



# RGSQ Bulletin

November 2015

ISSN 1832-8830

Vol 50 no 10

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](#)  
President: [Mr Leo Scanlan](#)

---

---

## From the President

The first week in October is rather early to be writing for the November Bulletin but next week I am leaving for Adelaide where nearly 30 members are meeting at the commencement of our Adelaide and Kangaroo Island Trek. If my memory serves me right, this will be the third time RGSQ members have travelled to Kangaroo Island.

Regarding past treks, I did mention briefly in the last President's Page my thoughts on Sri Lanka and will follow this up with a full report in a later Bulletin. Since returning from Sri Lanka I have been working on our next international trek to Tanzania, Madagascar, and South Africa to commence on 2 April 2016. (See advertisement in last month's Bulletin).

RGSQ have already had an exceptional response from members submitting their names for this trek following the advertisement in last month's Bulletin. The itinerary is now in the hands of the travel agent and hopefully a costing and an invitation to participate will be mailed out before we have our information evening on 11 November. I would encourage anyone who has an interest in Africa and Madagascar to come along to this information evening and if there are any other members who are thinking of participating in this trek to add your name to our list as numbers are limited.

I note that the October's RGSQ lecture titled '*Policing Queensland's wide open spaces*', while relating to policing Queensland in earlier times, serves to jog my memory regarding a lecture 'Stay on Track Outback' I attended at the recent Caravan and Camping Show. Although this lecture focussed on Queensland, it is also very relevant with regards to the trek just completed and anything else we might organise 'outback' in the future.

Only this week on 30 September some of our members left to drive down through outback New South Wales and into South Australia for the Adelaide and Kangaroo Island Trek. This Queensland Police project (Stay on Track Outback), which is equally relevant Australia-wide, is a road safety project. Things covered include wildlife, road conditions, road trains, wide loads, weather conditions and if it's flooded, forget it! For useful outback travel tips and links you might like to access the Stay On Track website [www.stayontrackoutback.qld.gov.au](http://www.stayontrackoutback.qld.gov.au).

As mentioned in the foreword to the October lecture, Queensland's 1,727,000 square kilometres of wide open spaces presented a challenging, multi-faceted policing

environment in the mid-1800's. While markedly more efficient today thanks to modern technology, many challenges still exist in the tyranny of distance.

Once again the RGSQ were involved with the running of Geography's Big Week Out in late September. The Geography Teachers' Association of Queensland (GTAQ) were the hosts for this year and will be again in 2016. A report can be found later in this Bulletin

I look forward to this month's lecture on Tuesday, 3 November by Professor Shilu Tong entitled '*Health impacts of climate change*'. Professor Tong has been involved in researching the impact of climate change and the transmission of Ross River Fever, in a joint project between Queensland University of Technology and the Queensland Government. This research explores the likely impact of a significant public outbreak of the mosquito-borne infectious disease on sectors such as health, infrastructure, water security, loss of biodiversity, and eco-environmental health related to land, water, air, and population growth in our region.

Until next time,

**Leo Scanlan**

---

---

## Annual General Meeting Update

43 Members attended the Annual General Meeting held at Gregory House on 1 September 2015, and all of the business of the meeting, as set out in the Notice of Meeting distributed to Members was passed:

- receipt of the Council's Report, Financial Statement and Auditor's Report for 2014/15, and appointment of the auditor for 2016.
- Adoption of a revised membership fee structure to apply from January 2016 (fees listed in the October Newsletter)
- Election of members of the Council for 2016 (Councillors and office holders listed in the October Newsletter)

During the meeting, a number of comments and suggestions were raised by members, and the Council will be considering these in the coming months. In particular, changing to a calendar year for the Society's financial reporting, and a number of membership related suggestions.

Mary Nowill was awarded a FELLOW of the Society, in recognition of her valuable service to the Society over a

lengthy period of time, which was graciously accepted by Mary, and supported with strong acclamation by Members.

Iraphne Childs and Kath Berg provided a short presentation to the meeting on recent developments in relation to geography in Australian Schools Curriculum.

The minutes of the AGM were approved by the Council at its meeting on the 13 October 2015, and are available for members to peruse at Gregory House.

---

---

### Meeting/Lecture Tues 3 November, 2015

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

**Time:** 7:30pm

#### **Health impacts of climate change**

Presented by Professor Shilu Tong,  
School of Public Health and Social Work, Queensland  
University of Technology

Drawing on over two decades of research and teaching in the areas of epidemiology, and environmental health and climate, Professor Tong will present a lecture on the health impacts of climate change.

#### **Biography**

Professor Shilu Tong is Professor at the School of Public Health and Member of the Institute of Health and Biomedical Innovation at the Queensland University of Technology. He recently led a research program on the assessment of the potential impact of ecosystem change on population health, which was partly funded by National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC), the Australian Research Council (ARC), Queensland Centre of Climate Change of Excellence, Queensland Health, Departments of Emergency Services, Natural Resources and Water, and Environmental Protection Agency. He has been awarded 7 ARC and 4 NHMRC national competitive grants, and has published over 235 refereed publications in scientific, medical and epidemiological journals. He is an Associate Editor of the *American Journal of Epidemiology* and an editorial board member of *Environmental Research and PLoS ONE*.

---

---

### **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 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.

### **Tanzania, Madagascar, and South Africa Information Evening**



**All welcome!**

**When:** Wednesday 11 November

**Where:** Gregory House, 237 Milton Road, Milton

**Time:** 7:00pm for 7:30pm

**RSVP:** Monday 9 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 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**

**Jeanette Covacevich AM**, a member of the RGSQ since 1991 passed away peacefully on the 17 September, 2015. A memorial service was held for Jeanette at the State Library of Queensland on October 16, 2015.

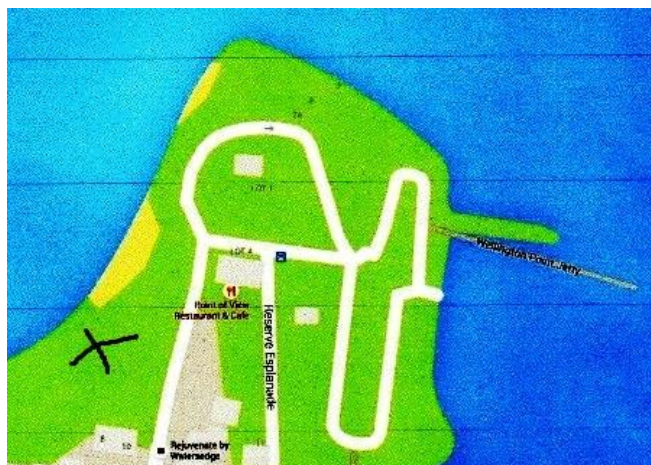
## The Royal Geographical Society of Queensland Christmas Party/Picnic

**When:** Saturday 5 December 2015

**Time:** 10am – 3pm

**Where:** Under the RGSQ marquee at Wellington Point Reserve

We're trying something new this year with a 'picnic in the park' on the foreshore at Wellington Point. Bring along your own picnic lunch/drinks, sunscreen, the kids, the grandchildren, a hat and a chair, and join with us to end another very successful RGSQ Geographical year.



**X** is the RGSQ Marquee

Christmas Cake and Fruit Platter supplied.

To ascertain number attending could you please RSVP by calling the office by Friday 27 November either by phone 3368 2066 or email [info@rgsq.org.au](mailto:info@rgsq.org.au)

Leo Scanlan

### Welcome New Member

We have much pleasure in welcoming **S Wood** as a new member. We hope your association with your new Society is long and mutually enjoyable.

### Next Map Group Gathering

**When** Monday 16 November

**Time** 10 am

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

All RGSQ members with an interest in maps and mapping are welcome to the group's gatherings. Enter via the Society's front door. We will be somewhere in "Gregory House" talking maps.

### RGSQ MAP GROUP

Members of the Map Group enjoyed another gathering on the morning of Monday 19 October. Time sailed by a little fast as we discussed maps and mapping, and chartered a course to navigate the RGSQ's map collection and beyond.

**RGSQ's Map Collection** – Peter Nunan has organised the map collection over a number of years. An Index of

the Society's Notable Maps now exists, and a typed version was circulated to Map Group members. A handwritten General Index of Maps within the collection also exists. Peter showed the Group what is in the RGSQ Map Collection. Atlases are generally in one area now, whilst the rest of the collection is in the draws and hanging files. It is extensive!

The group will be focusing on two programs:

**Mapping History** – covering printed/hard copy maps, from the recent to more distant past, held within the RGSQ Map Library and other mapping libraries

**Modern Techniques** – will cover electronic/digital mapping, accessible on Group members' devices (eg "pdf maps" – an App available on a smart phone (ie iPhone) or a computer pad (ie iPad)); or google maps and associated imagery on government or private websites.

### 2015 Geography's Big Week Out

The 2015 Geography's Big Week Out (GBWO) was held on North Stradbroke Island from 27 September to 2 October. The Geography Teachers' Association of Queensland (GTAQ) has undertaken to host the 2015 and 2016 GBWOs. The host for GBWO is rotated amongst the State and Territory Geography Teachers' Associations every two years. The 2015 committee was led by Rebecca Nicholas (GTAQ) and Kath Berg (RGSQ) with input from GTAQ and RGSQ members, and associated friends. During the week, students were supervised by GTAQ members: Rebecca Nicholas, Mick Law and Leerce Roberts; RGSQ staff and members: Kath Berg, Margaret McIvor, and Bernard Fitzpatrick; and a friend of both groups, Melva Hobson.

The student participants in 2015 were:

State	Student	His/Her School
ACT	Claire Yung	Lyneham High School
	Deepan Kumar	Canberra Grammar School
NSW	Andreas Orsmond	Sydney Grammar School
	Georgia Woner	Loreto College - Kirribilli
	Isabella Croker	Mt St Benedict College
	Robert Arnold	Sydney Grammar School
QLD	Ellika Whelan	The Scots PGC College
	Ethan Archer	Darling Downs Christian School
SA	Lexi Virgin	Bordertown High School
	Patrick Graham	University Senior College
TAS	Chloe Fisher	Launceston Church Grammar School
	Liam Grieve	Burnie High School
VIC	Daniel Roberts	Plenty Valley Christian College
	Nina Prendergast	Northcote High School
WA	James O'Brien	Hale School
	Kira Wood	Perth Modern School

The focus for the students was sustainable development on North Stradbroke Island, and they were introduced to the built, natural and mining environments, as well as indigenous, commercial, mining, and local government interests. Dr David Neil of the University of Queensland, School of Geography, Planning & Environmental Management (Australian Geography Competition sponsors) introduced students to the Island's biophysical environments, and assisted with the vegetation and soil survey fieldwork during a day transect of the Island. The week was not all work and students participated in recreational activities such: swimming, sand sculpting, and kayaking.

*I didn't know what to expect on Geography's Big Week Out but I can honestly say it was one of the best experiences. I loved getting to meet people from all over*

*Australia. Getting to do geography all day every day for five days really opened my eyes to how wide the subject reaches across a range of different everyday aspects. Being able to see all the different things you can use geography for just made me want to learn more as it is so interesting. I was able to take away so much from geography's Big Week Out; A higher understanding of how our world works. I think geography's Big Week Out was awesome and if anyone was given the opportunity to do it, they should definitely take it.* Chloe Fisher, Tasmania.

The assessment of the student's work is currently underway, and four students will be selected to represent Australia at the International Geography Olympiad to be held in Beijing, China in August 2016.

# RGSQ Bulletin

November 2015

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

**Information Evening:** 11 November 7:00pm for  
7:30pm  
*Tanzania, Madagascar, and South Africa*

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

**Member Gathering:** Mon 16 November 10:00am  
*RGSQ Map Group*

**Christmas Party:** Saturday 5 December,  
10:30am to 3:00pm. Wellington Point

*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

POSTAGE  
PAID  
AUSTRALIA