



# RGSQ Bulletin

December 2022

Vol 57 no 11

ISSN 1832-8830

Published by The Royal Geographical Society of Queensland Ltd., 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: [Her Excellency the Honourable Dr Jeannette Young AC PSM, Governor of Queensland](#)

President: Mr John Tasker

## What's happening on Council?

The Society's Council met on Tuesday 15 November. Items of interest include:

- The first draft of the strategic plan was tabled. Councillors are to provide more input before it is circulated to members.
- The 2023 lectures were discussed at length and a very interesting programme put together.
- The discount membership referral programme is to be continued in 2023.
- The University of Queensland and University of Melbourne have been added to the sponsors for the 2023 Competition.
- The transfer of the glass slide collection to the State Library of Queensland will be finalised later in November.
- Peter Lloyd is retiring from the Collections Committee. His valuable contributions will be greatly missed.
- A new Society sign has been installed above the building entry door to better identify the access to our premises.
- Members are encouraged to vote for their favourites in the photo competition "Waterways or Wetlands of Queensland".
- The feedback on the Climate Forum has been excellent, with outstanding presenters.
- The Treks and Activities Manual has been amended to include more detail on risk management and is now on our [website](#) (see under Society, then Documents and reports).
- The need to upgrade the sound system was discussed, dependent on sourcing a grant.
- The Map Group events continue to be well attended and work is underway on the 2023 programme.

For further information on any item, please talk to a Society Councillor at a trip or lecture or send an email to [info@rgsq.org.au](mailto:info@rgsq.org.au).

## Society Committees

After each Annual General Meeting is a good time to ask if you could contribute some time to one of the Society's Committees – not necessarily as a Committee member; you may prefer some specific task to help the work of a Committee. Members volunteering are vital to the work of the Society. It's also a chance to get to know other members better. Below is a list of Committees and a contact person. If you are interested, but don't know the person or see them at Society events, you can contact them via Lilia in the office at [info@rgsq.org.au](mailto:info@rgsq.org.au).

- Australian Geography Competition – Kath Berg
- Collections (sub-groups Images, Library, Maps) – Rob Cook
- Finance – Annie Lau
- Geography in Conversation – Pam Tonkin
- Honours – Kath Berg
- Map Group – Kay Rees
- Property – Pam Tonkin
- Publications – Iraphne Childs
- Scientific Studies – Iraphne Childs
- Treks and Activities – Chris Spriggs
- Young Geographers – Giselle Pickering



## 2022 Christmas Party Tuesday 6 December

The Treks and Activities Committee welcomes you to the 2022 Christmas party to be held at Society's premises, level 1/28 Fortescue St, Spring Hill, on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> December starting 7.30pm.

There will be short presentations, photo competition results and plenty of free food and alcoholic and soft drinks. *It would help with the catering if you could bring a plate, savoury or sweet.*

Register: <https://rgsq.org.au/event-5010484>

## TRIP REPORT

### Binna Burra 25<sup>th</sup> October



RGSQ group at Binna Burra.

19 people attended the day trip to Binna Burra. There were some late cancellations mainly due to the potential flooding and storms.

However, on the day, the sun emerged and it was quite warm. Bob Reid assembled people at 9am in Canungra for car-pooling, and several of us had stayed the previous night at Binna Burra campgrounds or in the Sky Lodges. Both are excellent facilities.

Morning Tea was fresh scones, jam and cream, enjoyed by all!

Bob led a 5.1 km walk of the Tullawallal Circuit which went well despite being a little slippery at times. A fallen tree overnight on the Border Track had already been cleared by the time the party had got there. A shorter walk round the Rainforest Circuit was also available.

Lunch was at the newly restored the Tea House. Tim Medhurst, Development and Infrastructure Consultant and former Board Member, met us at the original Pottery Room, which is now a small newly refurbished Conference Room.

Tim covered the redevelopment plans at Binna Burra after the fires that took place in September 2019. Already a lot of work has been completed including the repair of the Sky Lodges, the first phase of the new Tea House and in particular the access road. The road had been taken over by the Queensland Transport and Main Roads Department fairly recently before the fires. This was very fortunate since if Binna Burra had still owned the access road, it would have cost them many more millions to repair from the landslips, including new safety guards.

Tim mentioned there was very good support from the Queensland and Federal Governments who both fast tracked approvals for the redevelopment of the total site and had provided prompt funding. In addition, most insurance claims were paid out. This is the advantage of having a very high profile in Queensland Tourism!

Plans include installation of six "Little Houses" which are fully self-contained small units being installed away from the main centre. These should be ready by Christmas.

The original Lodge and adjoining buildings of course were destroyed. There is now a large marquee on the top of the hill on the site of the lodge used for wedding functions. The

memorial to Romeo Lahey is still nearby. A new lodge will be built on this site, but with steel rather than the original timber structure. The new design has attempted to use a lot of the same elements and will not look dissimilar. In addition, yet more accommodation options are being built as attachments to the Tea House.

There are also plans to develop a "luge" run, with a return, down the side of the mountain (for thrill seekers!). Also, the first Australian Via Ferrata will be established.

This is quite common in parts of Europe. <https://www.theguardian.com/travel/2019/sep/17/via-ferrata-tour-the-dolomites-northern-italy> describes the Italian experience.

A good day that was enjoyed by all. The Treks and Activities Committee intends to do a similar event next year.

**Chris Spriggs**, Organiser



### Treks and Activities Committee Vacancies

We presently have a small committee of five but to spread the work around more evenly we would really like to recruit more people. Our current Committee is Chris Spriggs (Chair), Jeanette Lamont (Secretary), Ralph Carlisle, Roger Grimley, and Bob Reid.

Please contact any of the Committee or the RGSQ Office at [info@rgsq.org.au](mailto:info@rgsq.org.au) if you would like to join us.

We are very keen to continue to provide interesting geographical activities which promote RGSQ in the community and provide greater member involvement in the Society.

At the same time if any member would like to organise a trip with TAAC guidance or have suggestions for future activities, please let us know.

### Treks and Activities Committee Administration and Procedures Manual

We have been working on a new Administration and Procedures Manual for use in all TAAC trips, treks and activities. It has been approved by the Council and is now up on the website. It covers all aspects of management of TAAC activities including risk and safety. A field on the registration form providing an emergency number and an acknowledgment covering fitness and ability related to the activity have been added on the website.

The [new policy](https://rgsq.org.au/reports) can be found on the Society's website under <https://rgsq.org.au/reports>.



## MAP GROUP PRESENTATION REPORT Lamington National Park



Neville McManimm used slides and maps to outline the events that led to the creation of Lamington National Park in 1915. Neville first visited the Park 58 years ago.

Robert Collins came to Mundoolun in 1844. He was passionate about all forests and climbed Mount Barney in 1886. He sent numerous reports to the government and Parliament finally passed an Act on 1 January 1907 for the creation of National Parks in Queensland. The first official National Park in Queensland was Witches Falls at Tamborine. Although 7 parks had been declared by 1910, none were on the Lamington Plateau. Collins addressed RGSQ in 1896. He died in 1913 and his memorial is at All Saints Memorial Church at Tamrookun.

In June 1911 Romeo Lahey, at 24 years old, took up the push for a National Park writing many times to the Government. Lahey was also passionate about all mountains. He took time off from this work and fought in WWI in France. Lahey surveyed the tracks in Lamington National Park for free. Lahey did much for National Parks in Queensland before he died in 1968.

There are approximately 140 kilometres of track in Lamington National Park. Initially, Binna Burra and O'Reilly's made their own tracks to waterfalls and points of interest. The western part of the National Park has no tracks. However, damage to the park happened at various times, including when the troops trained within the National Park during WW11.



Arthur Groom of Binna Burra was another campaigner for National Parks and he died in 1953 and his memorial is near the

current Teahouse at Binna Burra. The Information Centre at Binna Burra has excellent information and maps to be viewed. The old Forest Workers Hut is located at the rear of the Information Centre which contains many artifacts that were used in the early days to build the tracks and facilities.

**Photos:** Kay Rees and Neville McManimm

**Daphne Stephens**, Map Group Member

## Is Queensland prepared for a warming climate?

On Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> October, the RGSQ Scientific Studies Committee, in conjunction with the University of Queensland School of Earth and Environmental Sciences (UQ-SEES) held an expert panel and public forum on risks in Queensland due to climate change. Thanks to Professor Patrick Moss, Head of SEES and RGSQ Councilor for organizing the venue in a lecture theatre at the UQ. There were 58 attendees, RGSQ members and non-members, of whom 13 participated via zoom.



Five excellent speakers presented up-to-date information from their respective fields on impacts of climate change and some of the on-going work to address the risks and potential adaptation strategies:

- **Assoc. Prof. Helen Bostock**, Deputy Head of SEES, gave the keynote address "Queensland's climate outlook" covering the latest scientific and climatological data.
- **Mr. Lee Johnson**, former Queensland Fire commissioner, presented bushfire risk from both technical scenarios and practical fire-fighting experience.
- **Ms. Ella Harrison**, the Queensland Reconstruction Authority, presented via zoom flood risk and the work of post-flood recovery in Southeast Queensland.
- **Ms. Sue Cooke**, Griffith University, presented health risks and the work of the Climate and Health Alliance and Queensland Health on the Queensland Climate Risk Strategy.
- **Mr. Scott Buchanan**, Executive Director of the Wet Tropics Management Authority in Cairns presented scenarios for impacts on biodiversity in the World Heritage areas.

Four of the presenters participated in the final panel Q&A session in the afternoon chaired by Mr. John Tasker, RGSQ President.

For those who were unable to attend the forum recording is now available on our YouTube channel at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kwDFpqUB5M0>.

**Iraphe Childs**, Chair RGSQ Scientific Studies Committee

## Question Writer for Competition



Are you interested in contributing to the 2023 Australian Geography Competition by writing questions?

As one of a team of question writers you will draft questions for the 2023 Competition. These are mostly response to stimulus questions, designed to assess the cognitive domains of knowing, applying and reasoning. The questions are mainly variations of a multiple-choice format, but the online delivery allows for a slightly broader range of question types.

You will be expected to work for approximately 20 hours, flexibly spread during the summer holidays. We are offering \$65.00 per hour, plus superannuation. We will select teachers with experience teaching geography at different secondary year levels. For more information on the Competition see [www.geographycompetition.org.au](http://www.geographycompetition.org.au). Enquiries should be directed to Kath Berg, email [AGCcoordinator@rgsq.org.au](mailto:AGCcoordinator@rgsq.org.au) or phone 0400 270 600.

Please email your application, including a cover letter highlighting your relevant experience, a copy of your resume, and the names of two referees, to [AGCcoordinator@rgsq.org.au](mailto:AGCcoordinator@rgsq.org.au) by **Monday 28 November 2022**.

## Data Protection

Given the recent publicity on illegal access to computer - stored personal data, members may like to know how RGSQ protects their personal information.

Member and contact data is stored on the website database WildApricot. More about WildApricot data protection can be found here <https://www.wildapricot.com/data-protection> and here <https://www.wildapricot.com/wild-apricot-security>. RGSQ uses Stripe to process payments on the website. More about their privacy protocols can be found here <https://stripe.com/en-au/privacy#security-and-retention>. Our PCs are encrypted, data is backed up every day to the cloud, and physically to a hard drive, which is encrypted. RGSQ has a contract with an IT company for monthly IT maintenance and ad-hoc support. As part of their service, the company is providing ransomware detection monitoring and management.

We use antivirus software on all computers. For emails, we have multi-factor authentication. There are now stringent requirements and hygiene for password set-up imposed by software providers which we comply with.

**A recording of the November lecture Results from the Pandemic Census: Migration, Housing and Work** presented by the Dr Elin Charles-Edwards can be viewed on the Society's YouTube channel <https://youtu.be/Gpe-bFyAByQ>.

## Fellowship awards 2022

The RGSQ awards Fellowship to members of the Society who have rendered exceptional service in a voluntary capacity to support the Society's objectives and activities.

At the AGM in October this year Fellowships were presented to two members who, over many years, have shared their interest and enjoyment of Geography by contributing to the Society in many ways.

**MARY COMER** joined the RGSQ in 2000. She brought extensive bush-walking experience in many parts of Queensland and Australia to the Society. She contributed valuable assistance as an enthusiastic member of the



RGSQ Scientific Expedition teams to Cravens Peak in 2007 and to Pungalina in 2012. Mary has been a long-standing member of the Treks and Activities Committee, leading and participating in many trips. She has also volunteered her time to support the AGC and the supper team.



**CHRIS SPRIGGS** joined the Society in 2004. He brought extensive experience in business and accounting to the Society. Chris has served on the RGSQ Council as Secretary and as Treasurer. He continues to make a valuable contribution on the Society's Finance Committee, particularly advising on the Society's investments. Chris is Chair of the Treks and Activities Committee, has led and participated in many trips. He has also been a volunteer for the AGC and is an enthusiastic member of Map Group.

## 2023 Treks and Activities Programme

The TAAC are working on a programme covering activities in at least each month March to November, plus the Welcoming Night and the Christmas Party.

### **Draft Programme**

**March:** Cross River Rail and Brisbane Museums

**April:** Bribie Island Cruise

**May:** Binna Burra Caves Walk

**June:** Imbil and surrounds (overnight)

**July:** University of Queensland Geography and the Environment

**August:** The Dams of Southeast Queensland

**September:** Trek to the North and South Burnett Regions (4-5 days)

**October:** Awassi Cheesery and Grantham Town

**November:** Brisbane and Gold Coast Cruise

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## NETHERLANDS CONCERNED ABOUT FUTURE SEA LEVEL RISES

Recently, Tracey and I were fortunate enough to spend some time in Holland. On a day trip we travelled north of Amsterdam across The Afsluitdijk, the main dyke protecting much of the country from the North Sea (see map). Built between 1927 and 1932, this 32 km dyke was 7.25 m in height. It was a major land winning project, expanding the area available for cropping and dairying, and reduced the episodic flooding that had troubled the lower parts of the country.



*The heavy black line is the Afsluitdijk Dyke*

We stopped at one section and our guide explained that the government of the Netherlands had commenced a program to raise the level of The Afsluitdijk Dyke by 1-3 metres because of official concern about possible sea level rises caused by global warming (see photographs). According to our guide, the government had also placed posters in Dutch seaside communities, urging its citizens to “prepare for more flooding and higher water levels.”



*Stockpiled protection concrete blocks behind a barrier fence at The Afsluitdijk stopping point. This material will be used to raise the dyke level.*

We cannot confirm the accuracy of this claim, not seeing any of these posters, but then our time in the seaside town of Makkum was limited and we were focussed on finding a place for lunch.



*Current earthworks associated with raising the Afsluitdijk Dyke.*



*Current earthworks associated with raising the Afsluitdijk Dyke.*

Seeing such precautionary activity by the government of the Netherlands prompted us to wonder if the Queensland Government is thinking about flooding from possible future sea level rises. Low-lying areas and reclaimed land in several coastal Queensland cities (e.g., Cairns, Townsville, Mackay; Gold Coast; Redcliffe) are vulnerable to flooding from sea level rises.

**Contributed by Peter Griggs, retired independent researcher**

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## Happy Christmas



Society Councillors and staff wish all members a safe and happy Christmas. We look forward to seeing you at the Christmas Party on 6 December and at our many events in 2023.

Our office will be closed from 22 December to 8 January inclusive.

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

We have much pleasure in welcoming *Manoj Prajwal Bhattaram, Linda Joyce, Ishara Sahama, Jillian Oldfield, Grace Muriuki, Anna Hassett, Jason Dail, Nick Purdy and Ali Rad Yousefnia* as new members. We hope your association with your new Society is long and mutually enjoyable.

## Contributors

Kath Berg, Iraphne Childs, Peter Griggs, Neville McManimm, Kay Rees, Chris Spriggs, Daphne Stephens

# RGSQ Bulletin

December 2022

**Meeting/Lecture: Tue 6 December**  
RGSQ Christmas Celebration

**Map Group: Mon 5 December**  
End of Year Show-and-Tell

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

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