



# 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, welcome to Brisbane's winter! With days in the low-mid 20deg.C and nights usually 8-10 deg.C, we are, indeed, spared from really cold winters. To give our winter woollies an airing, my family recently had a brief sojourn in the **Bunya Mountains**, 200km or three hours' drive north-west of Brisbane. We passed the impressive construction of the **Toowoomba Second Range Crossing**, a 41km-long toll bypass route, due for completion in late 2018. It will run from the Warrego Highway at Helidon in the east to the Gore Highway at Athol in the west. The final ascent to the Bunya Mountains National Park is via a steep, winding road. Upon arrival we were greeted by large mobs of red-necked wallabies grazing peacefully in the paddocks surrounding "Bunya village" - accommodation cottages, cafes and a well-stocked park shop.

The **Bunya Mts** rise to 1100m, a unique elevated refuge of biodiversity surrounded by plains and cleared farmland. The mountains are the remains of a shield volcano active approximately 24 million years ago, and although there is no visible crater the broad shield shape can be visualised from the west. The biomes comprise wet and dry rainforest, open eucalypt forest, distinctive plant, animal and bird communities, including more than 30 rare and threatened species such as sooty owls, powerful owls and the black-breasted button quail.



The **Bunya Pine trees** (*Araucaria bidwillii*) are the world's largest remaining stand of these ancient flowering plants, having survived since Australia's Cretaceous and Jurassic environments (65–210 million years ago). Growing to a height of 50 metres or

more, they tower above the rainforest along the range crest. While the Bunya pines are protected today from direct human disturbance, it is unclear what effects climate change might have on these pre-historic survivors.

The intriguing **Bunya Mountains balds** support rare native grasslands, thought to be the result of firing by indigenous people, combined



with drying of the climate and shallowness of soils. The balds are monitored closely as an endangered ecosystem threatened by invasion by woody plants (Willmott, 2004).

**Bunya Mts National Park** is Queensland's second oldest national park. In 1842, Governor Gipps had decreed that no logging licences be granted in lands bearing Bunya Pines, in recognition of their importance to Aboriginal people. In 1881, however, a timber reserve was declared for logging red cedar in the mountains. When the cedar was depleted loggers moved into the Hoop pine and Bunya stands. The **Royal Geographical Society of Australasia, Queensland Branch (now RGSQ)** played a role in lobbying for protection of the Bunyas against powerful timber and grazing interests. Despite national park status being declared in 1908, logging continued for some time. By the early 1930s, roads had replaced rough tracks to the mountain top and construction of walking tracks in 1939 heralded a new age of conservation and tourism. By the end of the 20th century many private houses and rental cottages had been built in the Dandabah area, the basis of today's mountain tourism.

**Aboriginal Bunya Gatherings:** The Wakka, Jarowair, Djakunde and Barrungam people have traditional custodianship of the Bunya Mountains. Every three years the *Araucaria* trees produce mature edible cones, which local indigenous people traditionally celebrated by holding **Bunya Gatherings**, sometimes lasting for several months. Tribes from all over Southeast Queensland were invited to enjoy ceremonies, renew friendships, pass on lore, share ideas and resolve disputes. Hunting of wildlife was strictly controlled during the gatherings. Protocols dictated who could harvest Bunya cones. The mature nuts were roasted and pounded into meal for cakes. European clearing for grazing and farming around the Bunya Mts in the 1840s and 1850s made it difficult to travel along traditional pathways and many Aboriginal people were forced to leave the Bunyas.

The last great gathering was held in 1902 (Queensland Museum) but local indigenous people still maintain ties with the Bunyas through family, trading, songs and stories. There is a 2017 native title claim over part of the area.

*Bunya trees (Araucaria bidwillii); photo I. Childs; Bunya "bald" grassland; photo I. Childs*

<http://bunyamountains.com.au/about-the-bunya-mountains/history-bunya-mountains/>

<https://www.npsr.qld.gov.au/parks/bunya-mountains/>

Willmott, W. (2004) Rocks and Landscapes of the National Parks of southern Queensland. Geological Society of Australia, Queensland Division

<http://www.qm.qld.gov.au/Find+out+about/Aboriginal+and+Torres+Strait+Islander+Cultures/Gatherings/Bunya+Mountains+Gathering#>

**Dr Iraphne Childs, President**

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Ian Stehbens

**Photography:** Iraphne Childs, Ian Francis, Bernard Fitzpatrick, Audrey Johnston, Syd Kirby, Leo Scanlan, RGSQ Archives Collection

## JULY LECTURE

### **Locating and Mapping Aboriginal Campsites and Frontier Conflict Sites across Greater Brisbane**

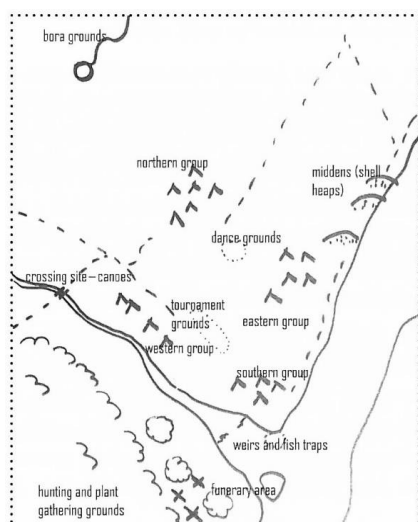
*By Dr. Ray Kerkhove*

**When:** Tuesday 3 July, 7:30 pm - 9:00 pm

**Venue:** Magda Community Artz Hall, 80 Boundary Rd Bardon

<https://www.magdacommunityartz.org/tablet/about.html>

**Registration:** please RSVP under <https://rgsq.org.au/whatson>



Discussing his Aboriginal Campsites of Greater Brisbane (Boolarong 2015), and his subsequent work at Griffith University mapping frontier warfare of south-eastern Queensland, Dr Ray Kerkhove shares insights on the types of primary sources, and best methods for estimating the location of historic Aboriginal camps and other Aboriginal sites of the post-Contact period.

Ray will also detail the challenges of mapping frontier-period conflict.

*Facilities often found near camping grounds reproduced from "Aboriginal Campsite of Greater Brisbane", 2015, Boolarong Press.*

**Dr. Ray Kerkhove** is a Visiting Fellow at the Harry Gentle Resource Centre, Griffith University in 2017 & 2018, during which time he developed a website that mapped Indigenous-settler conflicts of early south-east Queensland. He has over 30 years' experience working with Indigenous families and organisations. He co-founded and project-managed ICP Aust Inc, which developed numerous Indigenous cultural and historical projects across Queensland. Ray specializes in locating Aboriginal history within specific landscapes and reconstructing the associated material culture and socio-cultural context. One example of this is his recent book *Aboriginal Campsites of Greater Brisbane* (2015). Ray's research has informed many exhibitions, community spaces, construction works (e.g. Toowoomba Bypass, Sunshine Coast Airport, Destination Brisbane), Master Plans, Native Title Reports, Council reports and websites including Redcliffe Museum, Virtual Songlines, and Mapping Brisbane History.

## Geographers in the spotlight

### **Sydney L. Kirkby AO MBE Polar Medal**

*Mr Syd Kirkby has been awarded the Australian Honour of Officer of the Order of Australia (AO) in the 2018 Queens Birthday Honours List. The award is in recognition of his 65-year career and his distinguished service to surveying and mapping in Australia, particularly in the Antarctic, to polar exploration, research and mapping expeditions, and to professional scientific societies.*



*Courtesy of Syd Kirkby. On the left: observing at Rumdoodle Peak. On the right: sledging in the '60s.*

Sydney L. Kirkby, MBE, Polar Medal has been an active member of RGSQ and of the ANARE Club in Queensland since moving to Queensland in 1986 following his retirement from the Division of National Mapping, Melbourne office.

Syd has contributed enormously to the work of Australian National Antarctic Research Expeditions (ANARE) since first wintering at Mawson in 1956. It has been stated by P.G.Law AC, CBE, Polar Medal, that

*"Syd Kirkby has explored more of Australian Antarctic Territory than any other Australian."*

The fact that Syd has been involved in exploration of Antarctica from Cape Adare at 170°East, to the west of the Australian sector at 45°East, west of Enderby Land, and also inland to the Southern Prince Charles Mountains, is unique; while his management of Surveying and Mapping techniques for the extension of knowledge has become legendary.

Syd has also led the way in communicating Antarctic Affairs to the community with his regular availability to speak at community organisations.

As a Member of the Royal Geographical Society of Queensland, Syd Kirkby has been a popular contributor and lecturer. On one occasion, the lecture had to be repeated to satisfy the lack of space for those interested at the first presentation. In April 1993, Syd presented a major paper to the Royal Geographical Society of Queensland, titled "From Sledge dogs to Satellites". This is published in the "Queensland Geographical Journal", 4<sup>th</sup> Series, Volume 8, in 1993 and subsequently in the "Queensland Surveyor", Volume 1998 Number 5, in October 1998.

The exhibition "Our Frozen Frontier" was also supported by RGSQ and was opened in the RGSQ Auditorium (Brookes Street, Fortitude Valley) in 1997 - the key feature of this venture being the number of display venues over a period of six months: Brisbane (Geographical Society), Rockhampton, Longreach, Mount Isa, Townsville and then was mounted at Brisbane Museum for the month of November.

At his Thomson Address in 2002, Syd Kirkby was presented with the RGSQ Thomson Medal.

The award of Officer of the Order of Australia recognises Syd's wide involvement with the community and his professional career.

RGSQ congratulates Sydney Lorrimer KIRKBY on the receipt of the Award of Officer of the Order of Australia (AO).

**By David Carstens, RGSQ member and past President**



## Congratulations to Dr. Karen Joyce



In September 2017, Dr. Karen Joyce was one of nine women worldwide awarded the Honour of **Women to Watch in the UAS (Unmanned Aerial Systems) Industry**. This award, based in the US, is promoted by the Women and Drones organisation which aims to raise the profile of women doing great work in the drone industry.

A graduate of UQ's Geographical Sciences, Dr. Karen Joyce is Senior Lecturer and Remote Sensing Scientist at James Cook University, College of Science and Engineering. Her primary area of interest is in creating, applying and automating remote sensing tools for environmental monitoring and management problems, for example mapping live coral cover on the Great Barrier Reef.

Using remote sensing, Karen has worked as a Geomatic Engineering Officer in the Australian Army, developed models for spatially explicit mapping of recreation opportunities across New Zealand's conservation estate, and developed techniques for integrating remote sensing into all phases of the disaster management cycle. Karen co-founded **She Flies**, a drone training academy whose mission is to engage more girls and women with science and technology through the world of drones.

<https://research.jcu.edu.au/portfolio/karen.joyce/>

<https://skytango.com/2017-women-to-watch-in-uas-list-announced-by-women-and-drones-and-drone360/>

[www.kejoyce.com](http://www.kejoyce.com); [www.sheflies.com.au](http://www.sheflies.com.au)

## Focus on Geographical Research

### "Human occupation of northern Australia by 65,000 years ago"

by Jamie Shulmeister

**Professor Jamie Shulmeister**, RGSQ past-President, 2017-2018 Council member and staff member at UQ School of Earth and Environmental Sciences, was a member of a team of researchers (Archaeologists and Anthropologists, Geographers, Social Scientists) led by Archaeologist Chris Clarkson investigating the human occupation of northern Australia.

The time of arrival of people in Australia is an unresolved question which is relevant to debates about when modern humans first dispersed out of Africa and when their descendants incorporated genetic material from Neanderthals, Denisovans and possibly other hominins. Humans have also been implicated in the extinction of Australia's megafauna. The research highlighted here was conducted at Madjedbebe, a rock shelter in Arnhem Land. The new excavations revealed artefacts including distinctive stone tool assemblages, grinding stones, ground ochres, reflective additives and ground-edge hatchet heads. The dating of these artefacts, and other analyses of the sediments, confirmed Indigenous Australian occupation at this site around 65,000 years ago. The evidence from this research project set a new minimum age for the arrival of humans in Australia, the dispersal of modern humans out of Africa, and the subsequent interactions of modern humans with Neanderthals and Denisovans.

Jamie's role was to evaluate the paleoclimatic evidence for the period around 65 ka to support whether human arrival was likely at that time. The research results were published in the prestigious journal *Nature* in July 2017. It was followed by another paper (lead author Archaeology PhD student, Kasih Norman) that looked at the likely routes of migration from Indonesia into Sahul (greater Australia including New Guinea) at 65 ka. Jamie worked with another geographer, Dan Harris (UQ) to determine seasonal current velocities and directions between Timor and Australia and in the Bird's Head area of New Guinea. The work demonstrated that it would have been significantly easier to venture by boat from Timor to NW Australia than to enter Sahul via New Guinea. This work was published in *Quaternary Science Reviews* in January 2018.

### "Human occupation of northern Australia by 65,000 years ago"

*Nature* volume 547, pages 306–310 (20 July 2017)

<http://www.nature.com/articles/nature22968>

"Modeling modern human maritime migration pathways from Asia to Pleistocene Greater Australia". *Quaternary Science Reviews* 180: 229-239 (January 2018).

## UPCOMING EVENTS



### July: Beautiful Bribie | Thursday, July 5

**WHAT:** visit 2 aboriginal sites, then explore more of the island, with a guide; some walking but mostly flat

**LOCATION:** follow the road to the big roundabout then turn left into Sunderland Drive

**MEET:** Community Arts Centre (good parking), 191 Sunderland Dr, Banksia Beach QLD 4507

**TIME:** 9.45am

**BYO** picnic lunch; be SunSmart, wear walking shoes, bring a water bottle, perhaps camera & binoculars

**COST:** \$5.00 for members, \$8.00 for non-members

**BOOK & PAY:** by 25<sup>th</sup> June, either on the RGSQ website or contact the RGSQ Office at 07 3368 2066.

Arrange car-pooling where possible.

It is known that aborigines inhabited Australia between 50,000 to 55,000 years ago.

Between 1940 and 1955, a Day of Mourning or Aborigines Day was held as a celebration of aboriginal culture.

Now NAIDOC WEEK is held, not only by indigenous communities but by people of all walks of life. It celebrates the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People.

BONGAREE was born south of Sydney before the arrival of the First Fleet. Meeting Mathew Flinders the two sailed north spending two weeks exploring Moreton Bay, hence the name of the centre near the south of the island. Their first landing was at the south east point where there was a problem with the local tribes called, today, Skirmish Point.



Photo: Aboriginal memorial, courtesy of Audrey Johnston

**Coordinator: Audrey Johnston**

Bribie Island was known as Yarun and the people were called the Ngunda – later the Joondoburri. They were a coastal (Undambi) people of the Gubbi language group, with ties to surrounding aboriginal groups.

The Ngunda men spent their days fishing using casting nets, tow-rows and fish traps while the women gathered seeds, fruit, berries, 'bungwall' fern roots, crabs and molluscs. Their diet also consisted of marsupials, reptiles, flying foxes and birds were caught by placing nets between trees.

Early Europeans reported the Ngunda as being very fine looking, tall people who blackened their skins with charcoal and bees wax. They were described as an invariably kind and generous people but this changed when civilisation brought many changes to the Moreton Bay area.

## JULY: A day at Lamington National Park, O'Reilly's Wednesday 11 July – self drive



**MEET:** 8:30am at Canungra Hub Café, Canungra. Departing to drive to O'Reilly's at 9:05am

**Cost:** \$10.00 members / \$15.00 non-members

**Book and Pay:** RGSQ Office, 07 3368 2066 or [admin@rgsq.org.au](mailto:admin@rgsq.org.au) by Friday 6 July or online at <https://rgsq.org.au/>.

**Note:** Please advise the Office of your suburb, whether driving and if you are prepared to carpool or take more passengers.

**What to bring:** Sturdy shoes, wet weather gear, umbrellas. Be prepared, so bring a bottle of water as well.

This is a self-drive activity to Canungra. We will carpool from Canungra to O'Reilly's. The road from Canungra to O'Reilly's is narrow, winding and being repaired after extensive damage resulting from Cyclone Debbie in 2017. There are some one-way sections controlled by lights.

We need to depart Canungra at 9:05am for the drive to O'Reilly's. The Canungra Hub Café is open from 6am to 5pm on weekdays so you might like to leave Brisbane early and have breakfast in Canungra.

10.00 am: Welcome by Ranger in Heritage Room followed by an easy 1.8km Centenary Walk, The Time Walk explaining formation of region about the National Park.

The group will then split and those interested in a bit more adventure on uneven surfaces will walk on to Picnic Rock and see ancient Antarctic beech trees – approx. 1 hour, led by Mary Comer.

The rest of the group will have time to walk the O'Reilly's Rainforest Gardens and Tree Top Walk and visit the Info Centre – more time in the Heritage Room, and/or feed the birds.

Lunch around 12.00 – either BYO picnic or cafe.

Following lunch, Bernard Fitzpatrick will talk about the Stinson plane crash and rescue which featured in Bernard O'Reilly's 1940 book "Green Mountains" and the 1987 TV Movie, "The Riddle of the Stinson" in which Jack Thompson played Bernard O'Reilly.

Leave 3pm. Stop at Canungra if desired. Arrive Brisbane 5-5.30pm approx.

**Coordinators:** Bernard Fitzpatrick and Mary Comer. For further information call Bernard in the RGSQ Office: 07 3368 2066.

**Photo:** Lamington National Park – Antarctic Beech; Stinson Model A at O'Reilly's, model replica; courtesy of B.Fitzpatrick.

## AUGUST: Field trip | Friday 17 - Sun 19 August

A weekend for guided exploration of the Upper Yabba catchment, specifically Yabba Falls and Upper Yabba country (Ochre Falls, Tumbled Valley, Broken Femur Falls et al).

**Coordinator:** Ian Stehbens

**Cost:** \$15 for members and \$18 for non-members.

Cost of optional abseiling per person is an additional \$190 GST Incl (approximately), maximum for 5-6 people. Qualified abseiling guides (not RGSQ members) will provide this activity. There will be two descents each between 40 and 60 metres.

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

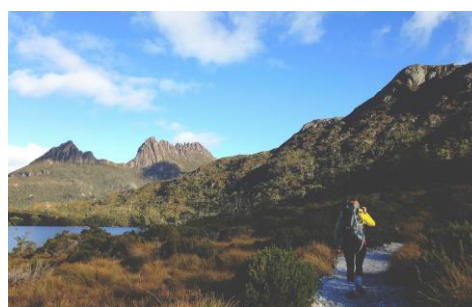
jointed metamorphic structures. The Mary Catchment has captured some of the upper Burnett catchment via Yabba and Kingham Creeks. The weekend is appropriate for a range of fitness levels:

- easy but rough walk to top of Yabba Falls and Weaner Rock;
- moderate challenge due to length of slopes gives access into Upper Yabba country and also into Gates of Yabba;
- abseiling (optional) 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.

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.

Those who have expressed interest will have or soon will be receiving further details of the weekend. **If you are still interested**, please register online via the RGSQ website, contact the RGSQ Office 07 3368 2066 or [admin@rgsq.org.au](mailto:admin@rgsq.org.au) and provide your name and contact details, phone and email address so that we are able to contact you directly with the final details. **Even if you are unsure, but interested, please register your interest so that we keep you informed.**



**NOVEMBER:  
TASMANIA**  
**Expressions of  
Interest  
(by 29 July  
2018, unless  
booked out  
prior)**

We are planning a 14-night, 15-day Fly/Drive Trek to Tassie from 1<sup>st</sup> November to 15<sup>th</sup> November 2018 and are seeking expressions of interest from members.

We would fly out of Brisbane into Hobart, collect hire vehicles (sedans) at the airport and meander around Tassie with booked accommodation.

The plan is to use Hobart as an initial base for 6 days to explore Port Arthur and surrounds; Richmond and surrounds; Hobart including Salamander Markets (for those interested), MONA, Wrest Point etc. and Bruny Island. Own cost options for Tours and/or Cruises, etc. are not included in our Budget Costs.

We would then travel to Strahan staying two nights. Options would include visiting Queenstown with own cost options for a Gordon River Cruise, Wilderness Railway etc.

From Strahan we would visit Cradle Mountain and Dove Lake on our way to Burnie where we would stay two nights. From Burnie we would visit The Nut in Stanley then on to Smithtown and back to Burnie to visit the Paper Mill and watch the Penguins.

The following day we travel to Ulverstone (Lillico Beach), then Devonport (Mercy Lighthouse), Beaconsfield (Mine and Heritage Centre) and on to Launceston where we stay for three nights. From Launceston we have the options of exploring Cataract Gorge, Pyengama (St Columba Falls), St Helens (Perron Dunes), Binalong Bay (Bay of Fires), Scamander, St Marys (Fingal Valley White Knights), Mathina Falls, Launceston and nearby wineries.

We then travel from Launceston to Hobart visiting Bicheno, south to Rocking Rock and Blowhole, Cape Tourville with an easy boardwalk for cliff-top views, Swansea (Spikey Bridge), Cape Berry Farm, Triabunna Visitor Centre through Orford to Hobart where we stay overnight before departing the next day for home.

A budget cost at this stage is around \$2,500 **per person**, including airfares, vehicle hire and accommodation, based on twin share (or double) and two persons per vehicle.

We are planning on a maximum number of participants of 20 people.

If you would like to register your interest in this trek, please contact the office at 07 3368 2066 or email [info@rgsq.org.au](mailto:info@rgsq.org.au) to place your name on a list of interested persons.

More detail can be provided once we have an idea of the number interested. **Coordinator: Wayne Mackenzie**



## SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS



### KEN SUTTON MEMORIAL LIBRARY GROUP

The Ken Sutton Memorial Library group needs assistance to classify and enter books into the Society's digital catalogue system. Your help would be greatly appreciated; please contact the RGSQ Office 07 3368 2066 or email

[info@rgsq.org.au](mailto:info@rgsq.org.au).



## UPCOMING EVENTS CALENDAR JULY-SEPTEMBER

If you are interested in the events below and would like to investigate joining Map Group please contact the Map Group coordinator Bob Abnett via mobile 0412-135-794 or email [abnett@powerup.com.au](mailto:abnett@powerup.com.au). Enquiries welcome.

### MAP GROUP JULY EVENT

#### MacArthur Museum Visit Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> July 2018

RGSQ Map Group has organised a tailored visit to the MacArthur Museum on a day the museum is closed to the public. We will be privileged to see maps and items not generally on display. The visit is followed by lunch at the Port Office Hotel.

#### Event Details

*Date and time:* 10am Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> July 2018

*Location:* MacArthur Museum 201 Edward Street Brisbane

*Cost* \$5.00 per person.

*Lunch:* 12:30pm at the Port Office Hotel, Edward Street Brisbane

*Transport:* Attendees to arrange own transport to the Brisbane CBD

#### MacArthur Museum

General Douglas MacArthur as Commander in Chief of the allied forces in the South West Pacific Area occupied the offices where the MacArthur Museum is now situated in the MacArthur Chambers on the corner of Queen Street Mall and Edward Street.

Major themes of the Museum include:

- Brisbane people and WW2
- The war machine in Brisbane
- General Douglas MacArthur and the military in Brisbane
- Interaction between Australian and American soldiers
- The wartime experiences of children
- Wartime entertainment
- The role of the Queensland railways
- The operation and impact on the city of the Navy, Army and Air Force

In addition to the standard tour the MacArthur Museum will be presenting rare WW2 related maps from their map collection.

#### Lunch

Following the tour there will be a lunch (individual catering) at the Port Office Hotel.

Map Group members and visitors are welcome, **for registration or information** refer to the RGSQ website [www.rgsq.org.au](http://www.rgsq.org.au) or contact Ian Francis. Ian may be contacted via email on [brisfran@gmail.com](mailto:brisfran@gmail.com) or mobile 0457 628 033.

## August 2018

Monday, 06 August, 10:00am - 12:00pm

### Presentation - Aspects of Imagery Mapping by Sylvia Michael

#### Details

*Sylvia is the Geospatial Processing & Technical Solutions Manager at Geoimage Pty Ltd. Sylvia is a practicing spatial map maker.*

#### Location

11 Kerriane Place Moorooka 4105

#### Transport

Members to make own arrangements

#### Cost

gold coin donation for tea and coffee

Coordinator: Bob Abnett

(07) 3820-2621 0412-135-794

[abnett@powerup.com.au](mailto:abnett@powerup.com.au)

RSVP online @ <https://rgsq.org.au/whatson>

## September 2018

Wednesday, 26 September, 10:00am - 12:00pm

### For Map and Library Enthusiasts: Visit - Fryer Library - University of Queensland, followed by lunch at Merlo Coffee

#### Details

The Fryer Memorial Library of Australian Literature was founded in 1927 in honour of John Denis Fryer and provides a rich store of books, manuscripts, photographs, architectural drawings, oral histories and much more. An extensive collection of published and unpublished material focuses on Australian literature, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander studies, Queensland history, art and architecture. We will view:

- the map collection, especially historic maps of Queensland or other parts of Australia, and
- related maps, books or journals on Queensland's 19th century Explorers. It is Map Group's understanding that the Fryer Library has some significant books/journals of Leichhardt's Expeditions in Queensland.

#### Location

[Fryer Library, Level 4, Duhig Building #2](#) This map also details car parking and public transport facilities for the St Lucia campus.

#### Lunch

Merlo Coffee, Duhig Building #2, ground level (below Fryer Library). A booking has been made for 12.30 pm for a table of 20 (pending final numbers). For catering purposes numbers are required by September 18.

#### Transport

Members to make own arrangements. Public transport is the preferred option. Payment for car parking necessary.

#### Cost

\$0.00 + lunch

Coordinator: Kay Rees

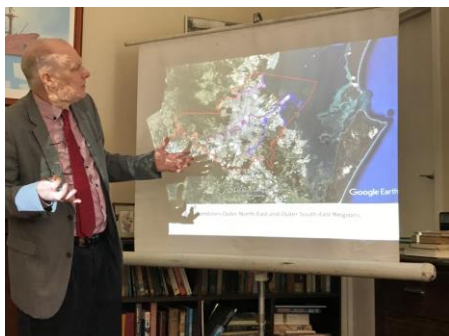
(07) 3356-7329 0402-101-555

[kayrees@gmail.com](mailto:kayrees@gmail.com)

RSVP by Tuesday, September 18, @ <https://rgsq.org.au/whatson>

## MAP GROUP REPORT | JUNE 2018 PRESENTATION

### “Mapping Brisbane History” by Neville Buch, Guest Speaker



Neville Buch presenting part of the sub-regional mapping upon a photographic image of Brisbane. Courtesy of Ian Francis

Neville Buch is an independent historian, undertaking a major history project - “Mapping Brisbane History”, to date, primarily funded by Brisbane City Council. Neville has been working with many local historical societies spread across Brisbane City, as part of the process of combining the locational aspects of various historical sites spread across Brisbane with modern day digital mapping. His presentation to the Map Group focussed on the mapping aspects of the total project.

In summary, his Presentation made it clear that a huge amount of geographical/historical knowledge and technical digital mapping/website design work and effort is undertaken to create the website “Mapping Brisbane History” - <http://mappingbrisbanehistory.com.au/>. Such ‘background work’ then makes it quite easy for the website user to click on an identified historic site located within an identified local area, leading to a side panel of information (up to 200 words) coming onto the webpage screen describing the historic site and what it is about.

Neville advised Map Group that most local historical societies work at the district level and it is difficult for them to think and operate at a higher level, such as regional. Whereas, the starting point of the mapping process for the website had to begin at the regional level across Metropolitan Brisbane. The boundaries of these initial ‘mapping units’ were influenced by the historic sequence of development of the settlements which now make up Brisbane. These settlements generally followed the creeks located to the north and south of the Brisbane River, versus the more traditional view of the “North/South divide” of Brisbane along the River. This more geographic process generated 11 regions within Metropolitan Brisbane. The development of regions took different directions in settlements and urbanisation, which also enables the imaging of the boundaries of each region. For an example, the South-Central region generally started from the north and headed south, and followed the arterial pathways towards Ipswich and Beaudesert, between the Oxley and Norman creek catchments.

The next significant mapping phase was the generation of Local Study Areas (LSAs), which synchronised the “mapping of history” with the spatial views where a historical district is considered much more in relation to its neighbouring areas. This is an unusual view to that which is held by most local historical societies. The argument is that history of settlements and the social interaction across Brisbane does not match the local historical societies’ narrower and the more modern concept of historical districts. The evidence can be seen in how the history of settlement, spread out the over four broad periods or epochs of history within Brisbane: being early 19th century; late 19th century; early 20th century; and late 20th century. This is important to the identification of historic sites. The process created 66 LSAs across Metropolitan Brisbane and the local historical societies extensively engaged in the project providing their knowledge of local historic sites within the LSAs associated with their district.

The historic sites cover a wide range of activities, based upon the social and cultural elements of the people who lived within the landscapes of these LSAs. The sites include heritage buildings, schools, community halls, churches, and a wide range of other historic features of a local community.

**Bob Abnett, Coordinator, Map Group.**

## A surprise find in our archives

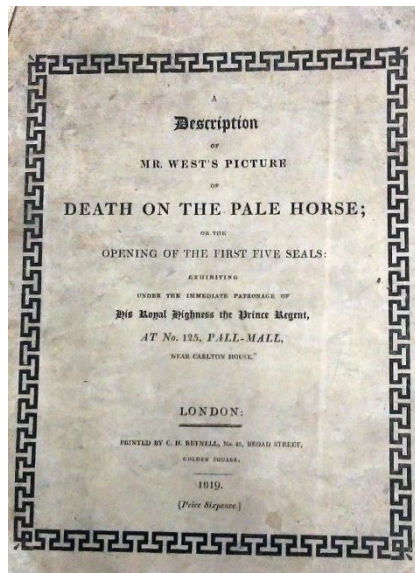
by Peter Lloyd, RGSQ member and past President, for the Archives Group

The oldest document found in the recent reorganisation of the Society’s archives has nothing to do with geography! It is an 1819 pamphlet produced for the London showing of Benjamin West’s painting *Death on the Pale Horse*.



[https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/3/36/Death\\_on\\_the\\_Pale\\_Horse\\_by\\_B.West\\_%281817%29.jpg](https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/3/36/Death_on_the_Pale_Horse_by_B.West_%281817%29.jpg); [Public domain], via Wikimedia Commons.

West was an American-born artist who specialised in scenes developed from biblical text and this painting completed in 1817, used apocalyptic themes from Revelation 6:8 referring to Death, War, Famine and Pestilence. The Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts notes on its website that “The biblical narrative of the painting was considered to be so complex that it was originally exhibited with an explanatory pamphlet”. A copy of the 7-page pamphlet (cover shown below) is held by the Society.



The most likely provenance of the pamphlet has been traced to Sir Thomas Mitchell who was assistant then Surveyor-General of New South Wales from 1827 to 1855. After serving at Salamanca in the Peninsular War, Major Mitchell married in Lisbon then took an army pension and returned to London. He had always been keen on art and took the opportunity to hone his skills. It is supposed that he went to the 1819 London showing of *Death on the Pale Horse* and purchased the pamphlet for sixpence.

In 1946 Mitchell's grandson, an art dealer, sold a number of Mitchell's paintings to the Society and, after the Society built the Mitchell monument in Mitchell, he donated a number of his grandfather's artefacts and documents to the Society. Presumably, the pamphlet was one of those.

To test the significance of the pamphlet, the painting was tracked down to the Detroit Institute of Art (DIA) which has a version of the painting but does not mention the pamphlet in its extensive bibliography, suggesting that the pamphlet is extremely rare. The DIA was contacted by email and has requested a digital copy to try to clear up uncertainty about the showings of various versions of the painting. This has been sent. For the time being the document is safely filed away with other Mitchell rarities in new archive boxes while the Society's archive reorganisation continues.



## WHY DO WE TRAVEL?

Since our return from Africa in mid-May, I have been pondering how I might relate this most recent travel experience to other members of RGSQ through the RGSQ Bulletin and how I might encourage others to come with us next year from Nairobi to Victoria Falls. Our trek to Southern Africa was, for most travellers, a totally new experience; something totally different and a step away from our comfort zone here in Australia. There's no First World in Africa and, I'm sure, those involved in this trek experienced a journey like no other they had experienced before.

I have been asked many times "why do you want to go back to Africa again?" My explanation is that Africa is slightly over 30.3 million square kilometres comprising 54 countries recognised by the United Nations, while Australia is just a little short of 8 million square kilometres and has one commonwealth government. Africa, geographically speaking, has more and higher mountains, many diverse climatic differences over a vast area, raging falls and rivers, lakes, savanna and plains and a whole host of cultural differences in its people. Add the magnificent wildlife diversity, which combined with a rich history (both European colonial, and African) make Africa rich and interesting beyond belief.

As our trek 'An Eye on Southern Africa' unfolded day by day, it was extremely interesting to watch the excitement build among the trekkers.

After our departure from our starting point in Durban we had a magnificent first few days of this trek in the shadow of the Drakensberg Range at Golden Gate Highlands National Park and at the foot of the range at Drakensberg Gardens plus a day excursion into Lesotho via the Sani Pass. A nearby visit to three very historical and significant battlefields in Spion Kop, Rourke's Drift and nearby Isandlwana was a mix of interesting geographical and historical highlights and while we didn't see a great diversity of wildlife in Hluhluwe National Park in Natal, the trekkers' first glimpse of a small herd of elephants and their behaviour certainly brought some smiles and ooh's and aah's all round. A little later, in Kruger National Park in South Africa, was an early introduction to much of the African wildlife that we were to see in increasing numbers.

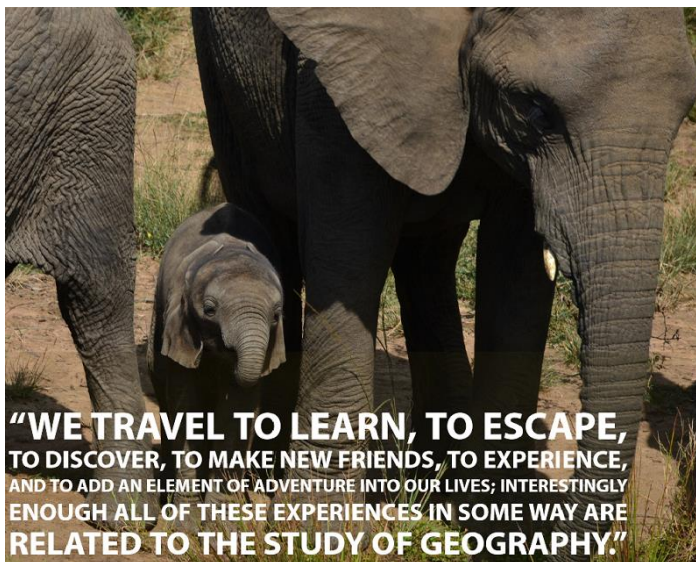
Who would have thought that in poor depressed Zimbabwe we would experience the two best hotels on our whole trip through Southern Africa, the Lodge at The Ancient City and The Victoria Falls Hotel. After a rather frustrating border crossing from South Africa at Beitbridge we arrived at The Lodge at the Ancient City, our accommodation adjacent to the Great Zimbabwe Ruins. The Lodge at the Ancient City was built in the same style as the ancient Zimbabwe ruins themselves. The hotel was a truly spectacular building with high vaulted ceilings, a cavernous dining hall and with large separate accommodation houses scattered throughout the grounds all built in the same style as the ancient ruins. I'm sure all who walked around the various ruins of this 11<sup>th</sup> century city were in awe of the stone walls, battlements, buildings and the achievements built by the ancients so long ago.

Matobo National Park was where we really managed to set the adrenalin flowing with a walk with rhinos. Matobo National Park is famous for its White Rhino. With the appropriate guides all of our members ventured on foot to within 20 metres of these magnificent creatures. I'm sure this experience will be related to many at home and stay with us all for a long, long time. Rhino have been hunted to the verge of extinction in many parts of Africa for their horn whose main ingredient is keratin – the horn is worth more than some narcotics on the black market. Rhino horn supposedly improves concentration and cures hangovers, arthritis, and gout and these are just some of the remedies and the reason for its high demand. Interestingly, in its powdered form it has been found to be largely un-digestible! Such are the medicinal myths that surround the sale of rhino horn and its high demand particularly in China and Vietnam. It was also here, in Matobo National Park, that we were to drive to the site of the visionary Cecil Rhodes' grave who was the instigator of a dream to have the British railway run from the Cape to Cairo with all the countries in between coloured red on the map. A morning walk with rhinos and an afternoon soaking up the recent past history of Southern Africa – truly a great day out!

We travel to experience - and experience we did! Meerkats were on the agenda for our game drive the morning after we arrived at Planet Baobab in Gweta, Botswana. Having been to Africa many times before, I had seen meerkats but never in such numbers and they were all very comfortable in the company of the many tourists out this morning. As well as RGSQ's three vehicles, there were also a number of European groups in the area at the same time. The meerkats were all very photogenic. On our return to the lodge the local fare served for lunch in the restaurant at Planet Baobab included a serving of mopane worms, consumed mainly in the Southern African countries and harvested from the ground, trunks and leaves of the mopane tree. Despite being degutted with the spines and fluids removed and roasted, I must confess I opted for a cheese sandwich instead as I had previously

experienced this local delicacy. This Entomophagy (the practice of eating insects as food) is definitely taking the geography of food to a new level!

In Moremi we witnessed the largest pride of lions that I have seen on my many treks to Africa (I think the count was 23). On the drive back to our bush camp in Moremi we were also most fortunate to come across a magnificent leopard walking nonchalantly down the side of the track towards our vehicle. Cameras and



phones were clicking away madly!

From Moremi we moved on to Chobe National Park on the Chobe River. This park has long been one of my favourites as it has never failed to deliver with the beautiful cruise and the wildlife along the banks and of course the magnificent sunsets that always greet us on our way back to the hotel. Following Chobe, you might ask what more was there to see?

Travelling on to Hwange we visited Dingari Primary School. I'm sure all our lives can be touched and intertwined with a simple visit to an impoverished primary school in Zimbabwe and I'm sure visits from Westerners such as us and the resultant financial donations are gratefully received but will never be enough. These beautiful African children and their meagre resources at school really brings home to us the privileged position we enjoy here in Australia and how *our view of the world, while travelling, can become intertwined and impact on one another.*

This same afternoon Hwange in Zimbabwe on a late afternoon game drive delivered my first sighting of African wild dogs which are very much endangered in Southern Africa. These dogs all seemed to be having a wonderful time and were chasing one another around like puppies do – but, unfortunately, the remains of yesterday's meal on the verge of the road left only a few bones and four hooves from their gruesome meal of the evening before. These dogs work in packs and literally tear their prey apart alive with the victim usually dying of shock. Next morning was extremely quiet on our game drive through Hwange but the afternoon was to reveal a medium size herd of elephants wandering down to drink in one of Hwange's waterholes and we were extremely lucky to come across a foraging cheetah and we saw many, many giraffes on the drive back to the lodge.

Our last day had three highlights, the Victoria Falls walk, the helicopter flights over the Victoria Falls, and our overnight stay in the fabulous old Victoria Falls Hotel. One has only to wonder at the sheer volume of water that is flowing over Victoria Falls into the Zambezi Gorge at this time of the year and I'm sure those who took the helicopter flights over the falls were equally stunned and amazed at the spectacle below. The Victoria Falls Hotel was completed in 1904 and was originally conceived as accommodation for workers on the railway. This hotel is now marketed as one of "The Leading Hotels of the World" and it is really worth sampling for its old-world charm and ambience.

If you feel you would like to join us next year in 2019 on our next African journey please forward your name to the RGSQ office at [info@rgsq.org.au](mailto:info@rgsq.org.au) and I will contact you as soon as we have further details.

In conclusion I would like to thank Alistair Tite, our guide from Jenman African Safaris, and our driver Fungai for a job well done in escorting us during this trek through parts of South Africa, Botswana, and Zimbabwe. I would also like to thank Sharyn Scanlan for organising our accommodation on our arrival at the many different lodges and I would like to further thank Mike and Elizabeth McInnes, Ross Gardner, Gerry and Maureen Whelan, Sarah Barry and John Fairbairn, Gary and Wendy Bradshaw, Kaye Schwede, Heather McGrath, Graham and Ailsa Grieve, Lynn and Bob James, David and Ann Hanger, and Heather and Robert Rose for your company on this tour.

I haven't related all of the experiences and places we visited on this trek but I feel all, mentioned or not, were overwhelmingly worthwhile.

If you would like further information on our day to day activities for 'An Eye on Southern Africa' the Treknotes are available from the RGSQ Library. **Story by Leo Scanlan, RGSQ Council member and 'An Eye on Southern Africa' Trek Coordinator**

#### **Australian Geography Competition**

Thank you to RGSQ members: Mary and John Nowill, Peter Nunan, Ron Owen, Kay and Graham Rees, and Neville McManinn for their work opening, sorting and scanning the 2018 AGC returned answer sheets.

**Tuesday 24 to Friday 27 July** – we would like to again call on members to volunteer to help with the sorting, packing and dispatch of the Australian Geography Competition's certificates, results and prizes. If you can assist with this mailout, please register online via the RGSQ website or contact the Office on 3368 2066.

# RGSQ Bulletin

July 2018

#### **July Lecture/Meeting: Tuesday, July 3**

*"Locating and Mapping Aboriginal Campsites and Frontier Conflict Sites across Greater Brisbane"*  
By Dr. Ray Kerkhove

#### **Treks and Activities:**

**Thursday, July 5:** Beautiful Bribie

**Wednesday, July 11:** A day at Lamington National Park, O'Reillys

**Map Group: Wednesday, July 4:** MacArthur Museum Visit

**Ken Sutton Memorial Library Group:** the group will not meet in July

The July Council meeting will be held on the third Tuesday of the month

The Royal Geographical Society of Queensland Inc  
"Gregory House", 237 Milton Road, Milton Q 4064

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