



RGSQ Bulletin

ISSN 1832-8830

March 2019

Vol 54 no 02

Published by The Royal Geographical Society of Queensland Inc., a not-for-profit organisation established in 1885 that promotes the study of geography and encourages a greater understanding and enjoyment of the world around us.

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

From the President

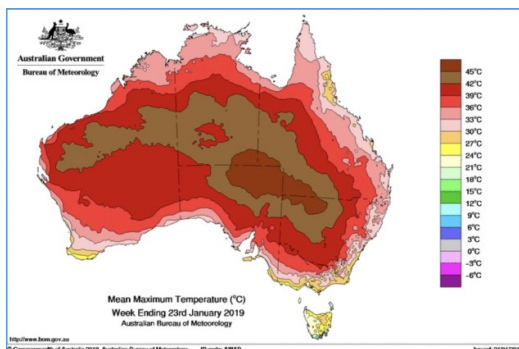
Dear Members, it was great to see so many of you at our Welcome evening on February 5th. The overview presentations from our special interest groups gave a good idea of what is planned for this year's Society activities, overseas tours, treks and monthly lectures. I hope you can enjoy participating in some of these events.

The re-fitting of our new home in Level 1/28 Fortescue street Spring Hill is proceeding as planned. The Gregory House committee has negotiated with tradesmen to undertake the work we require to change the layout of the space to fit our purposes. With the Christmas-New Year holidays it was not possible to commence construction until late January. It is anticipated that the work will be completed in March. At present there is limited access to the premises, so we will have the March lecture meeting at the Lavalla Centre in Rosalie. The RGSQ office in Fortescue street will be staffed throughout and can be contacted as usual.

As always with geographical interest, we have noted the extreme weather events experienced across the globe in January-February 2019. In both the northern hemisphere winter and southern hemisphere summer climatic conditions have been more severe than those experienced at the same time in 2018. The Mid-West of the USA experienced a "polar vortex" – a super cold period with temperatures plummeting to minus 40deg. in some parts and with heavy snow drifts causing road and air transport chaos.

At the same time in Australia, a prolonged heatwave affected much of the country throughout the month of January, breaking records for duration and individual daily extremes. On January 24th the town of Port Augusta (SA) reached a new record of 49.5 deg., while Cloncurry (Qld.) claimed an unenviable record of 43 consecutive days over 40 °C. Meanwhile 53 bushfires have been burning in Tasmania, some still some out of control at the time of this writing. Imagine the damage to flora and fauna in our temperate

world heritage areas of Tasmania! Photo: Australia's heatwave January 2019; source Bureau of Meteorology



North Queensland received very heavy rainfall caused by the combined effects of the arrival of the annual monsoon trough with an embedded low pressure system. Townsville was the worst affected recording more than a year's worth of rain (1,134 millimetres) in nine days until Monday 4th February.

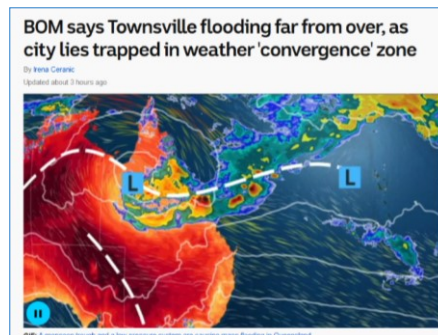


Photo: Townsville flooding. Source: ABC News, 5 February 2019.

Widespread flooding occurred in the city. With the Ross River dam reaching a flood-mitigation capacity of

240%, the flood gates had to be fully opened on February 4th causing further inundation in many parts of the city. Initially welcomed on previously drought-affected properties in north-western Queensland, the flooding rains have unfortunately resulted in heavy losses of cattle by drowning. An enormous relief effort is being undertaken by Emergency Service agencies, the ADF, the SES, Red Cross and other volunteers. If I am deployed with Red Cross to assist with evacuation centres and recovery, I will give you a "geographer's view from the ground" in the next Bulletin. In the meantime, stay safe for the rest of summer!

References:

Steve Turton (Geographer, RGSQ Thomson Medallist) *The stubborn high-pressure system behind Australia's record heatwaves*; [The Conversation](#) 25 January 2019 <https://theconversation.com/the-stubborn-high-pressure-system-behind-australias-record-heatwaves-110442>

Port Augusta's hot weather record broken again; [Sun Herald](#) 24 January, 2019

<https://www.theherald.com.au/story/5869116/port-augustas-hot-weather-record-broken-again/>

BOM says Townsville flooding far from over, as city lies trapped in weather 'convergence' zone; ABC News, 5 February 2019

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-02-05/what-is-causing-record-rainfall-and-floods-in-townsville/10779032>

Dr. Iraphne Childs, President

CONTRIBUTORS

Bob Abnett, Jen Carter, Iraphne Childs, Mary Comer, Bernard Fitzpatrick, Ian Francis, Jeanette Lamont, Hamish McGowan, Chris Spriggs, Ian Stehbens, Wayne Mackenzie, Leo Scanlan, Matthew Wengert,

PHOTOGRAPHY

Hamish McGowan, Kay Rees, Leo Scanlan, Ian Stehbens, Matthew Wengert, Jenman African Safaris

MARCH 2019 LECTURE

1919, SPANISH FLU IN QUEENSLAND

presentation by Matthew Wengert

Date: Tuesday, March 5, 2019

Time: 7.30pm-9pm

Venue: [Lavala Centre, 58 Fernberg Rd, Paddington QLD 4064](#)

RSVP: <http://rgsq.org.au/whatson>

History knows it as the 'Spanish Flu' - the world's deadliest pandemic of infectious disease, killing more people in a year than the two world wars combined.

Australian governments called it Pneumonic Influenza (PnuFlu). It was our nation's worst natural disaster, leaving more than 12000 dead in a few months - but the epidemic also caused massive social and economic chaos as it travelled through the country, from cities to towns, along highways and down every street, and into nearly every house.

Never before or since has any emergency brought such intense and pervasive government control of most aspects of daily life. PnuFlu regulations governed many basic interactions and movements - closing down mass entertainments, suspending public transport, and even forcing churches to shut their doors to prevent people infecting each other.

Matthew's talk will discuss the movement of the epidemic as it spread north and west of Brisbane and use several examples of the impact of the disease on population centres throughout the State (including the islands of the Torres Straits, among the last places on Earth to suffer that 'Flu' pandemic).



Matthew Wengert is an independent curator and professional historian who has lived in Brisbane since the 1980s. Following his BA (Hons) in Media Studies at Griffith University he worked there as a researcher and tutor for close to ten years, while also researching for ABC and SBS documentaries. He attained an MA (Writing, Editing and Publishing) from University of Queensland in 2014. His main research interests are the violent

history of Queensland's colonial frontier and the medical history of epidemics. He has worked closely with Cherbourg's Ration Shed Museum for several years as a curator and manager of Indigenous art projects (and he is a passionate collector of Queensland Indigenous art). Matthew was the 2018 recipient of the Brisbane Lord Mayor's Helen Taylor Research Award and author of the recently published book, 'City in Masks.'

'City in Masks' documents Brisbane's dramatic exposure to the world's deadliest pandemic - the 'Spanish Flu' - in 1919. 'City in Masks' tracks the emergency as the disease moved across the city, carrying illness and death into every suburb - and bringing out surprising stories of heroism and humanity wherever it went.

Focus on Geographical Research

By Professor Hamish McGowan

A new technique for monitoring severe weather in Australia



Professor Hamish McGowan is a Geographer in the School of Earth and Environmental Sciences at the University of Queensland. His research interests include meteorological hazards, earth surface-atmosphere interactions, weather and climates of Alpine and mountainous regions, the role of atmospheric dust in local, regional and global climate dynamics and palaeoclimate reconstruction.

Professor McGowan has been developing a new field of research into severe weather - in particular thunderstorm and bushfire meteorology. The research is based in eastern Australia making use of the natural thunderstorm hotspot of southeast Queensland, and the bushfire prone states of NSW and Victoria. The research is supported by partners in the Bureau of Meteorology, NSW Rural Fire Service, Victoria Country Fire Authority and Queensland Fire and Emergency Services.

This severe weather research is distinguished internationally by the novel use of a portable dual polarised x-band radar (UQ-XPOL). Japanese Radar manufacturer Furuno is providing technical support and software upgrades to enable new radar scanning patterns to observe storm and smoke plume dynamics. Professor McGowan believes this work will have far reaching international applications as his team develops mobile radar specifically designed for real-time wildfire observation and pyro-convective plume dynamics.

Photo: Courtesy of H. McGowan

References:

McGowan, H.A., Soderholm, J.S., Callow, N.J., McGrath, G.S. and Campbell, M.L. (2018) *Global warming in the context of 2000 years of Australian alpine temperature and snow cover*. *Scientific Reports-Nature Publications*, DOI:10.1038/s41598-018-22766-z.

McCarthy, N., McGowan, H., Guyot, A. and Dowdy, A. (2018) *Mobile X-Pol radar: A new tool for investigating pyroconvection and associated wildfire meteorology*. *Bulletin of the American Meteorological Society*, doi:10.1175/BAMS-D-16-0118.1.

BELLA ITALIA TOUR

RGSQ Traveller invites you to join with us when we travel to Italy on this exciting 16-day tour
departing Australia on Saturday 21st September 2019



Fully escorted from Brisbane by Leo Scanlan,
Tour Leader and former RGSQ President

Focusing on *Umbria, Marche, Puglia and Campania*, this tour explores provincial Central, East and Southern Italy and ends on the west coast in Naples.

INCLUSIONS:

All international air travel ex Brisbane*; accommodation; transport; fully escorted from Brisbane; all meals as per itinerary; site tours per itinerary, entrance fees to sights where indicated on itinerary.

PRICE: \$10,945* per person twin share; single supplement \$2,263*; \$500 deposit** per person required to secure booking. ** The \$500 deposit is refundable up until RGSQ secure airline and land content bookings. RGSQ will inform you promptly as soon as we have sufficient numbers to proceed with the tour.

During this BELLA ITALIA tour we will explore magnificent landscapes, historical cities and villages, art and architecture, food and wine, and, of course, the wealth of culture for which Italy is so famous.

FOR A COPY of the extended itinerary please contact RGSQ Traveller on 07 3368 2066 or email info@rgsq.org.au.

We hope you can join us as we explore the magic of BELLA ITALIA.

*Please note, the price will cover return fares ex Brisbane. Surcharges will apply for alternations to air arrangements. Itinerary subject to change. Prices may fluctuate if surcharges, fees, taxes or currency rates change. Payments by credit card will incur surcharge. Whilst every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of information at the time of publication, RGSQ cannot accept responsibility for the errors, changes, omissions or for descriptions which have been supplied by third party providers. Tour departure is subject to a minimum number of bookings. Flights and accommodation are subject to change and availability.



Date of print 20/02/2019



OVERLAND THROUGH UGANDA, KENYA AND TANZANIA

DEPARTING BRISBANE 22 JUNE 2019 | RETURNING 18 JULY 2019

GEOGRAPHY GAME PARKS & GORILLAS

Fully escorted from Brisbane by
Leo Scanlan, Tour Leader, seasoned
traveller with a great love of Africa
and former RGSQ President.

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST INCLUSIONS

- All international air travel ex Brisbane*
- Accommodation and tipping for site guides and drivers • Transport • All meals as per itinerary, except when in transit • Fully escorted from Brisbane
- Guided site tours + 4x4 Excursions in national parks + Entrance fees and permits to national parks
- Bottled water while on tour

PRICE \$15,968* per person twin share;
single supplement \$2,223*.
Terms and conditions apply. Subject to change.

FOR A COPY of the extended itinerary please
contact RGSQ Traveller on 07 3368 2066 or email
info@rgsq.org.au or visit www.rgsq.org.au.

Date of publication 20/02/2019

RGSQ TRAVELLER are offering GEOGRAPHY, GAME PARKS & GORILLAS as part of our ongoing programme of geography on the ground in Africa - overland through three countries - Uganda, Kenya and Tanzania, to take place starting 22 June 2019.



"This is a completely new RGSQ Traveller itinerary offering many of the national park jewels of Central and East Africa, unsurpassed wildlife viewing, breathtaking views of The Great Rift Valley, superb views of Mount Kilimanjaro from Amboseli, and a whole list of great conservation and historical stories as well." Leo Scanlan, Tour Leader

HIGHLIGHTS

UGANDA

Murchison Falls, Queen Elizabeth National Park, Kampala, Bwindi Impenetrable Forest National Park where we hope to meet the mountain gorilla families;

TANZANIA

Lake Victoria, Serengeti National Park and Ngorongoro Conservation Area;

KENYA

Masai Mara National Reserve, Amboseli National Park with unmatched views of Mount Kilimanjaro, Nakuru, Tsavo East National Park, Tsavo West, Sheldrik's Elephant Orphanage and release centre Voi, and The Giraffe Centre Nairobi.

UPCOMING EVENTS



The **TAAC, Treks and Activities Committee**, consisting of Mary Comer, Audrey Johnston, Jeannette Lamont, Wayne McKenzie, Bob Reid and Chris Spriggs, have been working on the program for 2019. All events will now be recognised by our new Logo as above. Future programs are as below and further details can be found at www.rgsq.org.au, under What's On/Events List. We encourage people to register through the web but bookings can still be taken through the RGSQ Office (07 3368 2066).

MARCH 29: Changing Land Use of Wetlands Brisbane Airport and DFO

Time: 8.30am to 3pm; pick up and return Park Ave (near Eagle Junction Railway Station)

What: Bus trip to Nudgee Beach; Guided tour of Brisbane Airport by BAC Community Engagement Officer; Lunch at DFO (Direct Factory Outlet) - main meal, coffee and cake

Register and pay online <http://rgsq.org.au/whatson> by 15 March: \$53 members and \$58 non-members (includes morning tea and lunch)

The airport is soon to have the largest capacity of all Australian airports. Passenger numbers are expected to grow to 50 million by 2035. Brisbane's new runway is on track to open in 2020 to cater for the demand.

Coordinator: Jeanette Lamont

APRIL 15: Pete's Hobby Nursery and Lowood Town

Self-Drive to Lowood in the Lockyer Valley and meet outside at 10 Patrick Street Lowood for a 10am start

What: Visit to Pete's Hobby Nursery which is a well-established small nursery specialising in shrubs, trees and plants, including rare and endangered species (for sale at reasonable prices!).

Cost: \$10 members and \$15 non-members by 8th April (includes tips to Pete for the cuppa!)

Register online: <http://rgsq.org.au/whatson>, limited to 20 people

We will have a cuppa while Pete explains his philosophy and nursery and he will also take us on a short easy walk to the adjacent Brisbane Valley Rail Trail where he has planted 5500 species along the old rail track. Much more information is at <https://www.peteshobbynursery.com.au>

We will have lunch locally (at own cost). Details to come.

In the afternoon, we will do an optional self-guided walk around Lowood Township using the Lowood Heritage Trail Walking Guide which will be provided to participants.

Directions: From Brisbane, take the Warrego Highway and turn off at the Brisbane Valley Highway towards Fernvale. Approach Lowood either through Glamorganvale or Fernvale. From Toowoomba take the Warrego Highway and turn off at Plainland towards Lowood (allow approx. 75 minutes from both places). From Walters Street in Lowood, turn right on to James Street, first left on to Pryde Street and first right on to Patrick Street.

Coordinator: Chris Spriggs

MAY 14: Lamington National Park Bush Walk

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.

Cost: members \$10, non-members \$15 payable to RGSQ Office or on-line at <http://rgsq.org.au/whatson> if possible; limit 12.

Meet: We will meet in Canungra, opposite the Post Office at 8.00am at the Canungra Hub Cafe. This cafe opens at 6.00am, you may like to come early for breakfast or coffee.

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 – 2 L water. Sturdy shoes/boots must be worn as the ground is rough. Don't forget sun and insect protection and a hat. A walking stick may be useful.

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

Note: Those who registered for the cancelled event last October can attend this event at no cost (please advise the RGSQ Office of your intentions by contacting us at admin@rgsq.org.au or 07 3368 2066), alternatively, request a refund from the RGSQ Office. **Coordinator:** Mary Comer

JUNE 5: Visit to Cobb+Co Museum

Come spend a day with us exploring the wonders of the Cobb & Co Museum in Toowoomba

Where: 27 Lindsay St Toowoomba

When: 10:00am Wednesday 5th June 2019

Cost: Members \$30.00; Non-members \$35.00 (includes concessional entry and sandwich platter lunch, excluding drinks)

Transport: Own transport

Parking: Free Parking is available behind the museum off Lindsay Street.

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

Cobb & Co Museum is part of the Queensland Museum and houses the National Carriage Collection and focuses on horse-drawn vehicles and heritage trades. The museum conducts courses in many of the disappearing arts and trades and mounts exhibits on a wide array of topics as well as holding The Lost Trades Fair.

The day visit will start with members and guests arriving at the museum by their own means to enjoy morning tea (own cost) at the Cobb's Coffee Shop, located in the Museum building.

At 10:30am a guided tour of the Museum will be conducted by the Curator, Mr Geoff Powell (subject to his availability), or an experienced volunteer guide, followed by lunch in the café at 12:30pm. Following lunch, members and guests are welcome to explore the many exhibits and displays on their own until 2:00pm, when the Curator or his guest speaker will present the monthly Curator Conversations on a topic which at this stage remains a secret. Following the Curator Conversation members and guests are welcome to explore more of the beautiful city of Toowoomba or make their own way home.

Co-ordinator: Wayne Mackenzie

UPPER YABBA VALLEY

WEEKEND TREKS

TREK A July 20-21, 2019: Baiyambora Gorge, Gates of Yabba & Yabba Falls

TREK B August 9-11, 2019: Two Gorges: Yabba Falls & Kingaham Gorge

These trek weekends are an activity of The Royal Geographical Society of Queensland.

Registrations are now open for both these treks and full details are on the RGSQ website <https://rgsq.org.au/whatson>.



TREK A July 20-21: YABBA FALLS Baiyambora Gorge, Gates of Yabba & Fishermans Spur (return Day Hike) & Yabba Falls (Field Day)

SATURDAY 20th - RETURN DAY HIKE: Good fitness required

To enter into the Baiyambora Gorge is to enter into majesty! There is much to discover and wonderful landscapes to assess. The main hike is challenging, but safe. It is a 9km day hike. The descent is 300m down a spur then following the creek and gorge upstream into Gates of Yabba with access to the foot of Yabba Falls and the Primaeval Forest.

SATURDAY 20th - ADVENTURE OPTION THROUGH HIKE including abseiling descents

The experience of standing beside Top Pool looking up at the plunging falls is unforgettable. To explore The Showerroom is a must. To stand above Gate of Heaven and look down to the second bottom of the gorge is awesome. To do science down there measuring girth of towering hoop pines, or recording fungi, is important research. *Maximum for 5 people.*

Abseiling will be provided by qualified abseiling guides (Climbing Guides Australia). There will be two descents each between 40 and 60 metres. Those doing abseiling must be prepared to walk out from the base of the falls along a creek bed. This is about a 4km walk, ascending 300m, although alternative steeper ascents are possible.

Abseiling Cost: \$180 each (GST Incl), includes insurance for this activity.

Pre-booking and prior payment essential for this option.

The group of abseilers will meet up with the hikers and leave the gorge together.

SUNDAY 21st - YABBA FALLS

Yabba Falls: Described by the custodians of Conondale Conservation as "Booloomba on steroids!", Yabba Falls is our primary destination today. It will be a gentler day than the previous one. The falls will be viewed from the plateau, looking down into the gorge from different vantage points above Top Plunge, through Eye of the Needle, from Superb Corner Lookout and Weaner Rock. Opportunities for plant identification, or field sketching, drone photography, or unravelling the structural geology enigmas.

TREK B August 9-11, 2019: Two Gorges

SATURDAY 10th - BAIYAMBORA GORGE & YABBA FALLS

There is much to discover and wonderful landscapes to assess. The main hike is challenging, but safe. It is a 9km day hike. The descent is 300m down a spur then following the creek and gorge upstream into Gates of Yabba with access to the foot of Yabba Falls, and the Primaeval Forest.

SUNDAY 11th - KINGAHAM GORGE FIELD DAY

Today the bushwalking will take us into another environment with different geology, landforms including a series of waterfalls, pools and puzzles: Two Step Falls, The Ballroom Pool, Ochre Falls, Broken Mirror Falls, Masons Quarry, Broken Femur Falls, The Greenstone Crater. Serendipity might be the essence of the day.

Opportunities abound for landscape aesthetics assessment, landform recording, vegetation identification, photography and drone imaging (if you bring your own drone). Only moderate fitness required for this day, which can be tailored for your level of agility.

FITNESS

The weekend is appropriate for people with good bushwalking fitness and endurance, though a range of fitness levels can be catered for by some tailoring of the program:

1. easy but rough walk to top of Yabba Falls and Weaner Rock;
2. moderate challenge due to length of slopes gives access into Upper Yabba country and into Gates of Yabba and Baiyambora Gorge;
3. challenging hike (9km return with 300m descent and return ascent) into Gates of Yabba with access to the foot of Yabba Falls, and the Primaeval Forest.

Walking will be on unformed tracks through open grazing country including grasses and timbered country, and over rock surfaces. There is no current infrastructure (e.g. paths, safety fences), so caution must be exercised especially in rock locations and cliff areas. Comfortable and sturdy shoes should be worn while walking, a hat, sunscreen and water are imperative.

LOCATION

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. Access to the field site from Imbil requires a 4WD vehicle, so we will be carpooling for those who do not have a 4WD. Please advise if you have a 4WD and are prepared to help transport participants from Borumba Deer Park and back on each day.

Assembly Point: Borumba Deer Park, 1133 Yabba Creek Road, Imbil.

COST: TREK A or TREK B

Registration <https://rgsq.org.au/whatson>: \$25 per person includes a BBQ (food and non-alcoholic drinks) on Friday 'Meet and Greet', and Saturday evening.

Paid registration by Wednesday 10 July 2019.

OPTIONAL ABSEILING COST: 'TREK A' Only

Abseiling Cost: \$180 each (GST Incl), includes insurance for this activity.

Pre-booking and prior payment essential for abseiling.

If you are interested in abseiling with highly qualified guides, please call the RGSQ Office 3368 2066 or email info@rgsq.org.au by 1 July 2019.

ACCOMMODATION CHOICES

Staying at Imbil in your choice of accommodation, which you arrange yourself. All of the following are suitable and convenient:

- Camping, self-catering cabins and caravans at Borumba Deer Park, Yabba Creek Road
<http://www.borumbadeerpark.com/>
- Camping and caravan at Lake Borumba Camp Ground, 1484 Yabba Creek Road, Lake Borumba <https://www.facebook.com/LakeBorumba/>
- Camping and caravans at Imbil Camping Retreat <https://www.imbilcampingretreat.com.au/>
- Short term accommodation is also available at Elsie of Imbil, Elizabeth St, Imbil. Ideal for a group of 4, especially if you would like to stay for a couple of extra nights. <https://www.elsieofimbil.com.au/>

B&Bs: there are Bed and Breakfasts and quality accommodation options in and around Imbil. Three of the best are:

- Imbil Country Cabins (****),
- Mary Valley Views B&B (****) and
- Melawondi Spring Retreat (****)

A 2018 Yabba Falls Trekker writes:

We sat with feet dangling over 150 m of air and shadows, sunlight pouring down into pools of water at the top and breaking onto rocks below. It wasn't like anywhere else I'd seen in Queensland. Boulders jumbled far below – some hundreds of tonnes in size, looking like pebbles. Deep green pools perched in grey stone. It was gorge country, easily as spectacular as the waterfalls of New England or the canyons of the Blue Mountains – places protected by great tracts of national park, enjoyed by hundreds of thousands of people each year. It was a place that just as much deserved to be seen; just as much deserved to be shown in photographs in landscape galleries; just as much should have been a part of the culture of this area.

Oxana Repina, Aug 2018

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS



KEN SUTTON MEMORIAL LIBRARY GROUP

The group will meet on Monday, the 25th of March, from 9.30am to 12 noon.

Venue: 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

Date: Wed 6th March 2019, 10am

Event: Visit to Queensland State Archives (QSA) Map Collection

Location: 435 Compton Rd, Runcorn QLD 4113

This is the second visit Map Group will make to the QSA. The visit will concentrate on early historic maps of Queensland - e.g. explorer's maps/charts of Queensland, early land settlement maps, early town maps.

QSA has imposed a limit of 12 attendees. Map Group will accept 12 registrations. As part of this registration process, members are asked that those who went to State Archives in 2016, allow other Map Group members to go in March 2019 (i.e. those who have not been to State Archives before).

Note: a second visit will be available later in the year for those who miss this special event.

Cost: Nil

Registration: via the RGSQ website or through Bob Abnett, email abnett@powerup.com.au or mobile 0412 135 794

Date: Mon 1st April 2019, 10am

Event: Peter Griggs (Map Group Speaker): Mapping a New Colony, the Geographical Construction of Queensland

Location: RGSQ, 28 Fortescue Street Spring Hill

Peter Griggs is a geography lecturer and lectured at JCU for many years, prior to semi-retirement. He is still doing part-time geography lecturing, whilst being an active member of RGSQ. Peter was a member of RGSQ back in the 1980s and wrote a History of the RGSQ from inception to the mid-1980s and this is still the definitive history of the RGSQ to this day. The presentation will include issues such as:

- What was mapped (e.g. electoral districts, towns, railway routes)
- Who was mapping (not only government)
- The commencement of cadastral mapping
- The challenges faced making maps in an era when lithography still used limestone stones.

Cost: \$2.00 donation for tea and coffee

Registration: via the RGSQ website or through Bob Abnett, email abnett@powerup.com.au or mobile 0412 135 794

Date: Tue 7th May, 2019, 8:40am - 3:30pm

Event: Visit to North Stradbroke Island Historical Museum & lunch at Island Fruit Barn Café

Location: (Stradbroke Ferries), 12 Emmett Drive Cleveland & 15/17 Welsby St, Dunwich QLD 4183

The museum has a range of permanent displays about the Quandamooka people, convict history, shipwrecks and

maritime history, the story of sandmining on the Island, as well as lots of photos of the old fishing shacks, boats and buses that helped kick off the tourism industry on Straddie. As well as this they will provide us access to their small but interesting map collection. The visit includes morning tea.

Lunch: Lunch at the pleasant Island Fruit Barn Café followed by a return water taxi to Cleveland. Members may choose to stay longer on Stradbroke Island and catch a later water taxi back to Cleveland.

Cost: Museum Entry Fee \$8.00, includes tea and coffee. Attendees pay directly to lunch venue.

Registration: via the RGSQ website or through Bob Abnett, email abnett@powerup.com.au or mobile 0412 135 794

REPORT: Map Group Presentation "Queensland's Pre-Separation Land Commissioners and Early Surveyors"

by Bob Abnett

21 members of the Map Group, plus 6 visitors (4 RGSQ members), made up an audience of 27 people to listen to Margaret Shield's presentation on "Queensland's Pre-Separation Land Commissioners and Early Surveyors". This is the 1st of two presentations on the 19th century mapping of Queensland, with the 2nd to be presented in April, 2019. The attendance was the largest that a Map Group gathering has experienced to date, due to the visitors adding to the numbers present.

Margaret is an historian and provided Map Group with insights into:

- the men who administered and mapped the lands of far northern NSW - eventually Queensland and;
- the types of mapping undertaken at the time (1842 to 1859) – areas covered & standards of mapping used (quite primitive compared to later mapping).



Margaret Shield presenting to Map Group members, courtesy of Kay Rees

The Land Commissioners:

They had various backgrounds and most, if not all, proved to be good administrators of the Land Administration Laws of NSW, as they existed at the time. Further, these were often the sole representative of the NSW Colonial Government in this far northern part of NSW. They also had small teams of the Border Police Force to enforce the law (land laws, plus civil and criminal laws) within each Pastoral District that they administered. The Surveyor-General of NSW assigned Surveyors to the Pastoral Districts and they undertook the land surveys of the Districts (at district level and local level for land grants and

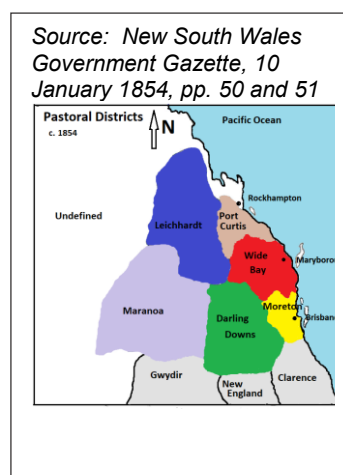
pastoral leases); some of the Land Commissioners also participated in the exploration and mapping expeditions themselves.

The Pastoral Districts:

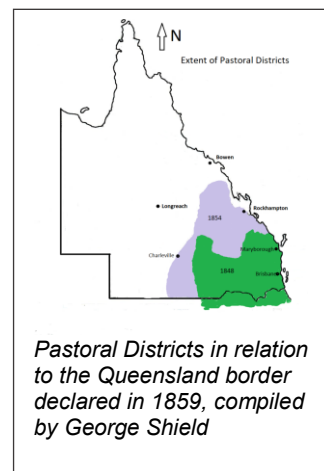
The Pastoral Districts were declared over a period of years and covered:

- 1842 – Moreton Bay (Country of Stanley around Brisbane and Moreton)
- 1843 – Darling Downs
- 1848 – Wide Bay, Burnett (subsumed into Wide Bay by 1854) and Maranoa
- 1854 – Port Curtis and Leichhardt.

Below are modern maps which represent the Pastoral Districts in a comparative context to today's Queensland. They are courtesy of George and Margaret Shield.



Source: New South Wales Government Gazette, 10 January 1854, pp. 50 and 51



Pastoral Districts in relation to the Queensland border declared in 1859, compiled by George Shield

In the 1840s and 1850s when the Pastoral Districts were declared and gazetted by the NSW Colonial Government, the areas covered and the boundaries described were in text, as demonstrated below. The mapping came later.

The Early Surveyors:

- 1839: Robert Dixon, Granville Stapleton & James Warner were the earliest Surveyors sent to survey Crown lands in Moreton Bay;
- 1840s: Dixon was replaced by Henry Wade, who was then replaced by James Burnett.

These men surveyed the Pastoral Districts; towns, grazing lands; pastoral runs (pastoral properties); smaller parcels of land for varying forms of farming; and the designation of sites for public purposes.

Concluding Remarks

Few people were involved in administering far northern NSW in the 1840s and 1850s. An idea of what it must have been like is reflected in the assigning of the Border Police Force to assist Land Commissioners in law and order issues, plus the few Surveyors who worked in what became from the end of 1859 onwards – Queensland.

Vale, Dr. John Sinclair, AO

by Iraphne Childs

Many members will have known, may have worked with, or at least be aware of Dr. John Sinclair, the pioneering conservationist who spent decades lobbying to stop sand

mining and logging on Fraser Island. Sadly, John died on 3rd February aged 79 after a battle with cancer.

John was born in Maryborough and formed the Fraser Island Defenders Organisation (FIDO) in 1971. In the 1970s he took the then-Queensland premier Sir Joh Bjelke-Petersen's government to court for failing to protect the natural environment of Fraser Island. With his solicitor, Mr Stephen Comino, he subsequently took a case to the High Court of Australia which overturned the decision of a Mining Warden to grant a mining lease on Fraser Island (*Sinclair v Mining Warden at Maryborough* (1975)). John Sinclair made great personal sacrifices in the two-decade battle for protection of Fraser Island. He was left bankrupt. However, the public attention his efforts and the court cases received paved the way for Fraser Island's eventual listing as a World Heritage-listed site in 1992 assisted by the Fraser Government's decision to cancel export licences for mineral sands.

John gave a lecture at RGSQ Milton in February 2009 entitled "*The Great Sandy Region: natural wonder of the world*". In this lecture he emphasised the geographical and biological uniqueness of Fraser Island, saying that "*this fragile and beautiful region must be protected from unsympathetic development and its wilderness qualities saved from pressures on the land and surrounding estuaries*". Clearly, in 2009 he was still very concerned about the future of Fraser Island, despite its World-Heritage listing.

John's conservation efforts have been widely recognised: in 1976 he was named *Australian of the Year* for his leading role in protecting Fraser Island; in 1990 he was honoured with the United Nations Environment Program's *Global 500 Award* for individuals who made a significant role in protecting the environment; in 1993 he received the *Goldman Environmental Prize*; in 2014 he was appointed in the *Order of Australia* and in 2017 received an *Honorary doctorate* from the University of the Sunshine Coast. John's achievements and passion for the environment will continue to provide inspiration to protect the values of our precious World Heritage Sites. His latest project was to extend the Fraser Island Great Walk by building a 52 kilometre-long George Haddock Track. Mr Sinclair's family have requested that he be remembered by donations to further the wisest possible use of Fraser Island. A public memorial service will be held in about a month.

References:

Tony Moore, *Sydney Morning Herald*, 4/2/19 *The conservationist who stopped mining on Fraser Island dies at 79*

<https://www.smh.com.au/environment/conservation/the-conservationist-who-stopped-mining-on-fraser-island-dies-at-79-20190204-p50vii.html>

The Courier Mail "*Fraser Island protector praised for his courage*", 6 February, 2019 Environmental Defenders Office, 5 February 2019, *Remembering Dr John Sinclair AO, the dedicated conservationist who helped protect Fraser Island from mining for future generations*.

https://www.edoqld.org.au/vale_dr_john_sinclair_ao

Australian Geography Competition More Volunteers Required

Venue: RGSQ, Level 1, 28 Fortescue Street, Spring Hill Qld 4000

Several members have already volunteered to assist with the Competition's Question Pack mailout commencing Tuesday 5 March; however, a few more are needed. Members, your assistance would be greatly appreciated if you are able to give a few hours.

Be one of the first members to see our new premises with the Fit-out complete.

Please register via the RGSQ website

<https://rgsq.org.au/whatson> or call the office on 3368 2066.

Getting to the Society's new premises in Spring Hill

PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Trains: You can walk from Central Station (11-20 minutes) or Roma Street Station via the Roma Street Parklands (15-30 minutes). The latter is a nice walk through part of the Parklands, however, there are some steep steps that need to be "climbed" up into the Parklands towards Wickham Terrace.

If catching the train to Central Station, you can walk up the sub-way to the lift at the Brisbane City Council Wickham Terrace Car Park, then walk across Wickham Terrace and Upper Edward Street to catch the Route 30 bus near the City Tabernacle Baptist Church (see following) or continue walking along Upper Edward Street to 28 Fortescue Street.

Bus services: The Free Brisbane City Council Spring Hill, Route 30 has a stop on Boundary Street near Fortescue Street.

<https://jp.translink.com.au/plan-your-journey/timetables/bus/t/30> - is a good link as it shows a map of the route and location of bus stops.

Also, check on the Translink journey planner to see if any buses near you come by near Fortescue Street.

DRIVING

1. On-site parking at 28 Fortescue Street is limited (1-2 spots) so please call and check if there are any space available before driving in.
2. There is all day (12 hour) Regulated Zone 2, City Fringe metred street parking in Fortescue Street from 7am to 7pm.
3. There are a few car parks within a bit of a walk. Also, Brisbane City Council has two city car parks: King George Square Car Park and Wickham Terrace Car Park.

For further information about street parking and car parks, please visit the Brisbane City Council website at <https://www.brisbane.qld.gov.au/traffic-transport/parking-and-permits>

To register for upcoming RGSQ trips and events
visit the RGSQ website
<https://rgsq.org.au/whatson>

RGSQ Bulletin Submissions

We always welcome member contributions for publication. If you would like to share your story and have it published in the RGSQ Bulletin, please send it to info@rgsq.org.au by Wednesday, March 13, 2019.

RGSQ Bulletin

March 2019

Lecture/Meeting: Tuesday, 5 March
"1919, Spanish Flu in Queensland"
lecture by Matthew Wengert

Activity: Friday March 29:
*Changing Land Use of Wetlands, Brisbane Airport
and DFO – bus trip*

Map Group: Wednesday 6 March, 10am
Event: *Visit to Queensland State Archives (QSA)
Map Collection*

Ken Sutton Memorial Library: Monday, 25 March
9:30am – 12:00 noon, RGSQ, Level 1, 28
Fortescue St, QLD 4000

The March Council will meet 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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