



# RGSQ Bulletin

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

President: [Professor James Shulmeister](#)

## From the President

The new Council has had its first meeting and lots of exciting ideas were discussed. I am pleased to advise that we are well advanced with plans for an RGSQ lecture on the Sunshine Coast. Adrian McCallum who is a lecturer at the University of the Sunshine Coast (USC), but more importantly for this purpose, a polar expeditioner, has agreed to give the lecture. Adrian is a very new member of the Society and an exciting man. He has worked with noted British adventurer/explorer Sir Ranulf Fiennes on a winter expedition across the Antarctic and has some remarkable plans for the future, including the idea of abseiling the north face of Everest! Through the good offices of Jen Carter, we have negotiated the use of a lecture theatre at USC. We plan to run the lecture in early-mid February and we hope that this is the start of a tradition of lectures outside Brisbane. Watch the next Bulletin for more details. This is not the only new initiative. We have some other ideas that are coming through to fruition, so please watch this space.

Christmas is almost upon us and I urge you all to come along to our Christmas party/picnic which is at Wellington Point on December 10<sup>th</sup>. Please advise the RGSQ Office if you do plan to come as that will allow us to make sure we have the appropriate facilities and catering for the day. It is always a very enjoyable event. I regret that I won't be there as I will be on fieldwork in South-Western Tasmania looking at the glacial history of an area near Lake Pedder. While I regret not making the party I am really looking forward to spending some time in one of the most beautiful areas in the whole of Australia.

One piece of news really caught my eye in the last week. That was the global agreement under the Montreal Protocol to limit hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs). The 1987 Montreal Protocol is arguably the most successful international agreement on the environment. It limited Chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) which are both powerful greenhouse gases and remarkable agents of ozone destruction if they get into the stratosphere. The success of the protocol has led to the virtual elimination of CFCs which, in due course, has resulted in the diminishment of the so-called hole in the ozone layer with ozone returning to natural levels in the last few years. To be honest, I didn't even know that the Montreal Protocol parties still met, less still that there was significant work to be done eliminating HFCs. These are a class of extremely

powerful greenhouse gases that do not occur naturally. Less harmful than CFCs they were not banned in 1987 and are now contributing significantly to global warming. It was re-assuring to see a global agreement to tackle these gases also though it will be nearly twenty years before all countries start to limit their use. As per usual the negotiation is partly about the science (which is clear) and partly about social impacts in the developing world. In other words this a geography problem. I raise this because I would like the RGSQ to extend ourselves a bit. I didn't know about the HFCs and I wonder how many of us did? Should RGSQ take interest in topics like this? What do you think?



**Jamie Shulmeister, President**

## Lecture of the Month: Tuesday, November 1

7:30 pm, "Gregory House", 237 Milton Rd, Milton  
**"Hidden Secrets of Fraser Island"**

*presented by Mike West*



Mike West in a creek on Fraser Isl., amongst "Todea Barbara" – very rare, over 500-year-old fern.

Mike West claims to have been good at Geography at school but he is still not sure of the difference between Geography and Geomorphology which was so vital in listing Fraser Island on World Heritage.

He has had a long involvement in Fraser Island (K'Gari) and is credited with discovering the island's only endemic animal, the Satinay Sand Skink. At the time this small

lizard was thought to be the last reptile genus to be discovered in Australia.

Mike is a long time key player in K'Gari's conservation. During the logging blockades he was named "John Sinclair's henchman on Fraser Island" by the local newspapers.

He has seen radical changes on K'Gari since World Heritage with many special places losing their "naturalness". He has sought out and found many places that reignite the shock of discovering what are now tourist icons, but are still pristine.

He is preparing a documentary of "The Hidden Secrets of Fraser Island" and will give the Society a sneak preview.

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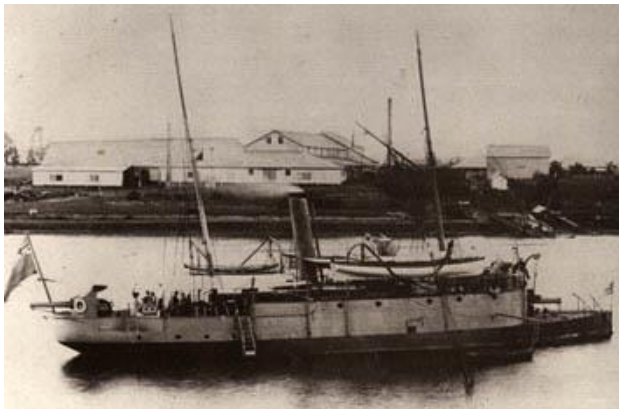
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### **Synopsis October Lecture: 'Naval Brigade in Qld' presented by Capt RWG (Bob) Hume, RFD, RANR**

To understand the importance of the Naval Brigade in the defence of Colonial Queensland initially, and then the Commonwealth of Australia at a later date, it is vital to be aware of the restrictions imposed on the army in relation to overseas activities.

Prior to federation each state had a mainly volunteer Navy and a Citizens Military Force (CMF)/Militia army. The role of the Army was the defence of the state with a few professional/regular soldiers serving as instructors or artillerymen manning the Coastal Artillery.

The first efforts of an Australian Government to provide for local naval defence were inspired by the Crimean War when news reached Sydney that a Russian warship was cruising off Cape Horn which triggered the building or buying of gunboats. In 1884 Queensland and South Australia began to build their own navies with gunboats Gayundah and Paluma plus a torpedo boat (Qld) with Protector, a small but heavily armed cruiser (SA) being launched.



"HMQS Gayundah in Bundaberg in 1890", image sourced from Queensland Naval Brigade Historical Association, <http://homepage.powerup.com.au/~qdeck/navy.htm>.

Queensland had formed a Naval Brigade in 1873 as part of its defence force with companies in Brisbane, Maryborough, Bundaberg, Gladstone, Mackay, Townsville and Cairns. A detachment was established on Thursday Island where there was a major coal bunker. The brigade's role was to guard installations, operate harbour patrols and inspection services, man boarding parties and lookouts.

After the Federation of Australia in 1901 all of the state navies were absorbed into the Commonwealth Naval Forces consisting of about 1,000 men (of these 900 on a part time basis) and a few hundred cadets. Ships available were two cruisers, two gunboats, two first-class and three second-class torpedo boats, and two launches. Ship launching dates were 1869 (1), 1883-84 (7), 1891(1) but in 1914 five of these ships were still serving when the Royal Australian Navy fleet of 16 vessels included two submarines. These figures indicate the speedy growth of the fleet of seven in 1911 but the size and capability of the vessels are even more impressive.

When the First World War was declared, the British Government decided as a matter of urgency to destroy the German wireless stations throughout the German Pacific Colonies at Yap in the Caroline Islands, Nauru and at Rabaul, New Britain and the task was given to Australia. However, the Defence Department was already heavily involved with creating and organising the Australian Imperial Force (AIF) to be embarked within six weeks. It was decided to raise a smaller naval and military force, the Australian Naval and Military Expeditionary Force (AN&MEF), for the task. The planning took only three days with six companies of the Naval Brigade to be enlisted from Qld, NSW, Vic and SA.

A battalion of infantry, with two machinegun sections, a signals section and a medical detachment in support was to be enlisted from NSW. Colonel William Holmes was appointed to be Force Commander, Lieutenant Colonel Russel Watson, Army Commander, (1000 men) and Commander J.A.H. Beresford RAN, Navy Commander, (500 men). The whole force of 1500 was embarked by noon of 18<sup>th</sup> August on the ex P&O liner Berrima, which had been converted to a troopship in six days, and it sailed at noon of 19<sup>th</sup> August.

Berrima in company with light cruiser Sydney reached Palm Island on 24 August where they formed up with supply ship Aorangi, cruiser Encounter, submarine tenders Protector and Upoli and submarines AE 1 and AE 2. A delay ensued until after 30 August when HMAS Australia, HMAS Melbourne and the French cruiser Montcalm supported the New Zealand force to occupy Samoa. The AN&AEF then sailed to Port Moresby where it met the Kennedy Regiment and TSS Kanowna. It was decided to leave the Kennedy Regiment and the Kanowna in Port Moresby and the force sailed for German New Guinea on 7 September. At 6am on 11 September Berrima reached Karavia Bay, Gazelle Peninsula, New Britain. Here, a landing party from the Sydney via destroyers was landed at 7am on a jetty for Kabakaul.

The landing party consisted of 2 officers and 25 sailors supported by an army doctor, a medical aide and a telegraphist and its aim was the capture of the Pitapaka wireless station about 7 kilometres inland. Before leaving the village the party was reinforced by another 2 officers and ten men from the destroyers. The Australians were resisted by a mixed force of German reservists and Melanesian native police who forced them to fight their way to their objective. By nightfall the radio station was reached and it was found to be abandoned, the instruments and machinery were intact but the mast had been dropped. Casualties were seven Australians killed

and five wounded and the Germans had one NCO and about 30 Melanesians killed with one German and 10 Melanesians wounded. Seaman W.G.Y. Williams became the first Australian fatality of the war.

At nightfall on 12 September, Berrima, unopposed, landed the AN&MEF infantry battalion plus a company of the Naval Brigade at Rabaul. At 3pm on 13 September, a flag raising ceremony was carried out to signal the British occupation of New Britain. The German administration had withdrawn inland to Toma and at dawn on 14 September, HMAS Encounter bombarded a ridge near the town, while half a battalion supported by a field gun advanced towards the town. This display of firepower was enough to start negotiations on ending the Siege of Toma and Terms were signed on 17 September and all military resistance ceased. The remaining 40 German soldiers and 110 natives surrendered on 21 September.

Meanwhile Submarine AE 1, crewed by 3 officers and 32 men, departed Blanche Bay at 7am 14 September to patrol off Cape Gazelle and was last seen at 3.30 pm off the Duke of York Island and has not been seen since.

Nauru wireless station had been destroyed by HMAS Melbourne on 9 September and the Germany colony at Madang on the New Guinea mainland was occupied on 24 September and over the next two months the remaining outposts were occupied. The Caroline and Marshall Islands, an earlier Australian objective, had been occupied by the Japanese.

Admiral Pacey on 12 September handed over the further operations in German New Guinea to Colonel Holmes. Holmes set up a military government, which lasted until 1921 when Australia received a League of Nations mandate to govern the territory. Holmes thereby became the First Military Administrator of German New Guinea and he handed over to Brigadier General Sir Samuel Petherbridge on 9 January 1915.

Because the German Colonies had become Australian Mandates in 1912, when the Japanese invaded those areas in the Second World War, Australia was able to field CMF units there because they were within the confines of Australia. CMF units delayed the Japanese on the Kokoda Trail and for the first time fought beside the AIF at Milne Bay when the Japanese suffered their first defeat on land.

**Dal Anderson, RGSQ Member**

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## November Activity

### PUMICESTONE PASSAGE LARC EXCURSION

**When:** Wednesday, November 2

**Time:** 9:30 am

**Where:** Boat ramp, Short Street, Golden Beach Queensland

**Cost:** \$75 per person

**RSVP:** Wednesday, October 19

How about coming along for a great day out with RGSQ once again on November 2 for a unique look into Pumicestone Passage on the North Western side of Bribie Island.

This 2 hour excursion delves into the history, flora and fauna at the southern end of the Sunshine Coast. This part of the Pumicestone Passage abounds with over 350 species of

migratory and regional birds, and varied marine life including the occasional dugong, dolphin and turtle.

All this from the deck of a living piece of history - the LARC V which was originally built in the 1960's. Other than the custom passenger deck, this LARC has been kept in the original condition as much as possible. This is a great opportunity to see a small part of the northern Pumicestone Passage from a different perspective.

This tour lasts approximately 2 hours. Cost for this excursion is \$75 payable to the RGSQ Office before the event. Numbers are limited. Bookings need to be finalised by Wednesday, the 19<sup>th</sup> of October, to facilitate numbers for the tour.

The LARC operators have promised this eco excursion will be slightly different to the one presented last year.

This tour will finish at the Caloundra Power Boat Club where we have organised lunch (12:30 pm), included in the cost of the activity. The lunch menu at the Power Boat Club is a choice of Roast of the Day or Crumbed Fish, chips, and salad, followed by Pavlova and Fruit Salad. Tea and coffee is an extra at your own expense.

At the completion of lunch at 2pm we will be ferried by the Power Boat Club Courtesy Bus to our car park in Short Street.

At 2:30 pm I have organised a further tour in Caloundra at the Queensland Air Museum, 7 Pathfinder Drive Caloundra West. This tour will cost an extra \$10 and is not included in the overall cost. The tour will last approximately one hour. However I do need definitive numbers to proceed with the last part of this excursion.

This promises to be quite an eye opener as this Aircraft Museum is now the largest of its type in Australia and has 70 aircraft on display.

#### Directions

- Drive into Caloundra on Caloundra Road/Bulcock Street;
- Turn right at the main traffic lights out the front of Stockland Shopping Centre into Landsborough Parade;
- Proceed along Landsborough Parade about 500 m then, just after the pedestrian crossing;
- Turn left from Landsborough Parade into Short Street;
- Follow the road about 200 m to the boat ramp.

You have reached your destination - 'LARC About' tours.

I will be there to meet you at the boat ramp.

**Leo Scanlan**

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## CANBERRA: 10 DAYS IN THE NATION'S CAPITAL

WHEN: Arrive 10<sup>TH</sup> – Depart 20<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2017

*Highlights - The Canberra Balloon Spectacular, Parliament House, The Australian War Memorial, The National Art Gallery, The National Library, Lake Burley Griffin Walk, Mount Ainsley at dusk, and much, much more.*

If you are interested in joining RGSQ in March 2017 you will need to book your accommodation now to avoid disappointment. The Canberra Balloon Spectacular is held between the 11<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> of March and bookings are already heavy for motel/caravan park accommodation in Canberra at this time. To hold our group together to facilitate 'happy hour' and communication regarding our programme etc., I have chosen the Alivio Tourist Park as our base which provides for a variety of accommodation choices. *To register for this trek and book your accommodation please follow the directions below:*



1. To register your interest in 'CANBERRA, 10 DAYS IN THE NATION'S CAPITAL' please phone the RGSQ Office on 07 3368 2066.
2. To guarantee your accommodation at Alivio Tourist Park from Friday March 10 to Monday morning March 20, please phone 02 6247 5466 or email: [reservations@aliviogroup.com.au](mailto:reservations@aliviogroup.com.au) and don't forget to mention you are travelling with the RGSQ group.

If you book online Wi-Fi is free while you're staying at Alivio Tourist Park and your booking can be cancelled free of charge up until a fortnight before you are due to arrive. **Leo Scanlan**

### RGSQ Christmas Party/Picnic

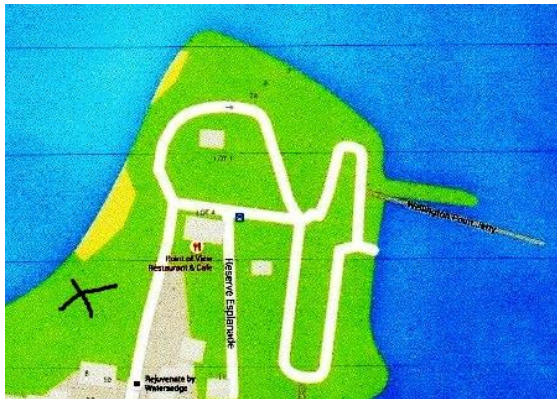
**There will be no Lecture on the usual Tuesday night in December.**

**When:** Saturday 10 December 2016

**Time:** 10am – 3pm

**Where:** Under the RGSQ marquee at Wellington Point Reserve.

After a very successful 'Christmas picnic in the park' in 2015, we have decided to make Wellington Point the destination for RGSQ's Christmas party in 2016 as well. Bring along your own picnic lunch/drinks, sunscreen, the kids, the grandchildren, a hat and a chair, and join us to celebrate the end of another very successful RGSQ Geographical year.



X is the RGSQ Marquee

Christmas cake and Fruit Platter supplied.

To ascertain number attending could you please RSVP by Friday, December 2 by contacting the RGSQ Office at 3368 2066 or via email at [info@rgsq.org.au](mailto:info@rgsq.org.au). **Leo Scanlan**

### March 2017 event: FELTON FOOD FESTIVAL

**What:** Bus trip to Felton Food Festival

**When:** 26 March 2017

**Cost:** \$37 per person, please book with RGSQ Office

**Entry:** \$2 at the entrance to the festival.

**Getting there:** Departure from Park Road, Eagle Junction at 7:30 am, arrive at Felton Food Festival 10am.

**Getting back:** Depart Felton at 15:00 pm for return to Brisbane

**RSVP:** Friday 17 March

*The cost covers the bus trip to and from Felton and includes morning tea in Gatton.*

This is a festival that showcases country life and land. Every year, families and friends interested in authentic country living and real food come to celebrate in the surrounds of the beautiful Felton Valley.

The vibrant atmosphere is picked up across the many and varied market stalls. There will be occasions to meet local farmers, enjoy cooking demonstrations, find out more about the paddock to plate phenomenon, take a crop tour, taste good food and engage with other families and friends.

Felton is just under two hours from Brisbane and the country festival makes for a great day out.

To find out more, please

visit: <http://www.feltonfoodfestival.org.au>

### Ken Sutton Memorial Library Group

**When:** Monday, November 28

**Time:** 9:00 am

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

### Map Group Gathering

**When:** Monday, November 7

**Time:** 10:00 am

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

### November, 2016

- Monday 7 November 10 am:

*Key Event:* Map Library Sub-Group to present a further Display on Rare/Historic Maps held in Map Library. To be displayed in the Meeting Room and Auditorium.

- Wednesday, 16 November:

*GIS Day:* Map Group members can visit this event. 6 to 8 members visited the 2015 event. Free entry, pre-registration required - <http://www.gisday.com/>.

### December, 2016

- Monday, 5 December 10 am:

*Map Group Social Event – Christmas Party.* Details will be determined at the November Map Group Gathering - will discuss starting time; appropriate food & drinks, who will be Santa - a few members could qualify!!!

### RGSQ Library - Transitioning into the digital age – we need your help!

The RGSQ library contains a wide range of books, audio visual recordings, atlases, journals, maps, photographs, RGSQ history and reports. We have rare items dating back to the 18<sup>th</sup> century. The Library Group is currently transitioning this resource into the digital age with the project of publishing our entire catalogue online via the Society's Web Page.

We need short term volunteer help beginning in 2017.

### Can you spare a few hours a month?

Come along and join the team working in the library! The tasks being undertaken are shown below.

### **Catalogue check**

**Task:** Audit the shelf holdings against the database catalogue to highlight possible discrepancies.

**Duration:** One half day per month for approximately 6 months.

**Persons required:** 3 to 4 persons

### **Database and card file comparison**

The society has a card file system and an electronic database. The card file system will be retired in due course and the electronic database will become the prime document and the basis for online searching.

**Task:** Check to ensure that information in the card file is reflected accurately in the database prior to its retirement.

**Duration:** One half day per month for approximately 5 months.

**Persons Required:** 3 to 4

### **Identification of degraded books**

**Task:** Examine the library collection to identify which books require restoration. The information recorded will form the basis of an application for a grant to carry out restorative works.

**Duration:** One half day per month for approximately 3 months.

**Persons required:** 1 to 2

### **Cataloguing new acquisitions**

**Task:** To record details of new acquisitions in preparation for entry into the database.

**Duration:** One half day per month for approximately 3 months.

**Persons Required:** 1 to 2

### **Video Cassette to digital media conversion**

**Task:** To convert our video cassettes into digital format. We are looking for members who have the necessary software on their personal computers to convert VHS recordings to digital format. RGSQ would provide the member(s) with VHS cassettes and a portable hard drive to receive the digital recording. There must be many members who own the appropriate software to achieve this and it is a task that can be done at home in your spare time.

**Duration:** We have approximately 100 VHS recordings to be converted

**Persons Required:** 4-8

Anyone interested in assisting the Library Group or seeking further information should contact the RGSQ office on 07 3368 2066 or email at [info@rgsq.org.au](mailto:info@rgsq.org.au). Our Library Group coordinator is Robin Simson [robinsimson5@bigpond.com](mailto:robinsimson5@bigpond.com) alternatively contact Ian Francis [brisfran@gmail.com](mailto:brisfran@gmail.com)

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## **RGSQ Awarded Community Heritage Grant**

The RGSQ has been successful in its application for the 2016 Community Heritage Grants for a significance assessment of the RGSQ collection. The grant of \$4,500 will be used to engage a qualified consultant to assess the RGSQ's collection. 172 applications submitted and 77 organisations were offered a grant.

The Community Heritage Grants program is funded by the Australian Government through the National Library of Australia; the Department of Communications and the Arts; the National Archives of Australia; the National Film

and Sound Archive and the National Museum of Australia.

Member, Chris Hall of the Society's Map Group assisted with the preparation of the Grant application, and volunteers of the Society's Map and Library Groups have been working regularly to prepare for the assessment.

The Society holds a number of interesting artefacts and items which have been collected and acquired since its formation in 1885. A number of these while significant to the Society, are believed to potentially be of national significance.



From the RGSQ artefacts: Sir Thomas Mitchell's Camera Lucida and Sketch Kit.

Receiving this grant and undertaking the national significance assessment is intended to be a first stage in a longer term project to identify and appropriately manage our collection.

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## **DONATIONS TO MAP LIBRARY AND KEN SUTTON LIBRARY**

**MAP LIBRARY:** The National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) of Queensland, based in Toowoomba, has donated a number of old hard copy maps to the Map Library. These maps are not originals, but copies of maps dating from the 1950s - 1990s. The donation covers maps not currently in the possession of the Map Library. These are focused on the Darling Downs, Far Western Queensland, Central Queensland, plus some maps on South East Queensland, North West Queensland and Northern Queensland. The types of maps covered include soil, geology, land use and land systems (e.g. land suitability and land capability); plus landsat and orthophoto images of areas in Southern Queensland.

- At the September AGM, Ken Granger, an RGSQ member and former RGSQ President, donated a map published by National Mapping in 1971 and authored by Ken. The map covers the population distribution of PNG. There are very few, if any, of them still "in captivity".
- **KEN SUTTON LIBRARY:** At the September AGM, Ken Granger also donated two PNG Atlases for the RGSQ Library: an "Atlas of PNG" published in 1970 and a far more comprehensive "PNG Resource Atlas", published in 1974. Both are relatively rare within Australia.

## Did you know?

### QUEENSLAND - THE SUNSHINE STATE

- ✚ Queensland makes up almost one quarter of the Australian mainland and is Australia's second largest State.
- ✚ Lt James Cook spent 110 days and landed 9 times in what, on 6 June, 1859, was proclaimed the State of Queensland.
- ✚ Cook discovered the Great Barrier Reef in 1770. It is between 16 & 300 km off the coast and is not continuous. Lagoons are between 15 & 20 fathoms deep. His botanist identified more than 350 varieties of coral.
- ✚ The first free settlers arrived in 1842, 3 years after the closure of the penal establishment.
- ✚ Of more than 700 native bird species in Australia 550 have been found in Queensland.
- ✚ At Cabarlah (near Toowoomba) the Farmers Arms Hotel claims to be the longest continually licensed pub in Queensland.

- ✚ One of the longest surviving landmarks in Brisbane is the old Observatory, originally built by convicts as a windmill but the sails never operated properly. Later, it became a meteorological station and, in 1934, Australia's first televised picture was an image of the structure transmitted to Ipswich. **Audrey Johnston, RGSQ Member.**

**RGSQ Council:** Margaret McIvor, long term RGSQ member and Council member has been appointed RGSQ Secretary for the 2016-2017 Council at the October Council Meeting.

# RGSQ Bulletin

November 2016

**Lecture of the Month:** Tue 1 November 7:30 pm  
*"Hidden secrets of Fraser Island" presented by Mike West.*

**Event:** Day Outing – LARC Excursion Caloundra, Wed 2 November.

**Map Group:** Map Group meeting: Mon 7 November 10:00 am, "Gregory House", 237 Milton Rd, Milton.

**Ken Sutton Memorial Library:** Mon 28 November, 9:00 am, "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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