



RGSQ Bulletin

September 2015

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

From the President

How the months roll by! Since my last President's page I have had a very enjoyable time on a P&O cruise to New Caledonia and Vanuatu. We entered the lagoon inside the barrier reef surrounding New Caledonia on an absolutely beautiful afternoon with the mountains at the back of the Island just visible inside a tropical haze. This was my fourth visit to New Caledonia, and while our Noumea visit was a few hours duration, this time Sharyn and I did the walking tour and saw a whole lot more of Noumea. It's so very French, so different culturally, and yet so close to Australia. It only made me want to see more of this beautiful island, so maybe we might look into organising something here for RGSQ sometime in the future.

This week, your Tours and Activities Committee met to discuss our programme of events for 2016. Carnarvon National Park in Central Queensland was at the top of our wish list this year following Rob Simson's excellent 'Landscape Appreciation' lecture on 4th August. Rob certainly re-kindled memories of a number of excellent past RGSQ experiences to Carnarvon Gorge, Mount Moffatt, and the Salvator Rosa sections of Carnarvon National Park. Maybe Rob would like to accompany us next year – we've pencilled in early September for this event, before it gets too hot in this part of Queensland.

Our November activity, a Spatial Technology Workshop, has now been postponed and transferred to March 2016. The alternative activity is an historical walk through Toowong Cemetery hosted by Darcy Maddock from the 'Friends of Toowong Cemetery' on November 12th. Perhaps we can view the graves of some of RGSQ's founding fathers. Following our Cemetery Walk members will move over the road to the Mt. Coot-tha Botanical Gardens for lunch and a short guided afternoon walk through the Gardens. (See advertisement in next month's RGSQ Bulletin).

I'm now getting quite excited with only 3 weeks to go before 27 RGSQ Trekkers take off for Sri Lanka. We had our final pre embarkation dinner and were presented with all our travel documents last Wednesday evening at the 'Fire and Spice Restaurant' at Cooperaroo. It was great to try traditional Sri Lankan food, although I suspect I'm going to have to be extremely careful with the chilli.

Finally, it was pleasing to see that our 'supper upgrade' after our monthly lecture has been extremely successful in generating just so much more interest in post function interaction and chit chat among our members. See you at next month's meeting, our Annual General Meeting on Tuesday 1st September.

Leo Scanlan

Annual General Meeting

Tuesday 1 September 2015

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

Time: 7:30 pm

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

The business of the AGM will include:

1. Presentation of the Council's Annual Report and Financial Statements.
2. Adoption of the Auditor's Report.
3. Appointment of Auditor for the year ending 30th June 2016.
4. Proposal that members approve changes to fees.
5. Election of members of the Council for 2015-2016.

Printed copies of the Annual Report will be available at the door before the AGM. A digital copy of the report accompanies the emailed Bulletin. Printed copies will be mailed to other members who request a copy. Please contact the Office if you would like a printed copy.

Members who are interested in contributing to the Society's evolving future are encouraged to consider nominating for Council. Nominations forms were included with the August Bulletin. If you require another nomination form, please contact the Society's office, telephone 3368 2066.

RGSQ MAP INTEREST GROUP

When Monday 14 September

Time 10 am

Where "Gregory House," 237 Milton Rd, Milton

The inaugural meeting of the Map Interest Group will be held on Monday 15 September.

This Group will provide a forum for members to explore their interest in maps and mapping. The inaugural meeting will consider members interests, and discuss ideas for future meetings and activities. We will also start to explore some of the current map holdings in the Society's Library.

If you are a Society member with an interest in maps and mapping, come along and share your interest with like-minded members.

Enter via the front door of the Society's office at "Gregory House" on Milton Road.

REDLANDS INDIGISCAPES CENTRE

Please Note the date is Wednesday 23 September

When Wednesday 23 September

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 16th 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 Tallowood 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.

How to get to INDIGISCAPES

Proceed along Old Cleveland Road from Carina.

Take the Moreton Bay Road. Route 22

(Go past Mt Cotton Road)

(Capalaba Park on left)

At Lights, Turn right into Redland Bay Road.

Greater Glider Conservation Area on left

(4 sets of Traffic lights.) Turn Right into Runnymede Road No 17 on left.

Cafe closes at 3pm and Center closes at 4pm.

Jeanette Lamont



Downfall Creek Bushland Centre

When: Wednesday 14 October

Time: 10.00 am

Where: Rode Rd, Stafford Heights (between Maundrell Tce and Raven St, with off street parking)

Cost: \$12.50

RSVP: 6th October

Browse the displays in the Information Centre.

Hopefully, a short talk about the reserve.

Walk the Senses Trail with its information boards and varied wetlands vegetation - if there has been rain.

Enjoy a light BBQ lunch (BYO hot or cold drinks).

After lunch, another walk through vastly different vegetation and environment.

Brisbane has the most complicated geological background of any Australian capital city- complex metamorphics of the Neranleigh Series, principally Bunya phyllites, Brisbane volcanic tuff and some iron-bearing conglomerate. (Will we recognise these?) Vegetation ranges from sclerophyll, to open dry forest to open wetland- if there has been recent rain. Fungi, too, after rain.

WEAR: walking shoes and hat, use sunscreen, bring a water bottle. Camera, too.

Welcome New Members

We have much pleasure in welcoming the following new members:

C Hall and S Bratton

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

PLEASE NOTE

Spatial Technology Workshop

to have been held on November 12 has been postponed until March 2016, and replaced with the following activity

Historical walk around Toowong Cemetery

When: Thursday 12 November

Time: 10:00 am for 10:30 am start

Where: Toowong Cemetery via Richer Street boom gate.

Cost: \$8

RSVP: 5th November

How about joining The Royal Geographical Society of Queensland for a glimpse into Brisbane's past history with an historical walk around Toowong Cemetery.

Join Darcy Maddock from Friends of Toowong Cemetery on Thursday 12th November.

The approximate time for the walk is one and a half hours

Where do we meet: Follow Milton Road past RGSQ to the Frederick Street roundabout. Take the Mount Coot-tha Road exit and follow Mt. Coot-tha Road until you reach Richer Street (on your right). Turn right into Richer Street and enter the Toowong Cemetery through the Richer Street boom gate. On entering the Cemetery, turn right and then keep left until you see a grave with a table and chairs on top. Turn right and then follow the road down to the administration buildings. We will meet with Darcy Maddock under the flagpole.

We do hope to visit the grave sites of some of our early RGSQ founding members.

Following lunch (own cost) across the road from the Cemetery at the Botanical Café in the Botanical Gardens, we will meet our Guide for a guided walk (approximately 45 minutes) through part of the Mount Coot-tha Botanical Gardens.

Our Guide will be outside the Information Centre at the Entrance to the Botanical Gardens at 1.30pm sharp.

Cost for the morning and afternoon tours is payable to the Society Office, telephone 3368 2066.

On the frontier

In the July Bulletin I mentioned that I was aiming to introduce information relating to the expansion of the Queensland frontier into *Queensland by Degrees* (<http://www.rgsq.org.au/qldbdeg>). While travelling around the North Burnett recently we camped at a rest area just north of Gin Gin and noticed two cairns with plaques giving details of some historic events. The largest cairn was a memorial to Gregory Blaxland (son of the Blue Mountains explorer) who was killed by Aboriginals in August 1850. Blaxland, together with his nephew and partner William Forster, were the first settlers in the area when they took up the run they initially called Tirroan. The plaque on the second cairn was in memory of Peter and John Pegg (aged 14 and 12 respectively) who had been speared by Aboriginals in June 1849 while working as shepherds for Blaxland and Forster.

These two plaques record only one side of the story of the frontier. As far as I was able to find there are no memorials to the Aboriginals who were killed in the two major reprisals carried out by the settlers. The first reprisal, which followed the spearing of the Pegg brothers, was at a place known as The Cedars on the banks of the Burnett River near Bingera, south of present-day Bundaberg. Reports suggest that possibly 50 to 70 Aboriginals were killed. The larger reprisal, sparked by the revenge killing of Blaxland, occurred at Paddy's Island just downstream of Bundaberg where some reports suggest that as many as 1000 Aboriginals were killed.

The frontier had reached as far north as the Burnett River (named for the explorer/surveyor J.C. Burnett) by 1849. Tiaro and Maryborough had been occupied by 1846 and Gayndah by 1848 by settlers moving north from northern NSW. Blaxland and Forster each had acquired adjoining runs in the Clarence River District in the mid-1840s with a combined carrying capacity estimated at 13,000 sheep and 640 cattle.

According to several accounts they left the Clarence District in 1848 with 30,000 sheep and 800 cattle. They were assisted by an unknown number of assigned servants (i.e. convicts) and free settlers including the widow Mrs Pegg and her three young sons. The trek to the Burnett took them at least twelve months including stops for lambing and shearing. The route they took is unclear though it is likely that it went inland to avoid the coastal rivers and forests, and eventually followed up the Brisbane Valley and crossed into the Mary and Burnett catchments before heading back towards the coast. If the size of the mob was as large as reported this would have to rate as one of the truly epic droving feats in Australian history given that they would have been traversing country that was unfenced and areas that were already settled. How they kept their stock separate from the flocks of other settlers and how they negotiated access to pasture and water from existing land holders would have been challenging, to say the least, not to mention the threat of hostile Aboriginals.

I would certainly be interested to hear from anyone who has knowledge of the droving routes followed in the early years of settlement and any others stories of the expansion of the Queensland frontier. We know more about the stories of the American frontier, thanks to Hollywood, than we do of our own. That lack is certainly not due to an absence of stories worth telling.

As a footnote, William Forster sold "Guigin" (later Gin Gin) in 1854 to Sir Thomas McIlwraith and Sir Arthur Palmer and moved back to NSW where he entered parliament and became Premier in 1859, the year Queensland became a separate colony.

Ken Granger

Vale Duncan Polley

Many members will have fond memories of Duncan Polley who drove and cooked on the Society coach trips in the 1980s and 1990s. Sadly, Duncan died peacefully on the night of Thursday 23 July.

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.

BEYOND THE SOCIETY

Noosa Craft Beer Festival

29 August.

Location: Noosa Heads

Navigating Norman Creek

19 June – 11 October 2015

An exhibition that explores Norman Creek, Queensland's most urbanised catchment through a collection of short films.

<http://www.museumofbrisbane.com.au/whats-on/navigating-norman-creek/>

Location: The Museum of Brisbane Level 3, City Hall, Brisbane City.

Admission is Free.

Open daily 10am – 5pm.

Swell Sculpture Festival

11 to 20 September

Location: Currumbin

Sunshine Coast Real Food Festival

12 – 13 September

Location: Maleny.

Gold Coast Multicultural Festival

13 September

Location: multiple locations on the Gold Coast

Toowoomba Carnival of Flowers

18 September to 27 September

Location: Toowoomba

Caloundra Fringe Festival

25 September to 5 October.

Location: Caloundra.

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AGM: Tues 1 September

Meeting: Mon 15 September 10:00am
RGSQ Map and Mapping Group

Activity: Wed 23 September
Redlands Indigiscapes Centre

Lecture/Meeting: Tues 6 October 7:30pm
Policing Queensland: a geographical perspective
by Lisa Jones

Activity: Wed 14 October, Downfall Creek
Bushland Centre

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

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