



# RGSQ Bulletin

February 2016

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

## From the President

To all our members, I hope you and your families had an enjoyable Christmas holiday and I would now like to wish you a Happy and Prosperous New Year for 2016. 2015 was a bumper year for all our activities and I look forward to another full year of achievement including the Australian Geography Competition, further developments in our new Strategic Plan, and, of course, our Travel and Excursions programme for 2016.

### Tanzania, Madagascar, and South Africa 2016

Our first tour departing in April 2016 is now fully booked. However, due to strong interest, RGSQ have decided to repeat this Tanzania, Madagascar, and South African itinerary in May 2016.

For those of you who missed out on booking for the first version of our trip, now is your chance to register and pay a deposit for our Tanzania, Madagascar, and South African itinerary to commence on Monday, May 2<sup>nd</sup> and ending on May 30<sup>th</sup>, 2016.

As I am writing this President's page in early December, there may be some slight re-arrangement of dates regarding the start and finish of this second version of our signature safari for 2016. To register your interest and have a full itinerary and cost sent to you, please contact me by email at [trekabout1@gmail.com](mailto:trekabout1@gmail.com) or ring me at home any evening on 3343 4398. Please refer to the current advertisement in the February Bulletin.

### Treks Revisited

Finally, I would like to invite all members to attend our **TREKS REVISITED 2015** event on the 5<sup>th</sup> of February at 7:30 pm, Gregory House, 237 Milton RD, Milton.

This is not just an evening for those who travelled to the Warrumbungles, Sri Lanka, or Kangaroo Island. It's a great social occasion for all the members of our Society. Please refer to our advertisement in this current RGSQ Bulletin.

Leo Scanlan

## The Royal Geographical Society of Queensland 28-Day Trek

**TANZANIA, MADAGASCAR, and SOUTH  
AFRICA**

Commencing Monday, May 2, 2016, and  
returning to Australia on Monday, May 30, 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, as well as 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

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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 starting to feel quite excited already.

While overnighing 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

When in Madagascar, we'll stay overnight in Antananarivo, then take the 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' 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, 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 the 25<sup>th</sup> of May.**

**I had to submit copy for the February Bulletin by the 14<sup>th</sup> of December so my apologies for not having a definitive costing at the time of writing this advertisement.**

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

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

**If you missed out on our original offer in April and would still like to join us on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of May 2016, please contact Leo Scanlan by phone on 3343 4398 or email at [trekabout1@gmail.com](mailto:trekabout1@gmail.com).**

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.

**Leo Scanlan**

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## TAAC ACTIVITIES FOR 2016

**February 5<sup>th</sup>:** Treks Revisited: "Warrumbungles, Sri Lanka, and Kangaroo Island"

**March 4<sup>th</sup>:** To be advised

**April 2<sup>nd</sup>:** Tanzania, Madagascar and South Africa Trek

**May 27<sup>th</sup>:** QPAC Tour

**June 30<sup>th</sup>:** Engineering Heritage Week Walk around Brisbane

**July 29<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup>-31<sup>st</sup>:** Jumpers and Jazz on the Downs, Warwick

**August 18<sup>th</sup>:** From Pond to Plate

**September/October 3<sup>rd</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup>:** Carnarvon

**October 20<sup>th</sup>:** Robotic Dairy

**November 9<sup>th</sup>:** LARC Caloundra

**December 10<sup>th</sup>:** Christmas Party

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## Treks Revisited 2015

### Warrumbungles, Sri Lanka, and Kangaroo Island

**When:** Friday, February 5

**Time:** 7:30 pm

**RSVP:** Friday, January 29

Our 'TREKS REVISITED' evening is for all the members of The Royal Geographical Society of Queensland and is our way of fostering friendships amongst fellow travellers and looking back at the previous year's Treks and promoting and looking forward to planned treks in the year ahead.

In 2016 we look forward to Tanzania, Madagascar and South Africa in April, midyear a short weekend break in the Southern Darling Downs and Warwick, and later, in September/October, a camp at Takarakka Camping Area just outside Carnarvon Gorge National Park.

All RGSQ members are invited to attend, in fact, we would like to encourage all of you to come along to our 'Signature Social Event of the Year'.

**Leo Scanlan**

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Please note: The **full 2016 Programme** will be provided with the **March Bulletin**. However, the following is the lecture programme for the first few months of 2016.

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### **Meeting/Lecture**

**Tuesday, February 2, 2016**

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

**Time:** 7:30 pm

#### ***Hydrographic survey of the Queensland Coastline by the Royal Navy between 1860 and 1880***

Presented by Bill Kitson

Bill Kitson, awarded the RGSQ J P Thomson Medal in 2009 is one of Queensland's best known surveyors, and a respected historian on the topic of surveying in Queensland as well as a former RGSQ member and councillor.

In 1980, Bill was appointed curator of the newly established Lands, Mapping and Surveying Museum. Now retired, Bill continues with his passion for preserving surveying history.

Bill has spent over a decade researching the Royal Navy's hydrological survey of the Queensland coast between 1860 and 1880. He will take us on a little known journey of the early European Queensland coastal navigation by the Britain's Royal Navy that was important to the opening up of European settlement along the Queensland coast.

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### **Meeting/Lecture**

**Tuesday, March 1, 2016**

***"The impact of early scientific exploration of the heights in southeast Queensland on the emergence of climbing here"*** presented by Michael Meadows, author of "The Living Rock: the invention of climbing in eastern Australia".

### **Meeting/Lecture**

**Tuesday, April 5, 2016**

***"Brisbane City Vision"*** presented by Richard Kirk Architect who has expertise in urban and environmentally sustainable design.

### **Meeting/Lecture**

**Tuesday, May 3, 2016**

2016 Thomson Address presented by Ms Kath Berg, ***"To promote and stimulate the study of geography: reflections on the RGSQ's mission."***

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## **EXPLORERS AND ADVENTURERS**

In the November-December 2015 issue of the Australian Geographic there is a report on an exhibition dedicated to Trailblazers – Australia's 50 greatest explorers - currently mounted in Sydney's Australian Museum. The

CEO of the museum, Kim McKay, clearly anticipated that the selections would be controversial – and she was right.

Undoubtedly the key source of controversy for me is the inclusion of people who are (or were) "explorers" with those who are "adventurers". For me, "adventurer" is not a synonym for "explorer". Explorers and adventurers both set out with stated objectives, that both take risks, and that both achieve their notability because they (mostly) prevailed against the elements to achieve their goals. The key difference is that, for adventurers, the risks are generally known before they depart so they are prepared for them. They contribute little to our geographic knowledge. Explorers, by contrast, are largely penetrating terra incognita and consequently contribute significantly to our geographic knowledge.

Among the explorers included in the top 50 are the obvious ones such as James Cook, Ludwig Leichhardt and Hubert Wilkins, as well as the less obvious such as Sid Kirkby, Andy Thomas and Bennelong. In addition to the explorers, the list includes a number of notable naturalist collectors such as Joseph Banks, Tim Flannery and Johan Krefft who have contributed to our geographic knowledge through their scientific explorations. The list of adventurers includes people such as Dick Smith, Charles Kingsford Smith, Jessica Watson and Robyn Davidson.

While I would personally have a separate list for the adventurers, there are many explorers that I would include in my top 50. There are, for example, none of the explorers that opened up PNG in the 1920s and '30s; men such as Ivan Champion, Charles Karius, Jack Hydes, Mick and Danny Leahy and Jim Taylor. Nor are there any of the explorers who opened up Western Australia; I would include John Forrest, for example.

Of the land explorers I would certainly include Augustus Gregory for his extensive surveys through Queensland, South Australia (including the Northern Territory) and Western Australia. I would also include Frank Hann who explored much of Cape York and southern Western Australia, mainly surveying the mineral potential of those areas. I would include Nat Buchanan – drover, explorer and pastoralist who opened up much of Queensland and the Top End for the pastoral industry by establishing reliable droving routes.

Of the maritime explorers, I would put Philip Parker King at the top of my list – he circumnavigated Australia three times between 1818 and 1822 filling in the many gaps left by Flinders. I would certainly not have included William Bligh. I would include surveyors Augustus Poeppel and George Goyder, both from South Australia. My list of scientific explorers would include botanist Allan Cunningham, ethnographer Norman Tindale and palaeontologist Reg Sprigg. I would include some of the multidisciplinary scientific expeditions sponsored by various governments, museums and philanthropic institutions. Of these, the stand-out is the series of expeditions mounted by CSIRO in northern Australia and PNG between 1946 and 1971 employing the "land system" methodology pioneered by Chris Christian and

Alan Stewart. Today they would be called “integrated surveys”.

Creating lists of “the best” or “the greatest” is always fraught with the problem of parochialism - who to include and who to exclude. I am sure that RGSQ members will have their own ideas of who should be on the “explorer’s roll of honour”. I look forward to your nominations for inclusion. **Ken Granger**

### Map Group Gathering

**When:** Monday, February 15

**Time:** 10:00 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.

### Volunteers Please

We need to call on our generous members for help with the Australian Geography Competition – to mail out the Information Brochure and poster. We need helpers on the **9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> of February, 2016**, from **9:30 am to 5:00 pm**. If you are available, please call the office at 07 3368 2066 or email at [info@rgsq.org.au](mailto:info@rgsq.org.au). Thank you, your help is greatly appreciated.

# RGSQ Bulletin

February 2016

**Lecture/Meeting:** Tue 2 February 7:30 pm  
*Hydrographic survey of the Queensland Coastline  
by the Royal Navy between 1860 and 1880*

Presented by Bill Kitson

**Tours and Activities:** Fri 5 February, 7:30 pm  
*Treks Revisited 2015*

**Member Gathering:** Mon 15 February 10:00 am  
*RGSQ Map Group*

**Volunteer Days:** Tue-Thu February 9, 10, 11  
*AGC Mail-Out.* “Gregory House”, 237 Milton Rd,  
Milton

*Council Meetings are held on 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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