



# RGSQ Bulletin

August 2015

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**Patron:** [H.E. Paul de Jersey AC, Governor of Queensland](#)  
**President:** Mr Leo Scanlan

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- **Activity:** August 19, Coomera River / Couran Cove Cruise.
- **Dinner and presentation:** August 21, Bonnie Scotland

## From the President

**Administrative review:** As we move closer to our Annual General Meeting on 1<sup>st</sup> September, I would like to congratulate The Royal Geographical Society of Queensland Council who have been extremely active in changing our mode of operation across a broad range of activities to ensure the sustainability of RGSQ into the future. We have already started implementing some very extensive changes in line with our Strategic Plan presented to our membership prior to our normal monthly lecture on 5<sup>th</sup> May. Council would be negligent to ignore and persist with principles applied since our last Strategic Review in 2007.

We are finalising the Pungalina Scientific Expedition Report, tidied up descriptions of Council Executive Officers, Chairpersons and functions, are in the process of formalising the Society's role and responsibility regarding the Australian Geography Competition, and are also completing a review of our Society's Constitution to introduce modern governance principles and practices.

Most importantly we have moved to secure our financial future and are reviewing the Society's product management principles, our annual membership fee structure, product

cost reporting, budgeting and pricing, and we undertaking research related to the feasibility of introducing a Primary School Geography Competition. RGSQ Council believe we currently have a healthy balance sheet but believe suggested changes to be presented at our Annual General Meeting are essential for our continued sustainability in the years ahead. Hopefully I will see you all at the AGM on 1<sup>st</sup> September.

**Out and about:** Over the past month I have attended a great programme of events at RGSQ. At the start of the month our usual monthly meeting was well attended and well received with our guest lecturer Bill Kitson, surveying historian, giving us a lecture covering the extraordinary life and history of our founding President, The Honourable Sir Augustus Charles Gregory. On this occasion on 7<sup>th</sup> July we were a mere 3 days short of the Society's 130<sup>th</sup> anniversary. To complete the evening a light supper and appropriately a birthday cake was enjoyed by all. If you do visit the Society over the next couple of weeks, I would encourage you to have a look at Gregory's painting before it is given back to its rightful owners in the Masonic Grand Lodge in Ann Street, later in the year.

**Wellcamp Airport:** Last Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> July, approximately thirty eight members of RGSQ attended our monthly day outing to Wellcamp Airport on the outskirts of Toowoomba. This Airport is the first airport fully funded and built by private enterprise in Australia. This excursion, organised by Brian and Heather McGrath, and escorted by Sara Hales from the airport's public

relations staff was a very pleasant morning out. The weather was fine, our preparations were for the cold, so we were pleasantly surprised at the mild conditions on the Downs on the morning. Later in the morning members moved on to the Oakey Military Aviation museum. The popularity and attendance of our day outings just keeps on growing and we look forward to our next day outing on the Coomera River/ Couran Cove Cruise organised by John McWatters and set down for 5<sup>th</sup> August.

**Other activities:** While not an official RGSQ activity, earlier in the month it was my pleasure to accompany RGSQ Councillor Iraphne Childs and her husband Ralph to a very interesting morning's visit to the Port of Brisbane and the visiting American aircraft carrier, the USS George Washington. The USS George Washington is a Nimitz Class aircraft carrier and one of the largest naval ships to visit the port of Brisbane. The aircraft hangar underneath the flight deck was truly enormous and along with the ship's other statistics, 74.4 metres from top to bottom, 333 metres from bow to stern, 18,210 square metres of flight deck and approximately 87,966 metric tonnes, and with a top speed of 56 kilometres per hour, this ship was quite a bit more than just impressive and is one of 10 Nimitz Class carriers in the US Navy. This ship, its class, its weight, and its sheer size was a truly awesome example of shipbuilding engineering at its best.

**Geographic comment:** I would like to draw your attention to a recent article which appeared in the June edition of National Geographic

Magazine which is available in the RGSQ library. Who would have thought even 20 years ago, that such a prestigious publication would feature a photograph of a chief horticulturalist sniffing cannabis plants to check on their inner health?

**'High Science' National Geographic Magazine, June 2015.**

I haven't researched any figures for marijuana use in Australia but apparently 20 million Americans used marijuana in 2013. Two states in the United States, Colorado and Washington, have already legalised marijuana for private use while it's still an indictable offence to use marijuana elsewhere in the US and Australia. For good or bad - how times have changed!

For those of you who are into photography, I would recommend you have a look at the ANZANG Nature Photographer of the year collection featuring Karri trees of Boranup Forest in Western Australia, a spotted bowerbird from St. George in Queensland, the Blue Lake in New South Wales, Cradle Mountain, Tasmania, and some wonderful nature photographs all on show in the **July-August 2015 Edition 127 of Australian Geographic**. My photography pales by comparison but it's wonderful to behold such amazing photographs from different parts of our beautiful country.

**Promotion:** In conclusion, I would encourage you all to advertise RGSQ, promote geography, and disseminate the RGSQ phone number and website via the car stickers available from Bernard or Lilia when next you're in the office.

**Leo Scanlan**

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## Welcome New Members

We have much pleasure in welcoming the following new members:

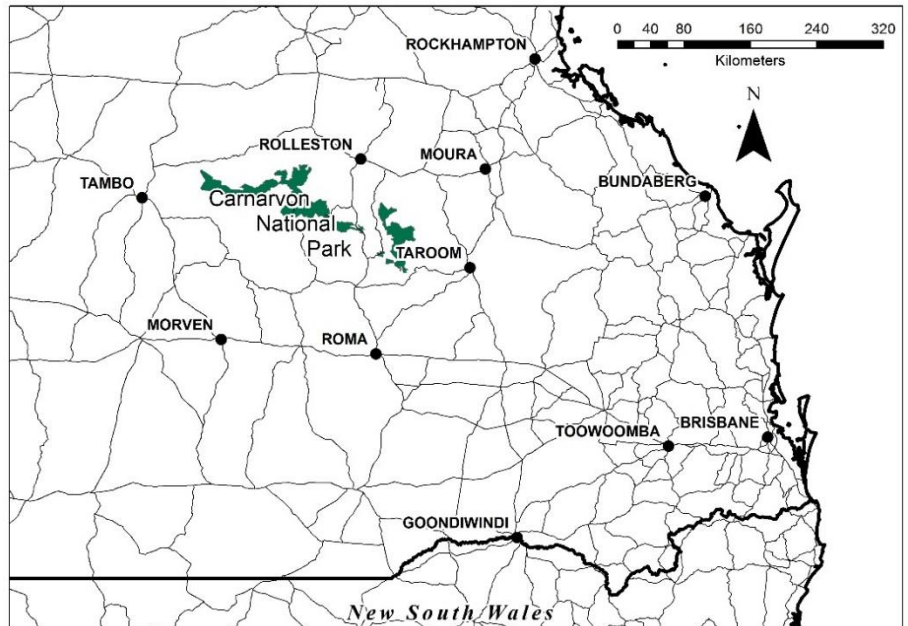
*P Harriss and R Sheehan*

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

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Discover Queensland by Degrees. Visit:  
<http://www.rgsq.org.au/qldbydeg>.



## Meeting/Lecture

**Tues 4 August, 2015**

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

**Time:** 7:30pm

## Landscape Appreciation – Carnarvon Gorge

Presented by Rob Simson

Rob Simson has been a member of RGSQ and GTAQ since the early 1960s. While Geography Subject Master Rob led the way in Queensland in introducing practical field studies into his Geography teaching program. He organised annual field study camps on behalf on GTAQ attracting students from schools throughout SE Queensland.

He served on the Senior Geography syllabus committee under Professor Greenwood, and chaired the committee in the 1972-1976 era when the Radford Scheme was being established in Queensland Education. The syllabus was divided into semester units including the first Environmental Geography teaching unit in Australia. Rob worked with Professor John Holmes on a text book for the course, titled *Man and Environment: Regional Perspectives*.

Rob's teaching career took him into Outdoor Education at Maroon Outdoor Education Centre and he was the foundation president of the Outdoor Educators' Association of Queensland. As well as the pedagogy of geographical education, Rob's special interests

are geomorphology and landscape aesthetics.

Rob led seven different student trips to the Carnarvon Ranges in the 1960s and 1970s, including the three Project Arcadia innovative 10-day expeditions with the help of fellow RGSQ member, Paul Feeny. Since then Rob has been back in the Carnarvon Ranges on eight private bushwalking trips, the latest being to complete the Carnarvon Great Walk in 2013.

Rob's presentation will cover the geology, geomorphology, land systems and vegetation of the Carnarvon Ranges and its National Parks, and then discuss the history of 170years of exploration, occupation, and exploitation of the Bidjara and Garinbal nation's lands, including the involvement of RGSQ particularly in the 1930s and 1940s.

Rob will end the presentation with a series of photographs of special features of the Carnarvon Range landscapes and a brief explanation about his novel, *Cave Hill*, a fiction story set in the Carnarvons.

## Night Supper Volunteers

If you would like to help out with supper on lecture nights, please let Mary Comer know next Lecture night, or call the Office: 3368 2066.

Two volunteers will be rostered to organise and serve supper for a lecture.

It is a great way to meet more of your fellow members.

## COOMERA RIVER/COURAN COVE CRUISE

**What:** Day Trip  
**When:** Wednesday 19 August  
**Time:** 10:45 a.m.  
**Where:** Hope Harbour Marina (Hope Island)  
**Cost:** \$49 per person  
**RSVP:** 5 August, Book and pay at the Office.

Departing Hope Harbour Marina (Hope Island) 11a.m. Please arrive by 10:45a.m. or else you will miss the boat departure.

Cruise through the wilderness of the North Arm of the Coomera River while enjoying morning tea, arriving at Ramada Couran Cove Resort on South Stradbroke Island, for a sumptuous 2 course lunch with tea and coffee. While at Couran Cove a short walk along the Boardwalk through the rainforest before lunch is both interesting and relaxing, or just sit and enjoy the view. Reboard for the return via the South Arm of the Coomera River while sipping a rum port.

**GETTING TO HOPE HARBOUR MARINA** - Turn off the Gold Coast Motorway at Exit 57 and proceed along Hope Island Road for 5km. Turn left from the roundabout into Sickie Avenue. Progress along Sickie Ave, and, just after John Lund Drive enter the carpark for Ramada Couran Cove Island Resort. From the carpark, proceed to Hope Harbour Marina Couran Cove terminal, from which boarding the RumRunner will take place.

We will return to the wharf at approximately 3.15 p.m.

### Annual General Meeting

**Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> September 2015**

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

**Time:** 7:30pm

Members, please note the above date and time of our 2015 Annual General Meeting (AGM).

The AGM official notice will be distributed in mid-August.

Members who are interested in contributing to the Society's evolving future are encouraged to consider nominating for Council. A nomination form is included with this Bulletin.



*From Wikimedia Commons, the free media repository*

## Bonnie Scotland

### Date Change

**SORRY!! Due to an event at Suncorp Stadium the date for this evening has been moved to Friday 21<sup>st</sup> August.**

**What:** Nibbles and drinks; 3 course Scottish meal and a slide presentation on Scotland  
**When:** Friday 21<sup>st</sup> August  
**Time:** 6:00 p.m. for 6:30 p.m.  
**Where:** "Gregory House," Milton  
**Cost:** \$35 per person  
**RSVP:** 4<sup>th</sup> August, book and pay at the Office (Tel: 3368 2066).

### THE HAGGIS

An entry in a diary found in an old cottage, and dated 1785, strongly suggests the Haggis was a small animal living in dense woodland and giving a shrill cry. The flesh was considered a delicacy, became scarce and it is now believed to be extinct. Possible?? Perhaps!!!

Look forward to seeing you there.

**Audrey Johnston**

### Maps and Mapping Group

Are you interested in maps and mapping? A few members are. We wish to start a Map and Mapping Group which meets a few times a year to talk maps and mapping.

We will be a RGSQ member group who organise ourselves, including venues and topics, with a gold coin contribution to cover a cuppa and nibbles at our meetings.

We plan to start chartering our course with an initial Monday morning meeting in September, date yet to be determined. Suggested topic is Queensland historic maps. We might have a look at what maps are in our map library.

If you are interested, please email ([info@rgsq.org.au](mailto:info@rgsq.org.au)) or ring the Office.

## REDLANDS INDIGISCAPES CENTRE

**When** Wednesday 23 Sept  
**Time** 10 am  
**Where** 17 Runnymede Road Capalaba  
**How** Self Drive  
**Cost** \$20 includes Lunch

Please specify any dietary requirements (Vegetarian or Gluten Free)

**RSVP** Register and pay at office by 16<sup>th</sup> September

Curious to know what this place is?

If you enjoy a relaxed day out with friends, wandering through gardens, getting ideas for home backyards (trees or flowering shrubs) or just experiencing the great outdoors? Come along and join us at Indigiscapes in the Bayside area of Redlands

There is the Coastal Garden, Wild Herb Garden, Scribbly Gum Garden, Formal Garden, Bird Garden Butterfly Garden, the Fairy Wren walk, Wetland Garden, Rainforest and Wildflower Walk and Tallowwood View Trail. There is something for everyone at this Environmental education centre.

**Arrive** 10 am Morning Tea: own arrangements. There is a picnic area  
**11 am** Meet guide for 30 minutes general talk

Wander through the gardens at leisure

**Lunch 12.30 to 1.30** Package of Gourmet Sandwiches and wraps, Cake and Scones with jam and cream, fresh brewed Coffee, native or regular Tea and Orange juice.

**Afternoon** continue to wander through the trails. Centre closes 4pm It should be an informative and enjoyable day

**Jeanette Lamont**

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### Dirk Hartog 2016

For those interested in following the build up to the Hartog 400 anniversary in 2016, visit:

<http://www.dirkhartog2016.nl/>

In Dirk's Library you will learn about Dirk Hartog's life and his historic landing in Australia.

<http://www.dirkhartog2016.nl/dirks-library>

## Australia's Vietnam War Website

Would you like to know more about Australia's Vietnam War? Would you like to contribute your stories?

The University of New South Wales, Australian Defence Force Academy has launched an interesting website [vietnam.unsw.adfa.edu.au](http://vietnam.unsw.adfa.edu.au)

It is worth a visit even if it is just to see how they have integrated maps and spatial databases in the web.

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## Downfall Creek Bushland Centre

**When:** Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> October

**Time:** to be advised.

**Where:** Rode Rd, Stafford Heights

**Cost:** to be advised

**RSVP:** to be advised

Browse the displays in the Information Centre.

Hopefully, a short talk about the reserve.

Walk the Senses Trail with its information boards and varied vegetation.

Enjoy a light BBQ lunch.

After lunch, another walk for the energetic through an entirely different environment.

All tracks are sealed but there are some ups and downs.

Full details in the September Bulletin.

Save this date."

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**Landscape Appreciation—Carnarvon Gorge**  
by Rob Simson

**Activity:** Wed 19 August, Coomera River /  
Couran Cove Cruise

**AGM:** Tues 1 September

**Activity:** Wed 19 August, Coomera River /  
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**Activity:** Friday 21 August, Bonnie Scotland.  
Nibbles, drinks, 3 course Scottish meal, and a  
slide presentation.

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

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