



## From the President

I like to think that we each have a moment that sparked a passion for one of the many facets of geography. My own started with a basic A1 map of Australia. I spent countless hours exploring the towns, rivers, and coastline of that map, imagining what more lay beyond the limited information presented. While the map was loved to death, it started me down the path to a career in geography.

As the new RGSQ President, I am eager to grow and develop the Society. We must build upon the excellent work of our committees and special interest groups to ensure that we can attract new members and remain relevant in a rapidly changing world. Over the coming months, I hope to work with many of you to progress critical initiatives, including improving access to our collections, reinvigorating our scientific studies, and attracting younger members. We will also work to collaborate with like-minded organisations to position the Society as a source of knowledge and deliver projects to promote geography to the people of Queensland.



On behalf of the Council and staff, I would like to extend my best wishes to all members for a happy and safe Christmas – New Year break. When we next meet, I look forward to hearing from members about the moments that started their passion for Geography, in addition to their thoughts about the future of RGSQ.

John Tasker, President

## What's happening on Council?

The Society's Council met on 16 November. Reports discussed by Councillors, and highlights of those reports, included:

- President (J Tasker): continuing transfer of tasks arising from the change of president; liaison with Institute of Australian Geographers on lobbying vice-chancellors
- Treasurer (A Lau): overview of financial documents for new Councillors; actual figures close to budgeted figures except for timing differences

- Collections (R Cook): organising data for uploading catalogue to e-hive; work on display and preservation of material following grant approval
- Business Manager (L Darii): director's IDs; IT transitioning to the Cloud; changing accounting software to Xero
- Australian Geography Competition (R Honey): time-consuming preparation for new data management system and new website
- Property (P Tonkin): visitor parking at rear of building; sale of surplus audio equipment; fire warden and first aid training partly completed
- Publications (I Childs): progress on Society history 1985-2020; 'members' choice' voting for photo competition
- RGSQ Traveller (I Harding): proposed trip to the UK developed by Peter Nunan.

Council was pleased to accept the application for membership from **Mohammad Afsar Alam**.

As is the usual practice following an AGM, Council reconstituted the Society's committees and special interest groups, and appointed their chairs – see details on these elsewhere in the *Bulletin*.

## Vaccination Requirements

The Queensland Government is introducing new requirements to slow the spread of Covid-19 as we open to the rest of Australia. To comply with these regulations, from 17 December members and guests physically attending lectures, presentations, treks (short or long), or similar group activities will need to be fully vaccinated or exempt (i.e., they have evidence that they are unable to be vaccinated for medical reasons or are under 16 years of age). Our website booking forms will be altered to reflect this. Volunteers will also need to be fully vaccinated or exempt to visit the Society premises. Members and guests may show their vaccination status on their smart phones, or with the printed official records of their vaccinations.

Council monitors the relevant regulations and will review this requirement when the regulations change. We hope this does not inconvenience any members, but it will assist in keeping us all safe, particularly those of our members classed as high risk.

## Committees and Special Interest Groups

Following the AGM, Council reconstitutes the Society's Committees and Special Interest Groups. Members who serve on these Committees make a vital contribution to the work of the Society. Three committees are looking for more members to join them:

The **Collections** Committee is seeking interested people to help with preserving and accessing the Society's extensive historical and contemporary collections via the web and building the future from the past. Our maps, imagery, books, artefacts, and archives have real potential for motivating future Society activities and research.

No previous experience necessary but members out there with library, archives and data handling skills would be very welcome. Please contact Rob Cook or Lilia Darii.

The **Treks and Activities** Committee runs a busy programme of short and long treks and other activities which form an important part of the way members engage with our Society. Perhaps you've benefited from going on these treks in the past or have ideas for treks that would interest other members and you could organise. As they say, many hands make light work. Contact Chris Spriggs for more information.

The **Honours** Committee makes recommendations to Council as to appropriate recipients of the Society's Thomson Medal and Fellowship Award, in recognition of their contributions to geography and/or the Society. Following a couple of retirements, David Wadley would welcome new committee members.

If you are interested in volunteering for one of these Committees, please contact the chair via [info@rgsq.org.au](mailto:info@rgsq.org.au) or phone 3368 2066.

And many thanks to the new and continuing members of all our committees:

- Collections Committee: Rob Cook (chair), Ralph Carlisle, Jim Graham, Peter Griggs, Peter Lloyd, Lilia Darii (ex-officio)
- Finance Committee: Annie Lau (chair), Rob Cook, Ian Harding, Chris Spriggs, John Tasker, Lilia Darii (ex-officio)
- Honours Committee: David Wadley (chair), Kath Berg, Duncan Cook, John Holmes
- Property Committee: Pamela Tonkin (chair), Daphne Stephens
- Publications Committee: Iraphne Childs (chair), Ingrid Bailey, Jonathan Corcoran, Kay Rees
- Scientific Studies Committee: Iraphne Childs (chair), Annie Lau, Patrick Moss, Thomas Sigler
- Treks and Activities Committee: Chris Spriggs (chair), Jeanette Lamont (secretary), Ralph Carlisle, Roger Grimley, Bob Reid
- Map Group: Len Lowry, Neville McManimm, Kay Rees (co-convenors)
- Sunshine Coast Group: Steve Turton (convenor)
- Young Geographers Group: Giselle Pickering (convenor)

The Australian Geography Competition Committee is a joint committee with the Australian Geography Teachers Association. Kath Berg and John Tasker represent the Society. Kath co-chairs the Committee, with Julie Davis representing AGTA.

## Volunteers required for the AGC

On Thursday 13 January, the 2022 AGC Information Brochure Packs need to be put together to send to schools. This will require putting documents into envelopes. If you would like to volunteer your time to assist with this first task of the 2022 Competition, we would really appreciate it. Please register your interest with Rachel by email – [agccoordinator@rgsq.org.au](mailto:agccoordinator@rgsq.org.au)

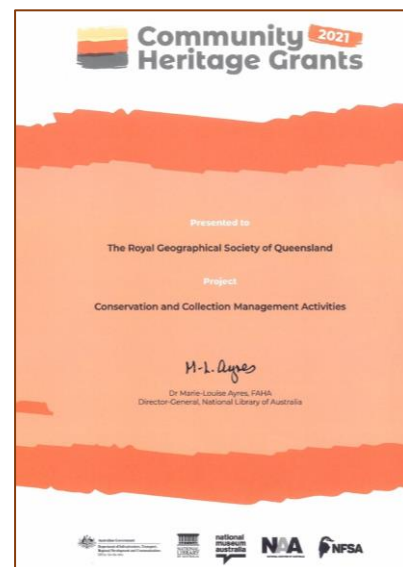
## We are thrilled to be a Community Heritage Grants 2021 recipient!

After a successful significance assessment and preservation needs assessment funded by Community Heritage Grants (CHG) previously, in May this year, the Society applied for its third CHG grant for conservation and collection management activities.

Funds from this grant will be used to implement urgent preservation work on the Society's map, archival and artefact collection, to acquire display cabinets to exhibit significant artefacts in the collection and to transition the existing library, map, and images catalogue to an online platform easily accessible by the public.

The CHG program provides non-profit community organizations with funding to assist with the preservation of locally owned, but nationally significant collections. The grants are also aimed at helping make these collections more publicly accessible.

The program is funded by the Australian Government through the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications (AusGov Office for the Arts); National Library of Australia; National Archives of Australia; NFSA - National Film and Sound Archive of Australia and National Museum of Australia. Find out more about CHG: <https://www.nla.gov.au/content/community-heritage-grants-4>



**Contributors:** Kath Berg, Ralph Carlisle, Iraphne Childs, Graham Rees, John Tasker, Roger Grimley.

**Photography:** Ralph Carlisle, Neville McManimm, Neal O'Connor, Ron Owen, Kay Rees, Chris Spriggs, Stuart Watt

## WHAT'S ON

For all upcoming RGSQ events, please visit the Society's website [www.rgsq.org.au](http://www.rgsq.org.au) under 'What's On'.

### REPORT: Old Government House and Queen's Wharf development tour

Contributed by Roger Grimley, tour coordinator



A visit to two (2) locations of significance in the Brisbane CBD - the iconic 160-year-old Old Government House nestled in the Gardens Point grounds of the QUT, and, nearby, the visitors centre attached to the emerging Queen's Wharf re-development of the William Street precinct - provided 19 members with an insight into the 'Past' and 'Future'.

Historian, and curator of Old Government House, Dr. Katie McConnell conducted the group on an absorbing hour and a half exploration of the site, sharing her depth of knowledge about the development in the early 1860's of Queensland's first public building. Constructed in two (2) years of sandstone from (the now) Goodna, the red cedar from (the now) Brookfield, and the porphyry stone from across the river at Kangaroo Point, architect Charles Tiffin subtly incorporated Greek influences in its architecture and 'class distinction' in its design with separation of household staff facilities (and standards) from those of the vice regal masters. Notwithstanding the then-prevailing code of 'protocol secrecy' which limited the creation or retention of a comprehensive record of vice-regal activity during the governor-occupancy years, Katie McConnell shared with the group some really interesting observations of vice-regal life, drawn from her many years of research. This included the roles played by wives of some of the governors, and the contributions they made to the social and welfare development of early Queensland, particularly for women and children.

It might be reasonably deduced that the wives of some of the governor occupants of Old Government House enjoyed more local popularity than their husbands!

The building ceased to function as the vice-regal residence in 1911, after occupancy by eleven (11) governors.

The building's 'firsts' continued in 1911, as the initial campus of the University of Queensland, and where women were admitted as students for the first time. Old Government House continued to be used by UQ up to the early 1970's when it came into the orbit of the expanding QUT, and after surviving a demolition threat and the ravages of termites and general neglect, and being the beneficiary of a major restoration project, Old Government House re-emerged, under the custodianship of the QUT, the National Trust and Queensland Government as the magnificent structure that today exudes quiet dignity amongst the surrounding concrete and glass of the university campus.

After a leisurely light lunch at the Pantry Café (attached to Old Government House), the group re-assembled in the Visitors Centre of the new Queen's Wharf Development for the second leg of the day's outing. The Centre houses a large model of the development and surrounding heritage buildings, a video theatre showing development progress and impressions of the completed development, and an interactive facility which enables users to 'see' the panorama available from the upper levels; artifacts recovered during excavations, and display pictorials.

It was the presentation provided by Graham Witherspoon, Communications Manager for the developers, explaining key elements of

this massive project, which highlighted the scale of this whole development. At \$3.4b, it is said to be Queensland's largest non-industrial development. Funded 50% by the Star Entertainment Group, and 50% by private Hong Kong based commercial interests, it will house a casino (the existing casino licence operating in the Treasury Building will relocate to Queen's Wharf), four (4) international chain hotels (one to a 6.5-star standard!) providing 1000 rooms, and three (3) accommodation towers with 2000 residential apartments. A sky-deck offering panoramic views, restaurants, cafes, retail outlets, theatres, ballroom - it will transform this 12ha section of the CBD. A pedestrian bridge across the river (yes, foot only - no bikes or scooters) - The Neville Bonner bridge - will connect Queen's Wharf to Southbank. The development incorporates considerable public space, walkways, and landscaping.

Staggered opening is scheduled to commence in 2023.

When the development is completed, it will be interesting to see how well the contemporary architectural style and finish of the development, so clearly generations-away from that of the iconic Old Government House and the heritage buildings within the precinct, all fit together. However, by any measure, the Queens' Wharf Development will be impressive.

Both of these locations are open to the public for self-exploration. However, the commentaries provided for RGSQ members at each location secured added insights that made for an informative and enjoyable activity.

*Image: RGSQ group at Old Government House, Brisbane, Courtesy of Roger Grimley.*

## 2021 Photographic Competition – the Winners Revealed!

by Iraphne Childs, Publications Committee chair

Thank you to all members who submitted images or voted for the Members' Choice prize. Many thanks to Steve Noakes, Chair of Binna Burra Lodge and RGSQ member who kindly arranged for the 1<sup>st</sup> prize, accommodation at Binna Burra and to Alison Carlisle, also an RGSQ member, for donating the 2<sup>nd</sup> prize wildlife drawing.

Thanks also to Lilia for collating the entries, to Graham Rees for setting up the competition images and voting page on the website and to the Publications Committee members Kay Rees, Jonathan Corcoran, and Ian Harding for the difficult task of judging the 43 submitted entries. The committee met on 18 November viewing all the images anonymously.

The winners were announced, and prizes presented at the Christmas party on 7 December. All competition images are available on the RGSQ website. We intend to do another photo competition in 2022 so stay tuned for the announcement of the theme early next year and start collecting your best shots. So, here are the 2021 prize-winners:

**1<sup>st</sup> prize** One night in the Skylodge at Binna Burra. Congratulations to **RON OWEN** for image #3 Brisbane CBD and its river viewed from Kangaroo Point Park. Steve Noakes presented the prize.



**2<sup>nd</sup> prize** Wildlife drawing of a sugar glider by local artist Alison Carlisle. Congratulations to **NEVILLE McMANIMM** for #41 Morning in Linville



**3<sup>rd</sup> Prize** One-year free RGSQ membership. Congratulations to **NEAL O'CONNOR** for image #15 Iconic old tin shed in Morven, Qld - Rebuilt to the original shape after shifting the "Old tin hut" from depression years made from flattened kerosene tins



**Members' Choice prize – Rivers. The Lifeblood of Australia"** by **Ian Hoskins** donated by Kay Rees. The winner was chosen via anonymous voting by members on the RGSQ website. The image that received the most votes was **#26 New Farm Park, Brisbane - an oasis in the city – by none other than KAY REES!** Congratulations, Kay.



Having donated the book herself, Kay kindly passed her prize on to the 2<sup>nd</sup> most popular members' choice, **#39 Cottage in Cunungra by NEVILLE McMANIMM**



There were 4 images that the committee recognized as highly commended:



#19 Boonah township looking south from Athol Terrace by *Ralph Carlisle*



#37 The Generations of the Brisbane Skyline by *Stuart Watt*



#27 Changing skyline in Brisbane West End by *Kay Rees*



#30 Ibis inspecting the Milne Bay Research Centre, Chermside by *Chris Spriggs*

## RGSQ Website Home Page Slide Show

Before you put your photo albums away after the Photographic Competition, I thought that it's about time we had some new images in the slide show on the RGSQ homepage - a refresh 'post' Covid. If you would like to contribute, please send your photos via any of the various cloud storage options such as Dropbox, Google Drive, OneDrive, etc as convenient to you.

No doubt the photos you choose will be geographical and interesting, however, I may need to slice a section from the photo to fit this particular slide show. You would have noticed that these images are about three times wider than the height. I can do the slicing and dicing work - just send your photos in as high a quality/resolution as possible with a short informative title.

Photos supplied will be acquired for the RGSQ under the Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License. **If you have any particular queries or suggestions, please contact us at [info@rgsq.org.au](mailto:info@rgsq.org.au) or 3368.** Thank you.

*By Graham Rees*

## Burke and Wills Camp 119 and RGSQ connections

*By Iraphne Childs and Ralph Carlisle*

While on our trip to Far North Qld in November, we drove the 40 km south-west from Normanton to the Burke and Wills Camp 119 next to the Bynoe River in Carpentaria Shire. Listed in the Queensland



Heritage Register, the campsite was a hot (around 35deg) and dusty place but with a well sign-posted memorial and information boards. This was the second last camp in the north that Burke and Wills made in their ill-fated 1861 attempt to get to the Gulf of Carpentaria. Although Camp 120 is closer to the Gulf, it is in mangrove country and is now not easily accessible on Aboriginal land. Burke and Wills never did reach and see the Gulf of Carpentaria.

At Camp 119 we found the plaque that referred to RGSQ's founder JP Thomson who, while visiting Camp 119 in 1909-1910, had found and photographed the coolabah blaze tree left by Burke and Wills. This blaze had previously not been sighted since 1862 when Frederick Walker found it while searching for the explorers.

Thomson recorded the blaze on a bearing of 274°30' by 22'5" and wrote a report entitled "*Expedition to the Gulf of Carpentaria 1909-1910*" published in the Queensland Geographical Journal, 25<sup>th</sup> session.

A further two connections with RGSQ were in 1986 when the *Exploring Queensland* trek set the plaque and then the visit to the site during the 2009 *Icons of Queensland* trek led by the late Brian McGrath.

Finally, Augustus Charles Gregory, the Society's first President, had also passed near the location of Burke and Wills Camp 117, just to the south of Camp 119 during his North Australian Expedition in 1856.

**References:** Map: <https://mapcarta.com/W422768639>

Thomson, JP "(1910) "*Expedition to the Gulf of Carpentaria 1909-1910*" Queensland Geographical Journal, 1909-1910 25<sup>th</sup> series, V.25, pp.53-74; Exploring Queensland logo map:°° RGSQ 1986 *Exploring Queensland* trek notes. Photo: I. Childs



Images from the Society's Christmas party, 7 December 2021, credit Kay Rees.



# RGSQ Bulletin

December 2021

## Office closure during Christmas and New Year holiday period

*Friday 24 December – Sunday 9 January*

The Office will open to members and visitors  
Monday 10 January.

**Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!**

**We look forward to seeing you in 2022.**

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