



RGSQ Bulletin

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Patron: H.E. Paul de Jersey AC, Governor of Queensland
President: Dr Iraphne Childs

From the President

Dear Members,

Resuming gatherings at the RGSQ premises:

Queensland continues to be in a fortunate situation with no community COVID-19 transmission. So, I'm happy to report that we will resume our monthly lectures and meetings in-person at the RGSQ Spring Hill following Qld Government guidelines. It will be necessary to register for events on the RGSQ website as we need to maintain attendance limits according to the current guidelines. We hope to present the lectures both in-person and via zoom for the benefit of our members outside Brisbane. **Please note:** the April lecture, by **ABC's Kate Doyle** *Difficulties the communicating weather*, will be on **Tuesday 13th** as Easter week is 2-9 April.

Activities and trips on offer:

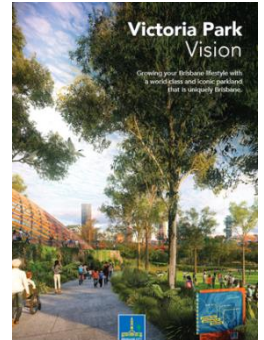
Both the TAAC and Map Group committees have announced their programs for 2021 so check out opportunities for participating in events on the website. Some have already filled up, so I think this indicates that members are keen to get out, enjoy and reconnect with Society friends again!

Victoria Park upgrade – new public greenspace in our Spring Hill neighbourhood:

A recent report found that Brisbane was the greenest of Australia's capital with 54% green cover in 2020, while Melbourne was found to be the least green with just 23% total tree cover and Sydney had only 34% (ABC News). Following public consultation in 2019-2020 the Brisbane City Council (BCC) announced in December 2020 that the Victoria Park Vision was now finalised. Many Aboriginal people once knew Victoria Park as *Barrambin*, "the windy place". Later it became York's Hollow before being renamed in honour of Queen Victoria. The conversion of the 18-hole golf course into a new 64-hectare public park is scheduled to begin in mid-2021. Here are some of the features of this land re-development on our doorstep:

- A focus on cultural heritage and the site's importance to local Aboriginal people
- Restoration of the original natural waterways to increase cooling and drainage systems that provide habitat for wildlife
- Boardwalks and trails meandering through wetlands to provide ways to interact and enjoy the water features, including kayaking and canoeing on Lake Barrambin

- Revegetation of the park with native species to increase biodiversity
- Cycle routes, a high ropes course and a nature and water play gully for children
- Pathways designed to accommodate a broad range of park users, from pedestrians and cyclists to those with mobility devices or prams
- Bridges and canopy walks will connect the site between ridges to provide gentle grades to allow disabled access across the hilly park, while other trails will crisscross at ground level
- Public transport connections and some car parking within the parkland



Spring Hill

I hope RGSQ Members will have opportunities to explore this new park in the RGSQ vicinity.

With best wishes

Dr. Iraphne Childs, President

References

ABC News 11 March 2021. *Australians face a hotter future if our cities don't do more to cool 'heat islands', report finds.*
<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2021-03-11/australians-face-unliveable-cities-less-greenspace-heat/13231068>

Victoria Park Vision. BCC.

<https://www.brisbane.qld.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/2020-12/20201206%20-%20Victoria%20Park%20Vision.pdf>

Victoria Park vision revealed to the public. Brisbane Development Dec. 6, 2020

<https://brisbanedevelopment.com/victoria-park-vision-revealed-to-the-public/>

WHAT'S ON

For all upcoming RGSQ events, please visit the Society's website www.rgsq.org.au under 'What's On'.

April Lecture

Tuesday 13 April | 7.30pm-9pm

Difficulties communicating the weather

by Kate Doyle, ABC

Location: at RGSQ premises (Level 1, 28 Fortescue St, Spring Hill, Qld) and via Zoom

Register: <https://www.rgsq.org.au/event-4219128>

You can opt to attend the lecture on premises (numbers are capped) or livestream via Zoom when you register for the lecture.



Since seeing it rain on the rock earlier this year Kate has taken every possible opportunity to bring it up.

Photo credit: Owen Gibson, one of many photos taken under the direction of Kate Doyle

After much procrastination and several false starts Kate Doyle graduated from the University of Queensland with a BSc in Geographical Sciences and RGSQ's Keith Smith Prize for 2017. Despite having very good intentions of going on to save the world through geographical skill she now reports on the weather for the ABC.

This presentation will cover the difficulties and challenges associated with condensing infinitely complex global processes down into if you will need an umbrella. Alongside the fine line we walk in encouraging the public to understand the uncertainties involved with forecasting which mean it can't always be correct but at the same time to heed all emergency advice.

March Lecture Recording

Mapping Pest Animals - Identifying and Managing Impacts presented by Matthew Ryan:

RGSQ website: <https://rgsq.org.au/Past-lectures-2021>

RGSQ YouTube channel: <https://youtu.be/i2thUwALvV0>

Below are links to some of the sites mentioned in the talk:

- QLD Annual Pest Distribution Surveys: [Pest distribution maps | Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, Queensland \(daf.qld.gov.au\)](#)
- Pest animal recording - Feral Scan: [FeralScan](#)
- Climate modelling – Climatch: [Climatch \(agriculture.gov.au\)](#)



Treks and Activities

Many of the 2021 tours and activities are advertised on the website with April activities booked out already. Places are available on the **May 7 Summerland Camel Dairy** tour and **July 13 Christmas in July the Sunshine Coast Hinterland** activity. Details about events below and on the RGSQ website.

To book, please visit <https://rgsq.org.au/whatson>

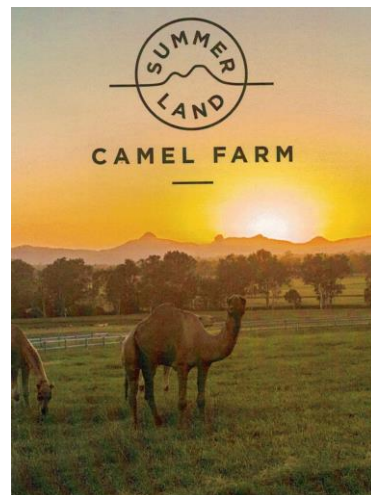
7 MAY | [Summerland Camel Dairy](#)

Experience Australia's largest Camel dairy-farm and Homestead food

Self-drive to 8 Charles Chauvel Drive, Harrisville (Scenic Rim)

Visit the dairy and learn about the importance of camels in Australia's history and how the camels are milked. See the processing facility, the products and learn the benefits to human health. **Taste** the products.

Lunch: Enjoy an alternate drop, creamy caramel gelato dessert and tea or coffee with camel milk. Morning tea is own arrangement (suggest Café Queens Park, Ipswich).



Meet 10.00am at the Farm for 10.30am Tour

Directions: from Brisbane (allow 60-45 mins) Take M3 Motorway until exit right onto M7 towards Ipswich and Toowoomba. Follow M2 merging onto National Highway 15 (Cunningham Hwy to Warwick) approx. 45 kms. Turn left onto Charles Chauvel Drive and left into Summer Land Camel farm. Bring an esky. You may wish to purchase products (fromage blanc, Persian feta and camel milk). Camel ride in garden is extra \$20.

Cost: Members \$55, Non-Members \$60 including lunch and tour.

Please notify dietary requirements - vegetarian/gluten free.

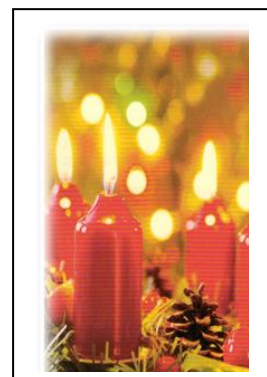
Hope you can join us.

Coordinator: Jeanette Lamont

13 JULY | [Christmas in July in the Sunshine Coast Hinterland](#)

A relaxing day by bus to Mary Cairncross Scenic Reserve for morning tea and a walk in the rainforest. Followed by Christmas lunch at Tranquil Park Maleny.

Mary Cairncross Scenic Reserve: The reserve comprises 55 hectares of subtropical rainforest. It is a living museum of diverse plant and animal life which delights with its tranquility and beauty. Take time to explore the Rainforest Discovery Centre



and/or take a short stroll through rainforest tracks. Morning Tea is BYO or at own cost available at the on-site café.

Tranquil Park: enjoy the beautiful views overlooking the Glasshouse Mountains for the Traditional Christmas Roast with meats, ham, roast vegetables and plum pudding or pavlova for dessert. Drinks not included.

Pick-up Location: Bus Stop 27 Park Road, Eagle Jnc Railway Station at 8.00am.

Also, a second pick up at Landsborough Railway Station at 9.00am.

Return to Brisbane by approx. 3.30pm.

Cost/Numbers: \$85 members, \$90 non-members including lunch and bus. **Register and pay online by 30 June.**

Coordinator: Jeanette Lamont

Trip Report: The Queensland Herbarium at Mt Coot-tha Botanic Gardens, March 2021

Contributed by Chris Spriggs



RGSQ members, visit to Mt Coot-tha Botanic Gardens and Queensland Herbarium, March 2021.

A great trip limited to 19 people due to COVID restrictions. We met in the Botanic Gardens conference room and listened to an interesting, illustrated talk on the differences between Antarctica and the Arctic, given by Ralph Dowling, a botanist at the Herbarium. For example, it is generally colder in the Antarctica continent surrounded by an ocean while the Arctic is almost completely surrounded by continents and Greenland. The Arctic's ice is relatively thin compared with Antarctica and it has water, not land, under it. The effect of the sun's elliptical track is also more favourable to Antarctica.

We had lunch at the Botanic Gardens Cafe and then returned to the Herbarium for a very informative talk from the director, Gordon Guymer. He had supervised the construction of the present architect designed building that is cleverly mostly hidden from the Gardens. The Queensland Herbarium was originally established in 1855, and now contains over 800,000 plant specimens. We were taken around the non-public areas by both speakers and witnessed the massive number of files for the specimens. We saw some very early ones collected by Captain Cook on the Endeavour River (1770) and by Alan Cunningham in Moreton Bay (1829), as well as more recent examples and a demonstration on how they are preserved in the quarantined areas.

A repeat trip is on 24th April but also fully booked with a waiting list.

What's happening on Council?

On 16 March Council met at the RGSQ in Fortescue street. Some Councillors and Lilia who were unable to attend in person utilized *Teams* to meet online. Reports were received from Iraphne Childs (President), Annie Lau (Treasurer), Pamela Tonkin (Property), Patrick Moss (Scientific Studies), Young Geographers (John Tasker), Rachel Honey, Kath Berg, and John Tasker (AGC) and Lilia Darii (Business Manager). Matters discussed included:

- An independent review of the Society's investment portfolio by Burrell Stockbroking
- Resuming lecture presentations and member meetings at RGSQ premises from April
- Entries in the 2021 Australian Geography Competition have now reached 70,000+
- The Preservation Needs Assessment work of the Society's Collections is proceeding
- Progress in negotiations with QYAC on Stradbroke Island for the RGSQ Scientific Study
- Activities by the Young Geographers including a documentary movie night held at RGSQ in February and tree-planting in Kelvin Grove in March
- Efforts made to re-invigorate the Sunshine Coast branch of RGSQ
- Three new members were confirmed



Alan Baker's portrait of Charles Chauvel has been loaned to the [Alan Baker Art Gallery](#) in Camden, NSW for exhibition until September.

Geographical Research News

Why building seawalls is generally a bad idea on small islands

Contributed by Prof Patrick Nunn

Patrick Nunn is Professor of Geography at the University of the Sunshine Coast. Patrick is a member of RGSQ and of the Society's Scientific Studies Committee.

For decades, communities in the Pacific Islands have been building seawalls along eroding coasts to try to halt erosion. This tendency has been supported by aid donors like Australia who often regard it as self-evident that these kinds of hard-engineered solutions should 'work' on islands just as they apparently do at home. New research by Professor Patrick Nunn and two colleagues from France suggests this is wrong – and that building seawalls along small-island coasts is neither an effective nor a sustainable solution.

Many seawalls in iconic places (like capital cities) on small islands are donor-funded and donor-maintained. The maintenance gives the illusion of effectiveness and so these seawalls are emulated by rural communities across the

Pacific and on islands elsewhere. In rural locations, seawall construction is often funding-dependent. There are many examples where seawalls are built only along the most severely eroded parts of the coastline but the sea at high tide simply comes around its ends and floods the land just like it did before (Photo 1); the seawall is useless. Many rural seawalls collapse after a year or two and, lacking funds for rebuilding, often remain in a state of disrepair (Photo 2). The Pacific Islands are said to be “littered with the remains of collapsed seawalls”, a similar situation to that on Caribbean and Indian Ocean islands. Seawalls are short-term adaptation options for a long-term stressor. One wonders whether it would be more sustainable right now if small-island nations were encouraged to focus on the relocation of vulnerable populations to less vulnerable locations ... rather than building expensive and labour-demanding solutions like seawalls that do not last.



Photo 1.

The seawall at Nasauvuki Village, Moturiki Island, Fiji – the water goes around its ends every time the tide is high. And seawall construction has greatly damaged the nearshore marine ecosystems, meaning Nasauvuki residents can no longer find shellfish and other foods there.



Photo 2.

At Navunievu Village, Bua, Fiji, shoreline erosion began to be a problem in the 1970s, so the first seawall was built. After this collapsed, erosion continued, so a second seawall was built in the 1990s, which also collapsed. Today the rising seas are eating away at (and regularly inundating) the coastal plain.

Navunievu residents have responded by making a rule that every new dwelling house built in the village should be built upslope, something that will see the community move upwards over the next few decades – a fine example of autonomous adaptation.

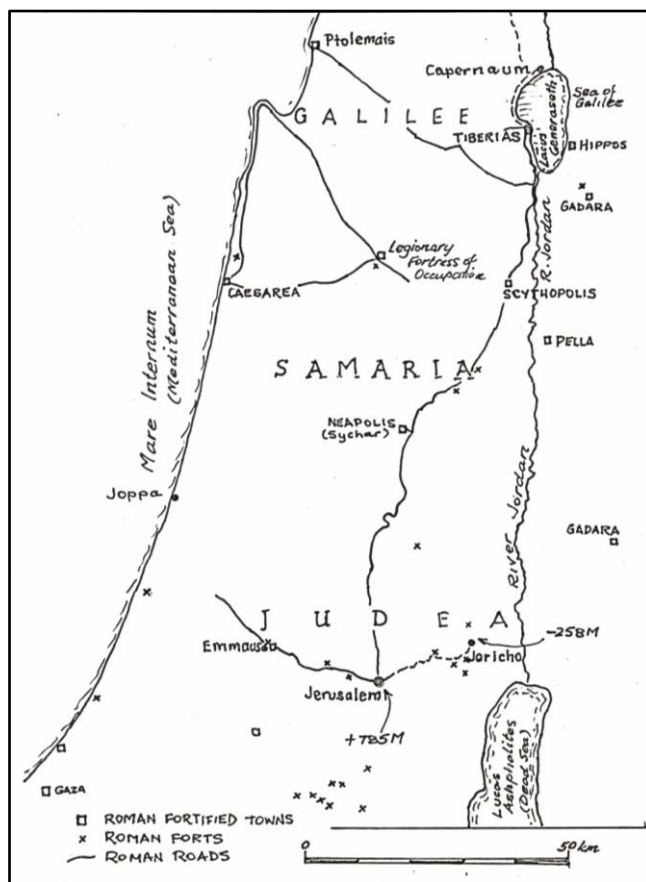
Photos courtesy of Patrick Nunn.

Reference:

Nunn, P.D., Klöck, C. and Duvat, V. 2021. Seawalls as maladaptations along island coasts. *Ocean and Coastal Management*, 205: 105554

Geography and Easter - a personal reflection

Contributed by Ian Stehbens, RGSQ member



Map courtesy of Ian Stehbens

When Lilia Darii asked me for a short article on Geography and Easter, I was both surprised and stimulated. Never before has anyone asked such a question of me, neither from my network of fellow geographers nor anyone from the fellowship of Christian believers. But Lilia’s request excited me because of its uniqueness, freshness, and significance. There is much that emerges from the intersection of the disciplines of Geography and Biblical scholarship, and it is a two-way street. Here, I define Easter as the events involving the passion, death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus of Nazareth, whom Christians call Jesus Christ as an outcome of these ‘Easter Events’.

Geography (geology, culture, migration, geopolitics) informs the Easter Story

The Easter events occur at Jerusalem, where cultures are in collision: occupying Roman forces and Hebrew religious tradition. The Hebrew/Jewish tradition is based on the worship of the God who sets slaves free from oppression in Egypt and that tradition was celebrated culminating in the Passover Meal. It was eaten on the eve of Jesus’ crucifixion. From across the eastern Roman Empire at that time, the Jewish Diaspora as well as former slaves from many lands and cultures were making a pilgrimage to Jerusalem in gratefulness for their freedom. The resultant great gathering demand the oversight of the Roman Governor of Judea who came from Tiberias in Galilee. The puppet King Herod Antipas and the resident High Priest also came to Jerusalem. These competing authorities generated an ambivalence of authority. Jesus and his disciples were also in Jerusalem for the Passover celebration. When Jesus is arrested and brought before the authorities it was the Jewish religious

authorities who initiated his arrest and trial. When they reached consensus, they handed Jesus over to Roman authority, and he was tried on different grounds by Governor Pilate. Without conviction, he was taken outside the city wall to the vicinity of Golgotha and crucified.

The Geology of Jerusalem is Cretaceous limestone (Nezer formation) overlain by formations of chalk and chert to the immediate east of the city but, immediately to the west, the underlying Shivta and Weradim formations of limestone with some dolomite are encountered. Outside the walls of the city, a series of old quarries are found from which the stone to build the walls was extracted. *Golgotha* (The Place of the Skull) is a feature of this karst landscape and because of caves its external appearance gives rise to its descriptive name. Jesus was not crucified on a hill but rather in an old quarry *cum* rubbish dump. While Golgotha is a hill in the background, the "hill of Calvary", referred to in Christian story and hymns, is the Hebrew traditional understanding of Jerusalem being a city built on a hill. Thus, the traditional images of a hill with three crosses upon it is quite misleading!

Jerusalem is on a plateau 600-700M asl. The karst geology gives rise to the cultural tradition of burial in caves or crypts. The new tomb in which Jesus' body was placed has a cut limestone rock rolled in place to seal the tomb.

The Jerusalem region is tectonically active, so it is little surprise that an earthquake is recorded as having occurred the day of his crucifixion. The Gospel of Mark, written in Rome, where again the geology is limestone, makes significant comment on the limestone caves and sarcophaguses both in the Easter narrative and in Chapter 5, where the tension between Roman authority and Jewish opposition is raised and Jesus is caught in the intersection, exercising healing, and restoring authority. All this resonated with the initial readers of Mark's Gospel who were meeting in the underground catacombs among the sarcophaguses in Rome, whilst experiencing Nero's torture and persecution, decades later.

Geography is used by the Gospel Writers to express the drama in the story

Mark has an extraordinarily strong and clear geographical construct which is dialectical and purposeful. From Chapter 1-8, the narrative is set in *Galilee* where Jesus is revealed as Son of Man (100% human), calls disciples and as they exercise ministry together, Jesus' authority and purpose are demonstrated. The Galilean section climaxes in the Transfiguration as Jesus is identified as Son of God (100% divine). At this point the disciples are told that this now means going to Jerusalem (8:31, 9:31, and 10:33) where betrayal, condemnation by national authorities then suffering, flogging, death at the hands of the occupying power will occur (and all this will be followed by resurrection).

The disciples resist this proposed journey and reveal their inadequate understanding of the role of the Messiah/Christ. He cannot suffer such a fate. They do not want to go to Jerusalem. For the rest of the Gospel of Mark (Chapter 8-16) the geography shifts towards and into Jerusalem. There Jesus experiences, at the point of his deepest tribulation, a coronation on a cross.

Luke's Gospel is written in the Greco-Roman world, distant from Jerusalem. Way below Jerusalem, deep in the rift valley is Jericho - a place despised by the Jewish people through their history, was being cursed by Joshua in the earliest pre-Jerusalem history. But in Luke's geo-theological construct it becomes the place of revealing the thrust of Jesus' ministry: the blind see, the despised are invited into fellowship, the rejected and wounded are responded to with pity and active

compassion, enemies are treated as friends. Joshua's curse (Joshua 6:26) is abolished at the cost of God's Son, whose work is to be completed by his followers.

Emmaus, down the Roman Road of oppression, identified with the camp of the occupying military forces, becomes the place where the resurrected Jesus enters and is recognized. With haste, those who recognize him return at once to Jerusalem to declare to the gathered group of disciples that Jesus was recognized by them when he broke bread. Then Jesus himself stood among this assembly greeting them with "Peace be with you". The scourged Emmaus and the cursed Jericho both physically in the low country, one to the east, the other to the west, are thus raised up by grace, whilst the Holy City potentially faces destruction by Roman forces. Luke thus answers the question, 'Is the power of grace, the power of Jesus Christ, greater than the power of Rome and greater than an ancient curse?' The geographical constructs of both these gospels, as examples, are designed to intentionally carry the power of the message the writers seek to deliver.

Easter generates a geographical dispersal which becomes a missionary movement

Dr Luke outlines the dispersal of the gospel message in his second work, The Acts of the Apostles. Easter (the encounters with the risen Jesus) changed lives dramatically. Early churches formed, people were dispersed as refugees from persecution, and people moving about the Empire communicated the message and their witness from one end of the Mediterranean to the other. Luke himself is part of the movement, which he outlines as he follows St Paul and others from Jerusalem to Rome. These geographical advances were initiated by Jesus: "you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria and to the ends of the earth." The movement of the Christian faith and the establishment of the church very quickly moved north through *Asia Minor*, *Galatia* and to *St Petersburg*. Similarly, St Thomas took the gospel to *India* where it has been continuously shared and celebrated ever since. One does not need much time in *Tonga* to recognize that the gospel has spread to and taken root in the social and economic fabric of that kingdom at the end of the earth!

Easter's central message has been received in many cultures around the globe. Its celebration and application have been contextualised in each culture resulting in spatially variant forms.

Easter impacts the believer resulting in changed values and behaviours

Personally, Easter has impacted my life. As a geographer my vocation has required me to create and lead therapeutic communities in Australia. Systems thinking and spatial analysis enabled me to develop the art of mapping conflicts and wars in the South Pacific, South East Asia, and East Africa so that communities and nations could make peace, reconcile, and build sustainable just peace. My faith compelled me to contribute to the development of geographical curricula in social geography (Settlement Patterns and Processes), inquiry (Australian Geographical Inquiries) and environmental education. My Easter-formed values and my geographical formation inform each other, as I advocate for environmental management of special landscapes. I am just one disciple among millions who continue to demonstrate the relationships between geography and Easter. Peace be with you.



Easter Office Closure

The RGSQ Office will be closed during the Easter Holiday period from Friday 2 March, reopening Tuesday 6 March.

We wish all our members a Happy Easter.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

We have much pleasure in welcoming Linda Joyce, Declan Dwyer and Alison Carlisle as new members of The Royal Geographical Society of Queensland. We hope your association with your new Society is long and mutually enjoyable.

CONTRIBUTORS

Iraphne Childs, Kate Doyle, Jeanette Lamont, Patrick Nunn, Chris Spriggs, Ian Stehbens.

RGSQ

Bulletin

April 2021

Lecture/Meeting: Tuesday, 13 April

Difficulties of Communicating Weather by
Kate Doyle, ABC

Activities/Events:

Wednesday, 7 April

St Laurence's College and Boggo Road Gaol

Saturday, 24 April

*Mt Coot-tha Botanic Gardens Herbarium Tour
and Lecture on The Arctic and Antarctica –
Repeat Event*

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**The April Council will meet on the
third Tuesday of the month.**

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