



# RGSQ Bulletin

April 2016

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**Patron: H.E. Paul de Jersey AC, Governor of Queensland**  
**President: Mr Leo Scanlan**

## From the President

I have managed to pick up Wi-Fi at a number of locations we have visited in New Zealand so I am not completely out of touch with what is happening at RGSQ but it does present challenges. I am currently on the North Island of New Zealand so I'm reporting from afar this month. By the time you read this 'From the President' page, it will be nearly time for us to return home. While I haven't met the newest member of our office staff, I would like to offer a very warm welcome to Gail Orr as she joins Bernard's team in the office.

Over the past few years Sharyn and I have been members of Home Link, an organisation that organises home swaps in many different parts of the world. This organisation was originally started by a couple of school teachers who wanted to visit and become familiar with a different part of the world - one lived in the United States and the other - in the United Kingdom. They agreed to organise and swap houses, and since then this organisation has evolved into one of the most successful and reliable home swap organisations in the world. So far, we have swapped in the United States, Germany, France, Canada, the United Kingdom, several times in New Zealand, and organised our own private swap in Cambodia.

This year, 2016, we are involved in swapping in New Zealand and again in Canada. The advantage with this type of arrangement is it gives us the opportunity to sample, for a short time, what it's really like to live in a defined geographical area rather than what we see when we're just touring and moving on, from day to day. We will try to cover most of what is on offer in this northern corner of New Zealand but it is a tall order, as there is much to see and do. I have written a fairly detailed report on our daily movements within an approximate 250 kilometre radius from where we are staying, which might be published in the RGSQ Bulletin at some point.

On the 17<sup>th</sup> of February we had our preliminary function prior to our next major RGSQ trek which is to Tanzania, Madagascar and South Africa. We leave Australia on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of April. In the course of gathering together a number of geographical books for presentation to the School of St Jude in Tanzania, I stumbled across a South African author, Tina Clark, who has been a resident of Bribie Island for the past 15 years.

Tina has written a number of African fictional adventure stories. I invited Tina Clark along to address our very small gathering. Her address to our members was extremely interesting and gave us a small but interesting insight into life in South Africa and Zimbabwe both before and post the apartheid regime. After reading one of her books, I'm sure she has drawn on many of life's experiences from her early life in Zimbabwe and later on South Africa, England and Australia.

If anyone would like further information on The School of St Jude, Tanzania, which has been featured on Australian Story on the ABC, it is available on the Internet. Our RGSQ Trekkers are due to visit this school the morning after we arrive in Tanzania.

**Leo Scanlan**

## Meeting/Lecture

**Tuesday, April 5, 2016**

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

**Time:** 7:30 pm

### ***"Brisbane at the Crossroads"***

presented by Richard Kirk

"Brisbane at the Crossroads" will be a discussion focused on the public realm, its purpose and its role in the making of memorable cities, places and places within buildings. The presentation will include significant transformative projects in Brisbane that were interrogated during Richard's role as the Queensland Chapter President of the Australian Institute of Architects.

*About the author:* Richard Kirk, Principal Director of KIRK, established practice in 1995 after graduating from the University of Queensland with First Class Honours. Richard Kirk has established the practice as a leader in designing buildings of cultural significance on sensitive and important sites, with the majority of its commissions awarded through design competitions. The design intensive practice has received numerous professional awards for their completed work and design excellence.

Richard was the Australian Institute of Architects (AIA) Queensland Chapter President, Fellow of the AIA, Member on the Board of Architects of Queensland, Adjunct Professor at the University of Queensland, and Member of the Brisbane City Council Independent Design Advisory Panel. Richard previously served as the

Urban Land Development Authority Design Review Panel and as an inaugural Board Member on the Board for Urban Places.

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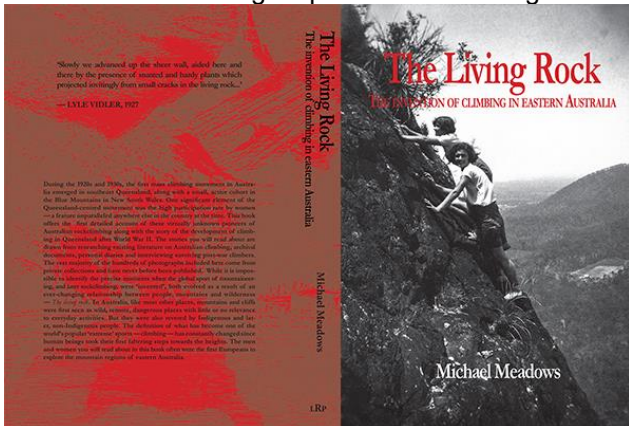
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### March 2016 Lecture Synopsis

#### “The emergence of climbing as a recreation in Queensland”

by Dr Michael Meadows

During the 1920s and 1930s, the first mass climbing movement in Australia emerged in southeast Queensland, along with a small, active cohort in the Blue Mountains in New South Wales. One significant element of the Queensland-centred movement was the high participation rate by women — a feature unparalleled anywhere else in the country at the time. Climbing emerged as a recreation in the early 20th century but it was the early European explorers and scientists who were often the first Europeans to reach the summits in Southeast Queensland and beyond. While it is impossible to identify the precise moments when the global sport of mountaineering, and later rockclimbing, were ‘invented’, both evolved as a result of an ever-changing relationship between people, mountains and wilderness. In Australia, like most other places, mountains and cliffs were first seen as wild, remote, and dangerous with little or no relevance to everyday activities. But they were also revered by Indigenous and later, non-Indigenous people. The definition of what has become one of the world’s popular ‘extreme’ sports — climbing — has constantly changed since human beings took their first faltering steps towards the heights.



Book cover: “The Living Rock”

**The author:** Michael Meadows started bushwalking and climbing in Brisbane as a teenager in the mid-1960s. Most of his climbing time has been spent exploring the crags of southeast Queensland. He was diverted from climbing when he started work as a journalist and later, a journalism professor, before returning to climbing after a 20 year break. He has researched and published a book, The Living Rock, based on this research. It is available from Brisbane outdoor stores (Mountain Designs, K2 Basecamp, Pyramid Sports) and selected bookshops (Mary Ryan, Riverbend and AvidReader).

Author contact: [meadowsmh@gmail.com](mailto:meadowsmh@gmail.com).

**Michael Meadows**

### 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.

**Note:** The tour is currently fully booked, however, due to possible cancellation of reservations before the RSVP date, members who wish to join the tour will be waitlisted. Please inquire with the RGSQ Office.

**Jeanette Lamont**

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### June Activity: Engineering Heritage Walk

**When:** Thursday, 23 June

**Time:** 9:30 am

**Where:** Queen Victoria statue in Queens Park, cnr Elizabeth and George St

**Cost:** member \$32 and non-member \$35

**RSVP:** Tuesday, June 7

On Thursday 23 June 2016, an Engineering Heritage Walk will take us along William Street where we will note what it looked like in days gone past and imagine what it may look like after the major casino development planned for that precinct is completed. We will then walk through the QUT campus and across the Goodwill Bridge and visit the Maritime Museum and South Brisbane Dry Dock. The walk will finish with a 2-course light lunch in an historic site nearby. Participants may elect to return to the Maritime Museum after lunch if they wish.

The cost is \$32 per member (\$35 for non-members) and covers the cost of entry to the Maritime Museum and lunch, and everyone will receive a copy of a booklet describing many engineering heritage sites around Brisbane.

The walk will commence at 9.30am sharp at the Queen Victoria statue in Queens Park, corner Elizabeth and George Streets. Please wear comfortable walking shoes and a hat, and bring a bottle of water, and don’t forget your RGSQ name badge. The route is quite flat. Lunch should be completed by 2.30pm.

Bookings close with the office on June 7, but there is a limit on the number that can be accommodated on this outing, so early bookings are advised.

Any queries may be directed to Brian McGrath, phone 3378 5960, or email [brian.mcgrath@bigpond.com](mailto:brian.mcgrath@bigpond.com).

**Brian McGrath**

### 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**

#### SYNOPSIS: Milton – Oxley to High-rise

On Friday 4<sup>th</sup> of March, more than twenty members put their walking shoes on and discovered some little known locations in the Society's neighbourhood of Milton.

Gathering in the "Gregory House" auditorium from about 9:15 am, members viewed a collection of images of early Milton which included:

- early maps courtesy of the RGSQ Library;
- photographs sourced from the John Oxley Library, State Library of Queensland; and
- photographs and diagrams sourced from the Brisbane City Council digital library.

About 9:50 am we commenced our walk up the driveway of St Francis Theological College to discover the beautiful Old Bishopsbourne. We were soon seated in the Chapel of the Holy Spirit. The Chapel bell rang and Stephen Clarke from St Francis Theological College welcomed us to St Francis before providing us with the history of the Chapel of the Holy Spirit and the Old Bishopsbourne.



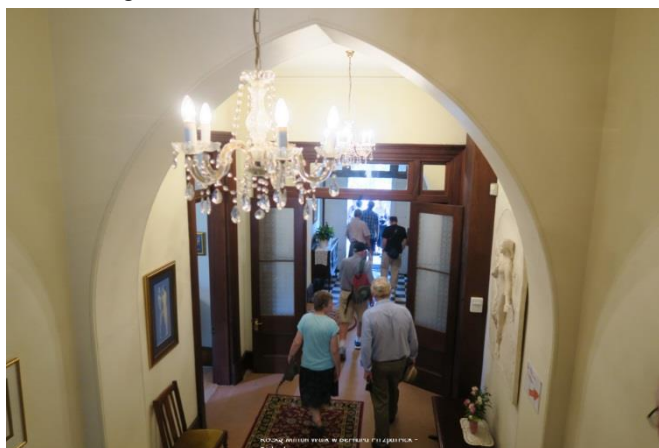
The Chapel of the Holy Spirit

After spending some time exploring the Chapel, we walked a cross to Old Bishopsbourne where Stephen showed us through the building pointing out some of the interesting features of this fine old building while we were imagining life in the late 1800s and early 1900s Brisbane.

The second floor's wide veranda provided us with some great views to the City CBD, towards Brigid's Catholic Church in Red Hill, and the increasing high-rise near Milton Railway Station. We also overlooked "Gregory House" and learned that the land was originally part of the grounds of the Old Bishopsbourne.

The Old Bishopsbourne, a work of architect Benjamin Backhouse was built in 1868 and has had a few additions since then.

The Chapel of the Holy Spirit, a Gothic style, gable-roofed building was designed by Robin Dods and built in 1912 using Brisbane Tuff and local timbers.



RGSQ members exploring the Old Bishopsbourne

In recent years the Old Bishopsbourne and Chapel of the Holy Spirit have been open to the Public over the weekend of Brisbane Open House. These fine examples of early Brisbane architecture will be open again in 2016 on Saturday 8 and Sunday 9 October. Visit



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<http://brisbaneopenhouse.com.au/> for more information on the Brisbane Open House weekend.

After returning to “Gregory House” for some morning tea we then took a stroll through Milton and explored the changes from the early rural landscape, which once included cotton, based around Milton House, Milton’s earliest European building in the area, to today’s evolving high-rise streetscape (Transport Oriented Development).



Milton House

We walked along the footpath adjacent to the Brisbane River to “Western Creek” where John Oxley stepped ashore on Tuesday 28 September 1824 to explore for freshwater and a possible site to relocate the Redcliffe convict settlement. Where Western Creek once ran into the Brisbane River it is now essentially a drain that runs under Coronation Drive and the John Oxley Centre reappearing upstream amongst the office blocks as an uncovered man-made channel, again disappearing as a drain under Camford Street, reappearing as an uncovered drain in Milton Park before disappearing again as a subsurface drain under Milton Road near Frew Park. Members then strolled along Douglas Street to Park Road and back to Gregory House to the comfort of air-conditioning and lunch.

If you are interested in exploring Milton, the Brisbane City Council has compiled a Milton Heritage Walk with interpretive signs and information provided in an online guide which can be downloaded from <http://www.brisbane.qld.gov.au/facilities-recreation/sports-leisure/walking/walking-trails/heritage-trails/milton-heritage-trail>.

Photographs courtesy of Kay Rees, <http://www.wombatshollow.com>, Royal Geographical Society Queensland, RGSQ 2016.

***Bernard Fitzpatrick***

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### **UPDATE: James Cook University cuts to their Geography Program**

RGSQ made a press release last month regarding the impending significant reduction of Geography and Environmental Studies programs and personnel at James Cook University. The press release was picked up by the ABC and ABC radio in Townsville undertook an interview with RGSQ Vice-President Prof James Shulmeister, where he highlighted the importance of the discipline and the significant loss of talent that the redundancies would entail. He also highlighted the

negative economic impact of the decision for Cairns. The interview was subsequently also aired on ABC radio in Cairns.

At this time (as the Bulletin goes to press), the final decision on the redundancies and the reduction of geography at JCU have not been announced. Unfortunately, we do not believe that James Cook is likely to change course on this fiscally driven decision.

We will advise the membership of the final outcome when it is announced. We encourage members to talk to their local representatives suggesting that this is a poor decision for Queensland, James Cook University and the Cairns economy.

***Jamie Shulmeister***

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### **Map Group Gathering**

**When:** Monday, April 4

**Time:** 10:00 am

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

### **An Introduction to Open Street Map (OSM)**

The Map Group had an excellent presentation on this mapping software, made on 7 March, 2016 by David Dean, a user of OSM in Brisbane. 15 members attended and it was one of the largest gatherings of the Map Group since its inauguration in September, 2015.

David explained that OSM is a world wide open mapping system which was first created in 2005, and is now very well established in Europe and the USA, but is being utilised by ordinary people across the world, including Australia. About 25,000 people per month use OSM and make changes to it on a daily basis, across the world.

In summary, OSM is a collection of geographic data which people can use as the basis to update their local area or the city/region they live in. It involves the use of free software and can be edited in the same way that Wikipedia is updated and edited. The primary reason for people to use this mapping software is that it can be rapidly updated, whereas, other commercial or government produced mapping software systems available today, such as Google Maps or various Government Maps, cannot.

OSM is not just about mapping streets for use by cars, as old street directories or modern GPS systems for cars are all about. OSM can be used to map a range of things, such as: walking trails in bushlands or parklands, hiking areas, skiing areas, boating locations and supporting facilities, building names, urban trails, etc.

OSM accesses freely available base mapping information, including street maps and aerial photography, which people can then overlay with their updated information. This updated information can be obtained by their own data gathering, which can be recorded either on, say, a smart phone, or on survey sheets. The results are then entered into OSM via the various prompts used by the software and visible on the website. People can gain access to the website by registering themselves as users.

David provided examples of how the mapping software is used and how one can access OSM to undertake

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updates and edits. He then responded to a number of questions, with quite comprehensive answers, which enabled Map Group members to think through how they might use OSM, either for their own personal mapping undertakings, or as part of a future Map Group project.

### MAP GROUP VISITS

These are still being planned and arranged and Map Group members will be further informed of the details via email. They include:

- First half of April, 2016: Visit to John Oxley Library, re: the preservation, storage, cataloguing and management of rare and historic maps.
- Mid-May, 2016: Visit to Hema Maps, re: modern computer based mapping systems used by Hema Maps.

**Bob Abnett**, Map Group Member

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### RGSQ Ken Sutton Memorial Library

**When:** Monday 9 May

**Time:** 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. Please bring your lunch.

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

Enter via the main entrance on Milton Road.

Are you interested in discovering what items are in the Society's Ken Sutton Memorial Library? Would you like to help with maintaining our Library? Would you just like to visit the Society's Library with like-minded members, peruse the shelves, and discuss geography related items and books?

Rob Simson would like to invite all interested members to join him on Monday 9 May between 9:00 am and 3:00 pm to discover the RGSQ Ken Sutton Memorial Library and discuss what an RGSQ Library Group might like to achieve. Please contact the office to register your interest or turn up on the day.

### Library Policy Input

Rob has recently been following up some crucial initial work that a number of RGSQ members (Ann Hanger, Jill Don, Stuart Watt, and Peter Nunan) have done over the last 12-18 months. He is currently working on finalising an RGSQ Library Policy and would welcome comment from members.

If you would like a copy of the Draft Library Policy, which will be available by mid-April, please contact the Society's Office, ph.: 07 3368-2066, or email [admin@rgsq.org.au](mailto:admin@rgsq.org.au).

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### Strategic Directions for the Geographical Science

The National Committee for Geographical Sciences is preparing a report on strategic directions for the discipline. The report aims to explain the contribution that geography can make to the social, economic and environmental wellbeing of Australians and Australia through research, education, training, expertise and community outreach. It will also identify any actions that would enhance these contributions. The report will be

written for public and private sector decision makers, educational administrators, politicians, community organisations and the general public.

The National Committee for Geographical Sciences requests input on the survey by Monday, 16 May, 2016.

For further information and to participate in the survey please visit <https://www.science.org.au/node/3443>.

### Welcome New Members

We have much pleasure in welcoming **Carol and Fred Salisbury, Bianca Burke and Liam Scanlan** as new members. We hope your association with your new Society is long and mutually enjoyable.

### Thank you, Audrey!

Audrey Johnston, who has served for fifteen continuous years on the Council of the Society, has advised that she is standing down as a Councillor.

Many members know Audrey and will be aware of the many hours she has contributed helping out around the Society across a wide range of activities. We look forward to seeing Audrey back again soon - hopefully at the April lecture.

The RGSQ Council places on record its sincere appreciation for Audrey's generous volunteering across many aspects of the Society, both during her fifteen year service as a Councillor, and throughout her 26 years membership, to date, of the Society.

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### RGSQ Council Casual Vacancy

Audrey's resignation leaves a vacancy on the Council, which the Council would like to be filled, as a casual vacancy appointment, until the next (September) Annual General Meeting. Members interested in contributing to the management, development and governance of the Society are encouraged to consider putting their name forward for appointment to the Council. The Council meets, at the Gregory House, Milton on the second Tuesday of each month (6:00 pm). Any member interested in joining the Council, please talk to one of the Council members, or contact the Executive Officer, Bernard Fitzpatrick by phone (07 3368-2066) or email at [execofficer@rgsq.org.au](mailto:execofficer@rgsq.org.au).

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### Welcome, Gail Orr

We would like to welcome our new RGSQ staff member, Gail Orr. Gail commenced as our Administration Assistance on 1 March. Some of you may have already met or spoken to Gail when you have visited or rung the Society's office.

Gail brings a wealth of administrative experience to the Society and is a great addition to support the Society. She will be working 20 hours per week, presently between 9:30 am and 3pm, Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday.

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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 RGSQ Office on 07 3368-2066 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.

#### CONTRIBUTIONS WELCOME

Member contributions to the RGSQ Bulletin, small or large are welcome. Please send any articles or snippets of information to [info@rgsq.org.au](mailto:info@rgsq.org.au). Please start the Subject of the email with "Bulletin."

Deadlines for contributions to the Bulletin are the second Tuesday of the month prior to the Bulletin. For example, the deadline for the May Bulletin is Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> of April.

#### 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.

For inquiries, please contact the Office, ph.: 07 3368-2066 or email at [info@rgsq.org.au](mailto:info@rgsq.org.au).

# RGSQ Bulletin

April 2016

**Lecture/Meeting:** Tue 5 April 7:30 pm

*Brisbane at the Crossroads*

Presented by Richard Kirk

**Tours and Activities:** Overseas trek

*Tanzania and Madagascar*

**Member Gathering:** Mon 4 April 10:00 am

*'Gregory House', Milton Rd, Milton*

**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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