



# RGSQ Bulletin

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## From the President

You'll have to excuse me as I've been caught a bit short on time in preparing for the publication of my first President's Message for the RGSQ October Bulletin.

I would like to thank our immediate Past President, David Carstens, for a job well done over the past two years. His efforts during his time in office has had a positive and enduring impact on the affairs of our Society.

Secondly, I would like to thank The Royal Geographical Society Council and you, the members of RGSQ for once again placing your trust in me as President for the coming year and congratulations are in order for our incoming Council and two new councillors, Roger Grimley and Bob Abnett.

Bernard is busy organising the 2015 Australian Geography Competition which is to take place in March and April next year. This year, 2014 four students performed extraordinarily well and achieved a second placing overall for Australia in the 2014 International Geography Olympiad in Krakow, Poland recently. Janice Mui, MacRoberston Girls' High School, Melbourne came third overall, and received a gold medal, Stephen Roche, Sydney Grammar School received a gold medal, Oscar Fawkes, Sydney Grammar

School received a silver medal and Leon Shi, Melbourne High School received a bronze medal.

Changing tac to tours and activities, Kay Rees has just submitted a short report from the trekkers who have recently returned from Cape York which you can all see on the next page in this Bulletin.

This year the Cape York trek had 23 participants and 11 vehicles involved in this our major trek within Australia for 2014. In my long association with RGSQ this type of trek has never failed to interest would be trekkers from those RGSQ members recently retired and eager to indulge in a little not so soft adventure.

Corrugated roads and camping are the norm on these treks, and let's not forget there's always excitement when these trekkers view somewhere significant, this time Possession Island where, possibly our most famous English forebear, James Cook stood 200+ years previously. This spot and its significance is not without controversy, but still manages to conjure excitement, as did many of the other highlights such as Cooktown, Weipa, Merluna Station, and Heathlands Resources Reserve.

Liaison with kindred Societies in London, Hong Kong, and South Australia are firmly on the agenda over the next twelve months. Chris Spriggs has recently returned from a visit to The Royal Geographical Society premises in London. RGSQ look forward to further communication and co-operation between Queensland and the United Kingdom parent society.

Planning is quite advanced and 20 RGSQ members are off to Hong Kong in November, where we're to attend the annual dinner of the Royal Geographical Society of Hong Kong, an overseas branch of RGS London, while closer to home, our Tours and Activities committee are planning a trip to South Australia and RGSSA in Adelaide in the latter part of 2015. Kangaroo Island will be the main focus of this trek

*Leo Scanlan*

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## H. E. the Honourable Paul de Jersey AC, Governor of Queensland - Society Patron

The Society is honoured that His Excellency the Honourable Paul de Jersey AC, Governor of Queensland has agreed to accept patronage of the Society for the duration of his term as Governor of Queensland.

In a letter dated 29 August 2014 and received in early September, the Official Secretary of Government House advised the Society of His Excellency's decision.

**Patron: H.E. Paul de Jersey AC, Governor of Queensland**

**President: Mr Leo Scanlan**

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## Lecture – Tues 7 October Dr Kerrie Wilson *Conserving biodiversity on a budget*

<http://wilsonconservationecology.com/>

The world's largest conservation organisation has a total revenue that is less than 1/10 the net profit of Wal-Mart. While biodiversity conservation is an important goal it must compete with other societal priorities. Conservation therefore requires an understanding of both the ecological and the socio-economic system. I will describe new theory and methods for prioritising where, when, and how to invest funds for protecting biodiversity and ecosystem services and will illustrate with examples of the uptake of this research in Australia, Borneo and California.

Dr Kerrie Wilson holds a degree in Environmental Science from The University of Queensland (University Medallist) and a DPhil in ecology from the University of Melbourne (awarded in 2004). Kerrie is an ARC Future Fellow and has authored over 100 scientific publications (including publications in *Science* and *Nature*). As an Early Career Researcher, she is recognised as an emerging leader in conservation science, evidenced by being a recipient of an Australian Leadership Award, a European Erasmus Mundus Fellowship, SCOPUS Young Researcher Award, and a Eureka Prize for Outstanding Young Researcher. Dr Wilson has also previously held leadership positions with non-government organisations including Director of Conservation for The Nature Conservancy and currently services on the international advisory boards of the IUCN Save of Species Program, the Ecosystem Services Partnership and the QLD Government Biodiversity Research Partnerships Program. Her research into the socio-economic aspects of conservation involves collaborations with numerous government and non-government organisations.

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### 'COME CRUISIN' cancelled

10<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> October. It is unfortunate that we need to advise you that this trek has had to be cancelled.

## Information Evening - Tanzania and Madagascar

**When:** 21 October 2014

**Time:** 7:00pm

**Venue:** 237 Milton Rd, Milton

**RSVP:** Friday 17<sup>th</sup> October at the Office. Phone 3368 2066.

2014 has been a very successful year for Treks and Activities at RGSQ and from all reports we have just concluded another enjoyable experience with the return of our trekkers from Cape York. RGSQ's Tours and Activities Committee are well into planning for our programme of '*Geography on the Ground*' for 2015, and our major overseas destination for September 2015 will be Madagascar and Tanzania.

This combination of Madagascar and Tanzania is, in my mind one of the more exciting destinations I will have been involved in over a very long period of time. I am once more drawing on the considerable resources of Jenman Safaris and expect they will provide the logistics for this RGSQ trek.

As well as all past and future travellers I'm inviting all RGSQ members along to view Jenman's video and PowerPoint display. The geography's impressive with photos from Tarangire National Park, Lake Eyasi, Lake Ndulu, Serengeti National Park, Ngorongoro Crater, Lake Manyara, all in Tanzania, and Antananarivo, the Natural Reserve of Andasibe, Ranomafana National Park, Flanaranisoa, Isalo, Tulear to name a few of the places we hope to visit in Madagascar.

RGSQ have been successful in securing the services of Debby Ocroft and Johan Pfahl from Jenman Safaris based in Cape Town, South Africa, to present an information evening. Debby and Johan are on a promotional tour of Australia on behalf of their company, and have kindly agreed to provide a PowerPoint information evening regarding both of these destinations and related to the planned RGSQ Tanzania and Madagascar 2015 itinerary.

This is your opportunity to view some great photography and see some of what's planned for your travel with RGSQ in 2015.

## Behind-the-Scenes at the Archives

*This is a self-drive outing*

**When:** Tues 18 Nov

**Times & Venues:**

**10:30am** meet for 11am tour at Queensland State Archives, Runcorn

**12:30pm** BYO lunch

**1:45pm** meet for 2pm tour Brisbane City Council Archives Moorooka

**RSVP: Fri 31 Oct 2014.**

**Cost:** Booking Fee: \$5 - to be paid to the office.

We will be visiting Qld State Archives in the morning to learn how Qld's significant documentary heritage collection is being managed & preserved. A fascinating insight.

BRING YOUR OWN LUNCH. QSA will have a room available for our use and also tea and coffee will be provided.

Then it is a 20-min drive to the Brisbane City Council Archives to learn about their extensive collection of plans and maps.

There will be a focus on RGSQ related research and the results might inspire you to want to follow up your own history on a future visit to either of these venues.

Driving Directions: will be supplied to those partaking in this activity.

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## New Members

We would like to welcome the following new members:

Paul and Marion Smith, and Scarlett Stephan.

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

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## My Local Geography

Is there something of geographic interest where you live? Is there a place in Queensland you would like to share your comments on? We would like to hear about it.

Short articles of about 150 words are welcome for the Society's Bulletin. Email your article to [info@rgsq.org.au](mailto:info@rgsq.org.au).

## RGSQ Cape York Trek

The Cape York Trek from 14 July to 10 Aug 2014 was extremely successful and enjoyed by all. There were 11 vehicles in the group with 23 participants.

The Trek began and ended at Mt Carbine covering approx 3,500 kms. Folk made their own way there and back by various routes which added another 4,500 km or more making it a long Trek. Roads were extremely rough in sections and better than expected in other places for instance Lakeland National Park and the road to Chillii Beach.

We had nine groups in tents, one off-road caravan & one VW Transporter camper van, the latter two having the advantage of not having to set-up but taking a little longer to travel on the corrugated roads. Setting up the tents so many times was a trial, but it was off-set by experiencing this amazing part of our country.

After all the rain that had fallen earlier in the year, we were fortunate enough to visit most of the areas on our agenda. The highlight was making it to the Tip and seeing it from 3 different perspectives – by land, by sea & by air in a small 4-seater helicopter. An unplanned visit was to Possession Island where James Cook claimed the Eastern Coast of Australia and even though we didn't set foot on the island, it was very moving to view this auspicious place. Other highlights were a trip to Thursday & Horn Islands, a cruise on the Embley River as well as a tour of the vast bauxite mine at Weipa, a surprise birthday celebrations for Anne at Merluna Station & for Russell at Portland Roads, a guided tour of Aboriginal artworks at Laura, meeting the locals and birds, birds and more birds for the bird-lovers.

Our campsites were varied from caravan parks & national parks, to staying at the back of the local pubs. Probably the most memorable were our campsites at Merluna Station, Bramwell Station & Heathlands Resources Reserve. Here we were able to experience life on the land in these remote areas & enjoy the hospitality of the hosts including three delightful children at Heathlands.

There were many places to visit of an historical nature. Cooktown where Capt Cook landed in 1770, Somerset where John Jardine established the first settlement on the Cape in the mid-1800s, Old Mapoon where a mission was set up in the late 1800s, Old Laura Homestead (from 1892), now heritage listed and in good condition due to volunteer participation, the old fort and cemetery on Thursday Island and the remains of aircraft & anti-aircraft batteries from WWII on Horn Island.

A month in this vast area only gave us a taste of what there is to see & experience. A memorable Trek!

Kay Rees

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## 2014/15 Council

The Annual General Meeting in September marked the start of a new Council year. Councillors for 2014/15 are:

President:	Leo Scanlan
Vice Presidents:	Dal Anderson Jamie Shulmeister
Secretary:	Chris Spriggs
Treasurer:	John Nowill
Councillors:	Robert Abnett Frank Birchall Iraphne Childs Roger Grimley Tony Hillier Audrey Johnston Jeanette Lamont Margaret McIvor

Welcome to new Councillors Robert (Bob) Abnett and Roger Grimley.

Thank you to our Bob and Roger, and all continuing Councillors for their willingness to undertake this volunteer work to advance the Society and its aim of promoting geography. Also, thank you to David Carstens and Neal O'Connor for their work on the past Council.

The Society's 2013/14 Annual Report presented at the AGM can be downloaded from our website at <http://www.rgsq.org.au/node/3>

## 11<sup>th</sup> International Geography Olympiad - Impressions

### People

One of the most satisfying things I found with the iGeo was the opportunity and chance to meet and befriend so many different people from around the world, which seemed to transcend the importance of the actual competition. Most significantly, on the closing day, with results and award presentations, winners were congratulated but humble, which contributed to an overall sense of collective achievement for all participants, which was nice to be a part of. For the duration of the week, everyone in the competition, all with the mutual interest of geography, was friendly and open to conversation about their homelands and lives within, and it was great to get a perspective on the world from so many different perspectives, from both students and team leaders. Although the competition only lasted a week, staying in touch with the others from all over the world, online, has allowed the friendships to be continued, hopefully long into the future!

**Oscar Fawkes**, Sydney Grammar School won a Silver Medal

### Auschwitz Excursion

Nothing can ever really prepare you for the trip to Auschwitz. It truly is a haunting and surreal experience. You cannot even begin to imagine just horrific it would have been to be housed within the many layers of barbed wire. Nowadays, Auschwitz is all about remembrance, as well as a warning from history. The exhibits within the museum tell many stories; stories about capture, imprisonment, and escape. At the neighbouring Auschwitz II - Birkenau camp, the sheer size strikes you. The single railway track running through the main gate to the heart of the camp, the desolate and vast area where camp buildings once stood; and the hollowed out and destroyed gas chambers. When you visit Poland, you must remember, and on iGeo, we did too. Lest we forget.

**Leon Shi**, Melbourne High School won a Bronze Medal

## Society Artefact and Library

Thank you to members Ann Hanger and Jill Don who responded to the article in our September Bulletin requesting assistance with assessing the Society's artefacts. Ann and Jill, both Librarians have volunteered to use their years of experience to assist with the Society's Library.

The Society's Library has a range of books and journals dating from the 1880s related to geographical education and Queensland geography generally.

The Society's library is generally open between 9am and 5pm Monday to Friday.

More volunteers are welcome to help with the work in the Library which includes our map collection.

Contact the Office: 3368 2066

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## Brisbane GIS Day

Explore your world with spatial technology. On display will be organisations associated with mapping, satellite imagery, GPS, and surveying.

**When:** Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> November

**Time:** 9am – 4pm – drop in

**Where:** QUT, Gardens Point Campus, Brisbane City.

For further information visit:  
<http://www.gisday.com.au/>

## Queensland Science Division Webinars

The Science Division of the Queensland Department of Science Information Technology, Innovation and the Arts has a regular webinar program which you can join and listen to. There have been some very interesting presentations related to various aspects of Queensland geography presented by Queensland scientists.

To register your interest and to be kept informed of upcoming webinars, please contact:

David Cobon via email:  
david.cobon@dsitia.qld.gov.au

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# RGSQ Bulletin

October 2014

**Lecture Meeting**, Tues 7 October 7:30pm  
Dr Kerrie Wilson: *Conserving biodiversity on a budget.*

**Patron:** His Excellency the Honourable Paul de Jersey AC, Governor of Queensland has agreed to accept patronage of the Society.

**Activity**, Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> November - Queensland State Archives Tour

**Lecture Meeting**, Tues 4 November 7:30pm  
Ms Mary Anne Barclay, *Fly-In-Fly-Out: Challenges for the Exploration and Mining Industries.*

**Trek:** 5-12 November. Overseas Trek – Hong Kong

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