



RGSQ Bulletin

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From the President

When the competing activities available in the community are considered, it is pleasing to note the capacity attendance at RGSQ Lecture evenings.

Dr John Kirkwood provided an enlightening update on Antarctic activity at his lecture "Visiting Antarctica: Is Ecotourism Compatible with Wilderness Preservation". John is an experienced Antarctic Scientist having served with ANARE in the 1980's and continues his involvement as a lecturer on tourist ships. The Society has maintained a constant interest in Antarctica since the 1890's with a variety of promotions, information lectures on exploration, and scientific development on the Continent and in the surrounding oceans. This lecture on Tuesday 1 April brought us up to date with more recent concerns.

The ecotourism to Antarctica is small compared to world tourism, but the impacts are taken seriously and the voluntary regulation of visits with strict environmental safeguards is a credit to the tour operators. The photographs illustrating the lecture were appreciated by all present.

The 2014 Australian Geography Competition is at the most active phase with the return of 70,000 plus Answer Sheets arriving in the office from schools all over Australia. The activity of office staff and the several volunteers, necessary to process this volume of paperwork, needs to be seen to be appreciated. The scanning of the responses is done in the RGSQ offices for the second year now, using our in-house equipment. It would be fair to say that this is a "baptism of fire" for our Executive Officer, Bernard Fitzpatrick, ably assisted and instructed by Kath Berg and Haley Freemantle. Mary Nowill, to mention only one volunteer, appears to be a permanent in the office. Secretary Chris Spriggs and Treasurer John Nowill also have to be in overdrive during this time. Or is that just the normal situation?

The amount of volunteer time that is contributed to this Competition is a significant contribution to success.

Twelve months has elapsed since the RGSQ Council commenced a "Review" of activities and processes. This has been actively pursued with a nominated topic each month, having been commenced with an all-day meeting of the Council in March 2013. The content of the Review process has been actively pursued throughout the year although there is awareness that no formal conclusions have been documented.

The Council has been living up to its responsibilities during this Review time and the practical evidence is the establishment of the Executive Office position to replace the previous structure of operations with Keith Smith as Secretary and

Business Manager, and taking into account retirement plans for Kath Berg as Administration Officer. The cessation of the part-time position of Project Officer, affecting Haley Freemantle, also was a major structural change.

The Review topics, previously published in the April 2013 Bulletin, have all been addressed and have had immediate influence on the ongoing work of the Society. Some topics have been agreed as "no change" some are yet to be resolved and there is scope for new thinking yet to be applied. The future operation of Scientific Expeditions is a practical subject which has not been fully dealt with. Our valuable Library is a partially resolved discussion. The ongoing impact of finance is an overriding influence on future plans.

Executive Officer, Bernard, has commenced a task of collating the information considered in the Review and creating a Strategic Management Document. The structure of this document will follow the headings:- "Governance", "Business and Administration", "Activities". In this way a fresh mind is being applied to the exercise.

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The Australian Geography Competition stands as a key ongoing activity of the Society and the Australian Geography Teachers Association. With the withdrawal of sponsorship by National Geographic Channel, it is fitting here to acknowledge that the Competition has now established five new Sponsors.

Sponsorship continues from Australian Government Department of Education and the new sponsors are University of Queensland, Macquarie University, Curtin University, Flinders University and UTAS (Tasmania).

The Lecture on 7 May is a Presentation on the "Pungalina Scientific Study". This is an important matter in view of discussions which question the continuance of this style of activity.

David Carstens

Lecture Meeting - Pungalina Scientific Study

When: May 6, 7:30pm

A panel of three speakers will present their work as components of the Society's Pungalina Scientific Study.

"Halocene paleoecology and paleoclimatology of Pungalina from lake cores." by James Shulmeister.

James is one of the Society's Vice Presidents, and currently Professor and Head of School, Geography Planning and Environmental Management at the University of Queensland. His main research theme is on paleoclimatology of the Western Pacific Basin. James has worked extensively in Northern Australia, New Zealand, Timor and in the Antarctic.

"Bird survey of Pungilina-Seven Emu scientific study." by Dezmund Wells.

For more than a decade Dezmund has been science leader of a number of bird surveys throughout Queensland. Prior to that, he was involved for a number of years in Seagrass-Watch based out of Townsville. He is currently undertaking a Research Masters on using acoustic sensors for recording avian species abundance.

"Ecological roles and diversity of biological rock and soil crusts at Pungalina-Seven Emu." by Wendy Williams.

Wendy is an Australian specialist on cyanobacteria, often referred to as blue-green algae. Wendy's work in northern Australia has focused on the terrestrial, nitrogen fixing cyanobacteria and its importance in ecological processes.

St Helena Outing

Still a few places left for members and children.

When: Sunday 18 May

Meet: 9:45am

Where: William Gunn Jetty, Wyvernleigh Close, Manly Boat Harbour

Cost: \$70 per adult, \$42 per child (ages 4-14 years).

RSVP: Friday 2 May. Bookings and payment to be made with the RGSQ office.

Pursuing our 2014 watery theme, we will visit St Helena Island in Moreton Bay.

We'll board the vessel Cat- O'Nine-Tails at the William Gunn Jetty, Wyvernleigh Close, Manly Boat Harbour at 9.45am for the cruise to the Island where there will be a guided tour of the convict ruins and stories about the convict settlement there. A picnic lunch is included in the cost, and coffee, bottled water etc is available for purchase on board. The vessel will return to Manly Boat Harbour at 3pm.

Come along and join us for this fascinating insight into the early history of white settlement in the Moreton Bay region.

Children are very welcome on this Sunday outing.

More details: Brian McGrath, brian.mcgrath@bigpond.com, or 33785960.

An Indigenous Adventure

What: Exploring the area around Godwin Beach, Sandstone Point and Redcliffe Botanic Gardens.

When: Sunday 22 June.

Meet: 9:30am (to be confirmed)

Where: Godwin Beach, details to be advised in June Bulletin.

Cost: \$25.00

RSVP: By 3 June

The walk in the morning will have an indigenous focus. Our guide is a descendant of the Gubbi Gubbi mob. He is very knowledgeable, informative and enthusiastic. As we stroll he will tell us about the aboriginal background of the area and early European history. We'll hear, too, about food plants, the 'hanging tree', see a mangrove that is claimed to be about 300 years old, may see a midden, too. The environment and vegetation change along the way.

WEAR shoes that can get muddy; be Sun Safe; bring insect repellent; and, a water bottle.

Enjoy a BYO picnic lunch in Redcliffe Botanic Gardens. Then we will meet our next guide for a tour of the Gardens with some focus on aboriginal plant foods, permaculture and the history of the Gardens.

Friends are welcome. See you there.

Contact the RGSQ office for bookings on 07 3368 2066 or info@gsq.org.au.

Behind the Scenes at Queensland Museum + Lunch

Where: Entry Foyer of the Queensland Museum

When: Wednesday 2 July

Meet: 10:45am

Cost: \$20.00 per person

Never been in the back rooms of the Queensland Museum? The breadth of research and specimens is quite astounding and unfortunately it's something not many people get to view. So here's your chance to join a tour which will include Arachnology and Entomology, and as many Mammals and Birds, Reptiles and Frogs, Molluscs, Crustacea, Sponges and Parasites as well as the Molecular lab and the Spirit collection, as can be squeezed in.

There will be 30 people max at a cost of \$20 pp including a light lunch half way through the tour. The tour will commence at 10:45 in the

entry foyer of the Museum and conclude around 14:00

Contact the RGSQ office for bookings on 07 3368 2066 or info@gsq.org.au

Cape York 4WD Trek

When: 14 Jul – 10 Aug 2014

Book and Pay by May 23, 2014

Take in the extraordinary beauty, history and geography of Cape York with fellow RGSQ members. The trek will start/finish at Mt Carbine and take 16 days exploring up to the Cape and 10 days back. If time does not permit, some participants may shorten the return journey.

The trip up will include exploring Cooktown, Laura, Weipa and then the Jardine River area of Bamaga to take a 'selfie' photo at the very northern tip of Australia. There will be an optional day tour of the Thursday Island group. The down trek will include Lockhart River, Port Stewart and Rinyirri NP. The itinerary may change according to conditions at the time.

While it is possible to visit some of the Cape York area by 2WD vehicle, the trek will be travelling to some areas where a 4WD is necessary, however, we will not be undertaking hazardous or dangerous 4WD activities.

There will be a booking fee of \$50 to cover RGSQ administrative costs and participants must be current RGSQ members. All on-route costs will be made individually. Some fees are cash only, for example, the Jardine River Ferry which is currently \$130 per vehicle. Further details, itinerary and booking forms will be made available to those registering interest. Numbers will be limited – register your interest now with the office info@gsq.org.au.

If you are a like-to-be-a-passenger or have room in your vehicle for an extra person and their kit let the office know info@gsq.org.au, and they may be able to put you in touch with potential partners. It will be up to individual drivers and passengers as to whether satisfactory travelling arrangements can be negotiated.

If you have recently travelled to the Cape, even if you are not intending to participate in this trek, we would appreciate any information about your journey. Please email your contact details to the RGSQ office info@gsq.org.au

Russell Saunders

Hong Kong

When: 5 to 15 November 2014

Cost: \$2,700 per person

The cost package is inclusive of accommodation and local transportation.

Deposits have already been received from enough members to guarantee success.

One highlight will be attendance at the Royal Geographical Society Hong Kong Annual Dinner where the American travel writer Paul Theroux will be guest speaker. A couple of places may still be available, please contact the RGSQ office (Tel: 3368 2066 or info@gsq.org.au) to get a booking form, which can be received and lodged electronically.

Volunteers Please

We need to call on our generous members again for help with the school geography competition. The next working bee is scheduled for Wednesday 21 to Friday 23 May, to pack and send out the results, certificates, and prizes.

Please ring Bernard in the office (3368 2066) if you can help – or see him at the May meeting.

A big thank you to the members who helped with the scanning and initial stage of processing the Competition Answer Sheets:

Mary Comer, Maureen Meier, Mary Nowill, Peter and Karen Nunan, Roger Grimley, Chris Spriggs.

Thank you also to the others who volunteered but were not required.

Vale - Harm de Blij

The death, in America, of Professor Harm de Blij, was notified to RGSQ on 26 March 2014.

Professor de Blij has had a long association with the RGSQ joining the Society in November 1987, choosing to pay Life Membership during a visit to Brisbane. He presented a Lecture to the Society the following year. At this lecture in 1988, Professor de Blij accepted our Society's Gold Thomson Medal on behalf of the National Geographic Society.

Harm de Blij was the John A. Hannah Professor of Geography at Michigan State University. He received his undergraduate education from the University of the Witwatersrand and his graduate degrees from Northwestern (Ph.D. 1959). Among his honorary degrees are those awarded by Michigan State (1999) and North Carolina State (2001). He was a long-time faculty member at both Michigan State and the University of Miami, and also taught at Georgetown, Colorado, Hawaii, the Colorado School of Mines, George Washington University, and Marshall University. His prolific publications included more than 30 books and well over 100 articles.

He has been one of American geography's most visible leaders for the past half-century. His specialties included political geography, African regional studies, and geographic education, as well as the spatial dimensions of viticulture, a thriving sub-discipline he helped to pioneer during the 1980s and 1990s. His numerous awards included those from AAG, NCGE, and NGS. He received AAG Honours in 1991, the AAG Presidential Achievement Award in 2004, and the AAG Media Achievement Award in 2008.

George Haddock Track

A previous long-time member of RGSQ, and the National Parks Association, George Haddock has had a track, part of the World Heritage listed Fraser Island's Great Walk named in his honour.

Northwestern United States

When: 8 - 28 September

20 days/18 nights

Booking and deposit by 2 May 2014

Still able to accept a few more bookings.

Would you like to do something a little different to the regular tours of the USA? Do you like visiting new places with a group of likeminded travellers with an interest in Geography, National Parks and History?

Come with The Royal Geographical Society of Queensland in September 2014 to Northwestern USA.

Tour price: \$8,795 per person Brisbane to Brisbane – share twin accommodation. Prices include breakfasts and dinners.

Bookings can only be accepted on receipt of the Tour Booking Form and Deposit. For further information, or to be emailed a detailed itinerary and booking form phone Mel at Travel Concepts on Mobile 0413 756 797 or for further information phone Leo Scanlan on 3343 4398. Visit www.rgsq.org.au for further details.



New Members

We have much pleasure in welcoming the following new members:

Hans and Ruth Aeberli; Robert and Sue Martin; Gerald and Annette O'Sullivan; Graeme and Stella Rush; and, John and Doreen Wilkinson.

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

RGSQ Bulletin

May 2014

Volunteer Days, 21, 22, 23 May

Lecture Meeting, Tues 6 May 7:30pm
Speakers: James Shulmeister, Dezmond Wells,
and Wendy Williams
Subject: Pungalina Scientific Study

Activity, Sunday 18th May 9:45am
What: St Helena island

Lecture Meeting, Tues 3 June 7:30pm
Thomson Address by Emeritus Professor Jm
Walmsley. Quality of Life: a Geographical
Perspective

Trips and Treks Bookings, 2 May for St Helena
Outing. 2 May for Northwest USA Trip. 23 May for
Cape York 4WD Trek.

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