



RGSQ Bulletin

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

President: [Professor James Shulmeister](#)

■ From the President

I would like to start by wishing all RGSQ members a very merry Christmas and a great 2017. It is hard to believe another year has almost passed. This year's last speaker was Mike West who talked about the hidden wonders of Fraser Island. Mike is a very interesting guy and while his presentation was unconventional it was very good indeed. We have hopes of organising a trip out to the island in the next 12 months. Please watch this space. We can now confirm that Adrian McCallum will speak on the Sunshine Coast in the 3rd week in February, at the University of the Sunshine Coast. If you are a Brisbane member and would like to attend, please contact the RGSQ Office as we may try to organise a group to go up to the talk in February.

The Society was recently successful in receiving a cultural heritage grant for the National Significance Evaluation of the RGSQ collection of maps, books and memorabilia. It has come as a shock to me about just how much material of significance is held in our collections and I commend Chris Hall and Bernard Fitzpatrick for developing this initiative and submitting the successful grant application to examine the collection. We received \$4,500 to do the initial assessment of the collection. The assessment is only the first step. We hope to develop a 5-6-year project to, first, assess and then develop the capability to store and ultimately display the collection properly. This will be a significant enhancement of the Society once complete and I enthusiastically support these initial steps.

Obviously the major event this month was the US election. From a geographical view this was a very interesting event. (here you will get a Physical geographer's view on political geography and demography). Before we all get ready have Pauline Hanson as our next Premier in Queensland, a few things need to be considered. Donald Trump got about one million less votes than Mitt Romney the Republican candidate in 2012. Hillary Clinton got about 6 million less votes than Barack Obama in 2012, so the real story was Trump's ability to persuade the Democrat base not to

vote with the 'Crooked Hilary' campaign. This was amplified by a variety of regional factors. In Florida, the key factor was that although Donald Trump did badly with most Latinos, he held the Cuban exile votes, especially in the over 50s, who remember and have not forgotten the democrats' role in the Bay of Pigs fiasco. In the rust belt, Trump's protectionist policies played very well in the coal and iron and car towns that have been in perpetual decline over the last 50 years. Trump promised tariff protection and new opportunities. Clinton still won the popular (or in this case the unpopular) vote by over a million votes but narrow losses in Florida (Cuban ex-pats) and Ohio and Pennsylvania (blue collar workers) cruelled her chances.

Can this happen in Australia? Maybe, but unlikely. Australia has compulsory voting and it is unlikely that the sectional appeal of One Nation can actually penetrate to reach more than 20-25% of voters at most. That doesn't mean that they won't play an important part in state politics in the next few years but don't get overly excited or worried about the prospects of a One Nation government.



Jamie Shulmeister, President

■ Lecture of the Month

Please be advised that there will be no lecture on the usual first Tuesday of the month in December. The February lecture will be advertised in the February 2017 Bulletin.

RGSQ are trialling the idea of lectures outside Brisbane, with the first lecture to be held at the University of the Sunshine Coast in association with the university. This will be in addition to the monthly lecture at RGSQ. Information about this lecture and the presenter on next page. More organisational details will be provided with the February Bulletin.

RGSQ Lecture on the Sunshine Coast

“Polar perambulations and other adventurous wanderings” by *Dr Adrian McCallum*

The lecture is organised by RGSQ in association with the University of the Sunshine Coast.

Date: Tuesday, February 21, 2017

Time: 7:00 pm – 10 pm

Where: University of the Sunshine Coast

Venue: Lecture Theatre 2 (K Block)

Dr Adrian McCallum currently serves as a Lecturer in science & engineering, and manages courses in soil mechanics, geotechnical engineering and climate change adaptation. He is fortunate to have led a life of adventure and exploration around the globe and is an expert in remote area science & engineering.



Dr Adrian McCallum supervising blasting and excavation works in Thala Valley, Casey Station, Antarctica as part of investigations into a sustainable road over permanent ice. Photo courtesy of Adrian McCallum.

He holds a PhD from the Scott Polar Research Institute, University of Cambridge and additional degrees in oceanography, meteorology and civil engineering. In 2002 he was awarded the Australian Centenary Medal for his stewardship of the 2001 Australian Army Centenary Everest Expedition and he is a Menzies Scholar and Director of the Menzies Foundation; a non-profit, non-political organisation created to promote excellence in health research, scholarship and postgraduate study by Australians.

During twenty years' service across the Australian Defence Forces he served in numerous diverse roles such as helicopter navigator, meteorologist and civil engineer and he has led or participated in adventurous scientific expeditions around the globe. These investigations have taken him to many far-flung locations including Svalbard, Greenland, across the Arctic and Antarctica, and to the Himalaya and the ice caps of Patagonia.

He orchestrated Sir Ranulph Fiennes' ground-breaking 2013 winter Transantarctic expedition, he owns a company specialising in remote area science and engineering and he regularly consults to the Australian Antarctic Division and other international agencies on polar infrastructural and operational matters.

Synopsis - November Lecture - “Hidden Secrets of Fraser Island” presented by Mike West

Mike is a self-confessed activist for the continuing preservation of Fraser Island. He gave the well-attended RGSQ audience a most entertaining presentation on the “Hidden Secrets of Fraser Island”, with many anecdotes together with great pictures and videos as well as a display including many photographs and a giant map of the island.

Mike West has had a long involvement in Fraser Island, the largest sand island in the world, thought to be about 7000 years old and now World Heritage listed. He is a member of *the Fraser Island World Heritage Area Community Advisory Committee*. He was heavily involved with the successful anti-logging campaigns in the 1980s and has been described as John Sinclair's henchman! These actions contributed to the granting of World Heritage status to Fraser Island in 1992.

He frequently refers to Fraser Island's indigenous name of K'Gari, which in the Butchulla's peoples' language is Paradise. He recognizes that Captain James Cook named some of the island's features such as Indian Head, but prefers reversion to the original native names.

Mike described many different trees on the island. These are quite accessible from tracks including the giant Kauri trees, the 500-year-old *Todea Barbera* king ferns and probably the tallest Tallowwoods in the world.



Mike against an ancient tree stump of a logged Satinay. Image courtesy of Mike West.

The massive Satinay trees which are unique to Fraser Island and the Cooloolo Coast were subject to the logging practices. There are also giant Blackbutt, one with a diameter of 4.3 meters and thousands of years old.

There is a lot of evidence of major regrowth with some great examples of trees regenerating from fallen trunks. There is one place where there is a copse consisting of Kauri, Satinay, White Beech, Blackbutt and Tallowwood.

Mike West also claims to have discovered a new genus of a skink which is the only endemic lizard on Fraser Island - The Satinay Sand Skink which is described as a sand-swimming skink.

He showed us incredible pictures of algae described as “Jelly Doughnuts”, and fascinating pictures of the blue mushrooms found on the island.

Fraser Island has rare pattern ferns which are only usually found at high altitudes and latitudes. There is an extensive area of these ferns on the island at virtually sea level, leading to an absolute unique water flow system.

Mike is also a birder and has identified many rare birds on the island and has given a presentation to Birds Queensland on his findings.

Mike detailed many different sites of places to see, some of which are on the tourist tracks. Unfortunately, some visitors are not aware of the vulnerability of their surroundings and eco-systems are suffering. However, he is enthusiastic about the multiple trails including the continually developing Great Walk of Fraser Island currently 90kms. The Fraser Island Defenders Organisation and the National Parks Association of Queensland are extending the Great Walk in memory of the late George Haddock. These trails tend to attract a more sympathetic audience for the preservation of the fauna and flora.

Trail bikes are beginning to appear and should be banned according to Mike. A lot of the tracks are in very poor condition but a suggestion of a light rail tram system would be a lot more ecologically sustainable, instead of use of the "roads". This has fallen on deaf ears by the State Government.

There are completely unspoilt and secret areas, one of which Mike described as very spiritual and dark rainforest, and very rarely seen. There are parts of the island very little travelled, and he is very committed to continuing to preserving its unique bio-diversity.

It would be wonderful if a trek could be organised by RGSQ in the future using Mike and other people's knowledge of the island. **Story by Chris Spriggs, RGSQ Member**

CANBERRA: 10 DAYS IN THE NATION'S CAPITAL

WHEN: Arrive 10TH – Depart 20TH 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 11th and 19th 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 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 Member**

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>

TREK REPORT: Robotic Dairy at Tamrookum - 18th October, 2016

26 RGSQ members gathered at the Robotic Dairy.

The day began with an inspection of the plant and equipment until Gregory (aka Farmer Gregie) arrived after raking grass for fodder. He gave us a background briefing on the history of the farm, his families involvement in the area and a history of the previously used milking techniques on the farm.

Included was an interesting overview of his perception of the problems facing the industry; particularly the result of the \$1.00 a liter retail pricing currently employed by the major supermarkets.

However, of supreme interest were the 4 "Van De Lely" robotic milking machines. In themselves a good example of mechatronics, but the action of the machines to "imitate" the sensation of calves suckling was truly surprising as was the fact that the system is totally automated, including marshalling the cows, (crowd control) a 24 hour a day unsupervised operation and the fact that cows themselves decide when they want to present themselves for milking.

Most "so called" robots in the Motor industry do repetitive tasks very accurately. Here the machines are true robots, which react, on demand, in real time, to the variables of individual cows.

Most cows choose to be milked 3 times daily. All cows have a chip identifying themselves to the machines. The machines weigh the animal before during and after milking. Animal specific data is maintained and milk quality per animal is recorded. Lower quality milk is sent to feed the calves; quality milk is sent for pasteurization and bottling on site.

The milk itself is sold under their own brand through selected independent outlets which now includes the IGA and others. Their brand "Real Milk" is pasteurized, in accordance with regulation. It is heat treated to 75 °C, and held at that temperature for the regulation period. It is not homogenized, as the farmer is adamant that all processing degrades the product.

After an inspection of the bottling operation, an extensive Q & A session followed.

We then drove back to Beaudesert for lunch at the charming Beaudesert Hotel.

Story by Frank Birchall, RGSQ Member

KEN SUTTON MEMORIAL LIBRARY GROUP

The group will not convene in December; next meeting will be on:

When: Monday, January 30, 2017

Time: 9:00 am

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

MAP GROUP

When: Monday, December 5

Time: 10:00 am

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

December, 2016

- 10 am Monday 5 December, 2016. *Map Group Social Event – Christmas Party* to be held at the RGSQ Milton office – Auditorium. Details are:
 - Food and drinks to be of a "Morning Tea" type
 - Each Map Group member to bring along a plate of appropriate snack food
 - \$2.00 "donation" to RGSQ for access to appropriate arrangements for supply of tea, coffee, milk, and sugar and for use of Auditorium kitchen.
 - Each Map Group member to bring along a map oriented book or map from their personal collection for "Show and Tell" amongst attending Members.

February, 2017

- 10 am Monday, 6 February - Map Group Gathering: *Key Event:* Presentation by Stuart Watt on "Orienteering Mapping – Art or Science?" followed by Map Group Gathering.

Bob Abnett, RGSQ Map Group Coordinator

RSGQ 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 18th 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. Our Library Group coordinator is Robin Simson robinsimson5@bigpond.com alternatively contact Ian Francis brisfran@gmail.com

Rob Simson and Ian Francis, RGSQ Members



RGSQ Christmas Party/Picnic

**There will be no Lecture on the usual first
Tuesday 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.

Leo Scanlan

RGSQ TRAVEL GROUP

BEEN THERE! DONE THAT!

First meeting: 10 am, Tuesday, 7 February, RGSQ, Gregory House, 237 Milton Rd, Milton 4064

Do you have itchy feet?

Are you addicted to travel?

Are you camera crazy?

Then you may be interested in joining a travel group to meet every couple of months to talk about travel, to share stories and photos of your adventures, perhaps even enjoy a mini adventure. If so, register your interest with the RGSQ Office at 07 3368 2066 or email at admin@rgsq.org.au including contact details.

We can decide on meeting days, activities & frequency at the first meeting.

Audrey Johnston

BOOK of the Month

Every second month the RGSQ Bulletin will include a review of rare or special books or book sets that may be of special interest to members. This month we highlight a group of books about climate change. So, you might like to investigate these three publications:

1. 1922 Climate Changes, E Huntington & S S Visser; Yale University Press, 551.6 HUN 1922

This publication points out the inevitability of climate change due to astronomical cycles and suggests the major cause of mild and severe glacial episodes is due to the variability in solar cyclonic activity (i.e. sun spots). Human induced climate is not considered.

Hard bound; condition good - handle with care wearing gloves.

2. 1928 Climate Through the Ages, C.E.P. Brooks; Yale University Press 551.62 BRO 1928

In this book, there are chapters on pressure and wind, radiation from the sun, circulations in the ocean, cloudiness and temperature, precipitation, the influence of mountain building and continental drift.

Hard bound; condition fair - handle with care wearing gloves.

3. 1931 Climatology, A. Austin Miller; Methuen & Co Ltd. London 551.6 Mil 1969.

We hold a copy of the 9th edition of this book. It covers the meaning and wide scope of climatology,

the effects of air masses, and a classification of climate realms. There are sections on tropical climates, desert climates, mountain climates and temperate and coastal climates. It is illustrated with 86 maps and diagrams, and as such is much more in line with modern climate studies, without addressing man-made causes.

Hard bound: good condition - handle with care.

Rob Simson, RGSQ Member and Coordinator of Ken Sutton Memorial Library Group

RGSQ Christmas Holidays Office Closure December 23, 2016 – January 9, 2017.

Dear members, the RGSQ Office will be closed during the Christmas and New Year Holiday Season. The Office will close on Friday, December 23rd and reopen on Monday, January 9th, 2017.

We wish all our members and their families a safe festive season and a wonderful geographical new year!

With the very best wishes,
The RGSQ Council and team.

RGSQ Bulletin

December 2016

Lecture of the Month: There will be no lecture on the usual first Tuesday of the month in December.

February 2017 Lecture on the Sunshine Coast:
"Polar Perambulations and other adventurous wanderings", by Dr Adrian McCallum.

Event: RGSQ Christmas Celebration – Wellington Point Reserve, Sat 10 December.

Map Group Meeting: Mon 5 December 10:00 am, "Gregory House", 237 Milton Rd, Milton. *Christmas Celebration.*

Ken Sutton Memorial Library: The group will not convene in December. Next meeting - January 30, 2017, 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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