



RGSQ Bulletin

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From the President

The evening meeting on 3 June 2014 was a most fulfilling occasion.

We were privileged to welcome the Governor Her Excellency Ms Penelope Wensley and her husband Mr Stuart McCosker as Guests of Honour. This attendance provided the opportunity to present Honorary Life Memberships to our Patron and her Husband.

Then we were also privileged to continue the long standing tradition that the presentation of the Thomson Medal be by a member of the Thomson family. Ms Robyn Allen presented the 2014 J.P.Thomson Medal to Emeritus Professor Jim Walmsley. Also present for the evening was Mrs Julia Lawrence OAM, granddaughter of J.P.Thomson, who has performed the presentation many times. Robyn Allen is the daughter of Julia Lawrence and they had travelled from Gympie for the occasion. They also drove back to Gympie that evening.

Professor Walmsley expressed his appreciation for being the recipient of the Thomson Medal and then presented his Lecture.

The lecture brought to life the many facets of academic study and publications on Quality of Life: a Geographic Perspective. The

importance of how people relate to the place where they live and readily accept that social environment was outlined by the case studies cited.

Protracted discussions over refreshments after the Lecture were an indication of the interest generated.

Subsequent to the formal meeting, and as the Governor circulated among the members, Her Excellency made an informal presentation, to me as President, of copies of the three papers she has given at the Society, each signed by Her Excellency. This of course will be held in the Library. The first of these was at the 2008 AGM, held at Government House, and this was her first formal speech as Governor.

The content and relevance of these papers needs to be read to remind and fully appreciate the interest our Patron has in RGSQ. These speeches can be found on the Government House website.

The text of the speech of presentation to her Excellency and Mr McCosker is published here for the information of those not present.

Her Excellency, Ms Penelope Wensley AC has taken an enthusiastic and dedicated role as Patron of our Society, making significant contribution in many ways throughout her incumbency as Governor of Queensland.

Mr McCosker, Adjunct Professor, University of Queensland School of Veterinary Science, has maintained interest and support by his involvement as the husband of the Governor.

Her Excellency has involved herself most generously in the activity of the

Society, while maintaining the multitude of other responsibilities and being Patron of so many worthy organisations. She has presented two significant lectures to the Society. The first was in March 2010, "Exploring the Limits of Extreme Geography" and then in February 2012, on the occasion of Her Majesty the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. Both lectures reflected a love of geography and the significance of geography in her life's work as a Diplomat in so many countries worldwide.

The Society appreciates the invitation in 2008 to hold the AGM in the Investiture Room at Government House and the expression of interest at that time. Attendance at the Dinner to Celebrate 125 years of the Society in 2010 was an honoured occasion for the Society. Then there were the occasions when our Patron chose to attend a lecture, as it was "just down the road from Government House". In particular Her Excellency attended in 2012 with Mr McCosker when the Speaker was colleague and friend, British High Commissioner, His Excellency Mr Paul Madden, and on another occasion when Ms Jeannette Covacevich lectured in 2013. This latter was at short notice,

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President: Mr David Carstens

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having flown back from an official visit to Central Queensland, just early enough to attend.

The invitations to Government House for official receptions and to participate in Government House Open Days have been appreciated by the Society, as have the encouraging Christmas messages received from the Governor which indicate the support our Patron has for our Society.

Mr McCosker as a veterinarian has applied his background in agricultural pursuits in a complimentary role to the duties of his wife in the widespread service in diplomatic posts throughout the world. He has served as a veterinary surgeon and contributed his expertise in Australia and on international bodies, including regulation of agricultural and veterinary chemicals, in the various locations where the appointments took the family.

So the Society has chosen to elect Ms Penelope Wensley A.C., presently Governor of Queensland, and her Husband Mr Stuart McCosker to the status of Honorary Life Membership of the Royal Geographical Society of Queensland. This is a high honour in the Membership structure, fitting for the soon to retire Patron and her Husband. It is granted by unanimous agreement at an Annual General Meeting of the Society on the recommendation of the Council of the Society.

The Society is in turn honoured that the Governor and Mr McCosker have accepted this award.

IT IS WITH PLEASURE THAT I PRESENT THIS CERTIFICATE AS THE TOKEN OF HONORARY LIFE MEMBERSHIP of Royal Geographical Society of Queensland.

I do not need to commend upcoming activities to you except to say that the busy programme is well patronised with the many advertised activities through to December almost fully booked.

David Carstens

Lecture – Tuesday 1 July Mr Kerry Doss *The New Brisbane City Plan*

The July lecture will be a presentation by Mr Kerry Doss, *Planning for the future: the New Brisbane City Plan*

Kerry Doss is Brisbane City Council's Manager of City Planning & Economic Development. He has over 25 years experience in town, environmental and infrastructure planning and urban management in Queensland and New South Wales. He holds qualifications in coastal management, urban and regional planning and business management.

As Brisbane's most senior planner he is responsible for overseeing the planning for the majority of the Brisbane metropolitan area (approximately 1,300km²) a rapidly growing population and employment base. This role is like no other in Australia and oversees urban design, infrastructure planning, regional and strategic planning, neighbourhood planning and urban renewal, heritage and economic development.

He has worked on regional planning projects for the Queensland State Government, as a local government planner and as a consultant to all levels of government and private industry. Kerry's experience covers the full range of planning activities — project management, research, policy, strategy, local area planning, statutory planning, master planning, feasibility and development application lodgment and assessment.

He is an active member of the planning profession including being a former Vice President of the QLD Division of the Planning Institute of Australia. In 2012 he was elevated to the position of Fellow of the PIA in recognition of his contribution to the planning profession.

Brisbane City Plan 2014 is Council's plan for the future development of Brisbane. It guides how land in Brisbane can be used and developed. It also helps plan for infrastructure to support growth and create a more diversified economy while continuing to protect our city's enviable way of life.

The Queensland Government and Council have now approved the revised plan and Council has set a commencement date of 30 June 2014. From this time, the new plan will be known as Brisbane City Plan 2014.

Short Trek: Northern NSW Camping -Bundjalung NP

When: 16-19 September

For those not going to America in September, a leisurely camping trek to Bundjalung National Park has been organised for September 16 to 19.

The campground at Woody Head will be the venue for accommodation on the 3 nights Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday 16, 17, 18 September; it has cabins and cottages which house 4 to 6 persons, campsites (all unpowered), hot showers and BBQs.

You will need to make (and pay for) your own booking, either online, or by phoning Woody Head camping area on 02 6646 6134, mentioning that you are part of the RGSQ group. Early booking, especially for a cabin or cottage, is recommended. You will also need a NSW National Parks Pass for your vehicle if you haven't got one for 2014.

Our route will be down the coast to Woody Head, returning via Alstonville, Lismore, Nimbin and Murwillumbah. Our time at Woody Head will be one for exploring the Iluka and Clarence River area, or just relaxing on the beach.

The booking fee for this trek is \$30, which will cover a Welcome Happy Hour and Sausage Sizzle on the first night, Happy Hour nibbles on the second & third nights, and a farewell afternoon tea on the Friday at the Tweed Regional Gallery, the home for many of Margaret Olley's paintings.

Further information and a detailed itinerary are available from

Brian McGrath, phone [07 33785960](tel:0733785960), email brian.mcgrath@bigpond.com

RUSSIA - Then and Now

When: Friday, **15th August**

Time: 6:00 for 6:30pm

Where: Gregory House, Milton

Cost: \$35.00

RSVP: Book: with the office and pay by 5th August. *Late bookings cannot be accepted because of catering.*

We'll travel the Trans-Siberian Railway, in winter, from Khabarovsk to Leningrad, visiting Irkutsk and Lake Baikal and Moscow and Leningrad, too.

In Spring this year everything was so different. Everything was so green!!! And there was no snow.

Contrast between traditional Russian log huts and old depilated condominiums, modern high rise and the splendour and magnificence of churches and palaces are obvious.

We explore Moscow, including the Kremlin, before cruising from Moscow, through rivers, lakes and locks, before arriving in St Petersburg where we visited The Hermitage (art gallery), Peterhof (a large area of forest, walking tracks and many fountains) and St Catherine's Palace at Pushkin. Took a canals cruise in St Petersburg (there are more than 300 bridges) and more than 1000 churches in the city. We didn't visit them all.

Onion-domed churches, tiny villages of traditional housing, bell and watch towers, millions of trees in full leaf lined the river banks. Some evidence of industry, too.

Many photos!!!

The rivers and lakes are 'littered' with shipping from sand and gravel and timber barges to large cargo boats, oil tankers, other cruise liners, even fishing in dinghies.

To me the highlight was the visit to Goritsy, a monastery centuries old, situated beside White Lake. Unfortunately the weather wasn't as friendly as it should have been and we missed another major highlight – Kizhi Island.

One stop was very touristy – shopping for souvenirs. But the buildings are reproduction traditional architecture.

We enjoyed (is that the right word??!! I don't think so!!) a vodka tasting, some Russian foods, concerts of Russian music, held a tea ceremony, saw Russian costumes and watched Russian dancing. And enjoyed many adventures.

Look forward to your company and friends are welcome.

Audrey Johnston

Society Treks and Activities

This year's Society outings have mostly been fully booked well before the RSVP date with additional members placed on waitlists.

Our next two outings are fully booked.

An Indigenous Adventure, Godwin Beach and Redcliff Botanic Gardens, Sunday 22nd 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.

Behind the Scenes at Queensland Museum, Wednesday 2nd July.

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.

Society Treks (*fully booked*)

4WD to Cape York -July to August.

North-western USA - September.

Hong Kong - November.

New Members

We would like to welcome the following new members:

Fraser and June Hethorn, and
Indooroopilly State High School

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

Thank you Volunteers

As the Bulletin went to press last month, on Wednesday 21st and Thursday 22nd May, a number of Society volunteers were working hard to help with the packing and mail out the results, certificates, and prizes for the 2014 Australian Geography Competition. A special thanks to:

David Carstens, Mary Comer, Roger Grimley, Paul Lambert, Maureen Meier, John and Mary Nowill, Graham and Kay Rees, Sue Reid, Chris Spriggs, and John Wilkinson.

Thank you also to those who put their names down to assist, but were not required on Friday 23rd May

Society's Library

"I am not a scientific man, nor can I lay claim to any special knowledge that would entitle me to be called a "Geographer." I owe the honor of my election as President of the National Geographic Society simply to the fact that I am one of those who desire to further the prosecution of geographic research. I possess only the same general interest in the subject of geography that should be felt by every educated man."

Mr Gardiner G. Hubbard, 1888 Introductory Address, "National Geographic Magazine, Volume 1, No 1, page 1

The Society has a near complete set of the National Geographic Magazine from 1888 to present. This is just one of the many interesting publications in our library. Why not visit your library and peruse the collection?

Lecture Programme Changes

Please note changes to this year's Lecturer programme, now:

August 5: Adj Assoc Prof Geoffrey Woolcock: ***Child-Friendly Cities***

October 7: Dr Kerrie Wilson, ***Allocating Limited Resources to Protect Biodiversity***

COME CRUISIN'.... and more

When: 10th to 18th October

Cost: To be advised

Register interest at the RGSQ Office.

This is a drive yourself trip with accommodation in cabins, your caravan or tent. Participants must be Society members.

The following is a general outline of programme with possible minor alterations.

Fri 10: Cruise Noosa River through the Everglades to Harry's Hut and return. O/N Gympie

Sat 11: am – Gympie Gold Museum
pm – Gympie Woodworks Museum. O/N Gympie

Sun 12: A quick look at the township, then explore Childers before travelling to Bundaberg.

O/N Bundaberg

Mon 13: Visit Bundy Rum, Hinkler House, Sugar Museum, Botanic Gardens, etc O/N Bundaberg

Tue 14: am – Burnett River cruise
pm – Mon Repos turtle sanctuary, Baldwin Swamp nature reserve, explore city centre if time.

Depart Bundaberg by about 3:00pm for Hervey Bay. O/N Hervey Bay

Wed 15 & Thurs 16: Whale Watching cruise on Hervey Bay.

Explore Hervey Bay – cemetery (grave of islander cane cutter).

There *may* be an opportunity to have a guided aboriginal walk. There is an aboriginal monument near Pialba.

Museums, botanic gardens, etc O/N Hervey Bay on 15th.

Thurs 16: Depart Hervey Bay about 4:00pm for O/N Maryborough

Fri 17: am – guided walk Maryborough

pm – explore more of Maryborough. O/N Maryborough

Sat 18: Mary River cruise

After lunch travel southbound and have a 'quickie' at historic Tiara Hotel (ginger beer, of course), and return home or extend your stay.

More information in next Bulletin.

RGSQ Bulletin

July 2014

Lecture Meeting, Tues 1 July 7:30pm
Mr Kerry Doss, Planning for the future: the New Brisbane City Plan

Activity, Sunday 22nd June 9:15am
Where: Godwin Beach and Redcliffe Botanic Gardens

Lecture Meeting, Tues 5 August 7:30pm
Adj Assoc Prof Geoffrey Woolcock, Child-Friendly Cities.

Activity, August 15, Russia – Then and Now

Short Trek: Northern NSW Camping -Bundjalung NP, 16-19 September

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