



# RGSQ Bulletin

March 2016

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

## From the President

Last Tuesday evening we were, again, entertained by Bill Kitson with his lecture 'Hydrographic Survey of the Queensland Coastline by the Royal Navy between 1860 and 1880'.

Bill's lecture was well received and it was quite evident his research over a decade had given him an in-depth knowledge of the many different politicians, naval captains, characters, families, and officials who played a large part in opening up land for European settlement along the Queensland Coast. He explained the painstaking and monotonous work involved with 'lead and line' for depth sounding, cutters powered by a crew using oars, and how it was quite an achievement, with the known technology of the day, for the Royal Navy to open the whole east coast of Australia for, somewhat, safer navigation.

## Treks Revisited 2015

On Friday evening, 5<sup>th</sup> of February, we held our now annual Treks Revisited night. I'm sure all who attended had a very pleasant evening. However, despite an invitation to all our members to attend it was a bit disappointing this year, as our numbers were down on those who attended in February 2015.

## MY VIEW: "Explorers and Adventurers"

I note a very interesting comment related to Australia's earlier 'Explorers and Adventurers' submitted by Ken Granger in our February Bulletin. I had read the same article in 'Australian Geographic' and agree with Ken's assertion that the names submitted for our 50 Greatest Explorers in that publication were quite controversial.

Ken set to and submitted some of his own choice that he considered would have usurped those placed on Aus Geo's list. Some from Papua New Guinea were foreign to me, and I must confess their names had never been placed in front of me in my days at school. More's the pity, as I'm sure their achievements may have equalled and even surpassed some of the names mentioned in the controversial list.

Thanks, Ken, for putting your view forward and perhaps it's time to invite those who have this kind of historical knowledge to submit names of their choice. Australia, and Queensland has a fascinating past – and we all have

so much to learn. Now Ken has started the ball rolling maybe it's time we started a new column entitled 'MY VIEW' in our 'RGSQ Bulletin' and invite all our members to submit further geographical and historical comments.

Leo Scanlan

## Meeting/Lecture

Tuesday, March 1, 2016

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

Time: 7:30 pm

**"The impact of early scientific exploration of the heights in southeast Queensland on the emergence of climbing here"** presented by Michael Meadows

Michael Meadows is the author of "The Living Rock, The invention of climbing in Eastern Australia" which was published in mid-2015. Michael started rock climbing in southeast Queensland in the late 1960s and drifted away due to work until returning to the activity in the late 1990s. He is based in Brisbane and has written a number of articles on the history of Australian rock climbing, and is a columnist for "Vertical Life," a digital climbing entity focused on Australasia.

His presentation will be based around his book and the history of rock climbing in Eastern Australia, exploring the impact of early scientific exploration of the heights in southeast Queensland on the emergence of rock climbing here. Michael will draw attention to several references to early comments by the Royal Geographical Society of Queensland.

## Upcoming Lecture

Tuesday, April 5, 2016

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

## Welcome New Members

We have much pleasure in welcoming **James and Susan Graham, Margaret Keates and Katherine Fleming** as new members. We hope your association with your new Society is long and mutually enjoyable.

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**February 2016 Lecture Synopsis**  
***The story of the Hydrographic Survey of the Queensland Coastline (1861- 1880)***

by Bill Kitson

"In 2005, while researching at the Queensland State Archives for a book on Land Surveying, I came across references to the Queensland Coastal Survey, but when I tried to find out more information on this survey and the men who had conducted it, I found very little in the published maritime histories. It was then that I, a land surveyor, decided to enter the world of the Hydrographer. I told myself that land surveying was not all that different from marine surveying; the former concerned with the shape of things above the sea level and the latter with the shape of the ocean floor below sea level.

Not being familiar with the jargon of Hydrographic Surveying, I have had to rely on my nautical friends and a wide range of publications relating to marine surveying, most notable being Geoffrey Ingleton's 'Charting a Continent', Dawson's 'Memoirs of Hydrography', Vice Admiral Day's 'The Admiralty Hydrographic Service 1795-1919' and Captain Wharton's definitive textbook, 'Hydrographic Surveying'.

While it was not very difficult to find most official letters that were written to the Hydrographer by these surveyors who worked on the Queensland coast line, or to obtain photographs of the vessels used by them to conduct these surveys, it was, however, almost impossible to find images of the many commanders, lieutenants and sub lieutenants who carried out these surveys. While the official maritime collections of the world have many images of Admirals and vice Admirals they held very few images of subordinate officers.

Not wishing to tell a story about people without images of them, I decided to use my skills as a genealogist, which I had perfected some thirty years previously while collating my own family history.

After about ten years I managed to track down most of the living relatives of these nautical surveyors in locations throughout the world, ranging from Peebles in Scotland to Goose Bay Canada. It was from these relatives that I obtained the vital photographs and lots of other interesting information that related to their ancestor.

Tonight's talk deals with the training of these early surveyors and their work on the Queensland coast line."

**Bill Kitson**

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**March Activity:**  
**Milton, Oxley to High Rise**

**When:** Friday, March 4

**Time:** 9:30 am,

**Where:** RGSQ Office, "Gregory House", 237 Milton Rd, Milton

**Cost:** \$20 per person, includes lunch and drinks

**RSVP:** Tuesday, March 1

We will discover some of Milton's early European history, and consider the changes that have occurred since John

Oxley's landing at Western Creek while searching for a location for the new convict settlement in the mid-1820s.

The morning includes a guided tour of the heritage listed Old Bishopbourne and Chapel at our Milton Road neighbour, St Francis Theological College. We will then wander along Park Road to the Brisbane River where John Oxley is believed to have landed in 1825; return to the RGSQ Auditorium for lunch and the great company of your fellow members. There will be a display of early photographs and maps of the Milton area in the Auditorium.

Wear good shoes for walking, and be prepared for the weather on the day, hat and sun screen, or a rain coat.

**Bernard Fitzpatrick**

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**May Activity:**  
**QPAC Discovery Tour**

**When:** Friday, May 27

**Time:** 9:50 am for 10:00 am tour

**Where:** meet in QPAC Lobby

**Cost:** member \$22 and non-member \$25

**RSVP:** Friday, 13 May

**Ever wondered what happens behind stage?**

We'll step behind the footlights and explore the many facets of our Performing Arts Centre. Their guide will intrigue you with many little known facts about QPAC and the people who have performed there.

Join us on the Backstage Discovery Tour and casual lunch at the Café.

A selection of finger sandwiches and Tea/Coffee/Juice will be available.

Please notify office of any *dietary requirements*.

Be aware that there are a number of steps within the tour route.

**Jeanette Lamont**

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**July Activity:**  
**Jumpers and Jazz Long Weekend Warwick**

**When:** July, Friday 22 to Monday 25

**Cost:** \$30 members, accompanying non-members \$35

**Note:** Accommodation and meals NOT included;  
Accommodation will be required on July 22, 23, and 24 inclusive

The price includes a return vintage train ride to Hendon on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> of July. If the steam trains will not be available following current maintenance, we'll hop on the diesel train.

As for accommodation, we've decided to make *Kahler's Oasis Caravan Park* our base for the weekend on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, the 22<sup>nd</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> of July. We expect the cabins to be in demand, therefore, if you're interested, please BOOK EARLY. The cabins all have reverse cycle air conditioning which could be very handy at that time of year. Prices vary depending on the

facilities in the unit. There are also plenty of powered sites for caravanners and motor home owners which probably don't require such early booking. Depending on the weather, we've found caravan parks to be better for social activities.

In addition, the park has a camp kitchen area with BBQs, microwaves, etc. and we propose an afternoon/evening 'happy hour' on Friday the 22<sup>nd</sup> of July. This can be followed by a meal for those who wish to participate.

Please note: own food, drinks, cooking skills etc. are required.

Kahler's phone number is (07) 4661 2874 if you wish to book directly, alternatively, you can book online with one of the accommodation websites.

The Jumpers and Jazz events program is still a work in progress and the current state of play is viewable on the Jumpers and Jazz website which is being constantly updated.

To find out more details about the festival visit <http://jumpersandjazz.com/>.

**John McWatters**

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### "RAINWORTH HOUSE"



"Rainworth House", 7 Barton Street, Bardon, within Rainworth locality.

Those intrepid RGSQ explorers, Chris Spriggs and Bob Abnett, went on an "expedition" in January 2016 to "re-discover" Rainworth House, the former home of the Honourable Gentleman, AC Gregory, first President of our illustrious Society way back in 1885! Gregory was also an explorer, Surveyor-General of Qld, and a politician at both State and local government levels.

**Rainworth House** dates from the early 1860s, when it was the only farm house in the locality. Gregory had it built and it was his home until he died in 1905. It is not far from the current Queensland Governor's residence "Fernberg", located to its north (in Gregory's day, "Fernberg" was a private dwelling). After Gregory's death, the farm was sold and the next owner subdivided the estate in the 1920s. It would appear that Barton Street, which the house fronts today, arises from that era. The story on the internet today goes that the house was moved to its current position facing Barton Street, but this may not be the "real" story!

Chris and Bob "re-discovered" a treat, when they spoke to the current owner of the **Rainworth House**. He is a young professional builder, keen on renovating the house back to its former colonial day splendour! So far, he has re-opened and renovated the verandas, and made the house a home again, after many years of being divided and made into a duplex dwelling. He is now slowly renovating the interior of the house, to maintain its colonial past structure and form, and at the same time, to meet modern living standards.

The new owner indicated, that based upon his research of the history of the **Rainworth House**, it originally faced north, towards what is now named Rainworth Road, the modern through road. The house was set back from the road (as most farm houses are, even today) and at the time of estate subdivision, the land between the farm house and Rainworth Road, became a couple of residential lots. The house, still in its same position, was simply re-oriented to face the newly created Barton Street.



The re-instated name of "**Rainworth House**".

The new owner has continued to call his home "**Rainworth House**" and has re-erected the historic plaque that was placed upon the house in 1985 by the then Royal Geographical Society of Australasia (Qld) Inc., now the RGSQ.



The re-instated plaque.

It's good to see a young man, not only recognise the history of his home, but also to renovate it back to some of its former architectural glory.

**Bob Abnett**

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## Australian Geography Competition, RGSQ and Geography Teachers

In late 1995 the Australian Geography Competition became a joint project of the Australian Geography Teachers Association (AGTA) and the Royal Geographical Society of Queensland (RGSQ). A not-for-profit volunteer organisation, AGTA is the national body of affiliated State and Territory Geography Teachers' Associations with its Board members comprising of geography educators (mostly classroom teachers) representing each of the affiliate bodies. As with the State and Territory Geography Teachers' Associations, the AGTA Board meetings are attended in the members' own time out of school hours (by phone link-ups), and twice a year as face-to-face meetings over a weekend usually in an Australian major centre. From my observations at the two AGTA Board meetings that I have attended as the Competition Coordinator in 2015, there is no escaping teacher workloads for most of the teachers on these weekends as they are rushing back to their accommodation to mark their students' work before dinner, or can be seen marking student work when other opportunities are presented.

RGSQ has had a long association with geography teachers, the Geography Teachers' Association of Queensland (GTAQ), and AGTA, not only at the organisational level, but over the years a number of RGSQ members have been, and some still are practicing geography teachers. Some RGSQ members who are/were also Geography Teachers have served on the AGTA Board and/or the GTAQ Council. Ken Sutton, a RGSQ member until his death in 1986 and RGSQ President 1982 to 1985 was a Geography Teacher who had previously served on the AGTA Board and the GTAQ Council. The RGSQ's Library is named the Ken Sutton Memorial Library.

Early in 1994, the National Geographic Society (USA) wrote to AGTA encouraging them to organise a national geography competition and send an Australian Team to the Second International Olympiad to be held in 1995. At the time, the RGSQ was the Secretary of the National Geography Support Group (NGSG) and were running a Queensland based Interschool Geography Quiz for Year 11 students. The NGSQ, whose purpose was to promote geography, was jointly set up in 1988 by the Institute of Australian Geographers (IAG), Royal Geographical Society of South Australia (RGSSA), RGSQ, AGTA, and the then Institute of Australian Cartographers (now the Mapping Science Institute of Australia).

After much discussion, in November 1994, AGTA appointed the NGSQ to organise the 1995 National competition. At the end of 1995 the NGSQ Secretariat was to move to Victoria without the Australian Geography Competition, and for various reasons in November 1995 it was agreed that the 1996 national competition was to be a joint AGTA/RGSQ Project. The Competition would be overseen by a Committee comprising of both AGTA and RGSQ representatives, and RGSQ would provide volunteer assistance for aspects of the Competition. So started RGSQ's twenty-one years involvement with the Australian Geography Competition.

*(The above has been compiled from notes provided by Margaret McIvor, RGSQ member, retired Geography Teacher, previously GTAQ Council member and AGTA Board member, and has been a member of the Australian Geography Competition Committee since 1996).*



*Students undertaking beach survey at the 2015 Geography's Big Week Out, North Stradbroke Island, Queensland.*

**Bernard Fitzpatrick**

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### RGSQ expresses concern over James Cook University cuts to their Geography Program

The Royal Geographical Society of Queensland notes with alarm that James Cook University has announced plans to make deep cuts in staffing in the fields of Geography and associated environmental disciplines. Five geographers out of a total staff of twelve are scheduled to be made redundant. This redundancy round will greatly diminish the teaching of geographical sciences at JCU, thereby leaving students with a limited grasp of human-environment interactions and how geographical approaches are crucial to tackling the so-called 'grand challenges' facing society in general, and in particular North Queensland's environment, economy and society.

The cuts eliminate the two full Professors of Geography at the Cairns Campus and effectively signals the withdrawal of JCU from teaching geography and related environmental subjects in Cairns. Prof Steve Turton has been a national leader in Geography for many years and has contributed significantly to the management of the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area. Prof Jon Nott has an international reputation as a coastal scientist and has been seminal in identifying storm hazards in north Queensland. Their loss to JCU, the Far North Queensland community and Australian academia is very significant.

The decision to retract much activity from the Cairns campus is ill-advised and the Royal Geographical Society of Queensland calls on the leadership of James Cook University to reconsider these draconian and mis-targeted cuts, which undermine environmental teaching and research in north Queensland.

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Contact Person: Prof James Shulmeister, Vice-President, Royal Geographical Society of Queensland, ph. 0401 001 254; email: [Jamie.shulmeister@gmail.com](mailto:Jamie.shulmeister@gmail.com)

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**Jamie Shulmeister**

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**Map Group Meeting/Training Session**

**When:** Thursday, 17 March

**Time:** 11:00 am

**Where:** Museum of Lands Mapping and Surveying,  
Level 2, Landcentre Bld., 371 Vulture St,  
Woolloongabba.

This visit to the Museum is to provide the Map Group members with information and knowledge on how historic survey maps and other historical mapping documents are properly preserved and catalogued.

The event is not open to all RGSQ members due to the map training aspect of the visit. Non-Map Group members who are genuinely interested in learning more about modern mapping systems can inquire with the RGSQ Office at 3368 2066 or email at [info@rgsq.org.au](mailto:info@rgsq.org.au).

**Blaeu Atlas**

The Map Group has had success with the Queensland State Library in correcting information on TROVE, the internet website giving access to library catalogues across the world. The correction relates to accrediting the loan of an extract from the Blaeu Atlas, published between 1662 and 1672, to the Royal Geographical Society of Queensland, rather than the Royal Geographical Society, based in London, England. A small win, but an important one, in this internet age, when there is so much misinformation on the web!

**Hema Maps**

This modern mapping company, based in Brisbane, has indicated that it would be pleased to host a Map Group visit in either April or May, 2016. The Map Group will explore how Hema Maps undertakes modern computer based mapping processes, especially, their new map explorer software and mapping system. More information will be available at a later date.

**Bob Abnett**, Map Group Member

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**THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS**

We would like to thank Wendy and Dal Anderson, Sarah Barry and John Fairbairn, Mary Comer, Maureen Meier, Peter Nunan, Kay and Graham Rees, Rob Simson, and Wayne Spearritt for their great work in packing the envelopes for the mail-out of the 2016 Australian Geography Competition information brochures and fliers. Their efforts meant we got the task done faster than anticipated. I would also like to thank all the other RGSQ members who had volunteered for other days, or rang to see if we required more helpers.



We would like to give a special thanks to Maureen Meier. Maureen has been coming into the office each month for many years to help out with the Society Bulletin mail-out.

**Bernard Fitzpatrick**

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**Australian Geography Competition helpers please!**

There are two more Australian Geography Competition mail-outs when we will require volunteers:

Wednesday, the 20<sup>th</sup> of April to Friday, the 22<sup>nd</sup> of April - Packing of Question booklets and Answer Sheets.

Wednesday, the 20<sup>th</sup> of July to Friday, the 22<sup>nd</sup> of July - Packing of Results, Certificates and Prizes.

Please contact the office if you would like to help on any of the above days. Your help is greatly appreciated and assists with making the Australian Geography Competition one of the largest school based competitions in Australia.

**Bernard Fitzpatrick**

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**REMINDER: 2016 membership fees are due March 1, 2016**

Dear members, this is a friendly reminder that membership fees are due March 1, 2016. Payment can be made by Cheque, Card or Direct Deposit.

If you have not yet renewed your membership for 2016, please call the Office to arrange payment or email us at [info@rgsq.org.au](mailto:info@rgsq.org.au) if you're unsure of your membership status. Thank you.

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**RGSQ Auditorium is available for hire:**

- Daily and half-daily basis;
- Capacity of about 120 people theatre style sitting;
- Close to public transport and Park Rd Café precinct;
- Separate kitchen;
- Projector, lectern, white board available.

Please contact the Office on 3368-2066 or email at [info@rgsq.org.au](mailto:info@rgsq.org.au).

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# RGSQ Bulletin

March 2016

**Lecture/Meeting:** Tue 1 March 7:30 pm

*The impact of early scientific exploration of the heights in southeast Queensland on the emergence of climbing here*

Presented by Michael Meadows

**Tours and Activities:** Fri 4 March 9:30 am

*Milton, Oxley to High Rise*

**Member Gathering:** Mon 17 March 11:00 am

*RGSQ Map Group at the Museum of Lands Mapping and Surveying*

**Volunteer Days:** Wed-Fri April 20-22, 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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