



# RGSQ Bulletin

June 2016

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**Patron: H.E. Paul de Jersey AC, Governor of Queensland**

**President: Mr Leo Scanlan**

## From the President

### Vale Christine Taylor

On Friday 20th May Christine Taylor passed away in the Royal Brisbane Hospital after a short illness.

Christine has been a long time member of RGSQ and has accompanied many of us on our monthly outings throughout South East Queensland. The recent African trek was the first overseas trek that Christine had taken part in and she was over the moon with joy at seeing the exceptional landscape and the biological diversity that makes up the Serengeti in Tanzania. Christine had only told me a few days before that it was her dream since she was a little girl to travel to Africa and in particular, to visit the Serengeti.

In these sad circumstances, I'm extremely grateful I had some input into making her lifelong dream a reality when Christine and her sister Katherine left Brisbane with other members of RGSQ on 2nd April. Unfortunately, Christine collapsed with a brain aneurysm on the final day of our safari in Tanzania. Christine, accompanied by Katherine was airlifted to Nairobi Hospital where she underwent 2 operations to stabilise her, and finally, after several weeks in hospital in Nairobi was transported by air-ambulance to Brisbane where she passed away peacefully on Friday evening 20th May. On behalf of all at The Royal Geographical Society of Queensland I would like to offer our sincere sympathy to Katherine and all of Christine's family.

Christine, I'm sure all at RGSQ will miss your smiling face and friendliness during future outings, treks, and our monthly meetings.

### Tours and Activities

On Monday the 16th of May, RGSQ's Tours and Activities Committee had their first meeting to plan our programme of events for 2017. Unfortunately, this month we have had 3 resignations from our Tours and Activities Committee. I would like to thank Frank Birchall, and Cheryl and Russell Saunders for their past contribution to many of the treks and day activities that they were involved in.

Our day activities require a considerable amount of organisation and effort before they become a reality and we do need more volunteers to join our committee. I would invite any RGSQ member to get involved in our

planning for treks and activities and come along to our next Tours and Activities Meeting which we will advertise in the 'RGSQ Bulletin'. If you do have any questions or would like to have a chat with me regarding The Tours and Activities Committee please ring me at home any evening on 07 3343 4398.

### Expedition Cruise 'Coral Expeditions'

In planning for 2017 and future overseas treks, RGSQ are advertising in this Bulletin for members to be part of our major trek for 2017, Cairns, Papua New Guinea and The Coral Sea, to commence on the 4th of October next year.

While June 2016 seems rather early to be advertising a trek in the latter part of 2017, *Coral Expeditions*, the organisers of this expedition cruise, are already taking bookings for their 12 night Cairns to Rabaul cruise and have limited cabin availability on this 72 berth ship. If you are interested please contact the RGSQ Office on 07 3368 2066 as soon as possible to ensure RGSQ have the numbers to make a block booking.

### Thomson Address

Once again I would like to congratulate Kath Berg on being awarded the 2016 J.P. Thomson Award, I might mention that Kath's diligence and contribution to the Society's outreach was far more than her paid hours, particularly in the area of The Australian Geography Competition. I am glad she has provided a synopsis of her Thomson Address in this Bulletin so that all members can read and realise how wide ranging Kath's influence was in the field of Geography, and Geographical Education in particular.

### RGSQ and Geography Education

The RGSQ Office staff and Society volunteers have been busy over a number of weeks sorting, packing, distributing and fielding questions from teachers in connection with the 2016 Australian Geography Competition Question packs. The Competition is being run in high schools and some primary schools across Australia between Monday 16 and Friday 27 May. The big task in the coming weeks is the return, scanning and analysis of Competition Answer sheets ready for printing and dispatch of the Certificates and prizes in late July. The Competition is an important contribution to the Australian Geography education landscape and RGSQ members can be proud to be part of it.

The RGSQ and AGTA recently signed a new five year Memorandum of Understanding for the management and running of the Australian Geography Competition which is a demonstration of the commitment both organisations have with working together in the Australian geography education sphere.

The RGSQ continue to work and wish to build on our links with Geography Teachers. Our Executive Officer, Bernard as the Australian Geography Competition Coordinator attended the Australian Geography Teachers' Association's (AGTA) Board Meeting in Melbourne on the weekend of 14 and 15 May. It is also great to see that the Geography Teachers' Association of Queensland (GTAQ) has established their office within the Society's premises at Milton. GTAQ has appointed a part-time staff member who will be working out of their office space, so RGSQ members you may see another face around the RGSQ Office when you visit.

**Leo Scanlan**

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### Meeting/Lecture

**Tuesday, June 7, 2016**

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

**Time:** 7:30 pm

#### ***"Biophysical remote sensing"***

presented by Prof Stuart Phinn

Professor of Geography, School of Geography Planning and Environmental Management  
University of Queensland

1990 RGSQ University Medal Awardee



Stuart Phinn's research interests are in measuring and monitoring environmental changes using earth observation data and publishing/sharing ecosystem data. He is a professor of Geography at the University of Queensland where he teaches

remote sensing and he has established and co-directs the [Remote Sensing Research Centre](#), [Joint Remote Sensing Research Program](#) and [Australian Earth Observation Coordination Group](#). Most recently he was the founding director of [Australia's Terrestrial Ecosystem Research Network](#) and its Associate Science Director, as well as leading the establishment of [Australia's first Long Term Plan for Ecosystem Science](#) and the Australian Ecosystem Science Council. He received his PhD from the University of California – Santa Barbara/San Diego State University in 1997. The majority of his work uses images collected from satellite and aircraft, in combination with field measurements, to map and monitor the Earth's environments and how they are changing over time. A large part of this is in coastal and marine environments with C.Roelfsema. This work is done in collaboration with other environmental scientists, government environmental management agencies, NGO's and private companies. He publishes extensively with his collaborators, and currently has 165 papers in refereed international journals, 1 book, and 11 book chapters. A large part of this work also involves training

the next generation of scientists and managers who effectively use remote sensing, and has graduated 38 PhD students. A growing part of this work now focuses on national coordination of Earth observation activities and the collection, publishing and sharing of ecosystem data.

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### **Synopsis: May Thomson Address**

***"To promote and stimulate the study of geography: reflections on RGSQ's mission"***

by Kath Berg

Gary Lawrence, the great grandson of Dr J.P. Thomson presented Kath Berg with the 2016 Thomson Medal at the meeting on May 3. Kath then delivered the Thomson Address – *To promote and stimulate the study of geography: reflections on RGSQ's mission*.

Kath spoke about the ways that RGSQ promoted geography through lectures, trips, support for geographical education, and organising special projects. The lecture was illustrated with images from her 27 years working for RGSQ, with references, and photos, as to how these activities were a continuation of the Society's past.

Kath discussed why she thought that there had been an emphasis on geographical education over the last two decades. This was, firstly, because of the external environment, with geography in schools losing its identity as it was subsumed into Studies of Society and Environment, and then at risk of not being included in the national curriculum. Here Kath digressed by outlining the very significant contribution that RGSQ had made to the development of the national geography curriculum.

The second reason she put forward for the emphasis on geographical education was the unanimous agreement by Councillors that RGSQ should stand up for geography in schools. This was in contrast to other political issues where the Council was unable to form a consensus.

The third reason she advanced was that RGSQ had the internal capabilities to contribute to the debate on geographical education. However, this was not the case for other issues in which you might expect a geographical society to play a part, such as the development of the regional plans for Southeast Queensland. During her time, the RGSQ Council had not been able to work out how to respond to such matters in a way that ensured it reflected the Society's view. This could be seen as a missed opportunity to demonstrate what geography can bring to the decision-making process.

Kath went on to talk about other activities that were aimed at promoting geography to the general public. There was a wide range of activities including: participation in the ABC's Green Train; displays and activities at Riverfest and at the Science Show; Geography Awareness Week; coordination of the Queensland bicentenary celebrations of Flinders' circumnavigation; and, the Queensland by Degrees project, which can be found at <http://rgsq.org.au/qldbydeg>.



RGSQ's Queensland by Degrees in action

Overall, however, promotion of geography to the general public had been patchy. In an attempt to take a more structured approach, a communications strategy was professionally prepared. It had been intended as a joint project between the geographical organisations in Australia. However, in the end, neither the financial, nor perhaps more importantly, human resources, were there to implement the strategy.

Kath concluded that, although there were areas where we could have done better, working together – Councillors, committee members, other volunteers and staff – RGSQ has succeeded in promoting and stimulating the study of geography and made a real difference.

**Kath Berg**



### CAIRNS, NEW GUINEA, and THE CORAL SEA

**RGSQ's adventurers have just returned home from Africa and Madagascar and it's already time to refocus and plan for some equally exciting treks in 2017 and beyond...**

In 2017 it is our intention to spend 5 days in Cairns and its hinterland, and then link up with Coral Expeditions on the 4<sup>th</sup> of October for a twelve night cruise from Cairns to Rabaul in Papua New Guinea. While not exclusively ours, the cruise on the Coral Expeditions small ship, the *Coral Discoverer*, does provide Guest Lecturers and Expedition Leaders which fits quite nicely with The Royal Geographical Society of Queensland's mission of promoting 'Geography on the Ground' to our members. To borrow words from the Coral Expeditions website

'Mysterious Papua New Guinea' is right on the doorstep of North Queensland and, yet, most of us know very little about this land of the unexpected.

With limited accommodation for a maximum of 72 guests in 36 spacious staterooms, Coral Expeditions are already taking bookings for this cruise on the *Coral Discoverer*, which sails on the 4<sup>th</sup> of October, 2017.

**Cabin prices per person on the *Coral Discoverer* do vary and accommodation availability is limited. RGSQ needs a firm commitment and a 20% deposit to make a group booking possible.** If you are interested in this exciting combination which covers Cairns, Papua New Guinea and The Coral Sea please contact the RGSQ office (ph. 07 3368 2066) before the 6<sup>th</sup> of June to ensure you don't miss out. If we get the minimum number for the group booking in time you will be asked to pay the deposit immediately.

The cabin costs per person include all meals and have been sourced from the Coral Expeditions website. Please be advised that the actual cost may vary at the time of booking. Main Deck (Category B) \$10,250 (2 cabins), Main Deck (Category A) \$10,650 (3 cabins), Promenade Deck (Category B) \$11,250 (2 cabins), Promenade Deck (Category A) \$11,550 (13 cabins), and Bridge Deck Balcony Stateroom \$12,750 (4 cabins). The number of cabins indicated in brackets was correct as at 12 May 2016.



While the final cruise itinerary would be up to Coral Expeditions, it is expected that we would sail Cairns to Alotau and then sail east to the Dobu and the Fergusson Islands, then north east to the Trobriand Islands, before turning north west again towards Lababia, Tuam, and Madang. Having a shallower draft than larger ships, the *Coral Discoverer* would then enter the Sepik River and cruise to the middle Sepik region. Our ship would then turn east towards Crown Island, Kimbe Bay, New Britain, and finish in Simpson Harbour in Rabaul. We would then return to Cairns via a charter flight from Rabaul.

*Please note that the RGSQ Cairns component of this trip, transport costs from your home to Cairns, and the return charter flight from Rabaul to Cairns at the end of the cruise are not included in the cruise cost listed above.*

*The details including the cost of the 5 days Cairns and hinterland leg of this trek will be provided in the coming months. This part of the trek may be booked by members who are not travelling on the cruise as well.*

**Leo Scanlan**

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## CASUAL COUNCIL VACANCY NOW FILLED

I would like to welcome Kathryn Scott to the RGSQ Council. I believe that Kathryn will bring a fresh and younger outlook to the Council and the Society. Kathryn is currently working in Education Queensland's head office and has recently completed a Master of Environment (Economics and Policy major).

**Leo Scanlan**

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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:** members \$32 and non-members \$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 9:30 am 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 2:30 pm.

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**

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### Ken Sutton Memorial Library Group

On Monday 9 May a number of members dropped in through the day to explore and discuss the Ken Sutton Memorial Library. During the day the RGSQ Library Policy was reviewed and a proposed working policy which was put to, and approved at the Society's Council's May meeting.

**When:** Monday, 27 June

**Time:** 9:00 am to 11:30 am

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

Members introduction to the Ken Sutton Memorial Library. I look forward to meeting interested members.

**Rob Simson**

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### July Activity: Fun, Food, and Games

**When:** Thursday, 14 July

**Time:** 1:30 pm (lunch not included)

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

**Cost:** \$16.00

**RSVP:** and pay by 5 July. Book with the office.

**WHAT-** a fun afternoon of 'silly' party games, an opportunity to sample a few Barossa wines & time to enjoy a social afternoon tea.

BRING a BIRO.

Friends are welcome.

Minimum numbers are required.

**Audrey Johnston**

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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.

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

**John McWatters**

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## August Activity: Pond to Plate

**When:** Thursday, 18 August

**Time:** 7:15 am for a 7:30 am departure from Eagle Junction Railway Station – Redcliffe Coaches. There should be parking in the surrounding streets.

**Where:** Cherax Park Aquaculture Farm – the largest in SE Qld - Theebine (north of Gympie).

**Cost:** \$75 members, \$78 non-members

**RSVP:** Thursday, August 4

*Treat yourself to a day with a difference. Be part of the Pond to Plate experience.*

Meet owners, Peter and Ethel Moore, and join an informative and enjoyable 1 hour farm tour covering all aspects of Redclaw aquaculture. Savour the taste of a delicious 2 course Redclaw lunch served country style on the verandah of their Queenslander home.

Cost includes: bus travel, morning tea (Gympie), farm tour, before lunch nibbles, a generous mixed Redclaw lunch served with assorted fresh salads and fries, dessert, unlimited tea/coffee, cold water served at table.

BYO wine or beer. Wine glasses are provided.

Note: Redclaw can be purchased to take home. Boxes can be provided and packed for transport and easy distribution.

*Please notify RGSQ Office of any dietary requirements.*

Bring a hat, walking shoes and water bottle.

Expected arrival time at Eagle Junction Railway Station is 16:30 pm. Time is dependent on traffic conditions.

Do join us. Numbers are limited to 34.

**Jeanette Lamont**

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## Map Group Gathering

**When:** Monday, June 6

**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.

*Key Event:* Les Isdale will hold a presentation on "Maps in the RGSQ Library: Queensland Geographical Journals".

**Bob Abnett**, Map Group Coordinator

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## Trailblazers: Australia's 50 greatest explorers

Those visiting Sydney before 18 July might be interested in visiting the Trailblazers exhibition on at the Australian Museum. It tells the stories of pioneers who pushed beyond the boundaries to change the way we see the world.

This immersive exhibition celebrates early trailblazers including Matthew Flinders, Ludwig Leichhardt, Lady Jane Franklin and Bennelong; modern pioneers such as Mawson and Kingsford Smith; and contemporary record-

breakers like Dick Smith, Andy Thomas and Jessica Watson.

Also included is RGSQ member Syd Kirkby. Syd explored and mapped more of the Australian Antarctic Territory than anyone else – much of it by dogsled and theodolite. As surveyor or leader at Mawson Station, Kirkby spent three winters (during 15–16 month stints) and four other summer seasons in Antarctica. He established the most easterly, westerly and southerly astrofixes in the Australian territory, and was first, with two comrades, to view the world's largest glacier and explore the Prince Charles Mountains and other ranges.



*Courtesy of Syd Kirkby. On the left: observing at Rumdoodle Peak – "typical survey station among mountains. In many cases, if we'd been blown or slipped from the peak we'd have made the first bounce 1000 feet below - plenty of time to fall into the delusion that all was going well so far". On the right: sledging in the '60s.*

Featuring over 360 objects, this exhibition brings some of Australia's most incredible journeys to life, and puts you right in the centre. Whether they crossed oceans, tackled jungles, traversed mountains, braved the poles or went to space, be inspired by our nation's greatest explorers who helped forge the intrepid Australian spirit.

*Contributed by Kath Berg, based on information on the Australian Museum website.*

## Welcome New Members

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

## Australian Geography Competition

### Thank you!

I missed sending a **BIG THANK YOU** to members who helped count, pack and dispatch the 2016 Competition Question packs in late April. Those who helped were:

Wendy and Dal Anderson, David Carstens, Mary Comer, Brian McGrath, Patrick McKewin, Peter Nunan, Judy Rechner, Bob Reid, Sue Reid, Rob Simson, Chris Spriggs, Doreen and John Wilkinson.

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It was a tremendous effort by Society members to move all the materials in three days.

### Helpers please!

There is another Australian Geography Competition mail-out when we will require volunteers:

*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 for the July Bulletin is Tuesday, the 14<sup>th</sup> of June.

### From the Editor

In the May Bulletin, we embarked on a mission to explore the evolution of geography as a discipline in itself, from the Greek philosophers to modern times. Due to space in this June Bulletin we were unable to include the second article which will be included in the July Bulletin.

# RGSQ Bulletin

June 2016

**Lecture/Meeting:** Tue 7 June 7:30 pm  
*"Biophysical remote sensing"*  
*presented by Prof Stuart Phinn*

**Tours and Activities:** *Thu 23 June, Day Outing:  
Brisbane Engineering Heritage Walk*

**Map Group:** Mon 6 June 10:00 am, "Gregory House", 237 Milton Rd, Milton

**Ken Sutton Memorial Library Group:** Mon 27 June, 9:00 am to 11:30 am, "Gregory House", 237 Milton Rd, Milton

**Volunteer Days:** Wed-Fri 20-22 July, AGC Mail-Out. "Gregory House", 237 Milton Rd, Milton

*Council Meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month commencing at 6 pm.*

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

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