



RGSQ Bulletin

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From the President

This February *Bulletin* welcomes Mr Bernard Fitzpatrick to the position of Executive Officer for the Royal Geographical Society of Queensland.

After a long and active process involving the Council, the Executive and an interviewing panel selected by the Council, a choice was made in early December and Bernard Fitzpatrick accepted the position on 4 December. The start date was set at 13 January 2014.

The November advertisement, placed in a well regarded internet employment site, attracted an encouraging number of applicants for the position of Executive Officer. Fifty applications were received and the outstanding qualities in those short-listed is worthy of noting. The Society is fortunate to attract such people.

This posed a time-consuming and strenuous task on the officers of the Society, the interviewing panel and interviewees, all undertaken with dedication.

Bernard has 'hit the road running' by attending the December Council Meeting which he took in his stride.

Bernard is a Member of the Society and had served for a short time as a Councillor in 1989, interrupted by transferring to Northern Territory for work. He is a Geography Graduate from the University of Queensland, with a significant background in cartography and remote sensing for land management. You will hear more of Bernard elsewhere.

The Council is now working on the detail of restructuring the operations of the Society in the Office to meet the future workloads anticipated, especially noting the near completion of the Pungalina Scientific Studies Report and investigations towards introduction of Primary Level into the Geography Competition. This will involve Kath Berg moving towards part-time involvement and Hayley Freemantle having reduced time in the office with greater involvement in clerical responsibilities.

It is so pleasing to the Society to receive a Christmas Card from our patron the Governor of Queensland, Ms Penelope Wensley, AC, extending Best Wishes to RGSQ Council and all supporters, with a handwritten acknowledgment of excellent activity and communication through the year.

An activity of particular interest to me arises from the Lambert Centre Trek. This interest stems from the surveyed positions of the Lambert Centre. The 2013 survey results indicate a value for continental drift. Also highlighted is that there are two markers at the Lambert Centre. The Monument for the Centre Point is the Flagpole, erected by the RGSQ in

1988. This is a model of the Flagpole on Parliament House, Canberra. There is also a Permanent Survey Mark (PSM), also placed in 1988, being the location of the computed Geographical Centre. The very visible Monument is some 600 metres to the east of the PSM on flat ground. The PSM is located on a slope not suitable for erection of the flagpole.

The Royal Geographical Society of Queensland has been provided with an excellent and interesting report giving the survey results, taken using the latest survey equipment, for the position of Lambert Geographic Centre. This report compares measurements taken during the September 2013 visit to the Centre by the survey detachment from the Royal Australian Survey Corp (RASC), which accompanied the RGSQ Trek, with results from 1988. The RASC were also involved in 1988.

The report concludes that the observations indicate a change in position of the Permanent Survey

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Mark (PSM) at the Lambert Centre by 0.625 metres east and 1.154 metres north over the last 25 years. That is a bearing and distance of 28°25' for 1.312 metres. This is a move of 53 millimetres per annum which is consistent with the general trend of measured continental drift of 60 millimetres per annum.

The bearing and distance from the PSM to the Flagpole Monument is 90°50' for 578.8 metres.

Because there are variations in the data recorded in 1988, the records require further examination and this has become a (mathematical) project which is ongoing. The history of the establishment of the Lambert Centre has been summarised from records held in the Society Office and Library.

It is well documented that the Latitude and Longitude of the Lambert Centre were computed in 1988, by the then Survey Section of the Department of Geographic Information, now the Department of Natural Resources and Mines. The computations utilised the available computers and recently established National Mapping digitised outline of the Australian continent. (This was based on 1:5,000,000 mapping and 24,000 digitised points were used.)

Definitions are discussed and alternative "Centres" are nominated. The official naming of this central point for Dr Bruce Lambert, former Director of National Mapping, is also covered. The RGSQ Library contains reports and video film coverage of the 1988 establishment of the Lambert Centre.

David Carstens

Bernard Fitzpatrick

Having commenced work in 1980 as a Cadet Cartographer with the Queensland Government, Bernard went on to further study part-time; graduating from the University of Queensland with a Bachelor of Arts, First Class Honours (Geography) in mid-1989. Later that year he took a position in Darwin with the Northern Territory Government where he undertook research and development related to the application of remote sensing to

natural resource management. Since then Bernard has worked in both private and public enterprises in various roles including technical; research and development; training; and, in both project and business management related to the application of remote sensing and spatial analysis to the natural resources management, forestry, and agricultural sectors. He has been a team member working on multi-disciplinary projects in tropical and sub-tropical regions of Australia, Indonesia and Papua New Guinea; and has undertaken desk-top remote sensing analysis and mapping over parts of Africa.

Married with four children (school and university aged), Bernard has personal interests in geography, history, and natural history. Over the years he has served on a number of volunteer organisation and professional committees such as: The Australian Institute of Cartographers (Northern Territory Division); NARGIS 93 and 95 Conference Organising Committees; the 11th ARSP Conference Organising Committee; The Friends of the Duke of Edinburgh Award (Northern Territory); the Friends of the Territory Wildlife Park; the Mayne Junior Australian Football Club; and, in late 1989 filled a casual RGSQ Council position.

Bernard is excited to have been given this opportunity and looks forward to working for the Society and all its members.

Lecture Meeting – Simpson Desert

For our first meeting of 2014, Andrew Harper will address the Society on *Transformations: the Simpson Desert from Drought to Flood to Fire*.

Andrew is well-known as Founder, Managing Director and Expedition Leader of Australian Desert Expeditions (ADE), and also as Owner and Expedition Leader of the Outback Camel Company. His presentation is sure to be very popular and will be a great start to our lecture programme for the year.

Transformations is centred on the ecological research surveys

conducted by ADE in the Simpson Desert from 2007 to 2011. These multi-disciplined studies ranged from megafauna discovery and documentation along salt rivers near Kati Thanda - Lake Eyre in South Australia, to trapping mammals and reptiles on privately owned conservation areas on the eastern desert fringe in Queensland.

Additional material is sourced from his 35-day solo crossing of the Simpson Desert in August/September 2012, and an earlier crossing of the northern Simpson in 1999 as part of his solo across Australia *Capricorn Expedition*.

The Simpson Desert is the world's largest longitudinal sand-ridge desert and is the continent's driest area. It is also part of the Lake Eyre Basin, the massive system of (usually dry) rivers and creeks that drain into Kati Thanda - Lake Eyre. Extensive rain and flood events are an integral part of the desert cycle, and every thirty years or so these great and ancient river systems produce massive and spectacular flood pulses that stretch over thousands of square kilometres, replenishing the inland creeks and waterholes, initiating a huge influx of migratory birds and rejuvenating the desert landscape and its various ecosystems.

After nearly a decade of prolonged dry conditions, the severe drought that covered most of central and eastern Australia finally broke in 2008 with the eastern desert fringe rivers experiencing moderate flooding. During the next three years, the Simpson Desert experienced an astonishing amount of rain together with widespread and severe flooding across the entire desert river system. This dual impact of repeated floods and extensive rain had not been seen on this scale since 1974/5.

During this period ADE was conducting field research right across the desert, and Andrew and his colleagues were in a unique and privileged position to observe and document first-hand the extraordinary events as the boom/bust cycle took hold on this ancient landscape – observations, collections and recordings that significantly increased the ecological knowledge base of the desert ecology.

Andrew and his colleagues accumulated a substantial and rich visual record of what is now acknowledged as a benchmark wet period in the desert's history, and which Andrew is delighted to share with all those who are interested in the great diversity of the Australian inland.

2013 Treks Revisited

As previously advertised in the December *Bulletin*, all Society members are cordially invited to a social evening of Treks Revisited on Friday 14 February at 7.00pm at RGSQ Milton.

This is a great opportunity to review three of the more adventurous treks (Peru, Lambert Centre Point and Northern New South Wales) that RGSQ members were involved in during our programme of 'Geography On The Ground' during 2013.

I would ask you again to mark 14 February in your diary and we hope to see you there at RGSQ Milton at 7.00pm for RGSQ's first treks activity for 2014.

For catering, please **RSVP to the office by Friday 7 February** if you are coming along.

Leo Scanlan

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 11 to Thursday 13 March**, with maybe one or two people needed on Friday 14 March to finish up.

Please ring Kath or Bernard in the office (3368 2066) if you can help – or see them at the February or March meetings.

The next main working bee after that is scheduled for **Tuesday 20 to Thursday 22 May**, to send back the results and certificates.



XXXX Brewery Tour

What: Experience a 1.5 hour tour of the Ale House and discover its legend. Also spend an hour sampling 4 beers of your choice. Stay for an optional lunch at your own expense (\$10 -\$30).

Where: Cnr Paten and Black Streets, Milton

How: Train to Milton Station (Ipswich/Springfield Line); or drive to Paten Street for limited free undercover visitor parking or paid street parking. (You will not be able to park at RGSQ.)

When: 11.00am Wednesday 12 Mar. Meet at entrance 10.55am

Cost: \$27, \$25 Senior, \$23 Non-drinking adult.

Book: with the RGSQ office and pay by Friday 14 February. Numbers limited to 25

Leader: Jeanette Lamont

The tour starts in the XXXX Brewery Visitor Centre where you learn about the origins and history of beer, and hear the colourful history of XXXX. Then you'll walk through the heart of the heritage listed site and learn about the raw ingredients and brewing processes. Finally, learn to pour yourself the perfect beer in the XXXX Restaurant and Bar and taste some brewery fresh beers.

Celebrate Australia Day at Government House

The Governor of Queensland, Her Excellency Ms Penelope Wensley AC and Mr Stuart McCosker invite you to an Open Day at Government House to celebrate Australia Day on Sunday 26 January, 2014 – 168 Fernberg Road, Paddington. Gates open 10.00 am to 3.00 pm.

Don't miss this fantastic opportunity to visit stately Government House, "Fernberg":

- Walk through historic Government House, with

Volunteer Guides on hand to answer your questions (obtain your free ticket from the signposted ticket booth on arrival)

- View the informative displays in the Investiture Room
- Guided tours of the wonderful gardens and surrounds at 10.45am, 12 noon and 1.30pm
- Stop and appreciate the musical entertainment throughout the day
- Refreshments will be available for purchase (sausage sizzle and drinks), or
- Bring a picnic to enjoy on the lawns
- Free parking available at Norman Buchan Park (cnr Baroona and Rainworth Roads, Paddington) with regular free shuttle service from Norman Buchan Park to Government House. Strictly no on-site parking.

Visit www.govhouse.qld.gov.au for more information.

Peru 2013

On Sunday 13 October, 18 Royal Geographical Society of Queensland members left Brisbane for an 18-day trek to Peru with a couple of extra days tagged on at the end in Chile. After a short hop over to Auckland, it's a rather daunting flight on LAN 800 across the mighty Pacific Ocean into Santiago and then on to Lima in Peru. There were just so many highlights in Peru its impossible to document them all in just a couple of short pages in the *RGSQ Bulletin*.

While not wishing to discount many of the other outstanding reflections of Peru's Spanish heritage in Lima, on our second evening we were to experience the restaurant, Rosa Nautica, very Spanish and set on a beautiful British-style pier on Lima Bay. To my mind, this was to set the tone for many of the beautiful places we were to experience over the next couple of weeks.

Day three, was an early transfer to the airport and a flight to Iquitos, gateway to the Amazon. A brief transfer through Iquitos down to Explorama Dock was a revelation of a real Amazonian frontier town pulsing with energy. Despite the movement and rattle of our rather ancient transport, it was impossible

not to photograph the street scene passing us by. It was a further 80 km down river by fast river boat to Explorama Lodge, our eco lodge accommodation for the next three nights. Later on, one of our Trekkers explained to me the excitement she felt just being right there – "in The Amazon."

A visit to the Yagua Indians, a guided walk through the rainforest, the mouth of the Napo River and a walk across the forest via the Canopy Walkway, viewing a sloth in the wild,



sighting freshwater pink river dolphins, and fishing for piranha were some of the other highlights experienced while at Explorama. Two local wild parrots roosted above us on the rafters in our room – they were really getting into the spirit of staying in an eco lodge! Some experienced a night walk in the rainforest, and I believe all sampled the local 'liquor' manufactured from cane sugar at the small distillery by the river. Primitive, but exceptionally strong stuff indeed!

LAN 2381 delivered us safely back to Lima where in the evening we enjoyed the Huaca Pucllana restaurant in Miraflores, set in a 2000-year old flood lit archaeological site right in the heart of Lima. What an experience to have dinner here – the atmosphere among the ruins, the beautiful table setting, first class service and great food. All made for an unforgettable night.

Next stop was Cuzco, Peru's Inca Capital. While there were many highlights close by, the fortress of Sacsayhuaman was a classic example of ancient Inca architecture, engineering and ingenuity. We finished the evening to the sound of pan pipes at the Tunupa Restaurant at the side of the Plaza de Armas, central Cuzco.

Further on from Cuzco along the Sacred Valley, the Indian town of Chinchero had an excellent Indian craft market selling hand made tapestries, woven clothing, Inca beanies and rugs, all coloured with natural dyes. We were served coca tea, reputed to fix all ailments related to altitude sickness. I must say I wasn't particularly fond of the taste of this brew. Further into the Sacred Valley, Moray was a truly outstanding example of huge Inca terraces built for soil and plant experimentation in acclimatisation in the sinkholes overlooking the Urubamba Valley. The nearby ancient salt ponds adjacent to Maras are a fascinating example of salt collection unchanged from ancient times.

Ollantaytambo, a magnificent Inca temple, was next on our itinerary. Most walked to the temple that looked down across the valley to further Inca terraces, store houses and pre-Hispanic watch towers. Lunch on this occasion was accompanied with a demonstration of the Marinera, a Peruvian dance, and a quite impressive Peruvian Paso horse riding show at Rancho Wayra. The afternoon was full of interest with a visit to the market in Pisac. The local food market was an addendum to an equally interesting art and craft market selling some beautiful Indian handicrafts and antiques where I bought a rather serious painting representing an old Peruvian violinist complete with arthritic fingers – since framing I'm quite pleased with my purchase. I will bring it along to the function 'Revisit Peru, the Lambert Centre and Northern New South Wales' on 14 February.



I was more than a little impressed with our next stop, Machu Picchu. Machu Picchu itself is a quite extensive and well preserved ruin built in a most inhospitable and



difficult location. It's no wonder it took Hiram Bingham so long to find it and it's easy to see why it is today the jewel of Peru's tourism industry. Most of our group walked all around, up and through Machu Picchu and some returned for a second look the day after although the weather had closed in and it was raining heavily. I think by this time I was a little overwhelmed with what was on show throughout the length and breadth of Peru. The Inca are Peru, and have left a truly indelible record of their achievements during their stewardship of this country during ancient times.

Back to Cuzco and then on to Arequipa, Peru's second city, situated at the foot of 'El Misti' volcano, truly a magical view from outside our hotel the next morning while having breakfast. I must say my first sight of Arequipa left me shattered. Unfinished buildings, mile after mile – little was I prepared for what was to come next. Our hotel was excellent; the famous Santa Catalina Convent, an art lovers and photographers delight; and last of all, Juanita, an Inca sacrifice, a frozen virgin of the sun preserved in the local museum under subdued lighting. I had read about Juanita in the pages of *National Geographic* but was overwhelmed with the real thing.

The road from Arequipa to Colca Canyon was to reveal many great views. When I stepped outside for a photo it was cold with a light sprinkling of sleet. Our hotel stopover, Colca Lodge, was one of those places you just wouldn't hear about unless you stayed over and was really a beautiful setting for our two night stay in the Colca Canyon. Colca Lodge was a mix of alpaca farm and chalets set in line along a picturesque valley beside a hot spring along the bank of the river. The drive up and through the canyon

was spectacular to say the least and I'm sure many of our group would be justly proud of their pictures of the local Condors in flight.



Our last stop was Puno on Lake Titicaca, a good 6-7 hour drive across the altiplano from Colca Canyon. A visit to the lake dwellers, the Uros Indians living on floating islands made from totora reeds right on the doorstep of Puno, was to reveal another rather exceptional lifestyle. Indian tapestries with Inca icons were prominent and quite colourful and inexpensive to buy. Another boat excursion on an exceptionally fine day across Lake Titicaca to Taquile Island revealed outstanding views from our lunch stop all the way to Bolivia.

Our last couple of days were filled with a drive from Puno to Juliaca, an airport wait, flight to Lima, airport wait, and finally a flight with an after midnight arrival in Santiago, capital of Chile. The next day was an all day excursion to the port of Valparaiso, including an exceptional guided walk around much of the old part of the city. Valparaiso is extremely interesting, and many of the late 19th and early 20th century buildings are

a great draw for those interested in the maritime history of South America prior to the opening of the Panama Canal.

On the day of our departure from Chile we were ushered around the newer glistening glass buildings of Santiago's CBD. Later that night LAN 801 left Santiago for Auckland and our connecting Qantas flight to Brisbane. We arrived back in Australia on Sunday 3 November.

In conclusion, Sharyn and myself would like to thank Graham and Ailsa Grieve, Roger and Glenda Grimley, Beres and Lorraine Johnson, Mike and Elizabeth McInnes, John and Mary Nowill, Chris and Robin Spriggs, Linda Austin, Andrea Smith, Tony Hillier and Bruce Urquhart for your participation and company during this very memorable journey in Peru.

To any of you who would like to know more, I would invite you to our Peru Revisited, Lambert Centre Point Revisited, and northern New South Wales Revisited evening at 7pm on 14 February at RGSQ Milton.

Leo Scanlan

Don't you just wish you'd been able to go on this trip. At least you can look at the photos. For that, come along to the Treks Revisited function on 14 Feb. Plus have a look at where we are going in 2014. Kath

Map Website

Have you come across this map website yet? 40 Maps That Will Help You Make Sense of the World: <http://twistedstifter.com/2013/08/maps-that-will-help-you-make-sense-of-the-world/>

The website owner has this to say about the website: "If you're a visual learner like myself, then you know maps, charts and infographics can really help bring data and information to life. Maps can make a point resonate with readers and this collection aims to do just that.

Hopefully some of these maps will surprise you and you'll learn something new. A few are important to know, some interpret and display data in a beautiful or creative way, and a few may even make you chuckle or shake your head."

These are some of my [Kath's] favourites:

- Countries that do not use the metric system
- The 22 countries in the world that Britain has not invaded
- World population by latitude and by longitude
- The world's 10 busiest air routes in 2012. (It's quite surprising. Sydney-Melbourne is fifth, but there are no European or North American routes in the top 10.)



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2014 Membership Renewal

Membership fees for 2014 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: _____

Mapping Our World

As advertised previously in the *Bulletin*, and reported on by David Carstens after his visit, there is a fantastic map exhibition on at the National Library until 10 March. Below is the link to the podcast of the "Mapping our World" interview on ABC radio. National Library of Australia's Curator of Maps Martin Woods, Chairman of the Library's Council Ryan Stokes and ESRI Australia's Managing Director Brett Bundock discuss the amazing twists, turns and transformations in mapping over the centuries:

<http://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/latenightlive/mapping-australia/5119478>

Locate14 Conference

Locate14 is the new premier national spatial information conference and exhibition in Australia and New Zealand. Locate14 consolidates the top industry events including the Spatial@gov Conference and Exhibition (managed by the Office of Spatial Policy), the Surveying and Spatial Sciences Conference and the Asia-Pacific Spatial Excellence Awards. It will be a central meeting point of industry, government and academia in one of the fastest growing industries in Australia.

Locate14 will be held in Canberra, 7-9 April 2014. More information at: <http://www.locateconference.com>

Making Cities Liveable

The 7th Making Cities Liveable Conference will examine the challenges, opportunities, trends and issues currently facing sector professionals. Participants will examine how to plan for healthy, sustainable and resilient cities. The conference will be a platform for government, academic and private sector practitioners. It will consider the "liveability" of our cities and towns in the future and the changes required to public policy to build the communities of tomorrow.

It will be held at Mantra on Salt Beach, Kingscliff, NSW, 10-11 July 2014. <http://healthycities.com.au/>

RGSQ Bulletin

February 2014

Volunteer Days, Thurs 16 Jan
For: Australian Geography Competition

Lecture Meeting, Tues 4 Feb 7.30pm
Speaker: Andrew Harper
Subject: Transformations: the Simpson Desert from Drought to Flood to Fire

Activity, Fri 14 Feb 7.00pm
What: 2013 Treks Revisited: Peru, Lambert Centre, South of the Border

Entry Deadline, Fri 28 Feb
For: Australian Geography Competition

Lecture Meeting, Tues 4 Mar 7.30pm
Speaker: Paul Taçon
Subject: Caves, cognition animals & artists

Volunteer Days, Tues 11 - Thurs 13 Mar
For: Australian Geography Competition