



RGSQ Bulletin

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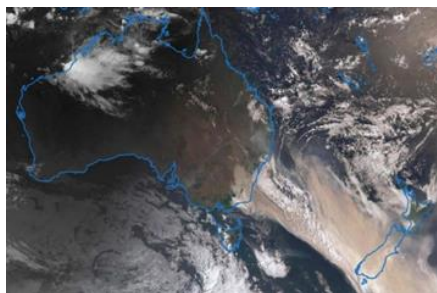
President: Dr Iraphne Childs

From the President

Dear Fellow Members, welcome to 2020. The disastrous start to the year with the devastating bushfires has affected people in so many regions, our ecosystems, wildlife and local economies. I do hope that all RGSQ members and their families have stayed safe.

As I have a professional interest in disaster management, I would like to share one aspect of the bushfire response. It is now widely recognised that resource capacity for dealing with the increasing scale and severity of natural disasters within individual countries across the Asia-Pacific necessitates greater international cooperation. In terms of fighting large-scale bushfires, we have already seen many examples of international cooperation between Australia, New Zealand, Canada and the USA.

Australia and New Zealand have long-standing reciprocal first-response exchange arrangements of disaster and emergency personnel. This has included Australian Search and Rescue personnel deployed to the 2011 Christchurch earthquake and New Zealand fire fighters to the current 2019-2020 bushfires in Australia. New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern pledged bushfire-fighting support in November 2019 and we have seen on-going contingents of NZ fire-fighters arriving from across the Tasman throughout this summer. Highlighting the scale of the catastrophic bushfires was the unwelcome gift from Australia of the smoke and ash to New Zealand which has "caramelised" the normally pristine white Tasman Glacier in early January some 3000km away from the actual burn!



Satellite imagery showing the south-east drift of smoke from Australia to New Zealand.

Source: Bureau of Meteorology 1 Jan at 10:40am.

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2020-01-01/smoke-shrouds-australia-as-nsw-bushfires-continue/11835734>

For the past two decades, Australia, Canada and the US have exchanged personnel and equipment during major fires in their respective countries. In July 2018, around 200 Australian firefighters were deployed to the United States to help battle bushfires across the north-west of the nation. In January this year, for the first time, the NSW Rural Fire

Service called upon the US for a reciprocal fire-fighting response. Canadian firefighters have left freezing conditions in their homeland to help fight Australian bushfires this summer, giving up Christmas with their families to do so. Fortunately, the Canadian and US personnel operate on similar systems to those in Australia, so the teams add value to our firefighting operations very quickly.

A major emerging issue for fire authorities in terms of international cooperation is that there are no longer very distinctive "fire seasons" in different parts of the globe. Climatic conditions are producing seasonal fire weather and conflagrations that overlap between the northern and southern hemispheres. Longer fire seasons threaten to disrupt the sharing of vital personnel and equipment. Australia could previously rely on hiring specialist water-bombing aircraft and equipment from north America during our summers. Those exchange arrangements could be strained as the combination of climate change, more droughts, high temperatures and winds and lengthening fire seasons produce more severe blazes. Critical resources may be needed at the same time in both Australia and California, for example. The lengthening of fire seasons has also meant there have been shorter and fewer safe "windows" within which to carry out controlled burning for fuel-reduction – the limitations on this being the actual drought and weather, not any restrictions placed on fuel-reduction according to fire authorities (NSW Rural Fire Commissioner, Shane Fitzsimmons, Jan 8th 2020).

I look forward to seeing you at the RGSQ Welcome night on 4th February. We will be presenting activities for the Society's year ahead and offering a delicious welcome supper. We will also have a raffle, so bring along your small change.

Iraphne Childs, President

References:

<https://www.canberratimes.com.au/story/6485972/ardern-offers-nz-support-to-fight-fires/?cs=14232>
<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-07-31/us-california-wildfires-australian-assistance/10052864>
<https://www.sbs.com.au/news/canadian-firefighters-volunteer-to-help-battle-australian-bushfires-over-christmas>
<https://www.smh.com.au/national/nsw/it-smells-like-it-s-time-to-go-to-work-american-firefighters-arrive-in-sydney-20191208-p53hxt.html>
<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2018/nov/16/longer-fire-seasons-threaten-to-disrupt-us-australia-firefighting-cooperation>
<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2020/jan/08/hazard-reduction-is-not-a-panacea-for-bushfire-risk-rfs-boss-says>

VICTORIA FALLS TO THE ATLANTIC COAST

RGSQ have a number of spots open for members and others to join us on our forthcoming trek to Southern Africa scheduled for 13th June to 6th July 2020. Tell your friends, relatives and acquaintances, as I'm sure this will be a trip to remember.



Drinking at the Pan, Etosha National Park, Namibia, 2012. Photo courtesy of Leo Scanlan

Starting with the magnificent Victoria Falls and ending on the Atlantic Coast of Namibia this trek is a traverse across Southern Africa like no other.

This journey travels through three magnificent national parks with Hwange, Chobe and Etosha presenting some of the best game viewing in the whole of Africa. Add in the outstanding physical geography of the Fish River Canyon, the sand hills of Sossusvlei, the Okavango Delta, and magnificent Victoria Falls and you truly have a potpourri of some of the great biological diversity of Africa's animals, and four of the outstanding geographical features of Southern Africa. Add in the culture and colour of the people and this is truly a trek across parts of Zimbabwe, Botswana, and Namibia and represents 'Southern Africa like no other.'

For further information or a copy of our detailed itinerary and cost log onto your browser, enter www.rgsq.org.au click onto RGSQ Traveller or alternatively phone Rosie in the RGSQ Office on 07 3368 2066 for further information or if you would like to speak to the organiser Leo Scanlan please phone any time on 07 3343 4398.



Images from L to R: 1. RGSQ group on a previous tour of Africa; 2. Hwange landscape; 3. Chobe elephants marsh. Courtesy of Leo Scanlan.

UPCOMING EVENTS | find out more and register at 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 or contact the Office on 07 3368 2066.

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 lectures, activities and events will be presented. This is a social function with light supper served after and plenty of time for conversation. **There will be a raffle as well, so bring your spare change.**

All are most welcome.

2020 RGSQ Trek to Lambert Centre

9 Sep 2020 - 20 Sep 2020

2 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.

Full Draft Itinerary, Accommodation and Coach are available on the website www.rgsq.org.au.

Coordinator: Wayne Mackenzie

March 2020 Monthly Lecture "Urban and Economic Networks in Human Geography"

presented by Thomas Sigler, University of Queensland

Tuesday, March 3 | 7.30pm-9pm

[Gregory Place, Level 1, 28 Fortescue St Spring Hill](#)

Register: 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.

Find out more about the presenter:

<https://sees.uq.edu.au/profile/9602/thomas-sigler>

Contributors

Ralph Carlisle, Iraphne Childs, Bernard Fitzpatrick, Wayne Mackenzie, Kay Rees, Leo Scanlan, Thomas Sigler, Keith Treschman

Photography

Iraphne Childs, Leo Scanlan, Kay Rees, Keith Treschman, Coral Expeditions

NEW MEMBERS

We have much pleasure in welcoming Ms Kerry Raymond, Mr David Horton and Mr Marshall Dore as new members. We hope your association with your new Society is long and mutually enjoyable.

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

KEN SUTTON MEMORIAL LIBRARY GROUP

The group will meet on February 24th, 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

Tue, 18 February, 10:00am - 12 noon

MAPPING THE NIGHT SKY

Presenter: Keith Treschman, RGSQ member

Keith is a Science Teacher and has taught Science in secondary schools for over 40 years. He has a passion for Astronomy and has written curriculum materials on this topic for teachers.

Topic Overview: How is the equivalent of latitude and longitude applied to the position of a star? Without a Greenwich in the sky, what is a convenient starting point for the equivalent of longitude? On what basis is the sky divided into areas denoted by constellations? What is the importance of the zodiac?

Event link: <https://rgsq.org.au/event-3683892>

Location: RGSQ, 28 Fortescue Street Spring Hill Brisbane

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

Coordinator: Kay Rees

Tue, 10 March, 9:45am – 11:30am

VISIT TO THE MUSEUM OF LANDS, MAPPING AND SURVEYING

In 1982, the Surveyor General of Queensland initiated the setting up of the Surveying and Mapping Museum. The Museum has expanded to take in land administration to become the Museum of Lands, Mapping and Surveying and is a sub-branch of the Queensland Museum. The visit will be hosted by the curator, Kaye Nardella, who will present the various historical treasures in this newly refurbished Museum in Edward Street.

Event Requirements:

Members and non-members are required to register on the RGSQ website before **Thursday 5 March 2020**. Please carry some photo identification (Drivers Licence) on the day of the visit and meet at the address which is near the corner of Wickham Terrace and Edward Street at the Wickham Street carpark.

Location: Ground Level, 317 Edward Street, Brisbane, 4000. You may know this address as the CITEC Building.

Event link: <https://rgsq.org.au/event-2849446>

Cost: members \$5.00; non-members \$10.00

Limit: 25

Coordinator: Len Lowry

Member Reflections: Geography and Me

By Keith Treschman



My first year of teaching was in Papua New Guinea in 1972. In the curriculum was some material on the fitting of continents. This was new to me and, fortunately, an education inspector arrived at my remote location. He had been the author of the Science course. When I asked how a teacher could keep up with the fields I would be teaching, he guided me to *Scientific American*, which I have read for 47 years, venturing me to many facets of knowledge.

As I devoured the burgeoning field of what became known as Plate Tectonics, I was particularly fascinated by the ocean floor maps produced by *National Geographic* 1968-71. I marvelled that one concept could integrate the existence of mountain ranges, the distribution of volcanoes, earthquakes, trenches, island arcs, plants, animals, flightless birds, ocean ridges, the shape of continents, relative age of continents versus ocean floors, hot spots, sequence of ages of island chains, Earth's changing magnetism as evidenced either side of ocean ridges, current day rifting, rock patterns and ancient glaciation.

This new field of interest led me to complete a number of Geography subjects externally through the University of Queensland, and my connection with the Royal Geographical Society of Queensland (RGSQ). I have enjoyed many talks and excursions over the years with this wonderful association.

I extended my love of physical geography to bushwalking where I have explored extensively the Scenic Rim. Multiday walks have extended to Cradle Mountain-Lake St Clare in Tasmania, Hinchinbrook Island, Larapinta Trail in central Australia, Great South West Walk in Victoria, Alpine Track in the Australian Alps, Great North Walk out of Sydney and the Kokoda Track in Papua New Guinea. Of special interest have been my overseas explorations of Hawaii, Great Rift Valley of east Africa, Galápagos Islands and Antarctica.

As if my affiliation with RGSQ were not enough reward in itself, I recently became involved in the subgroup devoted to maps. This has heralded another world of topics to me, but, more importantly, the richness inside the heads of the members.

Another passion of mine is Astronomy, and while the name Geography refers to Earth, I have applied the principles to the surfaces of the Moon, the terrestrial planets and the moons of the solar system. Without current plate tectonics, Mars has built up Olympus Mons, a 25 km volcano of 624 km diameter.

My life has held a richness of learning along many paths. However, I regard my affiliation with RGSQ as one of the deepest seams I have encountered along my way.

Photo: Keith in Madagascar, courtesy of Keith Treschman

2019 Australian Geography Competition Update



The Australian Geography Competition is a joint initiative of the Royal Geographical Society of Queensland and Australian Geography Teachers' Association (AGTA). The Competition is a contest for Australian secondary school students, assessing their geographical knowledge and skills, and aims to encourage student interest in geography and to reward student excellence.

Initially held in 1995, the Competition has been managed and supported by the RGSQ and has grown to be one of the largest school-based Competitions in Australia. 2019 was a successful year for the Competition with 788 Schools entering 73,325 students. The following table shows a steady increase in number of students entered in the Competition from 2016 to 2019.

State / Territory	2019		2018		2017		2016	
	Entries	Schools	Entries	Schools	Entries	Schools	Entries	Schools
ACT	2,270	21	2,358	21	2,467	22	2,306	18
NSW	27,555	284	27,386	285	25,807	269	23,313	226
NT	244	4	164	4	297	4	122	5
QLD	13,207	152	11,227	146	11,045	150	12,813	136
SA	3,391	38	3,264	34	3,800	38	3,654	42
TAS	1,029	31	1,301	30	1,025	24	816	26
VIC	14,871	153	15,038	154	15,040	134	13,221	124
WA	10,650	101	11,395	104	11,042	97	10,243	90
Other ¹	108	4	123	4	156	5	79	3
Totals	73,325	788	72,256	782	70,679	743	66,567	670

Note 1: Includes Australian External Territories and International Schools.

Geography's Big Week Out (GBWO)

The 2019 Geography's Big Week Out (GBWO) was again hosted by the Geography Teachers' Association of South Australia (GTASA) and held on Kangaroo Island from Sunday 15 to Friday 20 December 2019. It was very hot during the week and we were not long off Kangaroo Island before the devastating fires started.

GTASA members Liam Sloan and Simon Roos-Freeman again organised the GBWO with assistance from the Competition Office. Also, assisting and supervising students were GTASA President, Joanne Wegener, Geography Association of Western Australia (GAWA) member Charissa Efthymou, and AGC Coordinator

Bernard Fitzpatrick. Kath Berg, AGC Committee and RGSQ Council member assisted and provided advice throughout the organisation of the 2019 GBWO.

GAWA will be hosting the 2020 and 2021 GBWOs. GAWA members, with Charissa Efthymou as coordinator, will be organising the week based around Perth.

Students at 2019 Geography's Big Week Out; Kangaroo Island SA, December 2019.

The 16 high-performing students are selected to take part in the weeklong field work training event based on their performance in the Australian Geography Competition.

2019 GBWO student participants

State	Student	Hers/his School
Combined Territories	Tyra Kuan	Canberra Grammar School (ACT)
	Sebastian Connor	Dickson College (ACT)
NSW	Brendan Tate	Caringbah High School
	Elita So	Caringbah High School
	Noah Gong	Sydney Grammar School
	Lauren Griffiths	Northern Beaches Secondary College - Manly Campus
QLD	Taylor Timpani	All Saints Anglican School Senior Campus
	Joshua Crow	The Scots PGC College
SA	Lucy Watson	Pembroke School
	Oliver Shephard-Bayly	Pedare Christian College
TAS	Katie Stanton	Launceston Church Grammar School
	William Mather	The Hutchins School
VIC	Sonia Truong	The Mac.Robertson Girls' High School
	Liam Morris	Melbourne High School
WA	Eve Fleming	Carine Senior High School
	Quin Arundel	Scotch College

International Geography Olympiad (iGeo)

The Australian students competed against 42 countries at the 16th International Geography Olympiad (iGeo) held in Hong Kong, China from 30 July to 5 August 2019. The team performed well. The four-member Australian Team were:

Jacob Thai from Sydney Grammar School, NSW, Gold Medal

Stefan Simic from McKinnon Secondary College, Vic, Bronze Medal

Alex Shierlaw from St Peter's College, Hackney, SA, Bronze Medal

Eleanor Smith from Kilvington Grammar School,
Vic, Bronze Medal

The Australian Team was placed 11th overall by a matter of decimals. Indonesia came first which showed that Indonesia has improved over past years. The Australian Team were chosen to represent Australia based on their performances in the Year 11 level of the 2018 Australian Geography Competition and the 2018 Geography's Big Week Out.

The Australian Team Leaders were Simon Roos-Freeman, 2017 and 2018 GBWO Teacher and GTASA member, and Kath Berg, Australian Geography Competition Committee member. Simon and three students participated in a six-day UNESCO World Heritage Sites post-iGeo Excursion in Sichuan province in Mainland China (Wolong National Reserve, Dujiangyan Irrigation System, Mount Qingcheng, as well as Wenchuan earthquake ruins).

Special thanks to the watchful eyes and wisdom of both Team Leaders, and that Simon and the three students who participated in the post-iGeo Excursion departed Hong Kong on the morning that flights started to be cancelled due to demonstrations.

Organised by the International Geographical Union's (IGU) Olympiad Task Force, the iGeo is a prestigious annual competition for 16 to 19-year-old students selected through a national geography competition. To challenge the best-performing geography students from around the world, the iGeo programme involves three tests - a written response test, a multi-media test and a substantial fieldwork exercise requiring observation, cartographic representation and geographical analysis. The programme also included poster presentations by teams and a cultural session.

The Australian Team to represent Australia at the 2020 iGeo in Istanbul, Turkey will be selected from participants at the 2019 GBWO. The Australian Team will be announced in early February 2020.

2019 Competition Supporters

The 2019 Australian Geography Competition was supported with sponsorship from:

- *Flinders University*
- *Macquarie University*, Department of Geography and Planning and the Department of Environmental Science
- *Monash University*, School of Earth, Atmosphere and Environment (Physical Geography) and School of Social Sciences (Human Geography)
- *The University of Queensland*, School of Earth and Environmental Sciences
- *The University of Western Australia*

The Competition covers costs for student participating at GBWO and iGeo through financial support from the Australian Government Department of Education and Training.

Volunteer Days for the 2020 Competition

Australian geography students would not have been able to participate in the 2019 Australian geography Competition without the generous support of RGSQ volunteers. On behalf of the AGC Committee and RGSQ, I would like to thank those RGSQ members who helped throughout 2019.

The Competition will need assistance of RGSQ volunteers again in 2020 during the following periods.

February: Wednesday 5 (1 p.m.) to Friday 7

Mailout of Competition Information Packs including Teacher Reminder letters. This mailout requires labels to be stuck on large envelopes and a few items placed within the envelopes.

March: Tuesday 3 to Friday 8

Mailout of Competition Question packs. This mailout requires counting/weighing of question booklets and answer sheets and placing them in large envelopes, post satchels or boxes. This is a complex mailout which requires 6-8 volunteers per day.

April-May: Wednesday 15 April and Friday 8 May

Receiving, opening, and scanning of answer sheets. This task requires concentration and attention to detail. The days volunteers are required is dependent on the timing and number of returned answer sheets.

June: Tuesday 9 to Friday 12

Mailout of Certificates, results and prizes. This mailout requires the sorting and packing of student certificates, results sheets and prizes into large envelopes, post satchels or boxes. This task requires concentration and attention to detail.

From the Property Committee

Dear RGSQ members and visitors, this is information from the RGSQ property committee. The group reports to the RGSQ Council. Our role is to ensure that all situations while you are onsite at RGSQ allow for safe and successful outcomes from your visit. We will be doing more reports as the year progresses also via information at monthly lectures. The property committee offer the below links for people to view regarding safety:

Australia wide guidance

<https://www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au/>

Dedicated Queensland Standard

<https://www.worksafe.qld.gov.au/>

The property committee encourages members and visitors to discuss any questions that come to your attention from standards or procedures from your RGSQ experience. RGSQ now has safety helmets and vests for the identification of a Leader in any Emergency situation. These are located near the Library area and are only for an emergency or use in a training event. The property committee has been busy with our storage area in the lower level, cleaning, stacking and removing any broken items. Here, on the first floor we have been able to assist with improving the shelving in the storeroom. The map group has been able to better store maps within areas of our first floor, with assistance from property committee.

We have regular meetings and if people have any comments please send through to info@rgsq.org.au.

Thanking you, RGSQ property committee 2020.

Travel Notes

BIFs and FeNaCING in the Pilbara

By I. Childs and R. Carlisle



Map of Pilbara - Australian Travel and Tourist Network.
<https://www.atn.com.au/wa/north/pilbara-roadmap.html>

In August last year we visited Western Australia's Pilbara region. There is a connection in these parts with RGSQ's founding President A.C. Gregory. His younger brother, Francis Thomas Gregory, also an explorer, led a party in the Barque Dolphin and landed on the Burrup Peninsula near Dampier in May 1861. A plaque at Hearnson's Cove commemorates his landing. Although the object of this expedition was to assess the suitability of the area for the cultivation of cotton, F.T. Gregory's reports led to the establishment of the north-west pastoral industry.

Of course, WA is so large that even just doing a circuit Karratha – Dampier – Onslow – Tom Price – Karijini National Park – Marble Bar – Port Hedland – Karratha we clocked up approximately 3000km. The Geography of the Pilbara is amazing – the seemingly incongruous juxtaposition of the stunning and globally significant ancient geology and Aboriginal rock-art with the enormous scale and wealth of 21st century resource developments both inland and offshore.

BIFs - the Pilbara *craton* contains some of the oldest rocks on the surface of the planet representing one of the world's best-preserved fragments of ancient continental crust. Formed during the earliest part of Earth's history, in the Archean, parts of the Hamersley Plateau and Karijini gorges date back to 3.7 billion years ago, around the time when life on earth first emerged. The **BIFs** – *banded iron formations* – are unique sedimentary rocks of biochemical origin which likely formed by the precipitation of iron and silica in seawater when the area was submerged. **BIFs** consist of alternating layers of iron oxides and shale, chert, tiger eye or jasper ranging from only a few centimetres to metres thick. These formations have been stable for very long periods and are highly resistant to weathering – thus the layering one sees in the landscape is still pretty much as it was when laid down under the sea.

Fe(iron) NaCl (salt) NG (natural gas) – incongruously adjacent to but derived from the ancient geology are the massive mining and extraction developments of iron ore, manganese, other minerals, salt and offshore natural gas in the Pilbara and Hamersley region. Driving around one encounters road-trains with four or five trailers carrying ore to the ports. The excellent highways often run parallel to railways along which the kilometre-long trains transport ore to Dampier, Wickham and Port Hedland. Northwest shelf natural gas is piped undersea over 100 kilometres to coastal liquefaction plants at Dampier and Onslow. From there it is processed and shipped out mostly to China and Japan.

The salt mines supply 99% of Australia's industrial salt and domestic table salt for our fish 'n' chips! So, we were fortunate

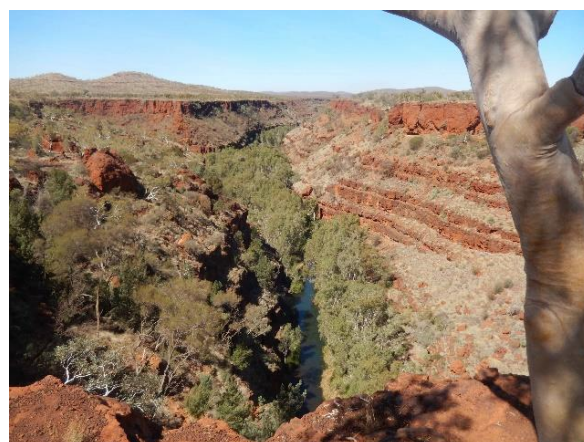
to be in Karratha for the annual *FeNaCING* Festival which is just the iconic Ekka with lots of local food, crafts and entertainment. *Photos courtesy of Iraphne Childs.*

References:

Copp, Iain (2017) *Geology and Landforms of the Pilbara* WA Dept. of Parks and Wildlife



Banded Iron formation, Karijini National Park



Dales Gorge, Karijini National Park



Karratha FeNaCING festival, 3rd August 2019



RGSQ Office Closure

Dear members, the RGSQ Office will be closed on Monday the 27th of January as Australia Day falls on a weekend. Should you wish to contact us, please email info@rgsq.org.au.

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Image courtesy of Coral Expeditions



RGSQ Bulletin

February 2020

Activity: Tuesday 4 February

Welcome to 2020 – first social event of 2020

Draft RGSQ Program for 2020 can be downloaded at www.rgsq.org.au under What's On, click Program for the Year <https://rgsq.org.au/programyear>

Map Group

Tuesday 18 February, 10:00am - 12:00pm

Presentation: Mapping the Night Sky

Gregory Place, 28 Fortescue St Spring Hill

Ken Sutton Memorial Library

Monday 24 February, 9:30am-12 noon

RGSQ premises

The February Council will meet on the third Tuesday of the month.

www.rgsq.org.au | info@rgsq.org.au

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

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