



RGSQ Bulletin

October 2018

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

President: [Dr Iraphe Childs](#)

■ From the President

Dear Members, it is a great honour to have been re-elected to the role of President of the Royal Geographical Society of Queensland for 2018-2019. I thank you, the members of the Society, for giving me this opportunity. I would like to acknowledge and thank several Society members who have contributed a great deal over the past year.

Firstly, the excellent team on Council since the 2017 AGM:

Council executive - Peter Griggs, Vice-President; Chris Spriggs, Treasurer and Margaret McIvor, Secretary.

Councillors - Bob Abnett, Paul Broad, Jennifer Carter, Duncan Cook, Ian Francis, Margie Keates, John Nowill, Leo Scanlan and Jamie Shulmeister.

Thanks to **Chairpersons and members** of all RGSQ committees and Special Interest Groups for their enthusiasm, energy and skills.

My special thanks to members of the "**Gregory House**" **Committee**, who, over the past 12 months, have done a tremendous job in relocating the Society to a new home:

Bob Abnett – Chairperson, enthusiastic seeker and investigator of 27 possible properties and supervisor of the move to Fortescue St.;

Paul Broad, without whose professional knowledge and advice in real estate matters our relocation decision and tasks would have been extremely difficult; Paul has guided us in selling the Milton building, searching for a new home, purchasing the Fortescue St. property and has conducted negotiations with our real estate agent and legal team;

Ian Francis – for preparing excellent layout drawings enabling us to envisage operations in several possible locations, commencing modifications in the new premises and supervising tradespeople;

Chris Spriggs – for wise advice on the financial aspects of our property dealings and for keeping a vigilant eye on all things financial at the Society;

Bernard Fitzpatrick – working with the committee on a multitude of issues related to relocation;

Neil Simson – Honorary Planner, researched and reported Town Planning aspects of our purchase;

Paul Trotter – Honorary Architect, advised on the internal design and layout of functions in the new premises.

Thanks also to:

Supper volunteers, coordinated by Mary Comer, who provide delicious suppers and the opportunity for members and guests to mingle socially and chat after lectures;

Leo Scanlan – developing RGSQ Traveller and, together with Sharyn Scanlan, continues to run very successful geographical tours overseas.

Treks and Activities Committee members – Mary Comer, Ross Gardner, Audrey Johnston, Paul Lambert, Jeanette Lamont, Wayne Mackenzie, Chris Spriggs – for organising geographical treks and activities throughout the year.

And to the many other members who regularly volunteer in Society activities.

Office staff: Bernard Fitzpatrick – for the day to day running of the RGSQ office, liaising with Council to implement decisions, relating to members' concerns and coordinating the AGC; **Lilia Daril** – for working on Incorporation and new Constitution, AGC, RGSQ Traveller, Bulletins, assisting with accounts and marketing our activities; **Rosie Catt** – general office duties, assisting with accounts and a welcoming face on reception.

I view the role of President as maintaining an essential overview of Society activities, providing some leadership when needed and occasionally signing documents to sell a building and buy another property! That was fun! An important role for the President is to chair the monthly Council meetings, ensuring progression and implementation of Council decisions in an orderly and timely fashion. I hope to contribute to the best of my abilities in these matters and in the varied ongoing activities of the Society. I aim to be always available to consult with members, Councillors and committee chairpersons should they wish to raise any issues.

My own recommendations for the Society going forward include:

- investigating community grant schemes for improving the Society's financial stability and sustainability
- engaging with various professional organisations in the Brisbane CBD/Spring Hill vicinity of our new premises, with a view to increasing membership
- developing ideas and mechanisms for pursuing future Scientific Studies
- reviewing our publications via a re-constituted committee

The move to new premises represents a different phase in the Society's long history. I have no doubt that interesting opportunities will be presented and that, with the stalwart band of Society members, we will find solutions to the challenges that will inevitably arise. As we consolidate our activities in the coming year, Council will need to be diligent in our surveillance of emerging trends which relate to the question of what kind of Geographical Society we want for the future, and in what exciting directions we should be heading. I look forward to working with you in the year ahead to discover what lies over the horizon. To paraphrase A.A. Milne "*I knew, when I took this on, an adventure was going to happen*". Thank you.

Iraphe Childs

2018-2019 RGSQ Council

At the Annual General Meeting held on 11 September 2018 the following members were elected to the Council:

President	Iraphne Childs
Vice-President	Peter Griggs
Secretary	Margaret McIvor
Treasurer	Chris Spriggs
Councillors	Bob Abnett
	Paul Broad
	Jennifer Carter
	Duncan Cook
	Ian Francis
	Neal O'Connor
	Leo Scanlan
	John Tasker

CONTRIBUTORS

Bob Abnett, Mary Comer, Iraphne Childs, Ian Francis, John Holmes, James Watson

PHOTOGRAPHY

Ian Francis, John Holmes, James Watson, RGSQ Archives

OCTOBER LECTURE

Inaugural Ken Sutton Memorial Lecture

“What becomes of Australia’s biodiversity in the contemporary era”

*delivered by Professor James Watson
2018 Ken Sutton award recipient
awarded for his outstanding contribution to
geography and globally recognised work in
conservation*



EVENT DETAILS

Date: October 2, 2018

Time: 7.30pm - 8.30pm

Cost: Entry free

Venue: University of Queensland, Steele Building, Room 206

Refreshments: after the lecture, in the Global Change Institute, adjacent to Steele Building

RSVP: by September 26 at www.rgsq.org.au

Since European occupation of Australia, human activities have caused the dramatic decline and sometimes extinction of many of the continent’s unique species. In his lecture, James will describe the causes of the decline and extinction and explain how Australia’s biodiversity crisis is very different to the crisis being felt elsewhere.

James is a Professor at University of Queensland where he leads the Green Fire Science research group, whose mission is to do applied research that is linked directly to the practice of conservation. James has published more than 200 peer-reviewed papers, currently serves on the United Nation’s International Panel for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) Data and Knowledge Task Force, is a Research Fellow for the United Nation’s Environment Program-WCMC, a senior technical expert for United Nations Development Program’s Global Programme on Nature for Development and was a founding chair of the International Union for Conservation of Nature Climate Change Specialist Group. He is passionate about Australian conservation, especially when it comes to saving its most imperilled species.

The Ken Sutton Trust assisting Geographical Education, Scholarship and Research

The Ken Sutton Trust, established via a bequest from the Ken Sutton estate in 1988, is dedicated to providing a platform for the best Geographical or Geographical Education work in Australia to be promoted through an endowed lecture mini-series and publication. *The prize is awarded for the most exciting new research in a geographical field or geographical education undertaken by an Australian geographer.*

Ken Sutton

Ken Sutton was prominent in geographical education in Queensland and Australia.

A geography teacher for many years, he was a founder of the Geography Teachers Association of Queensland and served as its President from 1972 to 1974.



He was also founder of the Australian Geography Teachers Association of which he was President from 1974 to 1976. From 1983 to 1985 Ken Sutton was President of the Royal Geographical Society of Australasia (Queensland) Inc.

The Trust serves as an everlasting reminder of Ken Sutton’s work in geographical education.

Focus on Geographical Research

“Dysfunctional path dependence in mid-century dairy farming on eastern Australia’s subtropical coastlands: case studies at Moruya and Copmanhurst - a perspective on some historical fieldwork.

by Professor John Holmes



Emeritus Professor John Holmes, UQ School of Earth and Environmental Sciences and RGSQ past-President 1995-97, has long researched aspects of Australia’s rural land use. His dedication to the field Geography was triggered by his BA Honours degree at the University of Sydney in 1950, when travelling by Jeep to the Gulf and

Peninsula regions with Australia’s first Ph.D. awardee (David Simonett). David undertook a pioneering land systems classification and mapping while John enquired into the challenges of isolation confronting the cattle stations.

The key concept of *path dependence* seeks to explain how choices made on assets, labour skills and organisational habits shape and “lock-in” patterns of economic action. The fieldwork reported here on the demise of dairy farming in the Moruya and Copmanhurst districts of coastal NSW, was conducted in 1952-54 while John was teaching at Maitland Boys High School. This work was towards an Honours Masters thesis from Sydney University. Some of the challenges of doing geographical work back then included: no funding for fieldwork or higher degrees, lack of technical support for drawing complex maps and diagrams and hand copying large amounts of field data onto foolscap sheets which then had to be analysed without the aid of computers!

After a gap of almost 50 years, Professor Holmes has been prompted to revisit and publish this work (recently submitted to the journal *Geographical Research*) by noting that some of his thoughts on path dependence have currently become fashionable among evolutionary economists and economic geographers who have adapted it to explore patterns of regional growth and decline.

The entrenchment and prolonged dysfunctional survival of low-cost, low-income, labour-intensive dairy farming on the subtropical coastlands of eastern Australia was a potent case of path dependence. At both Moruya and Copmanhurst, the dairy industry comprised a core of long-term stable producers, located mainly on the more accessible and productive alluvial soils, together with a fluctuating number of marginal producers. The dairy farmers’ “locked-in” economic activities were founded on: the initial rural settlement imprint; the structure of farm enterprises; lack of alternative income sources; the culture and capabilities of farm families; environmental and locational disadvantages; integration within transport, processing and marketing infrastructure; proactive policy support by state and federal governments and preferential trade to an overseas market. The demise of dairying was delayed in part by the industry’s exceptional survival capabilities and the lack of any viable alternative farming staple. Its exceptionally rapid collapse in the 1960s and 1970s was

triggered by its inability to undertake the needed reinvestment in response to on-farm and off-farm technological change which occurred on the more productive dairy lands in cool temperate zones in New Zealand and southern Australia. The two case studies here revealed insights into the dynamics of rural change and evolutionary economic geography.



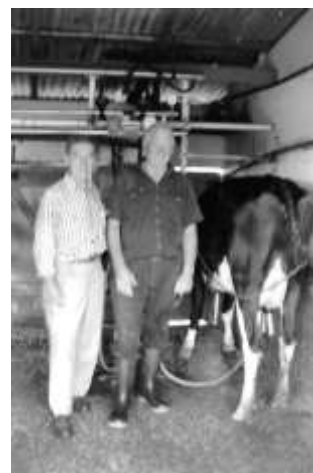
Fieldwork equipment in 1950s comprised a 1938 Chevrolet coupe sedan, basic gear for camping and sustenance, camera, reporter’s notebooks and biros. Source J.H. Holmes



1952 photo of Bergalia cheese factory (a production-oriented land use) which closed in 1951. Source: J.H. Holmes



2010 photo of former Bergalia cheese factory converted into a residence (a consumption-oriented land use). Source: J.H. Holmes



2010 John Holmes, with Moruya’s last dairy farmer one year prior to the closure of his dairy. Source: J.H. Holmes

UPCOMING EVENTS



OCTOBER: Lamington National Park Bushwalk

When: Saturday 13 October

Limit: 16

Cost: members \$10; non-members \$15

Register online: <https://rgsq.org.au/whatson>

This walk in the O'Reilly's area of Lamington National Park will be approximately 10kms but there are places that people may leave if they do not want to go that far.

We will walk down the Wishing Tree track, along the upper reach of Morans Creek, along a 4WD road to a lookout area and have morning tea here.

From here we follow the Morans Falls graded track uphill to meet the road. There are a few steps here; also, a good view of the Falls. Then out to Python Rock with good views. From here, we will, if the group, or some of the group, wish to, continue on a trail to the fabulous West Cliff for lunch. After this, back to O'Reilly's for coffee at the cafe.

Must take: A small backpack with rain jacket, small first aid kit, torch (although you shouldn't need it!) something warm to wear and morning tea, lunch and 1 – 2 L water. Sturdy shoes/boots must be worn as the ground is rough. Don't forget sun and insect protection and a hat.

Meet: at the Canungra toilets (opposite the hotel) at 8.00am.

When registering please advise your phone/mobile number, suburb and whether you are prepared to drive as we will arrange car-pooling where possible.

Coordinator: Mary Comer



Early December: RGSQ Christmas Celebration

Exact date and venue will be advised
in the November Bulletin.

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

KEN SUTTON MEMORIAL LIBRARY GROUP

The group will meet on Monday, the 22nd of October, from 9.30am to 12 noon.

Venue: 28 Fortescue St, Spring Hill, 4000.



UPCOMING EVENTS CALENDAR OCTOBER-DECEMBER

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

8th October 2018 (Monday) 10:00am - 12:00pm

Map Mistakes - A joint presentation by Map Group members

Details

A presentation by various Map Group members who have mapping backgrounds.

David Carstens will explain difficulties involved in the production of a map at Mawson in Antarctica in 1963 and relate "a typical error" in the Readers Digest Atlas.

James Hansen will cover errors by Ptolemy, deliberate errors by Columbus and errors by Corrigan.

Stuart Watt will show that "Even the best can miss a detail" (an error of scale on an orienteering map).

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

5th November 2018 (Monday) 10:00am 12:00pm

Event – "Sharing the Knowledge" - 3 Short Stories from Map Group members, followed by lunch at the Ho Choi Chinese Restaurant

Details

3 short (20 minute) presentations made by Map Group members:

Les Isdale "Mapping Before Digits"; **Jim Graham** and **Peter Nunan** "What's in the RGSQ Library and Map Collection?"; **Len Lowry** "From Lines to Coordinates" - followed by lunch at the Ho Choi Chinese Restaurant, 17

Mayfield Rd, Moorooka 4105.

(Note: lunch venue may change if RGSQ has new premises)

Location

11 Kerriane Place Moorooka 4105

Transport

Members to make own arrangements

Cost

no morning tea as Map Group members are going to lunch after presentations.

Coordinator: Ian Francis, (07) 3266-2285, 0457-628-033, brisfran@gmail.com

3rd December 2018 (Monday) 10:00am-12:00pm
Map Group gathering

Map Group End of Year Gathering - Geography Related Objects "Show and Tell"

Details

End of year celebration morning tea. Bring along an interesting object, map or artefact for "Show and Tell". Bring refreshments plate, sweet or savory.

Location

11 Kerriane Place Moorooka 4105

Transport

Members to make own arrangements

Cost

gold coin donation for tea and coffee

Co-ordinator: Bob Abnett

(07) 3820-2621, 0412-135-794;

abnett@powerup.com.au

REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON GREGORY HOUSE: From Milton to Spring Hill

Sale of Gregory House, 237 Milton Road, Milton:

This occurred over the last few months of 2017, and the building was sold to the neighbouring medical supplies business operated by John Mills. The sale was achieved in December 2017, with a sale price of \$1.8m minus the Real Estate agent's sale fee of \$50,000. John Mills then leased back to RGSQ the first floor office space for \$5,000 per month for a period of 12 months from the end of December 2017 to the end of December 2018, whilst RGSQ searched for replacement premises.

Search for Replacement Premises:

The Committee looked at 27 buildings and premises across Metropolitan Brisbane starting in 2017 and going well into 2018. Free standing buildings

proved to be too expensive for the Society and would have still required alternations. Smaller strata titled premises within an office type building were found to provide enough space for RGSQ office uses, library, storage and a range of member activities in a large and smaller meeting rooms, once alterations were undertaken. Price was, once again, a determinant of what RGSQ could afford, within the sale price of the Milton building.

Final Choice of Premises:

A strata titled office of 316m² floor area was finally chosen at 28 Fortescue Street, Spring Hill, at a sale price of \$1.35m, leaving enough funds for alterations, removal costs and various legal and other fees associated with the purchase of premises.

The premises are within walking distance of public transport (trains and buses), and there is minimal on-site parking of 4 car spaces, with on-street parking and parking station car parks available for evening lectures.

It is hoped that by early 2019, RGSQ will be "ready for members" in "new" premises.

Should you wish to find out more about the new premises, the full AGM presentation was uploaded to the RGSQ website, <https://rgsq.org.au/>.

Bob Abnett, Chairperson, Standing Committee on Gregory House



Level 1, 28 Fortescue Street, Spring Hill, 4000, RGSQ's new home



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Lecture/Meeting: Tuesday, October 2

Inaugural Ken Sutton Lecture "What becomes of Australia's biodiversity in the contemporary era?" by Professor James Watson. Venue: The University of Queensland, Steele Building, Room 206

Treks and Activities: Saturday, October 13
Lamington National Park Bushwalk

Map Group: Monday, October 8, 10:00am - 12:00 noon: Map Mistakes - A joint presentation by Map Group members

Ken Sutton Memorial Library: Monday, October 22, 9:30am – 12:00 noon, 28 Fortescue St, 4000

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

The Royal Geographical Society of Queensland Inc
Level 1, 28 Fortescue St, Spring Hill QLD 4000

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