



# RGSQ Bulletin

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## From the President

Over the last two years the RGSQ has proceeded to adopt a number of administrative changes while continuing the established activities of recent years and maintaining the Aims and Objects set out in the Constitution. The proposal to undertake a formal "Review" of the Society activities was adopted by the Council and in March 2013 an all-day seminar of the Council worked enthusiastically through a list of discussion points.

Ideas have been promulgated through the various committees and in the Bulletin and much positive feedback has been received. New ideas have been applied successfully. Further consideration of future activity is required.

For instance the proposal to extend the Australian Geography Competition into the Primary School level is being examined.

There is one activity addressed in the Review which requires more consideration and this is raised here, seeking advice and comment from Members.

The operation of the Scientific Studies programme is a recognised highlight for the RGSQ. The remote area study facility provided by the Society for Scientists around Australia, is valued by the Scientists and is a challenge which is valued by the volunteers who make this project possible. The lecture on May 2014 outlining some of the

results achieved from the 2010 Pungalina Project illustrated, brilliantly, the value of this programme.

The value of the remote area study facility was also well illustrated during the recent Society visit to "Behind the Scenes" of the Queensland Museum, attended by thirty (30) Society Members, when the presenters emphasised their appreciation of the Society and the Scientific Studies programme.

The financial commitment for Scientific Studies from the Society has become an issue of concern. The availability of volunteers with the appropriate skills and experience is a matter for discussion. Identification of a suitable and desirable location for these studies is a moot point.

The 2012 Pungalina site was found to be most difficult of access and remote, and also being in Northern Territory instead of Queensland failed to attract some key participants. An issue in this was cost of transport of people and material and some Queensland Scientists were constrained by the fact that the site was just across the Queensland border.

The site was an excellent scientific study choice and results well justified the effort of Society Volunteers as were the earlier six sites occupied in the last twenty-two years. The Pungalina results are almost ready for publication.

The RGSQ has considerable expertise, equipment and background experience in operation of Scientific Study facilities.

To continue this work the volunteer team needs a boost in the number of volunteers available to support the activity.

Volunteers expect their contribution to be a satisfying experience. Note that volunteers do pay a fee to take part and this is acknowledged as "good value" for the participation achieved.

Based on this brief outline, Members are urged to provide commentary with your ideas and to provide answers to the following questions:-

*Should the Society continue the program of Scientific Studies in the present form of remote area sites?*

*Alternatively, should less remote study sites be identified, recognising that scientists may well be able to access some sites without the need for RGSQ support functions?*

*Should one permanent site be adopted and maintained in a remote area?*

*Are you available to assist as a volunteer for future Scientific Studies, bearing in mind the nature of the activity may be modified?*

*Do you have a 4WD vehicle available to participate in a remote area study site?*

*Do you favour volunteering at a less remote site, but one which still needs RGSQ supported infrastructure?*

*What specific expertise or interests do you have to contribute? (Site Management, Cooking, Transport, Communications, Electrical and Mechanical expertise, Maintenance and Cleaning of site facilities, including steady physical activities).*

Your submissions on this topic will be most helpful, so please contribute your thoughts and information.

David Carstens

## Lecture – Tuesday 5 August Adj/Ass Prof Geoff Woolcock *Child-Friendly Cities*

**Biography** - Geoff Woolcock is Wesley Mission Brisbane's Senior Research Fellow and an Adjunct Associate Professor at both Griffith University and QUT. Geoff is the current co-chair of the Australian Community Indicators Network, the Queensland convenor for the Australian Research Alliance for Children & Youth (ARACY) and is a board director of the Logan Child-Friendly Community Charitable Trust, the Australian National Development Index (ANDI) and the Brisbane Housing Company.

### The role of Place in Children's Wellbeing: Is the Baby disappearing with the Bathwater?

Recent years have seen a growing public debate about the welfare of children in Australia, echoing wider international discussions that are responding to new professional concerns about the health and well-being of young people in Western countries. With a few notable exceptions, Australian urban policy frameworks have exhibited little awareness of, or sensitivity to, children's needs and experiences. Somewhat paradoxically, the majority of publically funded initiatives directed at children and young people are place-based projects and programs, typically located in middle and outer suburbia where children and young people are the dominant demographic. Key data about children's wellbeing is typically presented on a spatial basis, signalling important local or neighbourhood effects impacting children's wellbeing and yet few scholars or policy leaders seem persuaded to focus on the implications of these effects. This lecture casts a critical gaze over key research questions and contemporary debates.

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## RUSSIA - Then and Now

**When:** Friday, 15th August

**Time:** 6:00 for 6:30pm

**Where:** Gregory House, 237 Milton Rd, Milton.

**Cost:** \$35.00

**What:** nibbles and drinks, a three course meal, and a slide-presentation

**Maximum:** 28

**RSVP:** Book with the office and pay by 5<sup>th</sup> 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

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## 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](mailto:brian.mcgrath@bigpond.com)

## COME CRUISIN'.... and more

**When:** 10<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> October

**Cost:** A non-refundable deposit (unless the trip is cancelled) is \$100 and is **due by 2<sup>nd</sup> Sept.** Final Payment Adults \$225.00 and Concession \$200.00 is due by 16<sup>th</sup> Sept.

A varied adventure from cruises to lighthouse to a port; Bundy Rum (125 years old); Bundy 'gingerbeerie'; a historic pub (133 years old); many museums & galleries; a cemetery & an aboriginal & other monuments; guided walks, a turtles information centre; varied scenery & activities.

All two night stays, too.

*Fri 10<sup>th</sup> Oct* - Cruise Noosa River to Everglades. O/N Gympie.

*Sat 11<sup>th</sup> Oct – am:* Visit Gympie Gold Museum.

*Pm:* Visit Gympie Woodworks museum O/N Gympie.

*Sun 12<sup>th</sup> Oct - am:* Explore Childers before travelling to Bundaberg.

*pm:* Explore Baldwin Swamp, an environmental reserve. O/N Bundaberg.

*Mon 13 & Tues 14<sup>th</sup> Oct* - Burnett river cruise; Mon Repos turtles sanctuary; explore city centre; Burnett Heads; Port of Bundaberg; Hinkler House; Sugar Museum; and other attractions not listed. If time you might like to nip out to the Mystery Craters on the Gin Gin Road. O/N Bundaberg.

*Tue 14<sup>th</sup> Oct* - Depart Bundaberg after cruise for Hervey Bay O/N Hervey Bay.

*Wed 15<sup>th</sup> & Thurs 16<sup>th</sup> Oct* - Whale watching cruise; Explore Hervey Bay; visit a Kanaka grave & an aboriginal monument; museums, gardens & more. O/N Hervey Bay on 15<sup>th</sup> Oct.

*16<sup>th</sup> Oct* - Depart Hervey Bay for Maryborough. O/N Maryborough.

*17<sup>th</sup> Oct - am:* guided walk in Maryborough.

*pm:* explore more of Maryborough O/N Maryborough.

*18<sup>th</sup> Oct* - Depart Maryborough for Tiaro's historic Station Hotel for a beer (ginger, of course) & lunch before departing for home or extend your stay.

Register your interest with the office as soon as possible.

### **Individual payments include:**

- Noosa River everglades cruise with lunch.
- Whale Watching with lunch.
- Burnett River cruise with bikkies & a cuppa.
- Bundy Rum.
- Admission to Gold Mining Museum in Gympie.
- Admission to Woodworks Museum.
- Entry to 3 historic sites in Maryborough.
- 2 group dinners & nibbles for happy hour (BYO drinks)

**Make your own accommodation bookings as soon as possible. Mention that you are with the RGSQ group.** Caravan Parks (CP) as follows:

**Gympie:** Gympie C P, 5483 6800, [gympiecaravanpark@bigpond.com.au](mailto:gympiecaravanpark@bigpond.com.au)

**Bundaberg:** Bundaberg East CP, 41528899, [info@bundabergtouristpark.com.au](mailto:info@bundabergtouristpark.com.au)

**Hervey Bay:** Happy Wanderer C P, 41251103, [www.happywanderer.com.au](http://www.happywanderer.com.au)

**Maryborough:** Wallace Motel & C P, 41213970, [info@happywanderer.com.au](mailto:info@happywanderer.com.au)

A Booking and Health Form with more information about the camp sites are available online at [www.rgsq.org.au/TREK](http://www.rgsq.org.au/TREK) OCT or hard copies can be obtained from the Office, 07 3368 2066.

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## **2014 Thomson Address Quality of Life: A Geographical Perspective**

### **Jim Walmsley**

The 2014 recipient of the Thomson Medal is Emeritus Professor Jim Walmsley, Geography and Planning, University of New England. For his Thomson Address on 2 June, Prof Walmsley spoke about "quality of life" because he believed that it does not get much attention from geographers despite it varying from place to place. The following are some highlights of the address.

Prof Walmsley spoke to a number of points in relation to quality of life and spatial variability:

- 1) How we might measure quality of life;
- 2) The weaknesses inherent in the use of social indicators;
- 3) The need to focus attention on particular places;
- 4) People's perceptions of quality of life; and
- 5) The need to consider quality of life in the context of contemporary social change.

He highlighted the use of national and state social and economic measurements (e.g. averages) to characterise aspects of quality of life. By the nature of such measurements, they mask the spatial variability resulting in fairly meaningless statistics. This suggests a need for indicators which reflect the phenomenon's spatial variability.

As geographers, Prof Walmsley suggested that *"we need to engage in public intellectual debate much more than we have. And we need to engage with the everyday material world much more than we have. We need to get to grips with lifestyle, well-being and quality of life."*

Prof Walmsley believes *"the thing that ties household debt, real income and leisure together is the concept of "lifestyle". This is a topic that, like quality of life, has not been at all popular in geography, possibly because neither lend themselves to quantification. Lifestyle, in essence, is a way in which people identify – and project to others – an image of who they are."*

In concluding, Prof Walmsley suggested that Australian society is changing in many ways and these have geographic implications. *"The nature of place, and the way in which this varies, influences the way in which social change develops and is manifested with a result that geography isn't merely the map on which social change is plotted but rather one of the components to be considered in the constitution of social change."*

A full copy of the presentation is available from the Society office.

## Northwestern United States

When: 8 - 28 September

20 days/18 nights

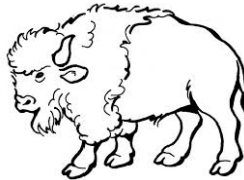
*If you wanted to come on this trip but previously missed out, here is another opportunity to join the trip.* A few more places have become available.

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, and booking, phone Mel at Travel Concepts on Mobile 0413 756 797. Visit [www.rgsq.org.au](http://www.rgsq.org.au) for further details



## World-first 3D digital maps of the coral reefs using satellite bathymetry

German and Australian scientists have collaborated on a set of ground-breaking, high resolution, shallow water topography maps for the entire Great Barrier Reef. These world-first digital maps of the coral reefs, using satellite derived depth (bathymetry) techniques, are a critical step towards identifying, managing and essentially preserving and protecting what lies within the waters of this global icon.

<http://www.siba.com.au/News/News-Articles/World-first-3D-digital-maps-of-the-coral-reefs-usi.aspx>

# RGSQ Bulletin

August 2014

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

**Activity:** Friday 15<sup>th</sup> August,  
Russia – Then and Now, nibbles, drinks, three course meal and presentation

**Lecture Meeting:** Tues 2 Sept 7:30pm  
Annual General Meeting

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

**Student Activity:** 28 Sept – 3 Oct, Geography's  
Big Week Out

**Short Trek:** 10-18 Oct, Come Cruisin', Gympie to  
Bunadberg.

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