



# RGSQ Bulletin

October 2015

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

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## From the President

On Saturday evening (19<sup>th</sup> September) we came home from a very enjoyable trek to Sri Lanka on a Singapore Airways flight via Singapore. I had broken my glasses while away so was somewhat handicapped in not being able to take in a movie during the flight. I was left thinking about what I might write for the monthly President's page in the RGSQ Bulletin as the copy was due in the office on Tuesday morning.

I came up with this. Why would I encourage my grandchildren to study geography? Here's why!

My thoughts then turned to a definition of geography. I found this definition on the Internet. While there are numerous examples most are inherently the same.

'Geography is the study of the physical features of the earth and its atmosphere, and of human activity as it affects and is affected by these, including the distribution of populations and resources and political and economic activities'.

I then set out to apply this simple definition to what we had just covered in our trip to Sri Lanka. It is amazing what is involved in putting together a trek and the impact geography as a subject has on the whole process as well as what we saw on tour.

I started with a simple wish list of where I wanted to go in Sri Lanka. I'm sure many of you would remember people and place as it was related to us in primary geography classes at school. This time I used the Internet extensively to research people and place.

I then took this list to a travel agent and asked could this list be turned into an interesting travel exercise in Sri Lanka, my RGSQ travel choice for 2015. My travel agent would then have presented my list to a travel wholesaler in Sri Lanka for a quote. After much toing and froing I finally settled on a suitable itinerary that would cover Sri Lanka from a geographical perspective.

Here's what's we covered. We travelled through 3 geopolitical boundaries during the course of this trek, Australia, Singapore, and Sri Lanka. We travelled on a Singapore Airlines flight that measured altitude, ground speed, air temperature, distance, air-speed etc. I listened to the London Philharmonic on the aircraft sound system. I could have viewed a number of Bollywood movies on the aircraft video library. We were presented with meals that were a mix of eastern and western cuisines.

On arrival in Sri Lanka we visited some spectacular scenery which included tea plantations, rubber plantations, beaches, rivers, and valleys. We visited Colombo a very vibrant mix of culture, religion, and history, a hub of trade around the world via the port, and our base for a couple of nights. We looked in on a gem dealer, a number of Buddhist temples, and quite a number of hotels. We visited a number of agricultural processing plants including a tea factory, sun drying fish, chili and spice, and tasted the local beer. We saw water buffalo, elephant, and numerous varieties of birds in a number of spectacular national parks. We saw a memorial to those who died in the 2004 tsunami, and some deserted homes still unclaimed; obviously the owners had perished in 2004.

We had covered physical and human geography, religion, culture, history, music, dance, tea, tourism, and everything from aeronautics, engineering, and agriculture and on our trek's final night in our hotel in Colombo, here we were a group of Australian tourists, dining in a Sri Lankan Hotel, eating a mix of western and eastern food, far from home, and drinking Chilean and Californian wine. The last sentence is a reference to how globalisation has taken over the world we live in and everything mentioned here previously has something to do with the discipline we call geography.

**Leo Scanlan**

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## Meeting/Lecture

**Tues 6 October, 2015**

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

**Time:** 7:30pm

### **Policing Queensland's wide open spaces**

Presented by Lisa Jones, Curator, Queensland Police Museum

In 1859 Queensland gained political freedom by separating from New South Wales, but it inherited a policing system badly in need of reform. At this time, the settled area of the colony was divided into 17 districts, each with its own Police force under a Chief Constable, who took orders from the local magistrate. The unsettled areas were policed by an independent force known as the Native Police. In 1863 Lieutenant David Thompson Seymour, of the 12th (East Suffolk) Regiment of Foot, accepted the challenge to organise and command Queensland's Police force.

On 1 January 1864 the Queensland Police Force was inaugurated and Seymour was made Acting Commissioner. He inherited 151 foot and mounted officers, 136 native police (European officers and indigenous troopers), a rapidly expanding population and 1,727,000 square kilometres of wide open spaces. There were police stations to open, troops to recruit, uniforms to organise and a plethora of other tasks that needed doing. Down at the coal face, police offices fairly newly arrived from England, Ireland and Wales, were getting sent to far flung stations to experience the culture shock of country Queensland first hand.

### Biography

Lisa has been the Curator of the Queensland Police Museum for the past 18 years. She and her staff of three, are kept constantly busy with historical enquiries and research into interesting policing facts for the Museum's exhibition space and its social media portals.

In 2009 she was presented with a Commissioner's Award for Meritorious Service for her professionalism and dedication to her position as Curator.

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### 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 per person

**RSVP:** 6<sup>th</sup> 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.

**Audrey Johnston**

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### 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:** 5<sup>th</sup> 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 12<sup>th</sup> 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.

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### Welcome New Members

We have much pleasure in welcoming the following new members:

*C. Fuchs, A. Chong and daughters, and  
J. Williams*

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



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# The Royal Geographical Society of Queensland

## 28 Day Trek to

# TANZANIA, MADAGASCAR, and SOUTH AFRICA

Commencing Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2016, and  
returning to Australia on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> April  
2016.



## TANZANIA

Highlights in Tanzania include Tarangire National Park, cultural Activities at Manyara and Mto Wa Mbu, The Great Rift Valley, Lake Manyara National Park and Lake Eyasi. Interaction with local bushmen and blacksmith communities and game drives in The Serengeti and Ngorongoro Conservation Areas, and a visit to Olduvai Gorge, one of the most important paleoanthropological sites in the world.



Add a full range of African plains animals including large herds of elephants, wildebeest and zebra, flamingos on Lake Manyara, Thompson gazelle, impala, Grant's gazelle, buffalo, lions, leopards, cheetahs, and elusive

tree climbing lions, and I'm sure if you're thinking of joining us you're already starting to feel quite excited.

While overnighting mid tour in Johannesburg, South Africa, we are offering a visit to the De Wildt Cheetah Centre, and a Pretoria City tour of the Administrative Capital of South Africa.

## MADAGASCAR

Madagascar is our next stop in Antananarivo, an overnight stay, then a flight to Tulear on the Southwest Coast. Madagascar is famous for its many unique animals particularly its many species of Lemurs. Isalo National Park, 'Mahafaly tombs' 'Antandroy tombs', spiny desert, cactus-like spiny forest, Sifaka lemurs, brown lemurs, ring-tailed lemurs as well as numerous species of birds, lizards and snakes.



Next we visit Ranomafana National Park, enormous trees, small streams, the beautiful Namorona River, and again lemurs, chameleons and other animals.

Antsirabe, the highland landscape with its beautiful rice fields, Ambositra, famous for wood carving, ornate houses, the local 'beer industry' and with the look and feel of a European city.



Lavaka rice fields, green landscape and fruit trees. An evening walk to observe lemurs and other nocturnal animals. Andasibe, to see the Indri Indri, the largest lemurs on the island, and a visit to Vakona Lemur Island a sanctuary for unwanted, hand reared lemurs. Finally Merina villages in the mountains, and Peyrieras Reptile Park featuring Madagascar's fish-eating crocs.

Why not join us on this 'trip of a lifetime', it promises to be the most exciting trek RGSQ have ever organised.

On our way home to Australia through Johannesburg we are offering an optional Kruger National Park, South African option for 4 days or you may return to Australia on 25<sup>th</sup> April.

RGSQ offer this Tanzania/Madagascar and South Africa's Kruger NP trek including all flights within the price. We are still awaiting confirmation of the price which we will have before the Information Evening on the 11<sup>th</sup> November, 2015 (see notice on right).

When rooming solo please note, a 'single supplement' will apply when booking this trek.

If you do not wish to book the Kruger NP option please mention at the time of booking as it is included in the advertised price.

Most meals are included in the Tanzanian lodges and in South Africa, while in Madagascar we have opted for breakfast only.

If you do require any further information, or to register your interest please contact Leo Scanlan by Phone on 3343 4398 or email [trekabout1@gmail.com](mailto:trekabout1@gmail.com). The full itinerary is available on request.

When booking you will need to supply your name as it appears on your passport, your home address, your telephone number and your email address. Don't delay if you're at all interested as bookings will be taken on a first come basis and numbers for this African/Madagascar experience are strictly limited.

## Tanzania, Madagascar, and South Africa Information Evening



All welcome!

- When:** Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> November  
**Where:** Gregory House, 237 Milton Road, Milton  
**Time:** 7:00pm for 7:30pm  
**RSVP:** Monday 9<sup>th</sup> November. Please contact the Society's Office.

Over many years I have experienced some wonderful geographical experiences with The Royal Geographical Society of Queensland both here in Australia and overseas. Next April, 2016, RGSQ have organised a twenty eight day Trek to Tanzania, Madagascar, and South Africa which I expect will be one of the most exciting treks we have ever organised.

On 11<sup>th</sup> November at 7.30pm RGSQ have organised an Africa/Madagascar promotional evening to be presented by Jenman Safari representatives Debby Oscroft and Johan Pfahl at RGSQ's "Gregory House." I would invite anyone who has an interest in Africa to attend.

I look forward to seeing you at this information evening.

**Leo Scanlan**

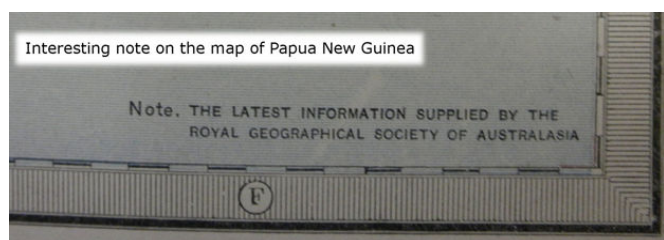
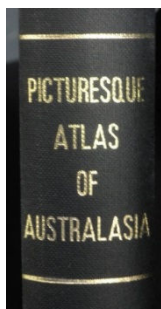
## RGSQ MAP GROUP



Beyond the usual venue of the auditorium is the RGSQ office, and (largely unknown and unvisited) the library.

The Map Group at its first meeting on 14 September took time to explore this remarkable store of geographic publications. We can only recommend that you do the same - ASAP, and often.

To take just one item from its shelves - the Picturesque Atlas of Australasia is the ultimate illustrated geography. Its images are famous through reproduction - and frequently by framed artwork in dealers' windows. The 700 engravings on steel and wood were among the finest engravings to be found anywhere in the world at this time.



Published in 1888, the Atlas enjoyed great popularity, and for good reason. One of our two 3-volume sets has been rebound, and would prove a rewarding read for any member who can make the time to stop by, and browse. The danger of course is that you will find other irresistible items, which will tempt you to stay longer. Try it and see.

**Les Isdale**

### Next Map Group Meeting

**When** Monday 19 October

**Time** 10 am

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

Enter via the front door of the Society's office.

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### International Geography Olympiad

The 12<sup>th</sup> International Geography Olympiad, held from 11 to 17 August, was hosted by Russia at the Computeria youth recreation and educational centre in Tver Oblast, 200 km NW from Moscow. Based on their performances at the 2014 Geography's Big Week Out, the four students chosen to represent Australia in 2015 were:

Samantha Dixon, South Ballajura Community College,  
Perth W A

Canada Gavin, Kinross Wolaroi School, Orange NSW  
Esrom Leaman, Pembroke School, Adelaide SA

Giselle Pickering, Wavell State High School, Brisbane  
Qld.

This year, a record 41 countries participated and we are proud to announce that Esrom and Sam won silver medals and Giselle a bronze.

## 2016 Council

At the Annual General Meeting held on 1 September, 2015 the following members were elected to the Council:

President –	Leo Scanlan
Vice Presidents –	Dal Anderson Jamie Shulmeister
Secretary –	Roger Grimley
Treasurer –	Chris Spriggs
Councillors –	Bob Abnett Iraphne Childs James Hansen Tony Hillier Audrey Johnston Margaret McIvor John Nowill Rob Simson

### 2016 membership Fees

2016 membership fees as passed at the 2015 AGM.

Ordinary	\$ 55.00
Household	\$ 75.00
Youth / Student	nil
Educational / Charitable	\$ 75.00
Corporate	\$185.00
Life	\$600.00

**Ordinary Members** shall be defined as those members of the Society who are not less than eighteen years of age and whose subscription entitles them to all privileges of Society membership.

**Household Members** shall be defined as one or two persons not less than eighteen years of age residing at the same address and any of their children less than eighteen years of age, with each person not less than eighteen years of age having the equivalent voting rights of one Ordinary Member.

**Youth/Student Members** shall be defined as those members of the Society who are under the age of twenty-six years or who are bona-fide full-time students at a recognised educational institution in Australia, provided that a member who is not less than eighteen years of age and under twenty-six years of age may elect to be either an Ordinary Member or a Youth/Student member. Only Youth/Student Members who are not less than eighteen years of age are empowered to vote at meetings of the Society.

**Educational Members or Charitable Members** shall be defined as those members which have made payment of the Educational or Charitable membership subscription. Each institution shall be represented by a person nominated on its behalf.

**Corporate Members** shall be defined as those members which have made payment of the Corporate membership subscription. Each institution shall be represented by a person nominated on its behalf.

**Life Members** shall be defined as those members who have made payment of the Life Membership subscription. All members who are Life Members on the date of adoption of these Rules shall automatically have their membership status confirmed.

A copy of the Constitution can be accessed at: [http://www.rgsq.org.au/sites/default/files/Constitution\\_2013.pdf](http://www.rgsq.org.au/sites/default/files/Constitution_2013.pdf)



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## 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.

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

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## BEYOND THE SOCIETY

### Brisbane GIS Day

Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> November, 2015  
Royal on The Park Hotel, 152 Alice St, Brisbane

For further information and to register, visit [www.gisday.com.au](http://www.gisday.com.au)

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## 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.

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## Heart of Gold International Short Film Festival

7 to 11 October

Location: Gympie

<http://www.heartofgold.com.au/>

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## Blackall Heartland Festival

9 to 18 October

Location: Blackall

<http://www.blackallheartlandfestival.com.au/>

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## Tamborine Mountain Scarecrow Festival

16 to 18 October.

Location: North Tamborine

<http://www.tamborinemtncc.org.au/tamborine-mountain-scarecrow-festival-2015/>

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For more information on Queensland events visit:

<http://www.queensland.com/en-AU/Events>

# RGSQ Bulletin

October 2015

**Lecture/Meeting:** Tues 6 October 7:30pm  
*Policing Queensland's wide open spaces* by Lisa Jones

**Members' Meeting:** Mon 19 October 10:00am  
*RGSQ Map Group*

**Activity:** Wed 14 October, Downfall Creek  
Bushland Centre

**Lecture/Meeting:** Tues 3 November 7:30pm  
*Health impacts of climate change*  
by Prof Shilu Tong

**Activity:** Thurs 12 November, Historic Walk of  
Toowong Cemetery

Council Meetings are held the second Tuesday of each month.

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

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