



# RGSQ Bulletin

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

President: Professor James Shulmeister

## From the President

Dear members, I was pleasantly surprised by a turnout of well over 30 members to listen to the pros and cons of the different forms of incorporated legal structure that the Society might adopt. There is some affection for the Letters Patent but I think the meeting was overall convinced that a change in incorporated legal structure would be valuable. This is only the start of a process and members will still get plenty of chance to input before any final decisions or changes are made. I look forward to your contributions to this important discussion.

We have another exciting month coming up. I am giving the second lecture in our Sunshine Coast series (pg.2). This is an expanded and updated version of the brief presentation I gave at the last AGM looking at mountain glaciers in New Zealand and the Pacific North-West of the US and discussing the complexity of taking a simple climate signal off these glaciers but also highlighting how they are now rapidly retreating. I have taken new photos in New Zealand this last summer and also hit up friends in the US to get some of their slides. I hope that it will be both interesting and entertaining, but Adrian McCallum, who was the last speaker at the Sunshine Coast, will be a hard act to follow. It is on June 27<sup>th</sup> at 7.15 pm at the University of the Sunshine Coast.

The Institute of Australian Geographers has its annual conference at the University of Queensland in July and associated with the conference, RGSQ members are able to join one of the conference field trips on the Brisbane River. Iraphne Childs who straddles both the conference and the RGSQ has organised attendance for our members.

On the 26<sup>th</sup> of July, there will be a guided tour around the rocks of the Ipswich area led by two members of the Geological Society of Australia (Warwick Willmot and David Trezise) and coordinated by Graham Rees. It should be a fascinating day and if it wasn't in my teaching term, one I would, definitely, try to attend.

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**THIS MONTH I WANT TO TALK ABOUT ENERGY POLICY** and what a tangle Australia has gotten itself into. Greg Hunt, the current federal health minister and former environment minister actually got a first-class honour for his (very good) thesis on a carbon emission trading scheme (CETS). A CETS, also known as cap and trade, is the preferred market mechanism for reducing emissions. It sets allowable limits for carbon emission, industry by industry. It allows polluting industries (those exceeding the target in their sector) to survive by offsetting their pollution by buying carbon credits for other sectors or industries that are either removing carbon from the environment (e.g. plantation forestry) or have improved their carbon efficiency below the set target level. In doing so it sets a price for carbon pollution and forces industry to cost their emissions into their behaviour. In an ideal scheme the carbon cap gradually sinks requiring companies to continuously improve their methods. A CETS was nearly signed onto in Australia. It is a centre right, free market approach to dealing with carbon pollution and was initially supported by the Liberal Party. It is the preferred approach of the Labour Party.

The other major alternative is a carbon tax. This is a direct government charge on the price of carbon emission with each ton of emission charged. It adds costs to industry based on their emissions but while it penalises polluters it doesn't directly encourage non-

polluting sectors to improve their efficiency (there are no credits to sell) and therefore is inferior in my mind to a CETS.

The new Finkel Report of the chief scientist suggests focussing on emission intensity in the energy sector. Emission intensity measures how much CO<sub>2</sub> is generated per unit of electricity. This ranges from (nearly) zero for renewables such as solar, wind and hydro as well as non-renewable nuclear, through biomass burning (which is a renewable but involves the production of CO<sub>2</sub> in the burning stage that offsets carbon storage during the biomass growth phase) and coal, oil and gas fired stations. There really is very little difference in how much CO<sub>2</sub> is produced by the different fossil fuels, except that gas and oil burns more efficiently which slightly reduces the final CO<sub>2</sub> production and significantly reduces or eliminates other noxious by-products of coal (such as fly ash). The emission intensity scheme is quite close to a CETS and this is undoubtedly part of the reason that conservative (and coal seat) members of the Liberal/National caucus are already hostile to it. It would involve setting an allowed total emission intensity for the sector and gradually lowering the allowed total, which will put the squeeze on fossil fuels. For the last 10 years there has been a deadlock in Australian politics over energy policy. This has resulted in virtually no new investment in fossil fuel power stations and greatly reduced investment in renewables. Clapped out and/or very inefficient coal stations such as Morwell in Victoria are gradually falling out of the system. This, along with how we manage our energy grid is responsible for the power problems that are emerging in the system and critically for the rapid increase in power prices. In order to stabilise (and hopefully reduce) prices there is a desperate need for bipartisanship on power policy. The crazy thing is the ideological entrenchment on this issue. New renewables are now cheaper than new fossil power and the base costs for renewables and the battery technology that will allow (non-hydro) renewables to act as base-load generators are becoming cheaper every year. If we get agreement on an energy policy in the next few years there will still be a justification for some new fossil fuel power stations as part of the mix for the next 30 years. If no agreement is reached in the next 2-3 years, I foresee NO new fossil fuel power stations ever coming on line in Australia.

Finally, there is a lot of talk about 'clean coal'. From a CO<sub>2</sub> point of view there is no such thing. All carbon-based combustion produces CO<sub>2</sub> as its major by-product. We can certainly have more efficient coal power stations (and as I say for a short remaining window these are probably justifiable) and these stations will be less polluting in terms of other noxious outputs through more efficient combustion of high quality coals. The CO<sub>2</sub> can be removed by a scrubbing and sequestration process but this adds very significant costs to the generation and already does not stack up against renewables.

**Jamie Shulmeister, President**

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

We have much pleasure in welcoming *Mrs Gail* and *Mr Robert Orr*, *Dr An Yi Annie Lau*, *Mr Greg Lauer*, and *Mr Neville McManimm* as new members. We hope your association with your new Society is long and mutually enjoyable.

## RGQS COUNCIL

**President:** Jamie Shulmeister  
**Vice Presidents:** Dal Anderson  
Iraphne Childs  
**Secretary:** Margaret McIvor  
**Treasurer:** Chris Spriggs  
**Councillors:** Bob Abnett  
Paul Broad  
Tony Hillier  
Margaret Keates  
John Nowill  
Leo Scanlan  
Kathryn Scott

## CONTRIBUTORS

Bob Abnett  
Iraphne Childs  
Bernard Fitzpatrick  
Audrey Johnston  
Jeanette Lamont  
Kay Rees  
Graham Rees  
Leo Scanlan  
Jamie Shulmeister  
Rob Simson  
Chris Spriggs  
**Photography:**  
Jamie Shulmeister, Kay Rees, Leo Scanlan, Peter Sanson, Margaret Keates, Iraphne Childs.

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## Geography in the Spotlight



*By Dr Jen Carter, The University of the Sunshine Coast, RGSQ Member*

The University of the Sunshine Coast held its annual Student Awards and Prizes Ceremony on 19<sup>th</sup> May this year.

*Peter Sanson (pictured courtesy of Peter Sanson)*

received the Royal Geographical Society of Queensland prize for the highest achieving student graduating from the geography major.

Peter studied the introductory physical and human geography courses as well as advanced courses in biogeography, weather and climate, cultural geography, historical geography and animal geography. Peter is now working as a secondary school teacher in Emerald, Queensland, which he is enjoying very much!

Congratulations to Peter for his dedication and passion as a student and I'm sure he will inspire many future geographers!

## LECTURE OF THE MONTH

### "Indigenous Participation in regional planning"

*by Dr Catherine Robinson, CSIRO*

**Tue July 4, 7:30 pm**

"Gregory House", 237 Milton Rd, Milton

**D**r Catherine (Cathy) Robinson is a human geographer based at CSIRO who specialises in understanding and design of decision-support frameworks that can enable Indigenous land, sea and health enterprises to drive total system health outcomes via Indigenous-led environmental, health and biosecurity surveillance activities. These outcomes include building better knowledge systems to tackle contemporary landscape management issues, improving economic participation for Indigenous people, and enhancing positive health and wellbeing outcomes.

Cathy is the Research Director for the Northern Alliance - a collaborative research partnerships between CSIRO and Northern Institute (CDU) that is focused on building total system health approaches around Northern Australian development (<http://bit.ly/2nifnDq>) and Indigenous on-country enterprises (see <http://bit.ly/2nNneNm>).

Cathy will talk on the integration of indigenous knowledge in regional planning, calling on her extensive work in northern Australia.

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## JUNE LECTURE ON THE SUNSHINE COAST

### "Shrinking Glaciers? Cautionary Tales from North America and New Zealand"

*by Prof. Jamie Shulmeister, University of Queensland*

**Tue June 27, 7:15 pm – 9 pm, University of the Sunshine Coast**

*Special RGSQ Lecture organised in association with the University of the Sunshine Coast.*

**Venue: Lecture Theatre 2**

**For a map of the USC, visit:**

[http://www.usc.edu.au/media/3303/uscmmap\\_brochure\\_web.pdf](http://www.usc.edu.au/media/3303/uscmmap_brochure_web.pdf)



*Image: The Franz Josef Glacier in Westland, New Zealand, in the winter of 2007. Courtesy of James Shulmeister.*

**D**ear members, next month I am going to give the second of our Sunshine Coast lectures. It is entirely unintentional but after Adrian McCallum's Arctic and Antarctica extravaganza the theme will remain icy.

My talk will be a full version of the short presentation on how mountain glaciers around the world are changing and what it means for our understanding of climate change. This is a topic close to my heart as it is the source of a lot of my personal research.

Why am I so passionate about it? Well apart from any reasons of scientific importance, mountain glaciers are both beautiful themselves and located in some of the prettiest scenery on the planet. Furthermore, and unlike Adrian's polar deserts, many of the glaciers are a hop, skip and a jump from vineyards and in the case of New Zealand, pretty good ones. I don't promise any wine at the talk but there will be some nice photos. Hope to see some of you up there. **Prof. Jamie Shulmeister, RGSQ President** ●



## SYNOPSIS

### The North - West Passage Now — a Geographer's Journey

Presentation by Dr. Lynn Moorman, Mt. Royal University, Calgary, Canada.

by Rob Simson. RGSQ Member

"Ah, for just one time  
I would take the North West Passage"  
From Stan Rogers folk song, *North West Passage*

On Tuesday evening 6 June, Lynn Moorman's storytelling about the North-West Passage entranced the large audience gathered for the RGSQ June lecture. Lynn had stepped in to provide her presentation following the untimely death of Jim Davidson, and we were all so pleased she made time available while visiting Brisbane on a sabbatical.

Dr. Moorman, a geomorphologist, has made four summer trips through the Passage with Adventure Canada on the cruise ship, *Crystal Serenity*. Each trip has on board a number of scientists, like Lynn herself, plus indigenous experts who provide information and commentary. It becomes a most memorable educational adventure in an area of 'fabled history and tragedy'.

These trips, sailing west to east through the Passage, are now possible because of the breaking up of the sea ice due to the effects of global warming. The ship sails from Kigultuk, an Inuit community at the mouth of the Coppermine River, in an area of low relief, heading east to the more dramatic landscape, a result of a mountain building orogeny when the continental plate pushed up against the Canadian Shield. These eroded Pre-Cambrian rocks were later covered by Palaeozoic sediments, so in places like Devon Island, one stopping place on the cruise, it is easy to identify a great unconformity, the 200-million-year-old sediments sitting as a cap over the far-far older 1.9 billion bp Pre-Cambrian gneiss. Another set of interesting features of the current landscape are the beach platforms exposed as the land, suppressed under the massive weight of the Arctic ice during the past ice-ages, 'bounce' back up.



Walking on raised beach between graves and Northumberland House

*Raised beaches, courtesy of Lynn Moorman.*

Lynn Moorman explained it is this ancient landscape which provides the stage for the dramas that occurred in the quest for a safe North-West Passage in the mid-nineteenth century. The most famous of these attempts, and the one that has flourished in Canadian folk law, is the British Royal Navy expedition of 1845 led by Captain Sir John Franklin. Mystery surrounded the disappearance of two especially

prepared ships, the *Erebus* and the *Terror* which carried ample supplies for three years. There were many expeditions sent searching for the Franklin's ships and crew, and over 14 years evidence about the demise of the expedition, and the deaths of the crews due to lead poisoning and pneumonia, was gradually uncovered. Apparently, they had spent one winter near Beechy Island and the next two trapped further south in the ice before the vessels were abandoned near King Edward Island during winter 1848.

The cruises visit the sites where the wrecks of the *Erebus* and *Terror* were found using modern technology and Inuit stories: the *Erebus* first in 2014 and the *Terror* in 2016 – the latter so amazingly intact that it seems that in the end it had simply floated gently to the sea floor.



*Franklin's ship found.*

*Photo courtesy of Margaret Keates*

Some vision exploring inside the wreck is available. The tragic Franklin story has become as much a part of Canadian expedition legend as has the story of our Burke and Wills expedition.

Dr. Moorman described some other interesting locations featured on the trips, including Bellot Strait that separates the Boothia Peninsula, the most northerly extent of the North America continent, from Somerset Island; and the nearby Fort Ross, a Hudson Bay Company outpost, established in 1937, following the successful navigation by a ship through the two-mile-wide strait.



'You think your winters are cold?'  
Image of a kettle in a Hudson Bay Company Outpost.  
Courtesy of Lynn Moorman.

The *Crystal Serenity* cruise ends by sailing down the spectacular west coast of Greenland where large icebergs are breaking off from the glaciers, then drifting first north and then back south with the Arctic currents. Iceberg spotting has become a big tourist drawcard in recent times, with one of the most visited location being Ferryland at 47° N. latitude on the south-east coast of Newfoundland. Lynn Moorman showed photographs of enormous bergs floating past this spot.

She finished the presentation by playing the Stan Rogers folk song, *North West Passage*, which she said is as well known in Canada as *Waltzing Matilda* is in Australia. The male choir version of the song was accompanied by the projection of a series of beautiful Arctic photography taken by one of Dr. Lynn Moorman's friends. ●

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### JULY: FIELDTRIP ON BRISBANE RIVER

4-hour CityCat trip on the river as part of the Institute of Australian Geographers' Conference

**Thursday July 13, 8:45am-1pm**

**For the members who have booked already:**

**BYO Lunch**

Meet at the City Cat ferry terminal Sir William McGregor Drive, UQ St Lucia **no later than 8:45am**;

**Note:** late bookings will be accepted, please contact Iraphne Childs, the trip Coordinator on [i.childs@uq.edu.au](mailto:i.childs@uq.edu.au).

**Coordinator:** Iraphne Childs

### JULY: ROCKS AND COALS OF THE IPSWICH BASIN

**Wed July 26**

**Cost:** \$55 members, \$58 non-members and includes morning tea and lunch.

The bus will depart at 07:30 am from the bus stop in Park Rd at the Eagle Junction Railway Station; return drop off is expected before 17:00. There is plenty of all day street parking in the area.

**RSVP:** Fri July 14, to book and pay please contact the RGSQ office on 07 3368 2066.

For further information about the trip, please contact

[GrahamRees@wombatshollow.com](mailto:GrahamRees@wombatshollow.com).

Much of the geography of SE Queensland is written in the 400 M year geology of the region. Warwick Willmott and David Trezise of the Geological Society of Australia will guide us through the formation of the Ipswich area in late Triassic period of around 200 M years ago. Members will recall that Warwick has delivered a number of fascinating lectures at RGSQ and has edited a number of publications of the Geological Society, including "Rocks and Landscapes of Brisbane and Ipswich", which will be available for purchase on the day for \$20. **Coordinator:** Graham Rees

### AUGUST: DAY TRIP GOLD COAST WATERWAYS

#### **SUSTAIN AND ENHANCE**

**Thursday 3 August**

*Have you ever wondered how the sand moves along the Eastern coastline and the problems caused for safe waterways and beaches? Join us as we:*

- *Evaluate the solution of the Sand By Pass system with training walls at the Nerang and Tweed Rivers*
- *Understand the creation of Wave Break Island*
- *See the location of the Artificial Reef at Narrownneck*

**Cost:** \$40 members \$45 nonmembers includes Morning Tea

**Lunch:** Beachfront at Burleigh Heads Surf Club Cafe This is **not** included in cost. There is a choice of sandwiches, fish and chips/salad, hamburgers etc. with drink allow \$12 or BYO.

**Depart:** 7.30am Park Road Opp Eagle Junction Railway Station Redcliffe Coaches, 8.00am Park and Ride Mains Road Nathan behind QE2.

**Return:** Approximately 4.30pm at Park and Ride 5.00pm Eagle Junction

**To Book** contact RGSQ office on 07 3368 2066, **please indicate pick up location.**

**RSVP:** July 20

*In memory of Brian McGrath 23.2.37 to 4.8.16*

**Brian McGrath** was working for State Govt's Coordinator Generals Dept in 1965-1967 when the Gold Coast beaches became very badly eroded. He contacted the Delft Hydraulic Laboratory in Holland who sent out Mr Rudi Diephuis. Brian and Rudi walked the coast from the Broadwater to Tweed Heads, camping/motels at night. A 3-year investigation program was set up with coloured sand, depths from 25m boat and wave riders on coast to measure

wave height and where the sand travelled. The sand moved in and out between the sand dunes and offshore bar and northwards from New South Wales, 500,000 cubic metres per year with longshore drift. The sand disappears north of Fraser Island into a black hole.

In 1969 Brian and Heather flew to Holland and worked with Delft Hyd. for 16 months to produce the Delft Report which was presented to Old State Govt in 1976. The Nerang, and later Tweed River, bypass was approved. Training walls were built to stabilize the River mouths and create safer waterways. The Beach Protection Authority was created to stabilize sand dunes with vegetation GCC Council has now taken over the beach replenishment. Special thanks to Heather McGrath for this background information. **Coordinator:** Jeanette Lamont

### SEPTEMBER: VISIT TO THE BRISBANE TRAMWAY MUSEUM

**Wed 6 September**

**Cost:** \$40 members \$43 non-members

**RSVP:** by Tuesday 29 August to RGSQ Office.

Who doesn't remember riding on a rattly Brisbane tram?

Would you like to ride on one again to relive those memories? Well then, join us for a tour of The Brisbane Tramway Museum. The Museum has been operational since 1980 and is run entirely by volunteers who make a visit fun & informative.

We will meet at 10am at the Museum for Morning Tea before commencing the tour at 10:30am.



*Photo courtesy of Kay Rees*

Following on the tour, we will make our way to the adjoining Ferny Grove Bowls Club for lunch.

**Location:** The Museum is located at **50 Tramway St, Ferny Grove QLD 4055** and is approximately a 25-minute drive from RGSQ north-west via The Gap, Ashgrove or Mitchelton. There is plenty of free parking. The closest railway station is Ferny Grove and it is a 10 minute, 700 metres walk. We can arrange to pick up anyone from the station (prior to 9:45am) and drop them back for a return train.

**Coordinator:** Kay Rees

### SEPTEMBER: TOTEMS AND A TEMPLE

**Thursday 21 September**

**What:** a morning walk through the Boondall Wetlands to view the totems along the track.

Each totem has a different aboriginal story: e.g. kuta represents a stingless bee, chagrine is an eel, Kabul - the carpet python - these are just a few examples designed by indigenous people.

It is a well-made track about 2 km long winding its way through the wetlands. There is a possibility of a short detour to a bird hide beside Nundah Creek, as well. After a BYO lunch travel to Deagon for a guided visit to the Taoist Temple beside Depot Road to learn about their symbolism and beliefs. Taoism is an ancient Chinese religion that originated about 4,000 years ago. The Temple at Deagon was opened in 1991.

*Full details of the 2 contrasting activities will be in the August Bulletin.*

Friends will be welcome. Look forward to your company. The cost of \$5 covers a donation to the Temple. Photos will be placed on the RGSQ Notice Board. **Coordinator:** Audrey Johnston ●



Come with us and let The Royal Geographical Society of Queensland introduce you to Africa as we explore the southern part of the second largest and most diverse continent in the world during our next major overseas trek in 2018.



## An Eye on Southern Africa

*Southern Africa is one of the most exciting destinations on earth, that's why RGSQ have been there before, so, why not join us and Jenman African Safaris when we travel to South Africa, Botswana, and Zimbabwe departing Brisbane on April 20, 2018.*

If you haven't travelled with us before – just imagine your journey across countries and cultures as you explore the immensity of *Victoria Falls in Zimbabwe*, one of the great natural wonders of the world or the diversity of *Kruger North National Park in South Africa*, the scenic surroundings of *Hluhwe - Imfolozi National Park and Golden Gate National Park, Natal, in South Africa*, the savannas of *Hwange National Parks in Zimbabwe*, as well as the diverse wildlife in *Chobe National Park in Botswana*. Our focus here will be on some of the most incredible wildlife viewing from a selection of the best National Parks in Southern Africa.

Along the way the human focus is on the history of the English at *Port Natal Durban*, the Zulu and English clash of civilisations at *Isandlwana and Rorkes Drift, Natal*, the Boers and the English clash at *Spion Kop in Natal*, the empire builder *Cecil Rhodes* grave at *Motopos National Park Zimbabwe*, the *Greater Zimbabwe Ruins* with the largest collection of ancient ruins in Africa, south of the Sahara, *Sir Seretse Khama* in Botswana, and while not focussing on any of the above directly, we have an amazing itinerary mix featuring some incredible wildlife viewing coupled with some of the most interesting ancient and modern history of Southern Africa.

Numbers are limited so if you are interested in participating or would like a copy of a preliminary itinerary, please contact Leo Scanlan, the Tour Coordinator and Leader at 07 3343 4398 or email at [trekabout1@gmail.com](mailto:trekabout1@gmail.com) to register your interest.

**Inclusions:** ●International + Internal Domestic Flights  
●Accommodation and Transport ●Nearly all meals ●Fully Escorted from Brisbane ●Guided Site Tours + 4x4 Excursions in National Parks.

A Royal Geographical Society of Queensland Trek in association with Jenman African Safaris.



**JENMAN**  
AFRICAN SAFARIS

## SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

**KEN SUTTON**

**MEMORIAL LIBRARY GROUP**

**When:** Monday, July 24, 2017

**Time:** 9:00 am

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



**MAP GROUP**

### UPCOMING MAP GROUP GATHERINGS & EVENTS

#### July 2017

**Event:** Visit to Army Museum, Victoria Barracks

- **Wednesday 19 July - 9.15am to 12 noon**
- **@ Victoria Barracks, Petrie Terrace, Brisbane where the Army Museum is located.**
- **NOTE:** A key element of this visit is to view Queensland military maps, besides undertake the standard Museum Tour.
- **Standard Museum Entry Fee:** \$15
- **Information Sheet:** A more detailed Information Sheet on the Visit will be circulated to relevant Map Group members via an email.
- **Registrations:** Now welcome. Please contact Bob Abnett at [abnett@powerup.com.au](mailto:abnett@powerup.com.au).
- **Closing Date for Registrations:** Wednesday 5 July 2017

#### August 2017

**Gathering:**

- **Monday 7 August: 10am to 12 noon.** Auditorium, "Gregory House", 237 Milton Rd, Milton.
- **Presentation:** Speaker/Topic: Mark Hickey - "Using Drones for Mapping & Understanding Every Day Use and Safety of Drones". Display drones will also be on show.
- **Gathering:** Major Item: Draft 2018 Program  
**Bob Abnett, Co-ordinator, Map Group**



## Book of the month

"Living in a Dynamic Tropical Forest Landscape"

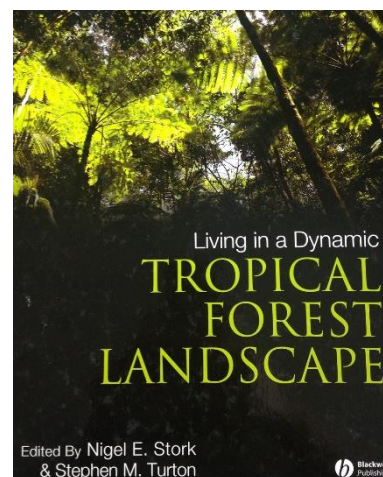
Nigel E. Stork and Stephen M Turton

Blackwell Publishing, 2008

by Rob Simson, RGSQ

member

This book was presented to the RGSQ library on the occasion of the 2017 J P Thompson Address by Professor Steve Turton, 2 May 2017.



In the introduction, the editors point out that although tropical rainforests occur in just 7% of the Earth's landmass, they are home to 50% of global biodiversity. Impacts of logging, destructive mining, clearing for agriculture and hunting means that land managers face enormous difficulty in maintaining sustainable land use systems.

Some areas such as the Queensland Wet Tropics have been designated as World Heritage areas in order to give them better protection. This has led to the coordination of multidisciplinary studies including the setting up of the Cooperative Research Centre for Tropical Rainforest Ecology and Management, which is assisted by several Australian Universities and the CSIRO.

The book gathers together research papers from a host of researchers and land management teams divided into six categories:

- ◆ History & Diversity of Wet Tropics (14 articles)
- ◆ Ecological Processes & Ecosystem Services (6 articles)
- ◆ Threats to Environmental Values of the Wet Tropics (8 articles)
- ◆ Living in a World Heritage Area (9 articles)
- ◆ Restoring Tropical Rainforest Landscapes (7 articles)
- ◆ Science informing Policy & Conservation Management (5 articles)

Geographers, Ecologists, Biologists, Anthropologists, Sociologists, Climate Scientists, Earth Scientists and Planners have contributed papers, so there is a wealth of information in this book which should be used to manage the tropical forest areas around the globe. The book sold out 50,000 copies very quickly after it was published, hence we at RGSQ are pleased to have one added to our collection. Our copy is autographed by Professor Turton – as co-editor and one of the authors who have contributed to this excellent production. ●

## ROUNDUP - CANBERRA '10 DAYS IN THE NATION'S CAPITAL' Part II

by Leo Scanlan, trek Coordinator

On Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> of March we visited the Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve where we enjoyed a morning guided walk with the resident ranger. A bonus here was the exceptional display at the wetlands ecosystem put on by one of two resident platypus who insisted on performing right in front of the boardwalk where we stood. Tidbinbilla is part of the Australian Alps National Parks, a series of parks and reserves that span Australia's south-eastern high country and is National Heritage listed. A visit here is certainly on my agenda again when I'm next touring in this part of the Australian Capital Territory.

*Tidbinbilla Deep Space Communication Complex, courtesy of Margaret Keates.*



The early afternoon was full of surprises again with a visit to Tidbinbilla Deep Space Communication Complex a couple of kilometres further along the road and a joint collaboration between CSIRO Tidbinbilla and NASA. This is one of three tracking stations that provide continuous, two-way radio contact with spacecraft

exploring our solar system and beyond. A feature here was the near two-hour lecture delivered free at the visitors' centre.

Wednesday dawned rather overcast with patches of drizzly rain. This was to be our day of rest and recuperation. I'm sure all enjoyed the short drive to Cotter Dam Reserve where we enjoyed a picnic lunch in the shelter shed, much conversation, and a pleasant but cool walk around the foot of the dam wall. This evening we gathered for a 'community' evening and meal at the on-site 'Ridge Café at the Alivio Tourist Park.

Thursday was the morning when we finally witnessed a number of successful balloon launches in front of Old Parliament House followed by a breakfast of bacon and eggs cooked on site and presented by Canberra Lions Clubs. We were also witness to quite a number of balloon launches which were quite spectacular in the early morning light.

At 10.30 we assembled at the Museum of Australian Democracy (Old Parliament House) for a very informative tour. The Press Room and the office of past Prime Ministers and the setting for a number of significant historical events were a feature here. Whitlam, Fraser, Hawke, Kerr and Gorton are some notables that have all left an indelible stamp on our history here in the latter part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century prior to New Parliament House's opening in 1988. This is a beautiful old building that harks back to the early days of Parliamentary sittings in Canberra when 'sheep' were the main observers of the comings and goings at Parliament House.

In the afternoon, we visited the Royal Australian Mint in Deakin where our Australian coinage is manufactured. There is a large collection of Australian coins and notes in the museum above the Mint manufacturing floor and a very interesting retail outlet where newly minted coins are on sale. At the end of the day we convened for drinks and nibbles at Mount Ainsley Lookout where we were to witness a spectacular sunset followed by the softness of the blues and purples of the mountains surrounding Canberra.

On Friday 17<sup>th</sup> March we visited Government House, the residence of The Governor General. I suspect because of the smaller size of our group we managed a much longer tour of 2 hours than another group of tourists that had arrived by coach about the same time. We were escorted around the gardens in the grounds surrounding Government House which of course, were more than impressive, down to the 'Rolls' garage to the rear of the building, down to the dock on Lake Burley Griffin, and finally we had a quite comprehensive look in on the more formal areas of Government House. It was all well worth the effort involved in organising this part of our trek and I'm sure will mean a whole lot more to all of us when we see significant events unfold in Canberra on our television screens at this and other venues in our national capital.

In the afternoon, we had a rather late lunch at Floresco in the Gardens Café at the Australian National Botanical Gardens. Some enjoyed a short walk in the gardens before we all met once again in the rear courtyard of Old Parliament House for Drinks. The weather this evening had a quite definite chill in the air and was quite different to what we experienced earlier in the week.

Saturday, we spent all day at the Australian War Memorial. Although I have visited a number of similar exhibitions in other parts of the world, our own Australian War Memorial is a lot more than just a memorial. It is a memorial, a museum, a receptacle for our war history and a large part of the formation of our Anzac culture. I always remember as a child the 'Mephisto' tank from the First World War housed at the old Queensland Museum at Bowen Hills next to The Exhibition grounds which is now currently on display in our National War Memorial in Canberra. Ironically it is the only example of this World War I machine still in existence.



The displays, the models, the relics, are all there in what I'm sure all would agree this is one of the better museums and memorials of its kind to be found anywhere in the world. Nearly all stayed for the very moving Last Post ceremony held in the forecourt of The War Memorial at 5pm daily. This was a very moving climax to what was a more than interesting day out. Evening was spent at a group dinner at the Golden Grille at The Southern Cross Club in Woden.

On Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> March, our last day in Canberra, we visited the National Library of Australia where we had a very informative tour. We were escorted around to see a small display of the National Map Collection followed by James Cook's original journal and a were given a brief explanation of the Library's computer information log-in and retrieval system. We all convened again at The Alivio Holiday Park camp kitchen for a farewell BBQ.

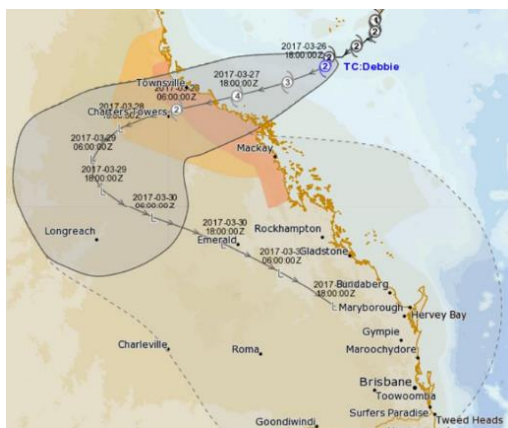
On behalf of both Sharyn, myself and RGSQ, I would like to thank Heather McGrath, Col and Sandy Dare, Margaret and Gerry Keates, Wayne and Chris McKenzie, Frank and Judy Birchall, June and Fraser Hethorn, Ron Owen, Fran Sully, and Lillian Woods for your company and I hope to see you all on one of our future treks. ●

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## ***Perspectives on Cyclone Debbie – from a Geographer & Red Cross Volunteer***

*by Dr Iraphne Childs, RGSQ Member and Vice-President*

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*TC Debbie crossed the coast near Airlie Beach as a category 4 system on 29 March 2017. Bowen, Airlie Beach, Mackay and the Whitsunday Islands bore the brunt of the system.*

<https://blog.metoffice.gov.uk/28/3/17>

The cyclone subsequently weakened to a tropical low which, over the next week, proceeded to drop heavy rains over 2000km of the eastern Australian coastline, and then heading out across the Tasman Sea, caused severe flooding in the north island of New Zealand.

**Response:** As a volunteer with Australian Red Cross Emergency I have been involved in disaster response to several cyclone and flood events in Queensland over the past seven years including in Tully and Ingham (2011 Cyclone Yasi), in Dalby-St. George (2012 floods), Laidley (2013 Cyclone Oswald), Rockhampton-Yeppoon (2013 Cyclone Marcia) and most recently in April 2017 to Mackay-Airlie Beach and Beenleigh-Logan (Cyclone Debbie). Besides enjoying the rewarding work of the Red Cross in helping those affected by disasters, these deployments enable me to take a geographer's perspective of events "on the ground". The response and recovery phases of disaster management have been key areas of my research and teaching at

university. So, I thought I would share with RGSQ members a few of my observations on Cyclone Debbie.

Response to this event was timely and effective. The Bureau of Meteorology issued advance warnings which, it seems, residents along the affected coast heeded well. Queensland Emergency Services swung into action prior to the cyclone's landfall, including activation of the State Disaster Coordination Centre at Kedron, large deployments of volunteers to north Qld from organisations such as the SES, Red Cross and also Army personnel and resources. Red Cross received requests from 14 local governments for evacuation centres (different from cyclone shelters) to accommodate people whose homes might be damaged and become uninhabitable. Thankfully, there were no deaths due to TC Debbie, only one flood-related death in South-east Queensland and three in NSW.

**Waiting out the "eye of the storm":** TC Debbie was a very large system and because it moved rather slowly residents sometimes had to shelter inside for more than 24 hours. As well as the 260km/hr winds and torrential winds which they had to endure, some residents around Airlie Beach and Proserpine reported as much as a 2-hour calm "eye" of the storm. It is strongly recommended that people do not go outside while the eye of a cyclone passes, as the swinging around of the winds from the other direction is unpredictable.

However, in this event some householders whose roofs had already been badly damaged or blown away said that they took advantage of the eerie 2-hour calm to seek refuge in neighbouring houses which still had their roofs intact. In one case I visited a house where 13 people from 2 houses, together with 2 horses, 4 dogs, 6 chickens and a pig had sheltered in the basement for almost 24 hours while the upper storey of the house was battered, eventually losing its roof and the rains drenching everything inside!

**Living on floodplains:** As the tropical low moved south it created major flooding especially on the floodplains of the Logan and Albert Rivers in Southeast Qld. During the next phase of disaster response, the Department of Community Services (DOCs) assisted by Red Cross, set up "Recovery Hubs" in affected areas to distribute relief funds. I worked in recovery hubs in Airlie Beach, Proserpine, Mackay and Beenleigh. There are always those who, due to home damage, blocked roads, ill-health, lack of transport or simply being elderly, may not be able to access recovery hubs.

So, teams comprising DOCs staff and Red Cross volunteers do "outreach". We travel around going house to house, especially to outlying rural properties assisting householders, enabling them to apply for available relief funds on the spot and referring them to other services if needed. This time I was engaged in outreach activities in Airlie Beach, Proserpine, Logan, Jimboomba and Springbrook.



*Airlie Beach after TC Debbie, courtesy of Iraphne Childs.*

I was surprised at the extent to which new housing estates have been developed on the floodplains of the Logan and Albert Rivers e.g. Yarrabilba. Even more surprising (although perhaps not), was the number of times one heard residents claim that they had no idea they were, actually, living on a floodplain!

Obviously, they had no idea of the geography of their area. Many homes were uninsured for flood, and flood insurance in such areas is often either not available or too expensive for many to afford. It will take many more months for affected communities to recover from this, one of the largest TCs to have struck our region in recent years. ●

# RGSQ Bulletin

July 2017

**Sunshine Coast Lecture: Tue 27 June**

*"Shrinking Glaciers? Cautionary Tales from North America and New Zealand"* by Prof Jamie Shulmeister

**Lecture of the Month: Tue July 4**

*"Indigenous participation in regional planning"* by Dr Catherine Robinson

**Tours and Activities: Thu July 13** *Fieldtrip on Brisbane River*; **Wed July 26** *Rocks and Coals of the Ipswich Basin*

**Map Group: Mon 7 Aug**, 10 am "Gregory House", 237 Milton Rd, Milton. **Event - "Using Drones for Mapping & Understanding Every Day Use and Safety of Drones"**, presented by Mark Hickey.

**Ken Sutton Memorial Library: Mon July 24**, 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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