



# RGSQ Bulletin

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

President: Dr Iraphne Childs

## From the President

Dear Fellow Members, a CLG at last! The Society year is ending with very welcome news – on 30th October we received confirmation that, taking effect from 25th October, our registration as a Company Limited by Guarantee had been approved by ASIC. This is the culmination of a three-year challenging process. On behalf of all members, our congratulations and thanks to Roger Grimley, Lilia Darii and Chris Spriggs for their efforts in seeing this through. Our lawyer, Heather Beckingsale, has provided legal advice pro bono throughout the process for which we are most grateful. So, the RGSQ Council now constitutes a Board of Directors (although we still retain the nomenclature “Council” and “Councillors”).



UQ Students present their findings: On 17th October the UQ post-graduate students who had been researching our membership as a project for their degree, presented their report to RGSQ. A copy is available to members

in the office. 100 members responded to the online survey part of the exercise. Key findings include:

- Over half of members responding are over 70 years of age;
- 43% have been members for more than 10 years;
- 80% intend to renew their membership;
- 75% now prefer to receive their Bulletin via email;
- RGSQ website was the most favoured channel for information on day trips and treks;
- Based on analysis of ABS demographic and economic data, the suburbs most suitable for targeting potential new members were The Gap, Coorparoo, New Farm, Ashgrove, Clayfield, Bridgeman Downs, Carindale and Indooroopilly

Engaging with the UQ Business School has been a worthwhile exercise, incurring no cost to RGSQ and the UQ staff involved have been very good to work with. We hope to continue this association in the future.

A visit to the Museum, Lands, Mapping & Surveying: On 31st October I represented RGSQ at the opening in 317 Edward Street of the new Museum of Lands, Mapping and Surveying (Dept. of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy).

This occasion also commemorated the 200th anniversary of the birth of Queensland's first Surveyor General, A.C. Gregory. Links have been made for RGSQ Map group to visit the Museum which houses many items of interest used by surveyors and cartographers in bygone eras. For example, in 1919 the Harvard Observatory in Peru expressed interest in shifting its instruments to Australia and Queensland was chosen for the relocation. In 1921 the Qld Surveyor General conducted tests for the “clarity of the atmosphere” at various sites on the Darling Downs. The 4-inch Grubb Astronomical Telescope now in the museum was used for this. Although the tests were satisfactory, the transfer of the observatory to Queensland never eventuated.



*I. Childs with the bust of A.C. Gregory and the Grubb telescope at the Museum.*

The Museum also has a bust of our foundation president, Augustus Charles Gregory. Bill Kitson, who is known to many members, related the story of its acquisition. For many years the bust was held in the Gregory Masonic Lodge, Cairns. In 2018 through the efforts of John Cavill-Jones and others, the bust was entrusted to David Kirchner who arranged for the transfer of the Gregory bust to the Museum of Lands, Mapping and Surveying in Brisbane where it is now on display.

The RGSQ Christmas Party: I look forward to seeing you at our Christmas party on December 3rd. There will be a couple of special awards and a quiz to test your geographical knowledge! This year we will also have a raffle (tickets \$2 or 3 for \$5) so bring along your spare coins. On behalf of Council and Staff I extend my best wishes to all members for a happy and safe Christmas-New Year season.

**Iraphne Childs, President**

### NEW MEMBERS

We have much pleasure in welcoming Ms Megan Surawski as new member. We hope your association with your new Society is long and mutually enjoyable.





## VICTORIA FALLS TO THE ATLANTIC COAST

Overland through Zimbabwe, Botswana and Namibia

### SOUTHERN AFRICA SAFARI

13 June - 6 July 2020

#### HIGHLIGHTS

Victoria Falls, Okavango Delta, Etosha, Chobe National Park, Fish River Canyon and the red sand hills of Sossusvlei, incredible range of animals and the Historic Victoria Falls Hotel

#### INCLUSIONS

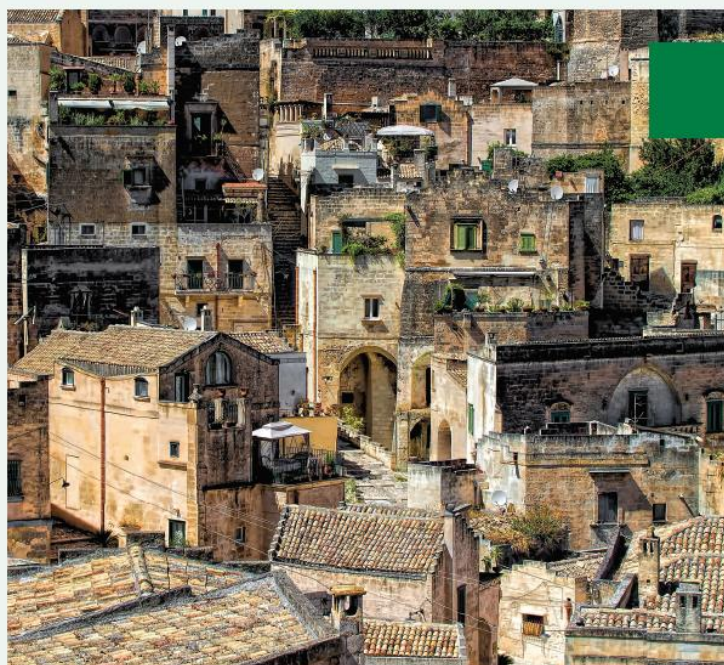
Airfares\*\*, transport, all meals, accommodation, entrance to National Parks as per itinerary, bottled water on tour, fully escorted from Brisbane

#### PRICE

\$13,950\* per person twin share; \$1,225\* single supplement. Deposit: \$500\* per person non-refundable deposit to secure your booking



\*Terms and conditions apply. Itinerary, accommodation, flights subject to change and availability. Tour departure subject to minimum numbers. \*\*Flights ex Brisbane. Flight alterations subject to surcharges. For further information, please contact RGSQ Traveller. Prices correct as at the date of publication.



## BELLA ITALIA TOUR

### UMBRIA, MARCHE, PUGLIA & CAMPANIA

7 - 21 September 2020

#### HIGHLIGHTS

Magnificent landscapes, historical cities and villages, art, architecture, food and wine, and, of course, the wealth of culture for which Italy is so famous

#### INCLUSIONS

Accommodation, transport, meals as per itinerary, entrance to site tours as per itinerary

#### PRICE

\$11,300\* per person twin share; \$2,370\* single supplement. Deposit: \$500\* per person non-refundable deposit to secure your booking



\*Terms and conditions apply. Itinerary and accommodation subject to change and availability. Tour departure subject to minimum numbers and availability. For further information, please contact RGSQ Traveller. Flights to/from Europe are the traveller's responsibility. Prices correct as at the date of publication.



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RGSQ Traveller is a project of The Royal Geographical Society of Queensland est 1885  
Proceeds will help fund the scientific and geographic projects of The Royal Geographical Society of Queensland



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# Synopsis

## 'The getting of Australian Antarctica'

by *Iraphne Childs*



On 22 October, Syd Kirkby, AO, MBE, engaged an audience of around 60 people for two hours at the University of the Sunshine Coast with his excellent presentation on how Australia's Antarctic Territory came into being.

Syd had spent several summers and winters from 1956-1981 working with Australia's Antarctic programme, undertaking extensive and prolonged sledging journeys for exploration and mapping. During his presentation, Syd outlined the history of Antarctic discoveries and exploration going back to the 1830s including the British, French, German, US and Australian expeditions, particularly highlighting the tremendous achievements of Shackleton and Mawson. He explained the significance of the 1929-31 BANZARE and the 1962 ANARE expeditions which established Australia as a major player in Antarctica. In 1933 Britain surprisingly divested its Antarctic territory to Australia and New Zealand, resulting in Australia's share of Antarctic Territory comprising 42% of the continent! The 1958 International Geophysical Year ramped up interest in Antarctica and establishment of stations by multiple nations followed. The Antarctic Treaty was originally signed by 12 nations in 1959 and there are now 55 signatories.

Syd recalled his strong camaraderie with scientists of all nationalities, including many Russian scientists, and regaled the audience with personal vignettes of the exploits of penguins, orcas, snow petrels and skuas. He stated that he welcomed Chinese scientific endeavours in Antarctica and also tourism. Although the latter has the potential to bring the beauty and conservation of Antarctica to a wider public, Syd cautioned that there was a need to protect areas heavily visited by tourist operations. He offered the idea of a period of "tourism exclusion" after 5 years of some frequently visited areas to allow environments and wildlife to recover. Syd was awarded the Polar Medal in 1958, made a Member of the Order of the British Empire in 1966, gained the Order of Australia in 2018, and was awarded the RGSQ Thompson Medal in 2002. It was, indeed, a rare privilege to hear Syd Kirkby, one of Australia's Fifty Greatest Explorers, present his experiences. *Photo: Courtesy of I. Childs.*

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### CONTRIBUTORS

Iraphne Childs, Ian Francis, Wayne Mackenzie, Thomas Sigler, Daphne Stephens

### PHOTOGRAPHY

Iraphne Childs, Ian Francis, Wayne Mackenzie, Kay Rees, Leo Scanlan

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2016 International Geography Olympiad Beijing, China; Australian team placed first at that year's event; Courtesy of Margaret McIvor (on the left)

### Thank you, Margaret McIvor!

After 23 years of volunteering on the Australian Geography Committee, including travelling overseas to support our Australian teams at many International Geography Olympiads, Margaret McIvor has decided to step down from the AGC Committee. On behalf of all RGSQ members, and the AGC committee, I thank Margaret for her tremendous contributions over the years. Margaret continues as Secretary on the Council's executive and as a member of the Ken Sutton Trust selection panel. Best wishes, Margaret. *Iraphne Childs*

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### What's happening on the RGSQ Council?

The following matters were discussed at the 12 November Council meeting:

- Treasurer's October 2019 report – including separate income & expenditure of RGSQ & AGC
- Following on from the Membership report prepared by UQ Business students & Iraphne's recent talk to the Redlands U3A, recommend more presentations on RGSQ to various societies e.g. Probus clubs in some suburbs of Brisbane
- Property Committee has many on-going tasks including audit of RGSQ cages in basement & stationary cupboard to identify items surplus to needs; liaising with Body Corporate; WH & S manual
- Developing grant applications to fund (a) upgrade of the boardroom facilities, (b) electrical & lighting and (c) items required for Archives/Library/Map Collection
- Hire arrangements of RGSQ premises to other societies and outside organisations
- Issues of copyright on RGSQ publications and items for potential sale
- Scientific Studies liaising with QYAC for a meeting on Stradbroke to discuss proposed project
- TAAC is planning 2020 program liaising with Map group program to avoid mutual clashes
- RGSQ Traveller update – advertising & current take-up of Italy & Africa trips
- 2020 lecture program now almost completed – will be available on website soon



## UPCOMING EVENTS | find out more and register at [www.rgsq.org.au](http://www.rgsq.org.au)



To register and book for any of the upcoming treks and activities, please visit the RGSQ website [www.rgsq.org.au](http://www.rgsq.org.au) or contact the Office on 07 3368 2066.



### RGSQ Christmas Celebration

**Tuesday, December 3**

**Time:** 7:30pm-9:00pm

**Venue:** Gregory Place, Level 1, 28 Fortescue St Spring Hill QLD 4000

**Cost:** \$5 per person - members, \$7 per person non-members

<https://rgsq.org.au/whatson> or contact the Office on 07 3368 2066

#### PROGRAM, 7.30-9.00pm

7.30 Welcome

7.35 Fellowship presentation to Prof. Jamie Shulmeister

7.45 Special presentation to Prof. John Holmes

8.00 President's Christmas quiz

8.30 Supper and informal gathering

8.45 Raffle draw (tickets \$2 each or 3 for \$5)

*Thanks to TAAC committee for organising supper and members for contributing delicious Christmas fare!*

## 2020 RGSQ Trek to Lambert Centre

**4 spaces left**



This exciting 12-day trip includes airfares from Brisbane to Alice Springs, a luxury 4WD Tour Coach with a driver/guide and camp cook. Many included attractions as detailed in the Program on the website, as well as all breakfasts and dinners and most lunches. Some camping and some motels/cabins.

*Maximum limit: 20 people.*

**Initial deposit \$350. Due by 9 March 2020: \$500 and final by 9 July 2020. Deposits are non-refundable (subject to conditions).** Please book online at [www.rgsq.org.au](http://www.rgsq.org.au).

**Full Draft Itinerary, Accommodation and Coach Details** are available on the website [www.rgsq.org.au](http://www.rgsq.org.au).

## COMING UP IN 2020

### February 4: 'Welcome to 2020

**Time:** 7:30pm start

**Venue:** Gregory Place. Level 1, 28 Fortescue St, Spring Hill 4000

**Registration:** for catering purposes, please RSVP under <https://rgsq.org.au/whatson>

Please join us for the first social evening of the year when the Society's 2020 program of activities and events will be presented. This is a social function with light supper served after the presentation with plenty of time for conversation. All are most welcome.

## March 2020 Monthly Lecture

### "Urban and Economic Networks in Human Geography"

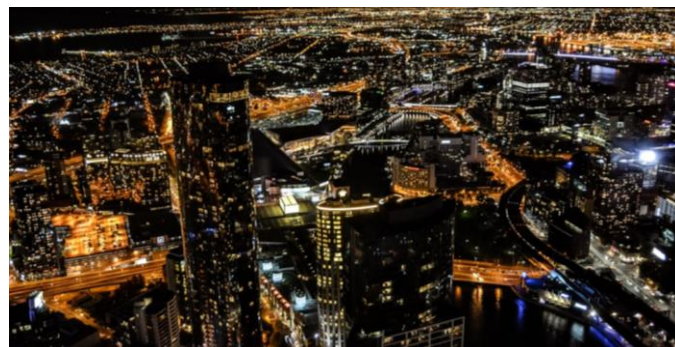
*Presented by Thomas Sigler, University of Queensland*

**Date:** Tuesday, March 3

**Time:** 7.30pm-9pm

**Venue:** [Gregory Place, Level 1, 28 Fortescue St, Spring Hill](http://www.rgsq.org.au)

**Register:** [www.rgsq.org.au](http://www.rgsq.org.au)



Many geographical phenomena can be interpreted from a network perspective, including street grids, information flows, commercial volumes, traffic patterns, and human migration. This presentation overviews the application of network theory to understanding how cities are globally connected through flows of capital, people, and information. It begins with a basic explanation of network theory, before delving more deeply into the assumptions that feed into such research.

A series of powerful visualisations illustrates how the world around us is comprised of networks, and how we can formulate better policy by understanding human geographic phenomena through networks.



## SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

### KEN SUTTON MEMORIAL LIBRARY GROUP

The group will meet January 27<sup>th</sup>, from 9.30am to 12 noon.

**Venue: 'Gregory Place', Level 1, 28 Fortescue St, Spring Hill, 4000**



#### EVENTS CALENDAR

**New and existing members welcome**

For a full view of the Map Group year refer to the RGSQ website

[www.rgsq.org.au](http://www.rgsq.org.au)

#### DECEMBER

**Mon, 02 December 2019, 10:00am - 12:00pm**

**Map Group End of Year "Show and Tell", morning tea and social**

Details: A fitting finale to an exciting year! Members are encouraged to bring along an item of geographical significance and share the interesting points of that item with the group. Group members to bring a plate to share at the end of year celebration.

Website link: <https://www.rgsq.org.au/event-3216332>

Location: RGSQ, 28 Fortescue Street Spring Hill Brisbane

Transport: Members to make own arrangements

Cost: \$2.00 towards the cost of tea and coffee

Coordinator: Ian Francis (07) 3266-2285, 0457-628-033;

Email: [brisfran@gmail.com](mailto:brisfran@gmail.com)

## REPORT: MAP GROUP MAJOR EVENT

### Toowoomba October 2019

*by Ian Francis for Map Group*

Warwick resident and Map Group member - Stuart Watt planned, organised and led the Map Group 2019 Major Event held in Toowoomba.

Stuart's intention was to showcase Toowoomba and environs but not in the normal touristic manner. Using mapping as the thread, Stuart wove geography, regional history, the environment and technology into an exhilarating event. We were taken on a journey from first settlement and concluded with the mammoth capital projects still in design. All this was achieved via a succession of expertly chosen venues and presentations. Stuart even planned a gentle easing down from the cracking pace by including museums on the last day.

No matter where our members' interests lay, enough material was presented to challenge and satisfy the most curious minds. The enthusiasm of our venue hosts was exceptional. We attended professional, in depth, well researched presentations with content level

perfectly pitched to our members. The openness to questions was refreshing.

#### Tour Overview

The following organisations were visited, and activities undertaken during the trip.

- Toowoomba Local History Library
- Drone Mapping by AirBorn Insight Pty. Ltd
- Toowoomba Regional Council, Introduction to GIS, use of mapping in regional/urban planning
- Bolton Reading Room at the Toowoomba Art Gallery
- Heritage walking trail of Toowoomba CBD
- Engineering design and mapping of Wellcamp Airport by Kehoe Myers consulting engineers
- Guided tour of Wellcamp Airport
- Second Range Crossing explanatory drive tour
- Overview of the InterLinkSQ transport hub
- Mapping and design of the Inland Rail Project – Gowrie to Helidon section
- Transport history at the Cobb & Co. Museum
- History of the Queensland Main Roads Museum
- Downs Steam Museum Drayton rail history tour and dinner

#### Attendees

Stuart Watt (organiser & Map Group); Bob Abnett (Map Group); Paul Broad (Map Group); Ralph Carlisle (Map Group); Ian Francis (Map Group Coordinator); Ross Gardner (Map Group); Graham Hardy (RGSQ); Margaret Hardy (RGSQ); John Ladbrook (Map Group); Laurelle Lowry (RGSQ); Leonard Lowry (Map Group); Graham Rees (RGSQ); Kay Reed (Map Group); Chris Spriggs (Map Group); Mal Thomson (Map Group)

#### Part Attendance

Neville McManimm (Map Group); Kevin Tees (Map Group); Heather Watt (RGSQ)

#### Don't forget the food!

Everyone was well catered for. We ate delicious meals and many venues provided refreshments.

#### Stuart Watt: A master organiser at work!

Every participant received a comprehensive 22-page program handbook. Local journey directions were well mapped (what else would you expect from Map Group) and Stuart ensured that when travelling in convey we remained connected through UHF radio.



## The Events

Providing a blow by blow report on the week's events would be impossible in the available space. What is offered is a brief recapping of the week. Hopefully this will offer the impetus for readers to visit Toowoomba, seeking to explore for themselves some of the treasures Stuart has highlighted.

### Toowoomba Local History Library

Special Collections Librarian Jane Royal: The Local History Library houses an archival collection of regional and state significance. The collection material contains rare artefacts safely housed in climatically controlled storage. Storage mediums include microfiche, digital records, text, maps, indexes and display areas. Multiple workstations and resources cater for researchers.

Map Group was treated to a range of rare original and reproduction maps. Jane brought map stories to life with expert commentary. For those interested in seeking further information follow this link: <http://www.tr.qld.gov.au/facilities-recreation/libraries/specialcollectionsservices/8493-local-history>

### AirBorn Insight

Nat Parker from AirBorn Insight instantly caught our attention. When drones and mapping are mentioned our group becomes alert. Services offered by AirBorn Insight and their drones include:

- Terrain mapping of large areas with high accuracy ground control points
- Contour mapping
- Power-line mapping
- Feature mapping (roads, transmission lines, creek inverts, top of embankments, culverts etc)
- Solar panel thermal mapping for defect detection
- Tree location mapping
- Visibility Analysis and Line-of-Site mapping
- Watershed modelling
- Hydrology study and flood level modelling
- Erosion Management

With Nat's visual aids and technically focused presentation we soon understood what AirBorn Insight achieves through drone technology. Many of Map Group have an interest in LiDAR technology and were pleased to hear of the technology integration into drones.

Further information on AirBorn Insight may be found at <https://airborninsight.com.au/>

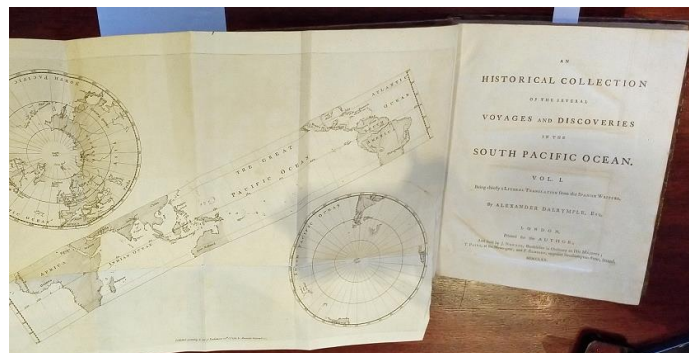
### Introduction into GIS used by Toowoomba Regional Council

The Toowoomba Regional Council pulled out all stops for our visit. We had full use of the Council's boardroom and were provided with afternoon tea. Sandra Sherriff, the Principal of Information Management and GIS (Geographical Information System), opened the seminar with an explanation of how GIS has been implemented by the Toowoomba Regional Council. Her information covered data collection, processing and analysis and enabled us to appreciate the many ways the Regional Council uses GIS data and applications.

Usage examples were: Cartography, Trends, Public Maps, Customer Service Mapping, Site Plans, Mobile Applications such as Pest Surveys, Weed Treatment, Wild Dog fence planning, Local Law, Flood Studies and Project Support.

A discussion about the Local Area Plan for Drayton followed. It was noteworthy to see the steps required to shape a Local Area Plan and how the Regional Council attempts to satisfy different interest groups when formulating a plan. Finally, a well-received session on mapping applications especially for mobile devices was given by Peter Berkerley.

### Bolton Reading Room, Toowoomba Art Gallery



#### Maps within books from the Bolton Reading Room.

We were alerted by Stuart that the Bolton Reading Room would be special. He was spot-on and the visit was a highlight. Apart from the remarkable and rare reading room content, it was the skill of our guide and curator Jason Althofer which made the visit so memorable. He enthusiastically retold the stories behind the maps, making each subject come alive. Describing all the items seen is beyond the scope of this report, however, Stuart has a fully detailed catalogue of the day's events and will forward that to you on request. Stuart may be contacted at [swatt7@westnet.com.au](mailto:swatt7@westnet.com.au). Following are a few examples of the treasures presented:

- **A Chart of the Discoveries made by the late Capt. Cook, & other European Navigators, in the great Pacific Ocean between Asia & America 1780**

By T. KITCHIN Sen.  
London Mag: July 1780  
Printed for R. Baldwin at the Rose Pater Noster Row

- **Willem Janszoon BLAEU 1571-1638**  
**India quae Orientalis dicitur, et Insulae Adiacentes 1634 (1635)**  
Printed map, 3rd state, hand coloured (415 mm x 505 mm)  
Amsterdam G. ... Bleau Nobmo Fortmoq Viro et Heroi D.  
Laurentio Real. [Tabulam hanc D.D.], 1634 (1635)  
Verso has text India 2 [e.g. p. 2]  
Lionel Lindsay Gallery and Library Collection MS 7.4

- Charts in **Alexander DALRYMPLE 1737-1808**

*An historical collection of the several voyages and discoveries in the Pacific Ocean. Vol. I. Being chiefly a literal translation from the Spanish writers. London: Printed for the author, 1770.*

Twenty-five rare and historical books, maps and documents were presented. Our time at the Bolton Reading Room left us spellbound. You can get a sense of why we loved it from this short video. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UnxuWltkmGI>

### Heritage walking trail of Toowoomba CBD

Lunches need walking off; so, after a hearty lunch at Jillys Cafe we traced one of Toowoomba's heritage walks. Along the trail Stuart provided expert commentary.

### Kehoe Myers Consulting Engineers

Kehoe Myers was founded in 1977. The firm built its reputation as consulting engineers in the industrial, commercial, residential and institutional building sectors, as well as industrial and residential subdivisions and infrastructure. The focus of the Map Group's visit was to gain



an understanding of the civil works associated with the Wellcamp Airport project and its surrounding business park.

An expert presentation was delivered by staff representative Samuel Lindsay. Our members were delighted with the depth of technical information Samuel provided. In addition, we were provided access to a vast array of technical drawings and mapping of the site. The information gained during our morning with Kehoe Myers was essential to appreciate the coming Wellcamp Airport site visit.

### **Wellcamp Airport Tour**

Our host at Wellcamp Airport was Meg Degit, an enthusiastic and committed guide. Meg augmented the information learned at Kehoe Myers with visual inspections and explanations. It was interesting to learn more about the Wagner Brothers, their future vision and how the airport will interact with the Toowoomba Second Range Crossing and the Inland Rail Project. A fine lunch was had in the airport cafe.

### **Second Range Crossing guided and explanatory drive tour**

Stuart Watt sought vantage points to view the engineering construction highlights of the Second Range Crossing. As Stuart has a comprehensive knowledge of the area's geology and the problems encountered by the engineering teams, he was able to discuss these issues during the tour. A convoy of five vehicles equipped with UHF radio then drove the crossing with Stuart describing geological features and engineering feats.

### **InterLinkSQ Freight and Logistics Hub**

InterLinkSQ is an intermodal terminal of approximately 200 hectares in Toowoomba. It facilitates the linking of rail, road, air and sea services in South East Queensland. InterLinkSQ representative Ali Lawson gave the example of produce grown in Western Queensland travelling by road transport to the Toowoomba hub where it is transferred to the rail network for dispatch to Brisbane. Currently, the rail component is the existing narrow-gauge rail, but operations will transfer to the Inrail Rail line when it is completed.

### **Mapping and design of the Inland Rail Project – Gowrie to Helidon section**

Mike Gresham, senior GIS analyst with the Australia Rail Track Corporation also known as Inland Rail, related to us the importance of GIS (Geographic Information System) in modern projects and explained its application in the Gowrie to Helidon rail section. The section will consist of 155 km of new track and includes tunnels, road crossings and bridges. The current timeline is for the rail to become operational in 2026. The discussion then moved to the data acquisition methods, uploading data into GIS software and the production of construction drawings. Map Group members eagerly participated and kept Mike busy with many questions.

### **Museums**

Finally, it was time to wind down, our heads were spinning with technical information. Thursday was spent visiting the Cobb & Co Museum, the Main Roads Museum and the Downs Steam Museum. The Downs Steam Museum opened especially for us and provided a delicious evening meal in the setting of a 1960's silver train carriage.

### **Conclusion**

All members had an inspirational week focused on the joys of mapping. Thanks again Stuart Watt!

*Images courtesy of Ian Francis*

## **COMPOSITE REPORT**

### **GYMPIE DISCOVERY WEEKEND**

*1<sup>st</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2019*

Contributions by attending members. Photographs courtesy Kay Rees and Wayne Mackenzie.

The three-day activity was attended by eighteen members who gathered at the Gympie Caravan Park on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> November to begin our adventure. The programme included organised tours of the Woodworks Museum, Gympie Gold Museum and Cooloola Berries Farm, with a morning train excursion on the historic Mary Valley Rattler and a visit to Camelot Camel Dairy to enjoy morning tea and meet the "girls".

"Our first point of call in Gympie was to the Woodworks Museum. All buildings and displays are made from local timbers which demonstrate the particular uses of hard and softer wood. There is great variety in colours and textures of the timbers when cut and polished. Watching the men using the steam powered saws was fascinating. They could cut the whole tree trunk into various sizes and shapes whilst keeping it very secure with chains, clamps and wedges. The Blue Gums had produced wonderful red/pink saw dust. There is so much to see here and another visit would be worthwhile." *(Mary Comer)*

"The Woodworks Museum is a timber and forestry museum with wide ranging displays housed in various covered areas and buildings. They have fascinating relics of forest history lovingly restored to working condition, collections of machinery and tools dating back to the early days of settlement in Australia when it was all hand tools and horse transport. Visitors can see many varieties of saws, chainsaws, axes, wedges, sledgehammers, hooks, carts, wagons, purpose-built trucks, lathes and more. There is also a blacksmiths shop as many steel tools had to be made by hand and wooden wheels had steel tyres. Small free-standing buildings included a foresters bush hut and a saw millers office." *(Ron Owen)*



"Despite the earlier showers we were able to enjoy Friday evening "happy-hour" at the caravan park before departing on the courtesy bus provided by the Gympie RSL to enjoy a group dinner together at the very busy Gympie RSL. Saturday morning saw us off on a trip in the Rattler, steam engine and historic carriages. Our carriage was from North Queensland with photos to prove it. What's not to like? The engine was big, noisy and interesting and there was plenty of time to observe it and take photos as it shunted back and forth at Gympie and then at Amamoor. Some of us even had our photo taken in the engine. Other highlights for me were the

pianist at the station, our cheery guide and the changing views from the train. Highly recommended!" (*Jennifer Allen*)

"On our arrival at the Station we were amazed at how beautifully it had been restored inside and out with Mike commenting that it reminded him of the Kuranda Station. The flowers and greenery were beautiful, and the wonderful staff couldn't be more helpful, even waving us off when we left the station.



The hour-long trip to Amamoor passes through the restored Dagon Station, pretty and inviting, as well as rainforests, plantations of pines, dairy farms and other delightful scenery. The heritage locomotive and carriages, restored to their original condition, are gorgeous and a true heritage rail experience not to be missed. Patrick, the gentleman looking after the RGSQ team was full of life and kept us entertained the whole trip, he was also very informative." (*Liz & Mike McInnes*)

"The morning showers passed, and we departed from the Old Gympie Station in our "car-pooled" transportation for lunch at the Gympie Gold Museum.

We had a great guide at the Gympie Gold Museum who took us along a high gantry that was used for gold and mullock heap extraction. We were amazed to see the high-water mark of the 1893 floods which would have completely covered the whole site. This mine "saved" Queensland when the colony was failing.

We saw many interesting examples of gold extraction machinery, but the museum was much more than that. It even has Andrew Fisher's (Australian PM) house and fabulous collections and old vehicles very well restored. We saw so much that it got to a point of exhaustion!" (*Chris & Robin Spriggs*)



"Due to the extensive walking at the Goldmining Museum we delayed Saturday evening "happy-hour" until 6:30pm and continued with a self-catered BBQ at the caravan park where fine weather, fine company and some fine wine ensured a memorable evening together.

A pleasant fifteen-minute drive through pastoral country to Camelot Camel Dairy was our Sunday morning activity. Mel and Wayne are enthusiastic camel owners, and both gave us informative talks. New to the farm was baby Jane only 6 days old, lovingly minded by her mother Biffy. Ginger was the affectionate one who allowed everyone to have cuddles. Camel rides were possible too. Some of the 70 camels are breeding stock, others are for milking and some sold as farm assistant animals. Most of these camels have come from the wild but are now calm and happy in their environment." (*Kay & Graham Rees*)

"Wolvi is identified as the source of many of the punnets of fresh seasonal berries on fruit shop shelves, and a visit to Cooloola Berries - off the Tin Can Bay Road - was the setting for the final group activity for the weekend.

The drive east from the camel dairy took us from a district showing the effects of prolonged dry conditions, into a region clearly benefiting from improved rainfall experienced in near coastal areas. Contented cattle, grazing on lush green pastures - hard to beat for a relaxing drive.

Cooloola Berries, one of a number of berry farms in the Wolvi area, is a family farming enterprise that, since establishment in 2007, has broadened its activities to include a restaurant and function centre - clearly popular with locals and visitor groups like ours. Whilst the 'Pick your Own' experience wasn't available (not the berry season) - the lunch - and berry infused ice cream for some hardy group members - provided for a very enjoyable conclusion of what was a great weekend." (*Roger & Glenda Grimley*)

"From the busy restaurant/café at Cooloola Berries, some of us were enticed to partake from the huge paella dish warming on a wood fire (only available on Sundays). After lunch, we were honoured to learn the history of Cooloola Berries from descendants of this pioneering family. We were then taken on a short tour of the surrounding small farm and learned how they were surviving the devastating drought.

We saw berries forming on bushes which, although brown now, would transform into blueberries in a couple of weeks. We learned how farmers coped with some crops, not usually grown in sub-tropical areas, by transporting them to Victoria in winter so that they receive the cold temperatures required for fruiting.

We highly recommend a visit to Cooloola Berries." (*Margaret & Grahame Hardy*)

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## Report: RGSQ Map Group

*Visit to Queensland State Archives on 23 October*

**Organiser:** Michele McNamara, Acting Access Services Manager, Public Access, Queensland State Archives and Daphne Stephens representative of Map Group

**Presenter:** Cynthia Cochrane, Archivist, and Elizabeth Roebuck, Conservationist, Queensland State Archives, Runcorn.

On Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> October, eleven RGSQ members met at the Queensland State Archives, Runcorn.

Cynthia Cochrane, Archivist, gave the group an initial brief introduction to the Archives and her South African background, when she indicated that the visits from the RGSQ were considered significant providing the staff with a 'discerning' audience. It was later clear that Cynthia had gone to extensive lengths to draw significant maps and records from their archives for our members to view.



The Archives first started collecting maps and records in 1959 and stores maps of Queensland dating from 1824. They have over 5,000 maps digitized. However, most of the maps are from the commencement of Queensland in 1859, whilst maps prior to this belong to New South Wales and are stored in Sydney. Most of the storage of maps is digital now.



**QSA RGSQ MAP GROUP VISIT. Wed 23 Oct 2019**

Elizabeth Radford, Conservationist, then followed with a very comprehensive talk in the meeting room on advice on how to preserve maps, plans and drawings, etc. held by the Society, but also for any home historical records we members own. We received advice (with an excellent handout) on the preferred storage and handling of maps, etc. and were provided with a list of items which can damage plans and documents.

Unfortunately, this talk took about 1hr 10 mins which left us only 15 minutes for the Map Room. Any future trip to the State Archives will request that the talk on conservation be limited to a maximum of 15-20 minutes.

Cynthia then lead us to the Map Room for a visual feast of historical maps and documents. Cynthia had sought out significant maps, records, forest surveying plans including once again the 1840 surveyors 1<sup>st</sup> map of Brisbane with approximately twenty-four lots marked out on both the north and south banks of the Brisbane River. This was only the second time QSA had pulled this map out – both times for our RGSQ visits.

We were also shown an article written by Les Isdale on pre and post war cartography.

Also of particular interest was a transcript of Oxley's diary while on the Ship *Mermaid*. This gave a description of Oxley meeting the native people on the banks of the Brisbane River. They waded out to give Oxley and his sailors strings of beads, and in return Oxley gave them biscuits. Depth in fathoms was measured at the river mouth. The transcription also described how Oxley and his men were consumed by mosquitos on the last night. This booklet was only handled by the QSA staff and read out to us.

Other items were:

- A plan of the Endeavour River;
- The first survey plan of Gayndah dated 31/12/1845 with the names of property owners;
- A map showing the Expedition Range (*sic*) from Mt McIntosh 31/12/1862 (with a hand drawing illustration);
- A map showing John McKinlay's route across the continent from Stuckey's Crossing to Gulf of Carpentaria, dated 31/01/1862;

- A map of the Burdekin River with a view from The Bluff (illustration of 2 men & 2 horses) dated 31/12/1863;
- Survey plans of Maroochy and Mooloolah townships;
- A Survey plan of Gympie Gold Fields;
- A map of Noosa Heads marked as a Reserve for Aboriginal Mission dated 31/12/1871;
- Forestry map Woocoo 1936. Forestry maps showed paths, vegetation species and were used with the opportunity for development of National Parks as well. Forest camp maps were surveyed by highly trained surveyors;
- Other maps shown were the first survey of Gayndah dated 1852, Bowen, Bundaberg, Gladstone and Maryborough. Bowen had been a prospective port for Queensland.

Cynthia then demonstrated in the public viewing room how to use the search tools free for the public to use.

The handouts from the QSA included the following:

1. Preserving maps, plans and drawings – 6/3/19.
2. The Preservation Scale – advice on which plastics to use for storing.
3. Where should I put my treasures – advice on best location for storage of historical items within the home.
4. Suppliers List – for archival products, specialist photographic and audio-visual services; and data capture services.

If you want any of these handouts, please contact the Qld State Archives.

*By Daphne Stephens; photo courtesy of Kay Rees.*

## **RGSQ Office closure over the holiday season**

The RGSQ office will not be open to members or visitors from 25 December – 12 January; re-opening on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> January.

The posting of opinion pieces on the RGSQ Members' News & Discussion Forum <https://rgsq.org.au/membernews> is encouraged.

However, it should be noted that these are personal opinions of members and do not represent RGSQ's position as a Society on any of these topics.

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*Image courtesy of Coral Expeditions*



# **RGSQ Bulletin**

**December 2019**

## **Activity: Tuesday 3 December**

RGSQ Christmas Celebration

7:30 -9pm; register at [www.rgsq.org.au](http://www.rgsq.org.au)

## **Map Group**

**Monday 2 December, 10:00 am - 12:00 noon**

End of Year Show-and-Tell Social

## **Ken Sutton Memorial Library**

The group will not meet in December

The December Council will meet on the second Tuesday of the month.

[www.rgsq.org.au](http://www.rgsq.org.au) | [info@rgsq.org.au](mailto:info@rgsq.org.au)

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