



RGSQ Bulletin

June 2015

ISSN 1832-8830

Vol 50 no 05

Published by The Royal Geographical Society of Queensland Inc., a not-for-profit organisation established in 1885 that promotes the study of geography and encourages a greater understanding and enjoyment of the world around us.

Patron: [H.E. Paul de Jersey AC, Governor of Queensland](#)
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From the President

On May 5th our normal monthly meeting was preceded by the presentation of an information exercise by Bob Abnett, our very hard working chair of RGSQ's Strategic Planning Committee. Unfortunately, I was involved in the Warrumbungles Trek and was away on the night but, by all reports, Bob's explanation was well received at the meeting and this information will be followed by further updates for our general membership as our Strategic Plan develops and modernises the strategies and activities of our Society over the coming years.

Nanette Yule

Last month, I was sorry to hear Nanette had, unfortunately, suffered a stroke and has now entered a nursing home. Hopefully, Nanette, you will have someone read you this brief message in this month's Bulletin.

A number of long standing members will remember your participation right back as far as the nineteen nineties when you accompanied us to Zimbabwe and Zambia on our second overseas trek. I hope you can still manage a smile when you remember the time we 'rafted' down the Zambezi in canoes and you, of course, managed to have the services of 'Arne' our very handsome South African guide as your oarsman for the occasion. I'm equally sure many of our members who travelled with Dal Andersen on our bus

excursions will remember your enthusiastic participation on a number of occasions. I would like to wish you all the very best from your friends at the Society.

LARC Excursion to the northern end of Pumicestone Passage

On Wednesday 13 May, 33 members of RGSQ took part in a day excursion on Pumicestone Passage, Caloundra. Despite the short 2 hours spent on this morning's excursion on the water, this exercise was a very worthwhile and interesting Geographical experience. I would like to congratulate Craig Seeley of 'LARC About' for his excellent commentary regarding the history of the LARC and his equally informative commentary relating to the earlier foundation settlements in Caloundra and their relationship to the founding of Brisbane further south.

It was rather coincidental that the following day on Thursday, May 14, the local free press, the 'Caloundra Weekly', featured a front page article also relating to the northern trip of Bribie and that part of Pumicestone Passage we had passed over on the day before.



Photo courtesy of the LARC About Amphibious Tours

Geographical comment

'Disaster one storm away'
(Caloundra Weekly, Thursday, May

14, 2015). Coastal engineer, Matthew Barnes, said one big storm is all it would take for a breakthrough at the northern tip of Bribie Island.

We were told on our 'LARC About' excursion how narrow the northern end of Bribie Island is in a number of places with a narrow piece of vegetated sand all that is currently between a wild weather event when Bribie might split in two. It is not just a case of, if the sea will break through, but when? 25 metres of sand could quite easily erode during a big storm and surge event. These findings were posted at the Sunshine Coast's second coastal forum at Maroochydore. I will post 'Bribie split just matter of when' on the notice board in the Auditorium.

Warrumbungles

On 27th April a group of RGSQ's adventurous trekkers met in Moree for the start of what was a more than interesting geographical outing taking in Narrabri, the Warrumbungle National Park, and much of the Piliga Forest area in between. This trek took in a large and prosperous agricultural part of Northern Central New South Wales, a fabulous Indigenous sculpture exhibition in the Piliga Scrub, Piliga Pottery, Siding Spring Telescope, the Australia Telescope, large parts of the Piliga Forest, Sandstone Caves, as well as Coonabarabran, Narrabri, Baradine, and Moree as well as the Warrumbungles and Mt. Kaputar National Parks. It really was a great trip for anyone who loves the Australian landscape and photography.

I would like to congratulate Brian and Heather McGrath for their in depth preparation and reconnaissance before this trek which was an outstanding success. Shortly after

our return Brian and Heather were off for a well-earned rest in Western Europe, the United Kingdom and Ireland. Brian must have been extremely busy during these few days in between as he has already posted his blog related to the Warrumbungles Trek and attached it to our Website. <http://brian-rgsqtravel.blogspot.com.au/>

Commenting further, I would like to add Sharyn and myself were not the usual campers as we don't have a trailer or caravan to enable us to camp in National Parks. We lodged independently in cabins at the various caravan parks along the way and stayed outside the National Park in Coonabarabran which was just a short 35km drive each morning to meet our fellow trekkers who were camped in the Warrumbungles National Park. The drive out each morning proved to be a bonus as we witnessed the mountains in sunshine, rain, and cloud which made the whole exercise very scenic indeed and called for a number of photo stops. In the process we witnessed many kangaroos, emus and many species of birds along the way. On future camps I would encourage those of you who don't camp to join us in on site cabin accommodation.

Geographical comment:

Just prior to leaving for the RGSQ Warrumbungles Trek, I received my latest 'Australian Geographic Magazine' in the mail. On page 64 of this May-June edition, mention is made of Siding Spring Mountain near Coonabarabran which we visited on our Warrumbungles trek. For me the telescope at Siding Springs was one of the highlights – one day I'm sure I will go back again for a full guided tour of this fabulous facility run by the Australian National University.

If you would like to explore and compare photographic night shots taken 28 years ago at Siding Springs and those taken in 2014 you will find *Australian Geographic* on the book rack on the left back wall in the office at RGSQ.

Leo Scanlan

THE STRATEGIC PLAN

A Special Meeting on the Society's Strategic Plan is not always a big crowd drawer or pleaser, say, compared to some of the interesting lectures, day trips and treks which the Society offers. However, given the subject matter, it was pleasing to see so many of the active members of the Society attend the Special Meeting.

Thirty five (35) members formally attended the Special Meeting, with 8 other members offering their apologies, as many of them were away on the Warrumbungles Trek in north west NSW. (it was a great Trek from what the participants have told other members!)

In addition, about a dozen or so other members arrived early for the May lecture, so they sat in on the last part of the Special Meeting.

Bob Abnett, Chair of the Strategic Plan Implementation Committee, gave a power point presentation and this expanded upon the information provided to members in the April and May Bulletins about the Strategic Plan.

Bob also advised members that there were a number of reasons why Council went ahead and prepared the Strategic Plan without a lot of membership consultation beforehand. These reasons covered the need to establish, as quickly as possible, guiding principles and strategies to improve the Society's financial and governance matters. Other reasons included the need to have a strategy for the future of the Society, as it begins to consider a range of public and private sector funding sources to undertake projects and programs in coming years. Such funding organisations require strategic plans or the equivalent from funding applicants.

Ken Granger and Graham Rees both submitted significant submissions on the Strategic Plan, as published in the Bulletin, and Ken also spoke to his submission at the Special Meeting. A few people from the floor also asked questions, or raised issues which they felt Council should address, either in the immediate future, or as the Strategic Plan progresses over coming months.

Following the Special Meeting a small number of members emailed

the Office with comments on the proceedings of the meeting, or with further ideas for Council to consider.

Council met on 12 May, 2015 and both Ken's and Graham's submissions, plus the additional emails received and other comments received from the floor of the Special Meeting were reported. These have been forwarded to, and will be considered by the Strategic Plan Implementation Committee in June, 2015. Once the Committee has considered the submissions, it will make recommendations to Council on what should be followed up upon.

It should also be noted that Council at its May Meeting, resolved to investigate Ken Granger's submission idea about streaming lecture nights to regional members, where possible. This matter is now being investigated.

If members still want to submit a comment or ideas on the Strategic Plan, then please do so, either by:

- emailing the Office at execofficer@rgsq.org.au
- or writing a letter to the Office, via: Executive Officer, Royal Geographical Society of Queensland, Gregory House, 237 Milton Road, Milton QLD 4064

Bob Abnett, Chair – Strategic Plan Implementation Committee

RGSQ COUNCIL CHANGES

To address the need to provide greater attention to some tasks the Council has created a new position and some Councillors have taken on different roles as follows:

Secretary: Roger Grimley

Treasurer: Chris Spriggs

Investment and Property Officer: John Nowill

Committees and convenors have stayed the same as follows:
Australian Geography Competition - *Mr Bernard Fitzpatrick*

Finance and Building - *Mr John Nowill*

Honours - *Dr Iraphne Childs*

Scientific Studies Advisory- *Mr Tony Hillier*

Treks and Activities - *Mr Leo Scanlan*

Meeting/Lecture

Tues 2 June, 2015

2015 J P Thomson Address

“How the interagency between people and trees creates spatial patterns in Australian cities.”

delivered by

James B Kirkpatrick

B.A. (Hons) Melb, PhD Melb, DSc UTas

Distinguished Professor of Geography and Environmental Studies and Head of Discipline of Geography and Spatial Science, School of Land and Food, Faculty of Science and Technology, University of Tasmania

Where: “Gregory House”, 237 Milton Rd, Milton.

Time: 7:30 p.m.

Distinguished Professor Kirkpatrick, recipient of the Society’s 2015 J P Thomson medal is a geographer whose research and teaching integrates social and physical geography to solve problems in nature conservation. He is also an ecologist, having been president of both the Institute of Australian Geographers and the Ecological Society of Australia. He has a number of skills which include: plant identification; multivariate analyses of data; writing up academic stories; and, communicating the results of his research to governments and the public.

Some of his projects and interests include:

- The life and death of trees and gardens in suburban and exurban areas.
- The effects of fires and animals on vegetation dynamics.
- The effects of fire and trampling on organic soils and landforms.
- The influence of geology, vegetation and topography on the characteristics of Australian alpine soils.
- Explaining failures and successes in nature conservation.

Distinguished Professor Kirkpatrick currently hold the following positions:

Member, National Parks and Wildlife Advisory Council, Tasmania

Member, Editorial Board of *Geographical Research*

Member, Editorial; Board of *Landscape and Urban Planning*

Member, Scientific Advisory Committee, Tasmanian Land Conservancy

THE J P THOMSON MEDAL



The J.P. Thomson Medal is the most prestigious award given by The Royal Geographical Society of Queensland Inc.

Consideration for the award is not restricted to Society members but is open to all persons who are residents of Australia. Not more than one award is made in any one year.

The Thomson Medal was established in 1900 to honour Dr James Park Thomson, CBE, LL.D Hon, FRGSA, founding Secretary of the Society, and the inaugural award was made the following year to Dr Thomson. The Medal recognises the high qualities of scholarship and contribution to the study of geography which marked the life of Dr James Park Thomson.

Awards reflect the object of the Society to promote and stimulate the study of geography, the need to affirm to Society members, the public and the media the importance of geography, and the desire to honour the community service to geography of Dr Thomson.

Contributions are considered in one or more of the following:

- Research that has advanced knowledge of the discipline of geography or advanced understanding of the importance of the role of geography in our daily lives.
- Teaching or writing that has contributed to geographical education, including the development or application of techniques that have promoted the progress or application of geographical studies.
- Activities in fields not necessarily identified as geography, but which are clearly influenced by a geographical outlook or knowledge.

Past recipients have included Dr T. Griffith Taylor, Mr Bert Hinkler, Sir Douglas Mawson, Dr John Bradfield, and in more recent times, Em Prof John Holmes, Prof Graeme Hugo, Prof Andrew Short and Em Prof Jim Walmsley.

Meeting/Lecture: Tues 7 July, 2015

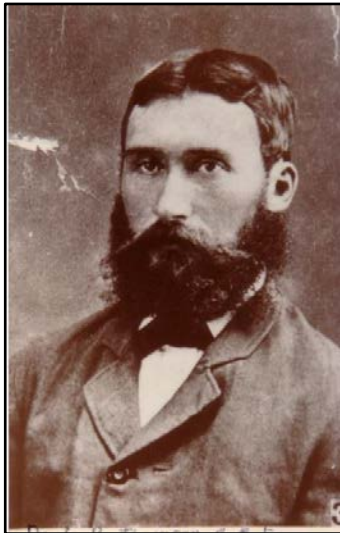
The Honourable A. C. Gregory By Bill Kitson
Society’s 130 Anniversary of formation

Where: “Gregory House”, 237 Milton Rd, Milton.

Time: 7:30 p.m.

JAMES PARK THOMSON

Founder of the Royal Geographical Society of Queensland Inc.



James Park Thomson was born in the Shetland Islands on 20 June 1854.

From 1872-1876, he travelled through many parts of North and South America and New Zealand studying the geographical conditions he encountered. In 1877, Thomson voyaged to New South Wales and took up a position in the Survey Department, Sydney.

In early 1880, Thomson qualified as a Land Surveyor and soon after was appointed the Government Surveyor in Fiji. He occupied this position for the next four years. While in Fiji, Thomson conducted the observation of the Transit of Venus.

After leaving Fiji, Thomson travelled throughout the South Pacific. In early 1885, he accepted employment as a draughtsman in the Survey Branch of the Queensland Department of Public Lands. He held this position until his retirement in 1921.

After his arrival in Brisbane, Thomson, a member of the New South Wales Branch of the Geographical Society of Australia (GSA) received a letter from Francis Gerard then Treasurer of the New South Wales Branch stating:

"The society (Sydney Branch) is now getting firmly established and if you can do anything towards the formation of a branch in Brisbane such as has been formed in Melbourne it would be of great benefit to the Society in general and I think there would be a very good interest taken in such a movement, Queensland being so full of explorers and old experienced colonists."

Gerard had also communicated with other citizens likely to support the cause, such as W. Alcock-Tully, Surveyor-General and the Honourable A. C. Gregory.

Thomson took steps and initiated the formation of the Queensland Branch of the Royal Geographical Society of Australasia. He went on to be the Society's Secretary or Secretary/Treasurer until 1941, except for 1894-1897 when he was President.

Thomson delivered many addresses to the society on a wide range of topics, including Fiji, the New Hebrides, the physical geography of Australia and water conservation.

Many of his talks were published in the Society's publication the *Queensland Geographical Journal*. Thomson also published two books – *British New Guinea* and *Round the World* – and wrote articles for French and British geographical journals.

Throughout the decade 1886 to 1896, Thomson was very involved in the Society's affairs. He held the combined position of Secretary/Treasurer until 1891, Secretary until 1894 and President from 1894 to 1897. He later wrote that it had been a "Labour of love".

He would over the following years contribute much to the Society and geography generally. Retiring from the public service in 1922 he continued to work tirelessly for the Society. He lectured at such towns as Charleville, Roma, Longreach, Blackall, and on Thursday Island, raising locals' awareness of their environments in the context of the wider world.

Thomson's achievements were recognised in 1897 when he was awarded the Medal of the Incorporated Society of Science, Letters and Art of London, and again in 1903 when he was bestowed with an Hon LLD from Queen's University (Canada). He also received a CBE in 1920 for 'distinguished services in the advancement of science'.

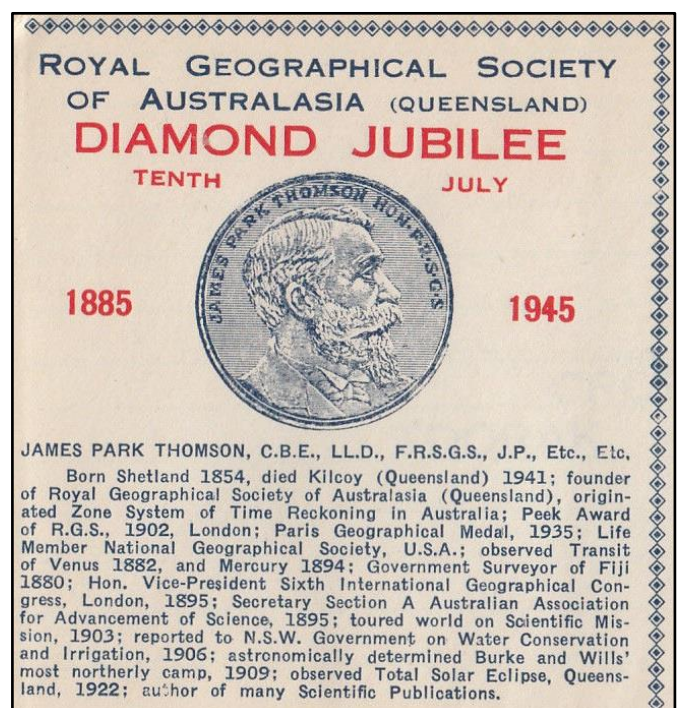
Dr Thomson died on 11 May 1941 at Kilcoy at the age of 87. The *Brisbane Courier Mail* of 12 May 1941 called him a 'fine geographer'.

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W.S. Kitson, 1990: Thomson, James Park (1854 – 1941), *Australian Dictionary of Biography*, Volume 12.



Wellcamp & Oakey Airports

What: Day Trip
When: Wednesday 15 July
Where: Eastern Darling Downs
Cost: \$15 per person
RSVP: 7 July, Book and pay at the Office.

The outing has been arranged to visit the new Brisbane West Wellcamp Airport and the Australian Army Flying Museum at Oakey Airport.

The Brisbane West Airport is the first major airport built in Australia since Tullamarine in 1970, and the first ever funded and built completely by private enterprise in this country. The runway can handle 747 aircraft. Its potential as a base from which to export products of the Darling Downs and Southern Queensland to South East Asia is huge.

In contrast to Wellcamp, which opened to commercial traffic in November 2014, the Oakey Flying Museum features displays from the earliest days of Aviation.

We will meet at the airport at Wellcamp, situated on the Toowoomba – Cecil Plains Road some 15km west of Toowoomba, at 10am. There will be ample time to purchase a coffee in the Altitude café and get to meet the airport's Public Relations Officer Sara Hales, before Sara takes us on a walking tour at 10.30am of those parts of the airport accessible to the public. This tour will take about 1.5 hours.

You can purchase lunch in the Altitude café or in any of the Oakey cafes etc, or BYO and eat it in Oakey.

In the afternoon we will meet at the Oakey Airport at 1.30pm for a conducted 1.5hour tour of the displays in the Aviation Museum.

Transport will be by your own vehicle. It may be possible to arrange transport for anyone having difficulty driving to the Downs – please notify the office if you would like transport.

The booking fee for this outing is \$15 per person to cover the cost of admission to and the guided tour at the Oakey Aviation Museum, and the Society's administration costs.

We hope to see many of our Darling Downs members joining this outing.

Brian McGrath.

Bonnie Scotland

What: Nibbles and drinks, a 3 course meal of Scottish dishes and a slide presentation on Scotland
When: Friday 7 August
Where: "Gregory House," Milton
Cost: \$35 per person
RSVP: 27 July, book and pay at the Office.

Friends are welcome but numbers are limited for catering.

We'll visit "Scotland the Brave" from Gretna to the Orkneys and the Shetlands and everywhere in between. Let's go "Over the Sea to Skye" to hear the "Skye Boat Song", travel along the "Bonnie Bonnie Banks of Lock Lomond", go "by Tummel and Loch Rannock and Loch Aber," take the "Road to the Isles," to "Brigadoon," before our meal we'll sing "Amazing Grace", and yes, I did "Come Back Again" because "My Ain Folk" came from Scotland. Unfortunately, we visited at the wrong time of the year to see "the Northern Lights of Old Aberdeen". So many more Scottish folk songs, too.

The scenery is magnificent and so varied – mountains, some snow-capped, forests, lochs, rivers, waterfalls, tumbling burns, bronze bracken, golden gorse and purple heather cloaking rolling hillsides, spectacular coastal scenery with crashing seas, walking tracks, ruins, castles – Stirling and Edinburgh, of course – cathedrals, churches, old architecture, battle sites and memorials, historic sites, distilleries.

So much history, too, but we won't go too far into that. But we won't talk about the weather!!!

I spent three weeks there in 1984 and more than three weeks in 2004 and still haven't seen everything!! In some areas you could travel no more than about 20 miles in a day there is so much of interest.

Just for fun, if you have any Scottish clothes or items you might bring them or buy some tartan ribbon.

Look forward to seeing you there.

Audrey Johnston

Scenic Rim Robotic Dairy

What: Day Trip
When: Wednesday 24 June, 10 am
Where: Tamrookum
Cost: \$25
RSVP: Wed 17 June book and pay to the Office, 07 -3368 2066

FULLY BOOKED

Join fellow Society members on a tour of the family run Scenic Rim Robotic Dairy. Located at Tamrookum is on the Mount Lindsay Highway, halfway between Beaudesert and Rathdowney. Allow for about a 2 hour drive from Brisbane.

One of the longest running dairies in the area, the Dennis family tour of the dairy farm gives you a fantastic snapshot of dairy farming through the generations... from the horse and cart days when cows were milked by hands through Box Bales; machine milking with the introduction of electricity in 1949; introduction of a 6 a side Herringbone in 1972, the 50 platform Rotary and milking 360 cows in 1991; to the current LELY robotic milking system.

Self-drive, and car pool with your friends for the drive to Tamrookum, plan to arrive at the Tamrookum State School, BEFORE 10.00am.

Further details will be emailed to those who have booked.

Volunteers Required Australian Geography Competition

Assistance is required for the mail-out of the 2015 Competition Certificates, results and prizes on Wednesday 10th, Thursday 11th and Friday 12th of June, 2015, commencing at 9:30am each morning.

Due to some technical issues we were unable to undertake this task in late May as originally advised. A number of members who did volunteer to help in May are not able to assist in June.

If you are able to help, please contact Bernard in the Office on 3368 2066.

THE MAGNA CARTA

In June, the Magna Carta will celebrate its 800th anniversary. Celebrations are being held around the world, and there are various activities planned in Australia (<http://www.magnacarta.org.au/events/>). On 2nd June, Australia Post is issuing a commemorative stamp.

The original "Great Charter" was sealed by King John at Runnymede (near Windsor Castle) on the 15th June 1215. Drafted by the archbishop of Canterbury, it was an attempt to reconcile differences between the Monarchy and a number of dissatisfied Barons.

However, within a few months both

parties had failed to honour their commitments, and as a result led to the Barons' War (1215-1217). Following King John's sudden death in 1216, His son King Henry III reissued an amended document the same year.

At the close of hostilities in 1217, this then formed part of the Peace Treaty, where for the first time acquired the name "Magna Carta." Some eighty years later in 1297 it was officially recognised as part of English Statute Law, thereby establishing itself as an important symbol of liberty.

Although contemporary historians may debate various aspects, it is still highly respected, particularly in the

legal fraternities of English speaking nations in today's world.

Perhaps the words of acclaimed judge Lord Denning (1899 – 1999) should have the final say when he declared "The Magna Carta is the constitutional document of all times – the foundation of freedom of the individual against the arbitrary authority of the despot."

Phil Imison

At the June 2 Lecture-Meeting, our Society member, Phil Imison will present the Society with a framed reprint of the Magna Carta (the Dean and Chapter of Lincoln) and a framed English translation.

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Lecture/Meeting: Tues 2 June 7:30pm

J P Thomson Address by Distinguished Professor James Kirkpatrick

How the interagency between people and trees creates spatial patterns in Australian cities

Activity: Wed 24 June, Scenic Rim Robotic Dairy

Volunteer days: Australian Geography Competition, 10-12 June.

Lecture/Meeting: Tues 7 July 7:30pm
The Honorable A. C. Gregory by Bill Kitson, and the Society's 130th Anniversary

Activity: Wed 15 July, Wellcamp & Oakey Airports

Strategic Plan Update

The Royal Geographical Society of Queensland Inc
"Gregory House", 237 Milton Road, Milton Q 4064

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