ann Hanger; James Hansen; Ben and Sarah Jeffrey; Audrey Johnston; Maureen Meier; Karen and Peter Nunan; Pat Peek; Digby and Helen Warren

The next main working bee is scheduled for **Tuesday 21 to Thursday 23 May**. There will also be need for a few helpers on Wednesday 3 April, Tuesday 9 April, and a few other days around those dates.

New Members

We have much pleasure in welcoming the new members shown below. We hope your association with your new Society is long and mutually enjoyable.

Shaun Buckland; Thomas Franz; Ailsa and Graham Grieve; Glenda and Roger Grimley; Elenne and Peter Lonrisch; Bruce McDonald; Joel Murphy; Alister Rhode

D'Aguilar Dalliance

Bookings closing soon!

We kick off our 2013 Treks programme with a day Trek on **Wednesday 13 March** to D'Aguilar 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 9 am, and we'll meet there by 9.30 am 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 5 pm.

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.

South of the Border Trek

Please note that the itinerary for this Trek, **1-11 April**, has been changed because of the recent catastrophic bushfires in the Coonabarabran/Warrumbungle areas. These places have been removed from the itinerary, allowing more time to explore the Tamworth and Glen

Innes areas. Other regions in the Trek will remain. The revised itinerary and map are on the Society's website – www.rgsq.org.au.

The trek will retain its commitment to good roads, and comfortable accommodation every night, and to retain the Family Theme. We hope to see children coming along, too.

The closing date for bookings for this Trek has been **extended to Tuesday 5 March**. Please book with the office before that date, so that accommodation venues can be nominated.

Participants will meet at Stanthorpe, where we will spend 2 nights, visit wineries, and view local scenery. Then travel via Moree (1 night) and Narrabri (1 night) to Tamworth (2 nights), with perhaps a side-trip to Mt Kaputar along the way.

Next to Armidale (2 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 Easter/school holiday period may make bookings difficult, so

please advise the office of your interest now. 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.

A registration fee of \$25 per individual or \$50 per family, is payable **by 5 March** 2013.

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



Lambert Centre Trek

Coach Section

This Trek will depart Brisbane on 7 September, returning 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 deposit will only be refunded if the trek is cancelled by us.)

Bookings for the coach section of the trek are still available; the closing date had been extended to **15 March**. Please contact the office for a booking form and itinerary.

4WD Section

The 4WD Group will assemble in **Broken Hill on 28 August 2013**, and disperse from **Alice Springs about 18 September**. A Simpson Desert Group may break away after 16 September.

Travel will mostly be on established roads, although some parts will be very rough, such as sections of the West Macdonnell Ranges and the Chambers Pillar Leg.

Camps will be mainly at caravan parks, some with cabin options, but at least 3 bush camps (no facilities) are planned. Members will appreciate that this Trek is long and arduous; total time away from home could be 4 to 5 weeks.

The registration fee is \$250 per vehicle. A \$100 deposit is to be paid with your booking. Please contact the office for a **booking form**. The new booking deadline is **2 April 2013**. (The deposit will only be refunded if the trek is cancelled by us.)

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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	\$.....
TOTAL	\$.....

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: _____

Please contact me if you need more details on the itinerary at this stage, or with any queries. However, you need to contact the RGSQ office directly for a booking form and to pay the deposit.

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

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, departing Brisbane **13 October**, returning **2 November 2013**. The all-inclusive cost is \$10,990 per person.

There is still room for a few interested trekkers. For 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.

IAG Conference

Institute of Australian Geographers Conference, 1 - 4 July 2013, Perth. The conference theme, *Multi Speed Planet: Multi Speed Geographies?*, acknowledges WA's present position in the economic fast lane as a result of the current mining boom. However, it also seeks to encompass the environmental and social changes occurring at different rates and with differing effects in different locations and at different scales, from the decline in rainfall in southern WA to the aging of the population in much of the developed world, the putative dawn of the 'Asian century' and the impacts of climate change. www.promaco.com.au/events/iag2013/

RGSQ Bulletin

March 2013

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

Volunteer Days, Tues 12 - Thurs 14 Mar
For: Australian Geography Competition

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

Geography Competition, 25 Mar - 5 Apr
Where: in schools all over Australia

Camping Trek, 1 - 11 April
Where: South of the Border

Thomson Address, Tues 2 Apr, 7.30pm
Speaker: Mr Paul Feeney
Subject: RGSQ and its People: 25 Years

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