

RGSQ Bulletin March 2018

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Patron: <u>H.E. Paul de Jersey AC, Governor of Queensland</u> President: Dr Iraphne Childs

From the President

ear Members, it was encouraging to see so many of you at the "Welcome to 2018" on February 6 held at St. Francis College. Many thanks to Kay Rees for coordinating such an interesting and enjoyable evening. Thanks, also, to those who helped prepare supper and to members of Committees and Special Interest Groups who presented information on forthcoming activities: the 2018 lecture program, new RGSQ website, Australian Geography Competition, Map group, Treks and Activities, RGSQ Traveller, Archives and Library group. It was especially enlightening to hear about the history of some of our key endeavours.

At the Welcome night we presented John Tasker with the RGSQ Keith Smith Prize for The University of Queensland's highest performing geography student in 2016. John achieved an outstanding academic record at UQ and graduated with First Class Honours in Geographical Sciences in 2017.

As we move forward in 2018, I thought it would be appropriate to reflect on some of our core perspectives as Geographers. So often when you meet someone at a social gathering, or are sitting next to someone on a plane who asks "You're a Geographer? What do you do? What is Geography anyway?" We usually don't have a single, snappy answer because Geography has many dimensions. We could say "Geography is what geographers <u>do</u>" but that answer is not usually acceptable! Our discipline offers a way of understanding the complex world. Geographic insights and literacy are crucial in addressing environmental, geopolitical, economic and national security issues.

So, what <u>is</u> Geography? A couple of millennia ago, Geography was about the discovery and measurement of our planet (and actually still is!). In 240BC the Greek philosopher-geographermathematician Eratosthenes concluded that the Earth was round by measuring sun angles and came amazingly close to the correct figure for its circumference. In later centuries the writings of naturalist-geographers such as Alexander von Humboldt framed Geography in exploration and cartography. During the 20th century, within the traditional biophysical and human division, Geography split into many sub-disciplines, both qualitative and quantitative. Preston E. James and Geoffrey J. Martin cover the twists and turns in these developments in <u>All</u> Possible Worlds. A History of Geographical Ideas (2e 1981).

From the 1960s "technological geography" evolved, one outcome of which was Geographic Information Systems (GIS), the basis for every GPS in public use today. In the 1980s Geography lost some core ground to "environmental studies" and, regretfully, in high schools Geography became subsumed under "Studies of Society and Environment".

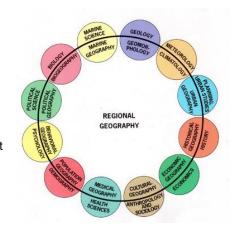
Fortunately, SOSE now has a much reduced profile and Geography (and History) are back in their own right, although in many schools we struggle to compete in a crowded curriculum.

Today Geography has embraced a new age with satellites transmitting remotely-sensed data to computers, ipads and smart phones, making possible accurate and timely analysis and decision-making in many fields of national, local and personal importance.

Despite the changes over time, Geography has maintained some core traditions. We focus on *place*. Our perspective is a *spatial* one. We use scale to analyse phenomena and look at cores and peripheries. We study both the biophysical (e.g. geomorphology, climate, topography, soils, ecosystems) and human (population, settlement, culture) environments and the relationships between these. For example, the sub-field of natural hazards geography focuses on both the physical hazard events (volcanic eruptions, earthquakes, cyclones, floods, bushfires etc.) and community responses to these events. The *locational* tradition in Geography seeks to explain the distribution of human activities in relation to, and constrained by biophysical environments. Geographers study the distribution of natural resources, the management of conservation zones, agricultural production and urban land-use. One of the most critical areas to which Geographers are contributing is *climate change*. Coastal geomorphologists and hazard geographers are at the forefront of research into how Australian coastal and Pacific island communities are being affected by sea-level rise.

In many of these endeavours the work of Geographers intersects with cognate

disciplines. Fig.1 places "regional geography" (though somewhat out-dated, a term which still has some conceptual value) at the centre of the diagram.



"Place" would probably be more acceptable today. In short, Geography is the integrating science, dealing with both the natural and human worlds. (source. De Blij, HJ and Muller, PO 2010 Geography: realms, regions and concepts, 14e fig. G-14)

Coming up in March two interesting RGSQ events are *Gorillas in my Soul,* our lecture on March 6, by Annette Henderson, Conservationist, *Tea with Sugar* day bus trip to the Madura tea plantation in Northern NSW on 22 March and 'High Tea' at Qld Parliament House on March 23. Details follow in this Bulletin.

Dr Iraphne Childs, President

RGSQ COUNCIL

President: Iraphne Childs Vice Presidents: Peter Griggs

Secretary: Margaret McIvor

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Photography:

Winston Henderson, Bob Abnett, Ian Stehbens, John Tasker, Bernard Fitzpatrick

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

We have much pleasure in welcoming Mr Geoff Wilson, Ms Pamela Tonkin, Dr Patrick Nunn and Mrs Roslyn Nunn, Cameron Carter, Thomas Garbellini, Lynette Law, and Ms Kate Rosier as new members. We hope your association with your new Society is long and mutually enjoyable.

MARCH LECTURE 'Gorillas in my Soul'

by Annette Henderson, Author, Speaker and Conservationist

Date: Tuesday, March 6 | Time: 7.30pm-9pm Venue: Magda Community Artz Hall, 80 Boundary Rd Bardon https://www.magdacommunityartz.org/tablet/about.html



Annette is the author of the best selling African memoir - 'Wild spirit: how a year in the African rainforest changed an Australian woman's life' published by Random House Australia in 2009. She has worked as an anthropologist,

university lecturer, and higher education manager, and now divides her time between many speaking engagements, some volunteering, and managing the 2-hectare Land for Wildlife property outside Brisbane where she lives with her husband, Win and their Ridgeback cross, Bentleigh.

At the age of 29, Annette Henderson found herself unexpectedly living and working in an isolated mineral exploration camp high in the forested mountains of Gabon, West Africa, close to the Congo border. As an executive secretary with no experience of remote living, she found every day a challenge to all she'd ever known. But the great primeval rainforest surrounding the camp, home to a dazzling array of wildlife, soon began to work on her spirit. Little by little, she learned about the elephants, gorillas, leopards and monkeys, the aardvarks, pangolins, antelopes and hornbills. When an orphaned and injured baby gorilla was brought into camp one night, the greatest change of her life began to unfold.

Note: Annette's books will be available for purchase on the night, cash only.

Photo: Annette Henderson with Ikata the Western Lowland Gorilla on the right, and Bueni the Chimpanzee on the left. Courtesy of Winston Henderson.

HOW TO DONATE TO THE ROYAL GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY OF Q UEENSLAND

RGSQ is a Registered Charity and all donations can be tax deductible if given for Educational or Environmental Purposes.

Donations can be made

- in cash
- by cheque
- by credit card, please contact the RGSQ Office on 07 3368 2066
- or directly crediting our bank account.

A tax-deductible receipt will be issued if required for every donation gratefully received.

Getting to Magda Community Artz Hall

For the rest of the year our monthly lectures will be held, as usual on the first Tuesdays of each month, at the Magda Community Artz Hall, 80 Boundary road, Bardon. Please see below for a photo of the venue and directions to the hall.

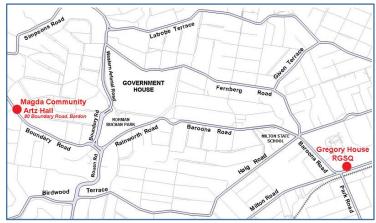


Photo courtesy of Bob Abnett, RGSQ member.

Parking at Magda Community Artz Hall

There is no off-street parking provided by Magda. Please be mindful of immediate neighbours and do not park in front of their homes.

Parking is available along Boundary Street and in side streets such as Haining and Stoke Streets.



Directions to Magda Community Artz Hall



UPCOMING EVENTS

MARCH: Tea with Sugar Thursday 22 March

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)

Please note: the tour is currently fully booked, expressions of interest will be waitlisted.

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 and indicate pick up location when booking. Hope you can join us!

Coordinator: Jeanette Lamont

MARCH: High Tea and Tour of Queensland Parliament House Friday 23 March

Where: Strangers' Dining Room **Cost:** \$47.00 and payable to the RGSQ office. *If you'd like to book, please contact the RGSQ Office 07 3368 2066 or email <u>admin@rgsq.org.au</u>.*

Please note: the tour is currently fully booked, expressions of interest will be waitlisted.



Parliament House, Brisbane, seen from the end of George Street, Brisbane. Image: Wikipedia, <u>CC BY-SA 3.0</u> 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 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**

APRIL: Field trip Mooloolah River Landcare Nursery

Tuesday 17 April, 9am-12pm

Location: 2670 Steve Irwin Way, Glenview. **Cost**: \$10

Book and Pay: please contact the RGSQ Office on 07 3368 2066 or email <u>admin@rgsq.org.au</u> by Fri, March 30.

The Biodiversity Officer will demonstrate her biodiversity experiments pertaining to the "Cat's Claw Creeper" and the Jewel Beetle and the "Madeira Vine" and the Madeira Vine beetle, for approximately 30 minutes. A nursery representative will then show the process of preparing a plant for sale in the nursery, with some "hands on" experience by the participants, approximately 90 minutes. Members are encouraged to bring seeds in for the demonstration & allow MRWL to grow them for future sales. Time will be set aside for participants to purchase native plants. Please organize your own transport and bring your morning tea and chair.

Coordinator: Wendy Davis

APRIL: Visit to Osprey House Environmental Centre

Tuesday 24 April

MEET at the centre by 11.30am to enjoy a BYO picnic lunch. Address: <u>Doyle's Rocks Road Griffin.</u>

BOOK with the RGSQ office - 07 3368 2066 or admin@rgsq.org.au

PAY by 10th of April

COST \$10.00 per person

Set among the mangroves lining the banks of the Pine River is Osprey House Environmental Centre. With a low tide at about 1.00pm expanses of muddy flats will be exposed making a feeding ground for a variety of water birds and raptors, up to about 20 different species possible. We might see an Osprey, we might see a koala. After lunch volunteers from the centre will help us identify different species and tell us about the importance of mangroves.

Be SunSmart, wear walking shoes, and bring a picnic lunch, water bottle, binoculars and camera. Bring your friends along.

Coordinator: Audrey Johnston.

MAY: Visit to Beenleigh Rum Distillery and Poppy's Chocolate Factory

When: Wednesday 30 May | 8:00am - 4:30pm

Departure: 8:00am - Park Ave Eagle Junction

- 8:20am Park n Ride Mains Rd NathanCost:\$65.00 members / \$68.00 non-members
(based on 25 participants). Includes bus
cost, morning tea and tour/tasting at
Distillery and Poppy's.
- Pay by:Monday 30th April 2018.
- Lunch: Own cost at Beenleigh RSL.
- Home: Drop-off at Mains Rd and Eagle Junction. Last drop-off at 4:30pm.
- Dress: Closed shoes must be worn, access is not conducive to wheelchairs, walkers or prams.

We would love you to join us on a bus tour to the Beenleigh Artisan Distillery and Poppy's Chocolate Factory.

The tour includes morning tea, Tour and Tasting at the distillery followed by lunch (own cost) at the Beenleigh RSL after which we shall visit the Poppy's Chocolate Factory.

Beenleigh Rum was established over 130 years ago and still operates from their original site on the banks of the Albert River.

Join us for a tour of the distillery followed by an included tasting of selected products from either the "Classic Rum Experience" or the "Distiller's Selection". Products are also available for purchase, for those who wish to indulge. Our tour will be followed by lunch.

Following lunch we will travel to poppy's Chocolate Factory where we will be greeted with gourmet samples to taste prior to being enlightened about the craft of chocolate making and shown a glimpse of the art. Each member will be presented with a 'goodie' bag containing 5 different chocolates to take home (or consume on the way).

Tour numbers are limited to 25, so, please register with the office now to avoid disappointment and please advise the office of your preferred pick-up / drop-off point.

Coordinator: Wayne Mackenzie



Top plunge - Yabba Falls, the first 60m of the 160m fall.

AUGUST: Field trip | Friday 17 - Sun 19 August

A weekend for guided exploration of the Upper Yabba catchment, specifically Yabba Falls and Kingaham Gorge (Ochre Falls, Tumbled Valley, Broken Femur Falls et al). Coordinator: lan Stehbens

Expressions of interest only by Friday April 27.

Please contact the RGSQ Office on 07 3368 2066 or admin@rgsq.org.au.

Cost: tba

The old geologies of the area provide some baffling questions and a wide variety of landforms including moderate and massive jointing in granitic outcrops, surprising volcanic intrusions and vent, and strongly jointed metamorphic structures. The Mary Catchment has captured some of the upper Burnett catchment via Yabba and Kingaham Creeks. The weekend is appropriate for a range of fitness levels:

- a. easy but rough walk to top of Yabba Falls and Weaner Rock;
- b. moderate challenge due to length of slopes gives access into Kingaham Gorge and also into Gates of Yabba;
- c. abseiling descent into awesome Baiyambora Gorge with challenging return hiking ascent.

Staying at Imbil in your choice of accommodation: Imbil Country Cabins (economical quality accommodation) or B&Bs or camping at Deer Park, camping at Imbil Island Reach Campground, or at Borumba Dam camping area.

Borumba Deer Park www.borumbadeerpark.com:

Camping \$15pp pn.

Budget Cabins \$75 for first 2 persons pn, + \$15 per extra adult.

Deluxe Cabins \$95 for first 2 persons pn, + \$15 per extra adult.

Own Van \$32 for first 2 persons pn +\$17 per extra adult. Alternative quality accommodation (rating by the trip Coordinator ****) at **Imbil Country Cabins** for up to 6 persons (1 Queen, 2 bunks, 1 double fold out sofa) is \$181 pn.

Access to the field site from Imbil requires a 4WD vehicle, so we will be carpooling for those who do not have a 4WD. People need to assemble at Borumba Deer Park, Yabba Creek Road, IMBIL by 7.30am on the Saturday morning and again on the Sunday morning. This trek will involve two days, returning to Imbil on both days.



Owen cascades, the last part of Yabba Falls. Both photos courtesy of lan Stehbens.

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

IIIKEN SUTTON MEMORIAL LIBRARY GROUP

When: Monday, March 26 Time: 9:00 am Where: "Gregory House", 237 Milton Rd.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The Library Group requires someone who would be willing to assist with organising RGSQ library material. No experience needed. If you are interested, please email Peter Griggs at <u>peter.griggs1960@outlook.com</u>.

MAP GROUP UPCOMING GATHERINGS & EVENTS

The Map Group has a rich calendar for 2018. If you would like to participate in any of the offerings, please contact the event's outings co-ordinator shown below. The Map Group is a vibrant part of the RGSQ and seeks out mapping related interests for the curious. If you think you may like to join the Map Group then contact Bob Abnett [(07) 3820-2621, 0412-135-794, email: abnett@powerup.com.au] or lan Francis [(07) 3266-2285, 0457-628-033, email: brisfran@gmail.com].

The Map Group monthly calendar alternates events between gatherings. Events usually take the form of a site visit to an institution and often followed by lunch, whereas gatherings are a home meeting with guest presenters. The gatherings include a morning tea.

If you would like the full 2018 Map Group calendar please contact Ian Francis, email <u>brisfran@gmail.com</u>. New members are very welcome.

Tuesday 20 March @10:00am - 12:00pm

Event: Visit to the Brisbane City Council Archives, address 15/107-123 Muriel Ave, Skyline Business Centre, Moorooka 4105, followed by lunch at the Red Lion Hotel - 215 Beaudesert Rd, Moorooka 4105.

Details: See many historical maps of the Brisbane area plus aerial photos from 1946 onwards. Limited parking available, please consider car-pooling. *Cost*: \$0.00 + lunch (\$10-\$20)

Co-ordinator: Bob Abnett, abnett@powerup.com.au

Monday 9 April @10:00am - 12:00pm

Gathering Presentation: The Jardines and Exploring Cape York by Grahame L. Jardine-Vigden.

<u>Details</u>: Grahame is a descendent of the Jardines and does regular photographic presentations on the Jardines to interested groups.

Location: 11 Kerrianne Place Moorooka 4105 Cost: gold coin donation for tea and coffee Co-ordinator: Bob Abnett, abnett@powerup.com.au

Wednesday May 16 @10am - 12pm

Event: Visit to Queensland Maritime Museum, followed by lunch at the Ship in Hotel

<u>Details</u>: Gain access to rare and interesting maps and charts thanks to RGSQ members Peter Nunan. Examination of samples of the Museum's nautical charts followed by a museum tour and then lunch.

Location: South Bank, 412 Stanley St, South Brisbane QLD 4101 <u>Coordinator:</u> Ian Francis, <u>brisfran@gmail.com</u>

YOUNG GEOGRAPHERS GROUP

The RGSQ Young Geographers Group is the latest Special Interest Group to be established within RGSQ from the enthusiasm of two young geographers and members of RGSQ – John Tasker and Giselle Pickering.

This is a space in which tertiary geography students and early to mid-career professionals can socialise, network and explore career pathway opportunities. The group aims to build the student and young professional membership base within the society and to improve the engagement of younger members in society events. Future goals include a broader range of career networking or development activities and potentially extending the reach of the group to engage with and inspire high school aged students to consider geography as a future career pathway.

https://www.facebook.com/groups/379870585818842/?source_id=1373 79932950619

Draft 2018 Calendar of Events March 10, 12-4pm

Welcome BBQ at Roma St Parklands, a short walk from the bus-way and train station. Come introduce yourself to other group members in the first event of the year. A sausage sizzle and some drinks will be provided but feel free to bring extra picnic food to share.

Late April

Student Project Presentation Seminar, possibly at CSIRO EcoSciences Precinct library, Dutton Park (venue to be confirmed). This hour-long seminar includes presentations from three late undergraduate, honours and/or postgraduate students on their current research. This will be a great opportunity to learn about fellow students' research experience, practice your scientific communication skills and to network with other attendees. The event will be an open invitation to all RGSQ members and relevant Qld Government and EcoSciences Precinct employees.

June

Mid-year group gathering at the University of Sunshine Coast. There will be a social BBQ evening and some short student presentations before attending the RGSQ Sunshine Coast Group lecture "Balloons to Blackbird: a brief history of photo intelligence" by Ken Granger. Transportation to be provided (TBC).

August

Young Geographer participation in the RGSQ weekend excursion, "Yabba Falls & Kingaham Gorge" camping at Imbil Conservation Reserve with Ian Stehbens. Come spend some time outdoors with fellow society members and learn more about the area. Potential for field data collection experience.

October

A Geography Career Forum with short presentations from employed industry professionals about the application of geography in their workplace. Open invitation event, location TBC.

Experiences of a Geography Student

by John Tasker, 2016 recipient of the Royal Geographical Society of Queensland Keith Smith Award.



Collecting field data via helicopter in South West Queensland. Courtesy of John Tasker.

Throughout my degree, the most commonly asked question from people I met was why I had chosen to study geography. While many associate geography with atlases and pub trivia - which resulted in many questions about world capitals - it was also common for people to ask if I was a cartographer or demographer based on the description of my studies. The specialisation of geography has allowed many to become experts in their field, but it has also limited the capacity for geographers to have a broad understanding of their entire discipline. Students must also now become highly specialised within a particular aspect of geography, with universities offering specialisations in climatology, biogeography, geographic information science, and demography. While I am a firm believer in a diverse and broad background in geography, my journey to become a geographer is very much the result of a focus and passion for spatial technology.

Like many, my first foray into the world of geography was through atlases and road maps. As computers and the Internet became a more significant part of my life, this passion for geography resulted in countless hours spent exploring the world using online images and Google Earth. While I didn't study geography during my senior years of schooling, several of my projects from this time had a distinct geographic focus, from hand-drawn maps through to Google Earth projects marking global air force bases or all Brisbane public transport routes. Time spent with cadet groups also fostered respect for topographic data and the practical applications of accurate mapping information.

Moving into university, the opportunities and expertise available in the spatial science field immediately attracted me to the University of Queensland. By the end of my first year, I began my first research project analysing usage patterns for university student public transport travel using Translink GoCard data. This project continued in some form for three years and included attendance at an international conference and the production of an openaccess coding software package. I also saw this work as a critical introduction to the applications of quantitative human geography and the complexity of working with demographic datasets. Concurrently with the public transport research, I undertook several studies using remote sensing data and processing techniques to characterise Australian vegetation communities. This work exposed me to a wide variety of spatial datasets (LiDAR. multispectral, hyperspectral) and an overview of remote sensing and environmental concepts. Elements of this

research will be presented during an upcoming electronic conference for remote sensing. I have also undertaken several property mapping projects, including work in rural Queensland, collecting field data and developing operational print and digital mapping products. Collectively these experiences have provided me with a grounding across spatial science, human geography and physical geography.

Many of my fellow students studying geography did not have the same access and exposure to research and fieldwork opportunities that I was afforded. Within undergraduate subjects, simply working with another student studying geography is a rare occurrence. Across most courses, the majority of students are typically studying environmental management, environmental science or ecology. As such, there is a distinct lack of cohort amongst many geography students. The specialisation of geography only further exacerbates this isolating students challenge, and limiting their understanding of career pathways outside of academia.

It is as a result of these factors that the RGSQ Young Geographers Group is being established to provide a forum for geography students and young professionals to interact and better understand pathways towards a career in geography.

Report: Welcome to 2018

by Kay Rees, RGSQ member and event Coordinator

On Tuesday 6 February, in St Francis' College theatre at the rear of Gregory House, the Society introduced members and guests to the program for the coming year and reviewed 2017 with some interesting highlights of the history of RGSQ since it's establishment in 1885. Furniture was rearranged to suit a lecture style room with seating for most of the 72 members attending.

Our President, Iraphne Childs, began the evening with a talk on various aspects of the Society including the progress of finding a new building. The evening was also an opportunity to present the RGSQ Keith Smith Medal to John Tasker, Geography graduate from the University of Queensland.

Executive Officer, Bernard Fitzpatrick, spoke about the upcoming lecture series for 2018 and RGSQ's Secretary, Margaret McIvor, gave an enlightening talk about how the Australian Geography Competition came about and how it is operating currently.

This was followed by speakers from the various Special Interest Groups - Map Group (Bob Abnett), Library Group (Jim Graham), Archive Group (Peter Griggs), Treks and Activities Group (Frank Birchall), RGSQ Traveller (Leo Scanlan) and the new website being designed by a group of members (Graham Rees).

The programme for 2018 was introduced followed by a brief slideshow of the past year's events. During supper, a rolling slideshow with more pictures detailed 2017 events and activities - a programme that was well supported during the year. It was a great social evening very much enjoyed by participants who appreciated the efforts put in by a number of members who made the event such a success. RGSQ looks forward to members enjoying all the upcoming events, activities, lectures and treks for 2018. From the Archive Group: The Mysterious Mr TJ McMahon

By Peter Lloyd and Max Quanchi

Thousands of photos of the South Pacific Islands, New Guinea and Queensland have been published and used in hundreds of associated articles, books and newspaper stories, but we know very little about the photographer, TJ McMahon despite him being a fellow of the Society just after WWI.



He was born in 1869 at Mt Abundance Station in the T.J. McMahon and unnamed assistant in Papua, 1915. Courtesy of RGSQ.

Roma district. After receiving an education he became a tutor to pastoralist sons in the Upper Burnett district. He entered journalism quite late in life, not being recorded in archives until 1915 when he travelled from Townsville to New Guinea. This trip generated hundreds of published photographs and many articles by McMahon and he gave a talk titled *A trip to the great mountains of New Guinea and the industries of Papua* to this Society on 1 March 1917. The talk was illustrated with lantern slides.

Thomas J. McMahon became a member of the Society in May 1917 and in the 1920 journal he is listed as a Fellow. He used the letters "F.R.G.S." (not F.R.G.S.A.) in his copious publications despite not being a member, let alone a Fellow, of the London Society. This drew a gentle reprimand from London, which he promptly ignored. He was well known in Australia between 1915-1934 as a photographer and public speaker, Imperialist and patriot. He was not active in this Society after gaining his Fellowship.

Peter Lloyd from the Archives Group (left) with Dr Max Quanchi from UQ assessing the Society's McMahon collection. Dr Quanchi has extensively researched, documented and published on McMahon's photojournalist work in the Pacific as part of



a wider study into using images as historical records. He considers the Society's McMahon image collection to be significant for both Australian and Pacific Island research.

McMahon was a prodigious self-promoter and published in the USA, New Zealand, Europe, and Australian states. This was the great age of published photography in serial encyclopaedia, magazines, postcards, newspapers and travelogues and McMahon's photographs appeared in all these outlets, often unacknowledged. He also gave lantern slide talks on Australia's sub-imperial prospects in the nearby islands. In 1923, he dropped his interest in the Pacific Islands, travelled to China, wrote a poorly received book on Asia and then spent ten years as the popular photojournalist for the "Caravanning in Queensland" column of the *Queenslander*, the *Courier-Mail's* illustrated weekend paper. McMahon died suddenly in Brisbane in 1933, a bachelor with no known relatives in Australia. This

Society inherited 100 of his photographic prints and some of his journalistic drafts, letters and press clippings, along with lantern slides that he may have used in his many talks to other audiences. A few of the slides were made from his original photos. Through the newly created RGSQ Collection Committee the Society is assessing the provenance and usefulness of all of its collections.

Report: Map Group's February 2018 Presentation

The presentation "Aeronautical Charts", was delivered by RGSQ & Map Group members, Bob Abnett, James Hansen and Ian Francis. Bob had worked for years on aviation industry matters, particularly the economics of airport operations and infrastructure; James worked for years in Air Traffic Control and was also a pilot; whilst Ian Francis had a short stint in Civil Aviation as pan engineer and brought his excellent IT skills to vastly improving the power point presentation.

The presentation covered the early days of aviation when geographically based maps were used to map flight routes; to post World War II days of early and later hard copy Aeronautical Charts, showing the increasing 3D world of airspace (on a 2D chart), with the management of this 3D airspace via navigational aids, airspace classifications for different types of aircraft and flight path designations; through to the modern day world of electronic charts displayed on screens held by hand and especially in the cockpits of small general aviation aircraft through to major commercial airliners. Map Group members were quite interested in this rather specialised area of modern mapping techniques and technologies.

Australian Team at the 2018 International Geography Olympiad in Quebec City, Canada, Announced

After a four month wait and a fierce contest at the last year's Geography's Big Week Out on Kangaroo Island, the four students selected to represent Australian at the 2018 Olympiad are: Sophie Ohlin, NSW, from Sydney Girls High, Harry Hall, SA, from Trinity College (Gawler), Hannah Wright, SA, from Walford Anglican School for Girls and Phoebe Blaxill, WA, from St Mary's Anglican Girls' School, Karrinyup.

The 2018 iGeo team was chosen from amongst sixteen best performing students in the 2017 Australian Geography Competition invited to participate in the 2017 Geography's Big Week Out - an intensive six-day residential program with challenging geographical activities held on Kangaroo Island, South Australia, in October last year.

Upon receiving the invitation, Phoebe Blaxill, one of the students on the Australian team said that she was "very excited about this fantastic opportunity". Participating students appreciate not only the opportunity to travel abroad and challenge themselves but also the experience of making connections with students from all over the world. At the last year's iGeo in Belgrade Serbia the Australian team returned home with two bronze medals, a commendable result.

Margaret McIvor, Australian Team Leader commented that "The iGeo is a prestigious international contest which aims to stimulate active interest in geographical studies among young people and contribute to greater understanding through social interaction between students from different countries."

All costs of participation in the GBWO and iGeo are covered by the Australian Geography Competition with support from the Australian Department of Education and Training, University of Queensland School of Earth and Environmental Sciences, Monash University and Macquarie University.

Volunteers to assist with the 2018 Competition

In April, the Competition will again require assistance from Society members.

April Tuesday 24 to Friday 27, but not Wednesday 25 (ANZAC Day) – *Question booklets and Answer sheets mailout*. This requires counting/weighing 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.

If you are available on any of the days, we would love to hear from you. Please contact us on 07 3368 2066 or email <u>admin@rgsq.org.au</u>.

For every curious mind, the World Science Festival is coming up in March. To find out more, check out the guide <u>http://www.worldsciencefestival.com.au/wpcontent/uploads/2018/02/WSFB_PROGRAM-GUIDE_2018.pdf</u>

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March lecture: Tuesday March 6 "Gorillas in my Soul", by Annette Henderson

Tours and Activities:

Thursday 22 March - 'Tea with Sugar' **Friday 23 March** - High Tea and Tour of Queensland Parliament House March 2018

Map Group: Tuesday March 20 – Visit to the Brisbane City Council Archives Ken Sutton Memorial Library: Monday March 26, 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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