

RGSQ Bulletin

July 2016

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

From the President

Early Wednesday morning Sharyn and I flew to Canada via Sydney. Fourteen hours and 12,962 kilometres later we touched down in Vancouver. I recall, quite clearly, the very first time we flew to North America in 1993 when we landed in Hawaii and then, after passing through the US Customs, had to board a second flight for another 5-hour journey before touching down in Vancouver on the west coast of Canada. I'm sure, this time around, our one-hop flight time, and the distance covered is very close to flight perfection and is truly one of the miracles of modern flight.

On this particular journey one cannot help but wonder at the enormity of the Pacific Ocean which we flew over at close to 1,000 km per hour. One of our future monthly lectures might feature flight, time zones, navigation as the world spins, gravity, modern GPS technology, and aeronautical science, all of which would certainly make for an excellent topic. Today, Thursday, the 9th of June, I am writing this month's President's message from Vancouver on the west coast of North America.

Christine Taylor

Last week it was very pleasing to see the number of RGSQ members who attended Christine Taylor's funeral service at the All Saints Anglican Church at Tamrookum. Despite this very sad occasion, I'm sure Christine would have been proud of her very moving farewell from family and friends held in this very historic church in country South East Queensland.

New Guinea Expedition Cruise

I would like to thank those RGSQ members who have responded so quickly to the advertisement for 'Coral Expeditions' and booked their 'expedition cruise' to Papua New Guinea to commence on October 4, 2017. This will be RGSQ's only international trek in 2017.

RGSQ have already paid the deposits for those who have already booked to ensure their participation, but, for any of you who are considering booking for this cruise from Cairns, you may still be able to join our group, pending cabin availability. You haven't missed out yet, so please inquire with the RGSQ Office regarding the cruise (as advertised in the June RGSQ Bulletin).

Vancouver

While it is not my intention to report on everything I see in Canada, I thought I would write about a few first impressions on landing in Vancouver. I couldn't help but compare some of the features of this city with what exists at home in Brisbane. We caught The Canada Line train from the airport to our destination, and our accommodation for the next couple of weeks - a condominium at Yaletown set on False Creek in Central Vancouver.

This part of Vancouver was formerly a railway turnaround for the Canadian Pacific Railroad, and employed about 10,000 workers in railway workshops and sawmilling alongside the banks of False Creek. Yaletown has been completely rejuvenated since Expo 1986 was held on this site and brings back memories of Brisbane along South Bank prior to the Brisbane Expo in 1988.

Looking through some of the early photographs of this part of Vancouver up until the 1960's reminded me of the scene at the old Roma Street rail terminal and the markets in the 1950's. Right across the road from where we are staying is the Engine 374 Pavilion complete with the fully restored Engine 374 - the first steam locomotive to pull a transcontinental train into this city on May 3, 1887.



The engine was a key feature during the Expo 1986 celebrations.

The transformation of this area is now complete with mile after mile of luxurious home units along the banks of False Creek. No longer the grotty industrial enclave it was in the earlier times. In some ways it reminds me of the finished product and the gentrification process at Dockside at Kangaroo Point back home in Brisbane.

Vancouver is set out in a very geometric set of square patterns which makes it quite easy to navigate around town with a few curves in the roads around the coves,

inlets and rivers. The mountains of the coast range in the background still have some snow and ice cover on the peaks and the weather at the moment, despite springtime, is a cool 14 degrees today. It's raining, so we decided to spend a day at the Vancouver Art Gallery. Fortunately for us there was a Picasso exhibition in town so we took the guided tour which proved to be quite interesting and a good opener to our adventures in Vancouver. **Leo Scanlan, President**

THE ROYAL GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY OF QUEENSLAND INC

The Society's Annual General Meeting for 2016 will be held on Tuesday, the 20th of September, and as applies each year, all Council positions are vacated and a new Council is elected by the RGSQ members. Nomination for election as a Councillor is required, and currently serving Councillors are free to re-nominate. The Council is constituted of thirteen (13) Councillors.

Several members of the current Council have served as Councillors for many years, and the election process in 2016 may see a number of the current Councillors not offering themselves for re-election.

Members, and particularly those who have joined the Society in more recent years, are strongly encouraged to consider nominating for election to the Council.

The Council has recently adopted two (2) documents dealing with the Role of the Council, and what is involved in serving as a Councillor, and these are presented below. No special expertise is required to serve as a Councillor – simply an interest in contributing to the functioning and development of your Society.

Members requiring further information are encouraged to discuss Council involvement with any of the current Councillors, or with the Executive Officer, Bernard Fitzpatrick. For Nomination Forms (hard copy or email) please contact the RGSQ office at 07 3368 2066 or email at info@rgsq.org.au.

COUNCIL - ROLE DESCRIPTION

Preamble

The functions of the Council are set out in broad terms in Clause 14.1 of the Rules of the Society.

viz: 14.1 "..... the Council

(a) shall have the general control and management of the administration of the affairs, property and funds of the Society; and

(b) shall have the authority to interpret the meaning of these Rules and any matter relating to the Society on which these rules are silent."

These broad functions are more fully expressed in a Role Description for the Council, as follows:

Pursuant to Rule 14.1, the Council shall:

Administration and Management

Ensure:

- (i) that activities conducted align with the Vision and objects of the Society, and at all times in conformity with the Rules of the Society;
- (ii) the financial stability and longevity of the Society, through:

- prudent management of the asset base;
 - regular monitoring of the financial/operating performance;
 - maintenance of sound internal controls.
- (iii) that adequate resources are engaged to support effective and efficient functioning of the Society.
 - (iv) that sound standards of governance are applied at all times.
 - (v) that the Society stays abreast of technology developments as impact of the effective delivery of services to members, and management and administration of the Society.
 - (vi) that the standing and reputation of the Society is maintained, and the heritage of the Society secured.

Periodically, and not less than 3 yearly, conduct a Strategic Review of the Society, including an assessment of the performance of the Council against the functions set out in this Role Description.

Object of the Society

- (i) Identify and implement initiatives, actions and programs that give effect to the object of the Society: viz. to promote and stimulate the study of geography.
- (ii) Establish and maintain suitable associations with relevant academic organisations and individuals involved with the geography discipline, and stay abreast of academic developments as relate to furtherance of Society objects.
- (iii) Maintain associations with like organisations.
- (iv) Identify and pursue opportunities to engage with academic and scientific communities in projects and investigations aligned to the Society objects.
- (v) Identify opportunities to provide support to students pursuing geographic studies.
- (vi) Establish and operate processes designed to assess the standing of the Society's effectiveness in geography extension.

Membership: Member Services

- (i) Develop and implement an (annual) program of member activities which support furtherance of the Society objects.
- (ii) Pursue initiatives that maintain and expand the membership base.
- (iii) Pursue activities that provide opportunities for members to contribute to the functioning of the Society, both through direct participation as a Councillor and otherwise.
- (iv) Encourage member participation on the Council, to achieve continuity in Council composition.
- (v) Monitor member interest/satisfaction in services/activities provided and respond as appropriate.

Adopted by Council – the 10th of May 2016

THE ROYAL GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY OF QUEENSLAND INC.

COUNCILLORS - ROLE DESCRIPTION

Preamble

In adopting this Role Description for Councillors, the Council:

- (a) Considered that a document setting out what is involved in fulfilling the functions of a Councillor serves two (2) principal purposes:

- Provides Members contemplating nominating for election to the Council with a clear outline of what is involved in serving as a Councillor of the Society.
 - Members of any given Council can be aware that their fellow Councillors are operating to a common set of expectations, and
- (b) Recognised that:
- Serving as a Councillor is a voluntary undertaking;
 - Most, if not all Councillors, and potential candidates for election as Councillor are either retired (wholly or partly), or fully engaged in employment/study and are likely to have potentially competing interests.

This document serves as both a Role Description and Statement of Expectations.

Nomination for election is against the understanding that, if elected, the nominee will serve at least one full year on the Council, and acceptance of the following:

1. Attend all scheduled meetings of the Council. If unable to attend due to unforeseen circumstances, ensure that prior advice of non-attendance is provided, and appropriate coverage and reporting of areas of responsibility (if any) to ensure that responsibilities of the role continue to be undertaken in their absence.
For the reasons set out in the preamble, the Council recognises that attendance at every meeting may not be achievable. The expectation is for attendance at the maximum number of meetings, with the meeting attendance history of a Councillor in any year not falling below 80%.
2. Read all meeting material (agendas, minutes, papers, reports etc.) before the meeting, and contribute to discussions in areas of direct expertise, and, generally, take the lead in discussions on topics of direct expertise.
3. Propose matters for discussion (for inclusion on formal agenda and otherwise) relevant to furtherance of the objects, governance, administration and management of the Society.
4. Be prepared to undertake special projects in areas of direct expertise.
5. Complete actions accepted or delegated as promised and to timelines agreed.
6. Accept, along with all other Councillors, shared responsibility to ensure the finances of the Society are well managed.
7. Engage with the wider membership in promotion of the Society and its activities.

Adopted by Council – the 10th of May 2016

From the Editor

In the May Bulletin, we embarked on a mission to in brief explore the evolution of geography as a discipline in itself, from the Greek philosophers to modern times. The article below is the second in the series.

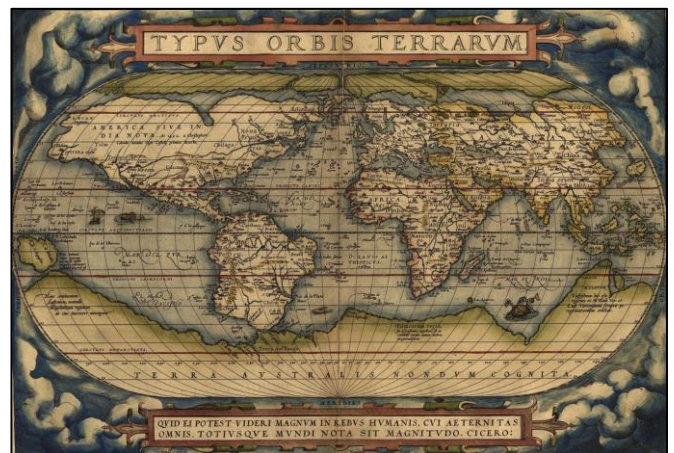
PART TWO: HISTORY OF GEOGRAPHY

Marco Polo's Thirteenth Century publication of his travels in the Orient captured the imagination of European Courts. However, it would be another century before the

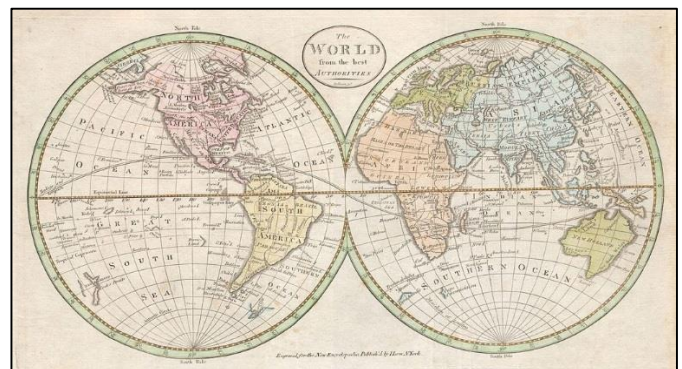
start of the Age of European Exploration (15thC to 18thC) as Europe emerged from its Medieval views into the Renaissance.

While a new era in European history and geography was awakening, China had already been recording observations while exploring their neighbouring regions, which would have involved maritime voyages. Confucius had recorded eclipses in Australia on April 7, 592 BC and August 11, 553 BC. China also has the earliest known geographical writings in the "Yu Gong ('Tribute of Yu') dating back to the 5th Century. As early as the 1st Century BC, the Chinese Han Dynasty had established a trade route with the west. China had been sailing junks to the Middle East and East Africa since the Tang Dynasty (AD 618-907). It is likely that Marco Polo's documented journey may not have been the first European encounter of its kind. Al-Idrisi had compiled his "Book of Roger" from his own and others' accounts of their travels.

The Han trade route was disrupted in the 1400s by the Ottoman Empire. Influenced by mercantile interests, enterprising European countries considered other routes for trade with China to overcome the Ottoman Empire's action. Christopher Columbus' proposal to reach the East Indies by sailing west, and his subsequent voyage across the Atlantic Ocean would begin a progression of European maritime voyages of discovery and exploration. These voyages would provide new information which would advance many aspects of the evolving geographical understanding of the Earth.



Map of the known world, Typus Orbis Terrarum, 1570 by Abraham Ortelius.



Payne Map of the World, 1798. By <http://www.geographicus.com/mm5/cartographers/payne.txt> [Public domain], via Wikimedia Commons

The early age of exploration provided new insights of the Earth, its regions and its peoples. Changes in social and institutional organisation, and the advances in printing which resulted in greater accessibility of text, influenced new ways of thinking. The Scientific Revolution was born. Disciplines of thinking were evolving which influenced and challenged many minds and old ways. Placing people in the context of their environment was evolving into the formal discipline of Geography.

Immanuel Kant (1724 – 1804), a late 18th Century philosopher recognised geography as important in all aspects of knowledge. He recognised three ways of organising knowledge:

- by the type of objects studied (e.g. botany, zoology, geology);
- according to temporal dimension (history); and,
- relative to spatial relationships (geography).

Within geography, Kant recognised sub-disciplines which included: physical, mathematical, moral, political, commercial, and theological.

Recognised by many as the founder of modern geography, Alexander von Humboldt (1769 – 1859) was fortunate at a relatively young age to inherit substantial wealth which allowed him to travel widely, undertake field studies, and self-publish. However, by 1827 he needed to find a steady income, and he became an advisor to the King of Prussia. Publishing “Kosmos” in his later years, von Humboldt is credited for introducing a systematic approach to geography.

Carl Ritter (1779 – 1859) along with von Humboldt are considered cofounders of modern geographical science. However, some have argued that Ritter’s work was based on the observations of others. Even so, he is considered to have initiated comparative geography and influenced the development of regional geography. While his works were influenced by history, he considered geography should be studied by the natural divisions of the Earth’s surface. The natural divisions defined by watershed and mountain ranges.

The 19th Century would see the formation of Geographical Societies in many regions of the world, including the Royal Geographical Society in England in 1830; The Royal Geographical Society of Australasia (Queensland) in 1885, and the National Geographic Society in 1888.

Map Group Gathering

When: Monday, July 4

Time: 10:00 am

Where: Gregory House, 237 Milton Rd, Milton.

Key Event: Review and Study of key historic/rare maps held in RGSQ’s Map Library. Aim is to determine and then later, prepare a Map Display for wider RGSQ membership. Map Group members will be emailed further details closer to the date.

Bob Abnett, Map Group Coordinator

Meeting/Lecture Tuesday, July 5, 2016

Where: “Gregory House”, 237 Milton Rd, Milton

Time: 7:30 pm

“Endurance horse riding in Australia”

presented by Virginia Dale

Virginia Dale will join us on Tuesday, 5 July 2016 to speak about the dedication and trials that accompany long-distance horse riding. Endurance riding offers wonderful opportunities to travel vast distances with your horse, criss-cross state forests, ride bush tracks and explore hidden tracks on private land.



The motto of endurance riding is ‘TO COMPLETE IS TO WIN’ and Virginia can vouch for that!

Endurance riding is a winter sport run by dedicated volunteers. There are approximately 10 annual rides on the South East Queensland and Northern NSW calendar.

The pinnacle of Australian endurance riding is the Tom Quilty Gold Cup – 160 km in 24 hours. Just to make the start line of the Tom Quilty is an achievement in itself. At midnight on Friday, 7 October 2016 the 51st Tom Quilty will run in Lexton, north of Ballarat, Victoria. The Tom Quilty travels from state to state each year giving all competitors an opportunity to compete in their home state.

Horses and all living creatures are Virginia’s passion. Adoring adventure and wide open spaces Virginia has been dog mushing in Alaska, spent time with elephants in Chang Mai, climbed Kilimanjaro and crossed the Great Sandy Desert on foot. Whether she is spending time in Australian deserts with camels or riding horses across the continent from Darwin to Adelaide, Virginia is always up for a challenge.

Synopsis, June Lecture: “Biophysical remote sensing”, presented by Professor Stuart Phinn

At the Society’s monthly lecture on Tuesday 7 June, Professor Stuart Phinn (<https://www.gpem.uq.edu.au/stuart-phinn>), a Geographer from the School of Geography, Planning and Environmental Management, the University of Queensland, presented an easy to listen to, well-illustrated, and informative, albeit sometimes technical lecture on biophysical remote sensing. Stuart, a local Brisbane person who attended St Pauls School at Bald Hills had Ken Sutton as his geography teacher (<http://www.stpauls.qld.edu.au/?page=431>).

The Society's Ken Sutton Memorial Library is named in honour of our member and former RGSQ President who died in 1986.

Awarded the RGSQ University Medal for top final year Geography student at the University of Queensland in 1990, Stuart went on to undertake his PhD in remote sensing in the USA as a Fulbright Scholar.

Stuart introduced the audience to the basics of remote sensing and how the interaction of light with vegetation and other land-cover types is recorded as data that can be displayed as images or analysed to produce information products. In addition to land-cover, sea surface temperatures, ocean circulation, and weather parameters can be sensed by specially designed remote sensing instruments. Some of the derived products are presented to us in our everyday lives, for example as maps in daily weather reports. He introduced the audience to some applications of remote sensing and outlined how Geographers are able to analyse remote sensing datasets, integrate the derived information and data products with other data and information to produce important products that help scientists and resource managers build a greater knowledge and better understanding of the Earth's biophysical functioning thus providing important information for more informed decision making.

With advances in digital access and visualisation techniques, the presentation of these complex information is more accessible to the general public. For example:

- Recent changes in cloud cover over Australia every ten minutes - <http://satview.bom.gov.au/>
- Wind speed over Australia every three hours - <http://www.bom.gov.au/australia/meteye/>
- Interactive live global surface wind movements - <https://earth.nullschool.net/>

However, Australia's access to the satellites datasets that provide this all-important information is only allowed through the good will of other countries. Australia's access to these data could be turned off at any time. As such, it is imperative that Australia address our space data needs. **Bernard Fitzpatrick**

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 tour is currently fully booked, however, due to possible cancellation of reservations, members who wish to join the tour will be waitlisted. Please inquire with the RGSQ Office at 07 3368 2066 or email at admin@rgsq.org.au.

The price includes a return vintage train ride to Hendon on Saturday 23rd 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 22nd, 23rd and 24th of July.

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

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

August Activity: Pond to Plate

When: Thursday, August 18

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. Bring a hat, walking shoes and water bottle. Expected arrival time at Eagle Junction Railway Station is 4:30 pm. Time is dependent on traffic conditions.

Do join us. Numbers are limited to 34.

Please notify RGSQ Office of any dietary requirements.

Jeanette Lamont

July Activity: Fun, Food, and Games Thursday, 14 July

Please note, due to lack of numbers this activity has now been cancelled.

Welcome New Members

We have much pleasure in welcoming **Neil Macleod and Nancy Hunter** as new members. We hope your association with your new Society is long and mutually enjoyable.

Ken Sutton Memorial Library Group

When: Monday, 25 July

Time: 9:00 am to 11:30 am

Where: Gregory House, 237 Milton Rd, Milton.

Australian Geography Competition helpers please!

A big thank you to all members who volunteered to assist with the scanning of the returned answer sheets. While some volunteers were unable to assist on particular days, I would like to, especially, thank Mary Comer, Roger Grimley and John and Mary Nowill who got involved and helped with this process.

There is one more Australian Geography Competition mail-out when we'll need help from our volunteers:

Wednesday, the 20th of July to Friday, the 22nd 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.

RGSQ Bulletin

July 2016

Lecture/Meeting: Tue 5 July 7:30 pm

"Endurance horse riding in Australia" (Tom Quilty Gold Cup Race) presented by Virginia Dale.

Tours and Activities: *Weekend Trek: Jumpers and Jazz in the Downs, Warwick, July, Fri 22 to Mon 25.*

Map Group: Mon 4 July 10:00 am, "Gregory House", 237 Milton Rd, Milton.

Ken Sutton Memorial Library Group: Mon 25 July 9:00 am, "Gregory House", 237 Milton Rd, Milton.

Volunteer Days: Wed-Fri July 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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