



RGSQ Bulletin

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

President: Dr Iraphne Childs

From the President

Dear members, this is a special President's report this month to bring you up to date on the sale of Gregory House. While the debate over "to sell or not to sell" has been on-going for much of 2018, Council resolved in August that it was in the best interests of the Society to sell at this point in time, given the attractive offer which had been made by our neighbour, National Surgical. The contract of sale and associated documents were signed by RGSQ on Thursday 2 November.

Here is the sequence of events over the past few weeks. On Tuesday 31 October the Council Executive met to review the draft contract that had been vetted by both RGSQ's solicitor and the purchaser's solicitor. National Surgical had already signed the contract. After comprehensive perusal, members of the Council Executive were satisfied that the documents were standard in form and addressed the requirements of RGSQ. All questions regarding the sale documents from other Council members were answered satisfactorily via email. We were then in a position to act in a timely manner on the Council resolution to sell Gregory House. Following the signing of the contract on November 2nd, unconditional settlement will be on December 18th unless the purchaser confirms his finance and requests an earlier date for settlement. In addition to the actual contract of sale, a separate "commercial tenancy agreement" was also signed which enables RGSQ to lease-back the front office for a maximum of 2 x 6-month periods while we search for new premises. If we are fortunate to find suitable premises early in 2018, we can end the leasing arrangement after June 2018. Further updates on key dates and associated processes will be available over the coming weeks.



Signing the contract of sale of 'Gregory House' by the current President, Dr. Iraphne Childs, November 2, 2017.

I recognise that the decision to sell is not without downsides and some members will be unhappy with the decision to sell. To stay in our current building, however, would also have been problematic from several points of view, especially given the level of repair and cost needed for upgrading the premises satisfactorily. Neither decision - stay or move - would ever have been 100% positive. I wish to emphasise that Council has been swayed by the view of the majority in this matter. We will aim to maintain our usual programs and activities throughout 2018 as far as possible, but the Society will incur some disruption and relocation cost. A major concern is that we are in the situation of being without a new home

to go to. So, for example, after December we will not have access to our auditorium and will need to hire a venue for our 2018 monthly lectures. Council's Standing Committee on Gregory House is now searching in earnest for premises suitable for RGSQ within a radius of 7km of the Brisbane CBD. We are seeking a building with good parking facilities, ease of access and proximity to public transport, ideally with an auditorium, which will afford opportunities for hire income, continuing our arrangements with societies such as the Wildlife Preservation Society, Queensland Naturalists Club and Birds Queensland.

There will follow several months of intensive work associated with the relocation. However, I see it also as presenting opportunities for revitalisation and renewal. We can now move full-steam ahead to find a suitable, and hopefully excellent new home.

In the Hawaiian language *Imua* means to move forward with courage and strength. *Imua* is what outrigger canoe crews chant as they paddle from one island home to another. **IMUA – Forward!**

Finally, I would like to wish all Members a very happy festive season, good health, happiness and prosperity in the New Year.

Iraphne Childs, President

The ROYAL GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY of QUEENSLAND Committees and Committee Chairs – 2017-2018

1.0 Standing Committees

Australian Geography Competition: M McIvor (Chair, RGSQ), M Keates (RGSQ), A-M Gerlach (AGTA), J Clothier (AGTA), K Berg (Independent, RGSQ), B Fitzpatrick and L Darii (non-voting advisors).

Building: Nowill (Chair), P Broad, D Anderson, T Hillier

Finance: C Spriggs (Chair), J Nowill, P Griggs, I Childs, L Darii, B Fitzpatrick (advisory).

Standing committee on Gregory House: B Abnett (Chair), P Broad, C Spriggs (as required), B Fitzpatrick (advisory).

Honours: P Griggs (Chair), J Holmes, L Isdale, L Scanlan, D Wadley, D Cook

Ken Sutton Trust: I Childs (Chair), M Keates, M McIvor

Treks and Activities Committee: F Birchall (Chair), M Comer, R Gardner, A Johnston, P Lambert, J Lamont, W Mackenzie, C Spriggs, B Fitzpatrick (advisory)

RGSQ Traveller: L Scanlan (Chair), I Childs, L Darii, S Scanlan, J Shulmeister

Sunshine Coast Branch Committee: J Carter (Chair), *to be advised of members by the end of February 2018.*

2.0 Temporary Committees

RGSQ Incorporation: L Darii (Coordinator), R Grimley, C Spriggs.

RGSQ Collections: B Abnett (Coordinator), P Griggs, R Simpson, Peter Lloyd, P Nunan, J Graham and J Fairbairn

Website Committee: G Rees (Coordinator), J Fairbairn, I Francis, L Darii, B Fitzpatrick

RGSQ COUNCIL

President: Iraphne Childs

Vice Presidents: Peter Griggs
Margaret Keates

Secretary: Margaret McIvor

Treasurer: Chris Spriggs

Councillors: Bob Abnett

Paul Broad
Jennifer Carter
Duncan Cook
Ian Francis
John Nowill
Leo Scanlan
James Shulmeister

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Photography:
Ross Gardner, Margaret
McIvor, Jeanette Lamont,
Dr Andrew Peacock, Leo
Scanlan

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

We have much pleasure in welcoming *Mr Robert Rose, Ms Jean Love, Mr David Dean, Mr Robert and Mrs Lynette James, and Mr Gerard and Mrs Mary Whelan* as new members. We hope your association with your New Society is long and mutually enjoyable.

FEBRUARY LECTURE ON THE SUNSHINE COAST

“Geography and its relevance to leadership in a regional university - the USC experience.”

*by Professor Greg Hill, Vice-Chancellor and President,
University of the Sunshine Coast.*

Date: Tuesday, February 20, 2018

Time: 7.15pm-9pm

Where: University of the Sunshine Coast

Venue: Lecture Theatre 2 (K Block)



All universities need to understand their place in the world and how they interact with that place - classic geography!

For a regional institution it's a far more intimate relationship than may be the case for a sandstone institution. In a typical regional university setting demographic, economic, sociological and cultural characteristics will vary widely across the catchment. If a university is to connect with its communities and aspires to be a transformational force for change, it needs to understand and interact with this geography. Maps and statistics and an understanding of people/place dynamics are powerful tools when it comes to facilitating an understanding of the relationships between institutions, people and place. And in the hands of a geographer-leader, they're a powerful planning tool and communication aid.

Professor Greg Hill has served as the Vice-Chancellor and President of the University of the Sunshine Coast since 2011 and previously as Deputy Vice-Chancellor from 2005-2010. As the University's Chief Executive Officer, Professor Hill has led the development of USC as a growing, comprehensive university that is increasingly research intensive and is becoming the primary engine of capacity building for the region from Brisbane to the Fraser Coast and at sites in Sydney and Melbourne. Professor Hill is recognised nationally for research, teaching innovation, technology transfer to developing countries, and Indigenous education. His research interests include: remote sensing, wildlife ecology, environmental planning, and education.

SYNOPSIS

November Lecture: *‘Medicine - on Ice and on the Rocks’* by Dr Andrew Peacock, Medical Director of Expedition and Wilderness Medicine Australia

by Peter Griggs

Dr Andrew Peacock is a medical doctor and award-winning photographer drawn to documenting the landscapes, people and activities where adventure meets nature, or as he calls it, “adventure travel.” Medicine and travel to different places have, according to Andrew, been with him since birth. His father was a doctor; his mother a nurse. They both worked in Goroka (Papua New Guinea), and then his father volunteered for service during the Vietnam War. During his formative years, Andrew travelled with his family to many different parts of the world, including England and Egypt where as a small boy he was less than impressed going inside one of the Pyramids of Giza.

After completing his medical degree in Adelaide, Andrew worked for a period of time in California. He developed an interest in rock climbing, the nearby desert landforms providing the perfect place to practice his skills. He then travelled throughout the USA looking for spectacular locations to climb, before returning to Australia. He did locum medical work in the Blue Mountains, another place to indulge his passion for rock climbing.

By then, Andrew had decided that he wanted to combine his passion for climbing, adventure and medicine – being indoors in hospital wards or the waiting rooms of medical surgeries were not his passion. He then volunteered as a medical doctor in India and Nepal, where occasionally was called upon to also be a dentist and a veterinarian.



Photo courtesy of Andrew Peacock

“But really, I was keen to link this passion with what I had trained to do. The mountains were calling, and I started to look for ways to practice medicine in that environment.”

Here he commenced taking landscape photographs, leading to him becoming a multiple category finalist for the past five years in the Australian Geographic Nature Photographer of the Year. His work can be seen at: <http://www.footloosefotography.com>.

Today, Andrew combines work as a doctor in remote areas providing medical care on expeditions around the world, with documenting those experiences with a camera. Andrew highlighted that being a medical doctor on these

remote expeditions was a 'jack of all trades' and that the light in his tent is often the last to be extinguished as he attends to the needs of the travellers. He often had to deal with altitude sickness, a dangerous condition associated with brain swelling that leads to participants having to abandon their journeys.

Throughout the presentation, Andrew showcased his award winning professional photography of mountains, glacial valleys and penguins in Antarctica. Andrew emphasised that taking award winning outdoor photography sometimes required him to be wet, cold, hungry and uncomfortable. The best photographs are not taken from inside a tent.

Andrew recounted some of the stories of these journeys spent juggling the professional demands of medical care in remote environments with a desire to produce creative and compelling imagery of the landscapes and people encountered. He also posed a very challenging question: should medical doctors provide much assistance to locals in these remote areas when there may not be the follow up care or not enough drugs to treat them after the expedition doctor has moved on with the travel party? This ethical dilemma confronts many expedition doctors visiting localities in less developed countries.

If you're interested to see more of Andrew's work, you'll find him on social media and his website at <http://www.footloosefotography.com/>. ●

UPCOMING EVENTS

Please note that the High Tea and Tour of Queensland Parliament House planned for Friday 24th November 2017 has been re-scheduled for Friday 23rd March 2018. This is due to the Queensland State Election on 25 November 2017. If you'd like to book, please contact the RGSQ Office 07 3368 2066 or email admin@rgsq.org.au.

Where: Strangers' Dining Room

Cost: \$47.00 and payable to the RGSQ office.

Parliament House, Brisbane, seen from the end of George Street, Brisbane. Image:

Wikipedia, CC BY-SA 3.0



High Tea will be followed by an optional tour of Parliament House commencing at 12.00 noon for approximately half an hour which will be followed by a visit to the O'Donovan Library at 12.45 pm. Tour numbers are limited to twenty so if you are interested please register now to avoid disappointment. All who attend are kindly requested to provide photo identification on the day. Failure to comply will result in your inability to take part in this outing. Dress is smart casual. RGSQ members will meet on the corner of George and Alice Streets outside the Parliamentary gate at 10.10am. We will then move on to the Parliamentary Annexe entrance where a member of the Parliamentary staff will escort us to the Strangers' Dining Room.

Please note: There is no visitor parking available at Queensland Parliament House. Hope to see you there!
Coordinator: Leo Scanlan

December: RGSQ Christmas Celebration



Tue 5 December, 7:30pm

RGSQ Auditorium, 237 Milton Rd, Milton

This year RGSQ is going back to its roots with a party at the Milton premises (might be our last celebration in Milton)

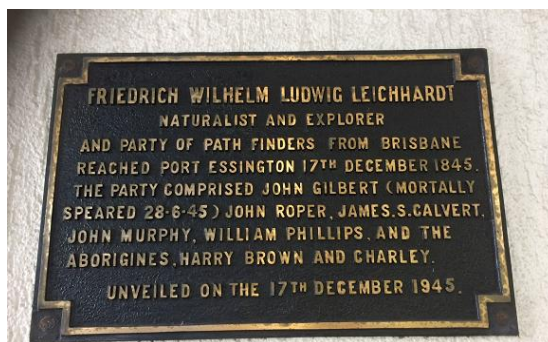
RSVP: for catering purposes please contact the RGSQ Office at 07 3368 2066 or email info@rgsq.org.au.

DECEMBER: "Lost Leichhardt" Day Outing

When: Mon 18 December, 10:30am

Cost: \$10 pp, lunch at participant's cost

Book and Pay: Contact RGSQ at 07 3368 2066 or email infor@rgsq.org.au by Fri 8 December



Plaque unveiled by the RGSQ on December 17, 1945. Photo courtesy of Ross Gardner.

Friedrich Wilhelm Ludwig LEICHHARDT (naturalist and explorer) who left Mount Abundance Homestead near Roma in April 1848 on the last of his many expeditions and disappeared without trace (except for the brass gun plate currently in National Museum of Australia) has been found in 217 North Quay by RGSQ member, Ross Gardner.

Join his day trip to the site of the old RGSQ building and plaque unveiled by the Society on the 17th of December, 1945 to celebrate the centenary of the success of their first Expedition from Brisbane to Port Essington on 17 December 1845. We hope to dignify the occasion with a minute's silence.

Afterwards continue down Makertson Street to nearby Roma Street Parklands Café for lunch at 11:30 am for an hour or two.

FEBRUARY: Welcome to 2018

Tuesday 6 February, 7:30pm-9:30pm

Venue: St Francis Theological College, Lecture Room 1

Enter from either Baroona Road or Milton Road

Please join us for the first social evening of the year when the Society's 2018 program of activities and events as well as an update on the Society's plan for new premises will be presented.

The Society's Australian Geography Competition Committee; Treks and Activities Committee (TAAC); and, Library, Map, and Archive Groups will provide an overview of their current projects and 2018 activities. Groups will display items of interest from the RGSQ Collection, and TAAC members will be available to discuss the 2018 events.

This is a social function with light refreshments served prior to the presentations and supper afterwards with plenty of time for conversation. All are most welcome. For catering purposes, if you plan to attend, please contact the RGSQ office by Thursday 25 January. **Coordinator: Kay Rees**

MARCH: TEA WITH SUGAR

Thursday 22 March 2018

Depart: 7.00am Eagle Junction Station |
7.30am Park N Ride Mains Rd
Nathan

Cost: \$76-members/\$79 non-members
(Includes: Morning Tea, Entry and Lunch).
Payable to RGSQ Office by Thursday 1st March
2018

Home: 4.00pm Nathan/4.30pm Eagle Junction
Station (Depending on traffic)

You are invited to join us on a bus trip to Northern NSW. There, we will share the Madura tea experience. Madura is a Tamil word for Paradise. It is the only Sub-Tropical tea plantation which began production in 1978. We will tour the plantation and see the tea making process.



After Lunch at Tropical Fruit World, we will visit Robert Quirk's sugar cane farm. Robert has been involved in sugar and soil research for the last 15 years and is recognised for his innovative farming practices. He has presented this research to many domestic and international forums. In 2014, he won the National Carbon Award.

Tour numbers are limited to 25 so if interested please register with the office now to avoid disappointment.

Closed shoes must be worn.

Please state any dietary requirements when booking and indicate pick up location.

Hope you can join us! **Coordinator: Jeanette Lamont**

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

KEN SUTTON

MEMORIAL LIBRARY GROUP

When: Monday, January 22, 2018

Time: 9:00 am

Where: "Gregory House", 237 Milton Rd.

MAP GROUP

UPCOMING MAP GROUP GATHERINGS & EVENTS

DECEMBER Monday 4 - END OF YEAR SOCIAL

10am to 12pm, Auditorium, Gregory House, 237 Milton Road, Milton.

Program:

- **9.30am-10.00am** - set-up for morning tea
 - **10.00am - 10.45am** - brief presentation by Ian Francis on *"A Short Basic Introduction into Lidar"*, followed by a Question and Answer Session
 - **10.45am to 11.30am/12 noon** - morning tea
 - Each attendee to make a \$2 contribution to cover costs of tea, coffee, sugar and milk
 - Each attendee to bring along one of the following:
 - ❖ Biscuits (a variety is mandatory!)
 - ❖ Cake (simpler the better)
 - ❖ Fruit Salad (summer type fruits), or
 - ❖ Savoury dish (some like it hot! - wasn't that a movie?)
 - **12 noon to 12.30pm** - clean up
- Note: Map Group gatherings are open to all RGSQ members.

Monday, 5 February 2018

Key Event: *"Aeronautical Charts"* by James Hansen, Bob Abnett & Ian Francis.

Bob Abnett, Map Group Coordinator

Book of the month

"Brisbane in the 1890s"

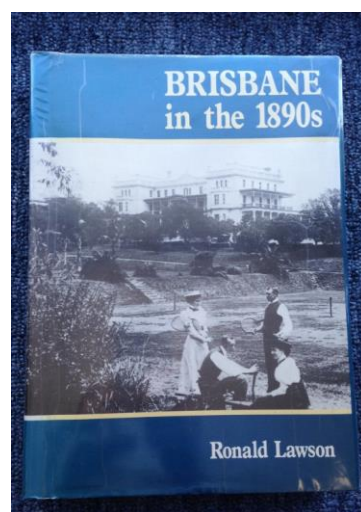
by Ronald Lawson, University of Queensland Press, 1973.

Synopsis by Rob Simson

This is indeed a history book but the geographical setting is clearly woven into the presentation through the text, maps, diagrams and photographic illustrations.

The 1890s was a most significant decade in the growth of the city and the development of Brisbane society. It is the decade of the monster floods of early 1893 with much of the city centre and all of South Brisbane under water. There followed the impact of the depression and the closing of eight out of eleven banks in May that same year, as well as the strengthening of the Labour Union movement with the resulting workers' strikes around the State. The success of the suburban railways and the new electric tramway system allowed the beginning of the urban sprawl into the suburbs. Housing estate were lavishly advertised in the newspapers. The politics of the Australian Federation movement stirred up community debate, and the growth of a more active middle class came about in response to the School of Arts adult education system. Brisbane Grammar was the leading secondary school but several rival schools emerged during the decade — education at last being truly valued. Then came the establishment of the Brisbane Technical College, the emergence of the University Extension service and a push towards giving women equal opportunities to pursue University careers. (Despite several bills going before the Queensland Parliament the UQ was not founded till 1909).

It was during the 1890s decade that some of Brisbane's most attractive architecture emerged — the Treasury Building, Parliament House, Government House and the Exhibition Building being amongst them. Large sporting complexes were established at Albion Park and Woolloongabba with spectator facilities for Rugby Union football, cricket, lawn tennis,



swimming, hockey and cycling. Sailing and rowing were also major sporting or leisure activities on the river. However it was Horse Racing that remained the most popular spectator sport with the premier venue at Eagle Farm.

I personally found the sections on Sport, the Theatre (including the Brisbane Opera House), Music halls and pantomimes, gala Balls for the elite and Dancing halls for the less affluent, most interesting. A bequest of the Thomas Murray-Prior collection towards establishing an Art gallery, didn't lead to much progress possibly because, unlike Victoria, the latter suffered from the lack of wealthy patronage in Queensland.

What may be of more interest to RGSQ Members is section on Public Meetings and Lectures (p 228-229), where the Royal Society of Queensland and our own society had regular lectures and talks which were also printed in both society's proceedings. The two societies overlapped in their membership, drawn from diverse professions, including the clergy, solicitors, judges, parliamentarians, pastoralists, medical practitioners and professional scientists.

You will find the book at 994.3 Law on the Library shelves. Take a look some time.

"What did you do in the Royal Geographical Society of Queensland for 30 years, Dal?"

By Dal Anderson

I stumbled onto the RGSQ purely by accident in 1986 when Wendy pointed out an article in the Courier Mail about the trek "To the Gulf and Back", based on a highly successful tour two year prior, that the RGSQ was intending to take to the gulf area of Northern Queensland later that year. Her comment was, "Why not go because you have always wanted to go there?" So, after the usual indecisions, I did go and became friendly with some of the other passengers (i.e. Les Isdale and Nesta) and decided to continue on with the society after that trek.

It was in the month after that tour that fate stepped in when Member of Council and Immediate Past President Ken Sutton, who also had been on the coach, unexpectedly died and a vacancy on Council resulted. Sometime later I spoke to Keith Smith, the then Society Manager, about the vacancy and he suggested that I nominate for it. I duly did apply and was successful after an interview by Council.

At this time the RGSQ was at 370 George Street and eventually it was decided to move out of the inner city to the suburbs. (An interesting thing about the time we were at George Street was that attendees of the monthly lecture could buy a pre-lecture sit down dinner at the venue.)

The Society, after a lot of searching for a suitable building, purchased an old church and hall at 112 Brookes Street, Fortitude Valley on 3 February 1989 with a formal opening of "Gregory Hall", the main building, on 11th of May 1989. The whole complex of church and hall was called "Gregory Place". It was here that the library was expanded and we could lease out space in the main church.

What became major RGSQ activities originated from here, the first scientific study, at "Heathlands" in Cape York, was initiated by Paul Feeney and the Schools' Geography Competition by Kath Berg. My memories of these activities are of driving one of three loaded lightweight 4WD vehicles bought for the study to Cairns in two days with Paul and Keith Smith driving the other two. The not so fond memory of the Schools' Competition is of having to lug cartons of forms up and down the two floors of the church hall during the competitions.

Our next move, again after a lot of seeking for a suitable building, was to 237 Milton Road on the 26th of June 2002 with the Official Opening on 2nd of December 2003. For the move I offered to pack the library books and shelving etc, and from memory this took well

over a week and then I finally supervised the despatches while Kath Berg supervised the deliveries and layout at Milton. (During the delayed fit-out of Milton the monthly lectures were held in a hall at Bardon.)

In the years since leaving George Street I have been usually a vice president or treasurer on Council and was president 1999 – 2001. My other odd jobs have been on the Buildings and Grounds and also Tours and Expeditions Committees and until the new public address was installed I was the PA operator.

During the years from 1986 to 2002 the Society ran thirteen very successful coach treks. Other than being President of the Society my main sense of accomplishment, after 30 years of being on Council, was the planning and supervision of nine individual treks, two of which were also run twice, and of my participation in ten of them.

Long-time RGSQ Councillor, Tony Hillier on his time with the Royal Geographical Society of Queensland

By Tony Hillier

I was first introduced to RGSQ by Kevin Teys. I had known and travelled with Kevin for many years and about 1999 or 2000, following two trips up to Riverslea and Lawn Hill with Professor Russell Drysdale, then at Newcastle University, I told Kev I was interested in that type of activity so he suggested I join RGSQ which I did.

As I was still in business until the end of 2005 my involvement was spasmodic, I did go for two weeks on the advance party to help set up the White Mountain expedition and a few day trips. After I retired I went with Paul Feeney and others on both the first working party and the whole expedition to Cravens Peak in 2006 and 2007. In 2007 there were several vacancies on the Council and I was asked to join the Council, which I did, and have remained on the council until this year. I joined the scientific committee, chaired by Neal O'Connor, in 2010. The proposal to hold another expedition came about the same time. Neal and I and several others did a survey trip to Cape York and Pungalina in 2010 following which it was decided to go to Pungalina.



Images from the 2012 RGSQ expedition to Pungalina. For a full photo report, visit the RGSQ website <http://www.rgsq.org.au/2012Punga>.

At that time Neal resigned from the committee for family reasons and I became chairman and proceeded to start organizing the expedition. This involved an advance trip in 2011 (<http://www.rgsq.org.au/Picpunga11>) to set up facilities followed by the actual expedition in 2012. It will probably be the last big expedition run by RGSQ because of the costs involved, future ones, if any, will be much smaller. After that, John Nowill, Dal Anderson and I became part of the Building Committee for Gregory House. Over time the problems with the air conditioning and water leaks among other issues led to the establishment of the temporary committee to investigate all aspects of renovating the building and I am prepared to continue to contribute in any way I can.

Report: 2017 Australian Geography Competition and its associated events Geography's Big Week Out and International Geography Olympiad

Thank you to all Society members who helped with the Australian Geography Competition in 2017. Your assistance helped keep the Competition affordable for many students, and helps promote geography in schools.

The annual Australian Geography Competition is a joint initiative of the Royal Geographical Society of Queensland Incorporated, and the Australian Geography Teachers' Association Limited. It commenced as a national Competition for Year 9 geography students in 1995 and, over the years, has evolved into a competition for students from Year 7 and younger to Year 12. In 2017, 743 schools from across Australia including three overseas schools entered 70,679 students in the Competition.

We thank the Competition's sponsors for their support:

- Australian Government (Department of Education and Training)
- Macquarie University, NSW
- The University of Queensland, QLD (School of Earth and Environmental Sciences)

2017 marked the twenty-third year of the national Competition which incorporates three associated projects:

- the school round - Australian Geography Competition (AGC).
- the Geography's Big Week Out (GBWO) – sixteen high performing Year 11 students (male and female students from the States and combined Territories, plus two other students) are selected from the current year's AGC. GBWO is a week of geographical activities focussing on fieldwork and spatial technologies.
- the International Geography Olympiad (iGeo) – four students selected from the previous year's GBWO.

The 2017 Geography's Big Week Out (GBWO) was hosted by the Geography Teachers' Association of South Australia (GTASA) and held on Kangaroo Island, 1 to 7 October 2017. GTASA member Liam Sloan organised the GBWO with assistance from the Competition Office and Committee, including Kath Berg and Margaret McIvor. During the week, students were supervised by GTASA members: Liam Sloan, Simon Roos-Freeman, and James Howard and AGC Committee and RGSQ members: Margaret McIvor and Kath Berg. The food for the week was organised and prepared by Bill and Mary Sloan, and Olivia Sloan who deserve a big thank you for their volunteering to assist in making the 2017 GBWO a great week.

"Thinking critically about information, its place in the bigger picture and understanding all the interconnections in the Kangaroo Island region were the highlights of the GBWO experience."
Zeynep March,
2017 Big Week Out



Students entering fieldwork data. 2017 Geography's Big Week Out, Kangaroo Island, South Australia.

The 2017 four student Australian Team competed against 41 other countries at the 14th International Geography Olympiad (iGeo) held in Belgrade, Serbia from 2nd to 8th August. The Australia Team who were chosen based on their performances in the 2016 AGC and GBWO included:

Christian Flynn, Canberra Grammar, ACT
Madeleine Lezon, Kilmore International School, Vic
Teale Lyon, St Mary's Anglican Girls School, WA
Isaac Tennent, St Peter's College, Adelaide, SA



(left to right)
Madeleine Lezon, Teale Lyon, Isaac Tennant, Christine Flynn.

The Australian Team Leaders were Margaret McIvor and Kath Berg, both Australian Geography Competition Committee and RGSQ members who have a long association with the all aspects of the AGC, GBWO and iGeo.

Christian Flynn and Isaac Tennant both received bronze medals. The Poland team were declared the overall winners, followed by Romania, USA, Lithuania and Russia.

The Australian team has once again scored commendable results. This highlights the strength of geography curricula in teaching students to think, analyse and interpret information.

Organised by the International Geographical Union's (IGU) Olympiad Task Force, the iGeo is a prestigious international annual competition for 16 to 19-year-old students selected through a national geography competition.

To challenge the best-performing geography students from around the world, the iGeo programme involves three tests - a written response test, a multi-media test and a substantial fieldwork exercise requiring observation, cartographic representation and geographical analysis. The programme also included poster presentations by teams and a cultural session.

Volunteers to assist with the 2018 Competition

In 2018, the Competition will again require assistance from Society members. The following are the 2018 Volunteer days:

JANUARY

- **Tuesday 23 to Thursday 25 – Information mail out to all schools in Australia.** This mailout requires labels to be stuck on large envelopes and a few items placed within the envelopes. 12 volunteers working over two days would complete this task.

APRIL

- **Tuesday 24 to Friday 27**, but not Wednesday 25 (ANZAC Day) – **Question booklets and Answer sheets mailout.** This mailout requires counting/weighting of Question booklets and Answer sheets and placing them in large envelopes, post satchels or boxes. This is a complex mailout which takes a few days to complete with 6-8 volunteers required each day. In the last few years it has taken about three days to complete the sorting and packing.

JUNE

- **Friday 1 to Friday 15 – Scanning of completed answer sheets.** This task requires concentration and attention to detail. The days volunteers are required is dependent on the timing and number of returned answer sheets.

JULY

- **Tuesday 24 to Friday 27 July – Certificate and Results mailout.** This mailout requires the sorting and packing of student certificates and results sheets into large envelopes, post satchels or boxes. This task requires concentration and attention to detail.

Your help on any of the above occasions will be greatly appreciated. Please contact the office (phone: 3368 2066, email: admin@rgsq.org.au) and let us know on which day you are able to assist?

Report: RGSQ Traveller Papua New Guinea Cruise October 2017 Part I

As a young man I was most fortunate to do some relief work at the 'South Pacific Post' newspaper in Port Moresby in the latter part of 1968. During this period Papua New Guinea was known as the Territory of Papua New Guinea and was then part of Australia's colonial territory prior to PNG independence in 1975.

This cruise 'To the Land that Time Forgot' was to restore my interest in Papua New Guinea and in many ways it didn't disappoint. Over the past twenty five years I have travelled to some incredible spots around the globe and after this cruise I still regard Papua New Guinea very highly on my must see list for a variety of reasons.

During the course of this cruise I have become more and more aware of Longitude and Latitude as we have been crossing very slowly north/south and west/east rather than the usual flight path that I'm used to when travelling overseas. As the Latitude and Longitude have been published every day in the ship's log I thought I would include them in my notes.

Wednesday 4th October 2017



Cairns Latitude 16 degrees 55'S Longitude 145 degrees 47'E

We boarded Coral Discoverer at 10am for an 11.00am departure on schedule we left the Cairns wharf at 11.00am sharp. It was a lovely warm tropical morning as we steamed out of Trinity Inlet and despite being a bit hazy the open deck was quite hot. The landscape to the rear of the city of Cairns is quite elevated and very tropical and green - something that we were to become very familiar with over the next 12 days as much of the topography of New Guinea is extremely green with high mountains and rainforest a constant backdrop. Thursday 5th October 2017

At Sea: Latitude 14 degrees 09'S Longitude 147 degrees 54'E

Thursday 5th October. As we passed through the Great Barrier Reef and cruised away from the North Queensland Coastline, many of those on board had become quite sick and there was a definite decline in numbers of those who appeared for dinner that evening. The Coral Discoverer is an 1800 tonne tourist vessel specifically built for the tourist trade around the Australian, New Zealand, New Guinea, and South East Asian coastlines and carries 72 passengers. Friday 6th October 2017

Samaria Island & Sewa Bay Latitude 10 degrees 37'S Longitude 150 degrees 40'E

After checking into New Guinea Customs at Samuray, we proceeded to Sewa Bay via the China Strait and sailed past the entrance to Milne Bay. The view from the front of the ship as we sailed past Milne Bay, although overcast, was really quite beautiful with high mountains and islands to the front and side in the distance.

Presentations on board throughout the cruise were given by our on board anthropologist. He improvised on screen by using pages from various anthropology publications to support his lectures.

In the mid-afternoon our landing at Pwanapawana Village was a wade through ankle deep water to be received by a waiting throng of villagers ready to present us with flower wreaths, a very warm welcome and then accompany us while drumming us from the shore to the local school, Pwanapawana Primary School. Following an afternoon tea consisting of coconut milk in the shell, bananas, pineapple, and various other fruits we were then entertained with our first sing and cultural dance presentation. This village, with the benefit of hindsight had a much higher living standard than others we were to visit later on. Saturday 7th October

Dei Dei Hot Springs, Dobu Island and Twin Towers Latitude 09 degrees 45'S Longitude 150 degrees 51'E

Dobu and Ferguson Islands. On arrival this morning approximately half the ship's complement opted for walking to the hot springs at Dei Dei while the remainder went on for a further twenty minutes across the water opposite Ferguson Island to the neighbouring island of Dobu. Apparently Dobu was a favoured destination for blackbirding during that rather infamous period when the North Queensland sugar industry was in its infancy.

The expedition leader and anthropologist accompanied us on the Island excursion and we were not disappointed as the walk around the village and along the coast gave a good glimpse into the local traditional houses and again the local people on Dobu were extremely friendly and unlike people from our society at home they looked extremely relaxed. On Dobu we were escorted around by the local children and visited the original church of the missionary, Bromilow, which was quite close to where we had landed on the beach.

While on Dobu we learnt the history of the Kula Ring where Dobu Island was a pivotal link between the north and south Kula trade routes. Our presentation here in the centre of the village had a number of 'kula ring' ornaments on show. The 'kula ring' was a system of exchange involving

inter island visits between trading partners who exchanged highly valued shell ornaments. There are two types of shell valuables - necklaces (soulava) and armbands (mwali) of which both were on show in Dobu.

I was aware there was a volcano somewhere on Dobu but after further inquiries discovered it was the underwater variety and the only evidence of its existence was rising hot bubbles coming to the surface about another kilometre further along the coast from where we had landed.

By all accounts the other travellers enjoyed their walk to the hot springs at Dei Dei on Ferguson Island and witnessed the locals cooking in the boiling pools. The guides showed orchids, and carnivorous pitcher plants and the walkers met one local couple who were having a late breakfast of bananas, cassava and greens cooked in the hot springs. The walk of approximately 30 minutes passed a creek where the water was warm and smelt slightly of sulphur. The hot springs themselves had lots of bubbling water and steam venting from holes in the ground. Most walkers purchased woven basket bags that I was to see later on during the tour slung from the shoulders and used to hold water bottles.

The later afternoon water activities at Sanaroa Island were cut a little short when the glass bottom boat motor broke down as we were drifting over the coral bommies and passengers had to be ferried back to the ship on the rubber duckie and then the small Glass Bottom Boat tender had to be towed back later. Still others had gone further along the shore line reef and had enjoyed a couple hours of snorkelling and scuba diving. Sunday 8th October

Kiawah Island and Tuma Island Exploration Latitude 08 degrees 37'S longitude 151 degrees 20'E

Trobriand Islands. After anchoring just before 7am this morning offshore from Kuiawa we enjoyed a morning's activity with entertainment upon landing of a mock invasion from across the sea. This was put on with a number of large outrigger canoes landing warriors on the beach to be met with a volley of missiles from those on shore. This was full on and staged quite well to the enjoyment of all.

Following on was the usual program presentation of a sing and dancing for the visitors. Here to my surprise we had the accompaniment of more western instruments in the form of several guitars to accompany the drums. We then proceeded on a walk through the village where the villagers had set out their carvings and shells for sale at the front of their homes. Some travellers purchased nice pieces as souvenirs to take home and I'm sure there will be many great photographs on show at home and many fond memories of our all too short visit to The Trobriand Islands.

Although we had limited time to explore, Kiawah Island seemed rather flat and the village was just slightly higher than sea level. There were anywhere from 300 to 700 residents in the village. Education went through to Grade 8 at the school on the island and then it became necessary to move to a boarding school to continue secondary education at one of the schools on one of the larger islands in the Trobriands group.

This afternoon most on board Coral Discoverer opted for a further walk across the island, a look in on the village vegetable garden, the local Church and a further stroll around the village before going back to the ship around 3.30pm for afternoon tea. Tonight at 6.00pm we again had pre-dinner drinks on the Bridge Deck Lounge and then a documentary from the David Attenborough collection on New Guinea later in the evening. We set sail north west and expect to be close to McLaren Harbour and Tufi Fjords tomorrow morning. Monday 9th October

VOLUNTEER NEEDED

The Archives Group requires someone who would be willing to word process 40-50, hand written box lists (i.e. list of files in archival boxes) and labels for archival boxes. Currently, the Archives Group meets on a Monday, but this task could be undertaken any time. Entertaining morning teas on a Monday, sometimes with cakes, are a bonus. Laptop computer supplied. If you are interested, please email Peter Griggs at peter.griggs1960@outlook.com.



RGSQ Office Closure



Friday December 22, 2017 (cob) - Monday January 8, 2018

The RGSQ Office will be closed during the Christmas and New Year holidays.

We would like to wish all our members a joyous holiday season and a prosperous new year!

RGSQ Bulletin

December 2017

February Lecture on the Sunshine Coast:

Tue Feb 20 *"Geography and its relevance to leadership in a regional university - the USC experience", by Professor Greg Hill*

Tours and Activities: Tue Dec 5 *Christmas Celebration; Mon Dec 18* *'Lost Leichhardt' day outing*

Map Group: Mon Dec 4 - END OF YEAR

SOCIAL, 10am to 12pm, "Gregory House", 237 Milton Rd, Milton.

Ken Sutton Memorial Library: Mon Jan 22, 9:00am, "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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