



RGSQ Bulletin

ISSN 1832-8830

June 2022
Vol 57 no 05

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 PSM Governor of Queensland](#)
President: Mr John Tasker

What's happening on Council?

The Society's Council was scheduled to meet on Tuesday 17 May. With no April meeting, there was a very full agenda. Items of interest include:

- John Tasker gave an update on the recent meeting of the National Committee for Geographical Sciences.
- The draft 2022/23 budget was presented and discussed in detail.
- The July lecture has been rescheduled to October, and a replacement for July was discussed.
- Arrangements have been made for the Australian team to come together on the Gold Coast to compete in the virtual International Geography Olympiad.
- The 2021 grant which funded conservation and collections management activities has been acquitted and work is underway on a grant for preservation work on old and significant items from the RGSQ collections at risk because of serious deterioration.
- An exhibition celebrating JP Thomson, the Society's founder, has been mounted in the new display cases.
- Progress has been made with volunteers to work on the Binna Burra mapping and oral history projects.
- The dates for the upcoming tag-along trip to Central Queensland are likely to be 5-11 September.
- The Young Geographers Group held a successful event with presentations on cultural and ethno-geography.
- Geography in Conversation has been established as one of the Society's Special Interest Groups. Three events have been planned and bookings for the first one are very encouraging. The events will not be available on Zoom as the aim is to encourage interactivity and networking. After the first three events, the topics will be participant driven.
- The Society is giving in principle support for a proposed memorial honouring RM Collins, President of our Society from 1898 to 1899.
- Work continues on the legalities of changing the Ken Sutton Trust to make its support for geographical education and research more flexible.

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.

Vacancies on Council

Due to the recent resignations of Ian Harding and Daphne Stephens, there are two vacancies on the RGSQ Council. Enjoy this rewarding role alongside a dedicated team of members, and at the same time make a valuable contribution to your Society. If you are interested in the position and commitments, please feel free to discuss it with RGSQ President John Tasker at a meeting or via president@rgsq.org.au.

WHAT'S ON

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

JUNE LECTURE

Big rocks moved by waves: storm and tsunami evidence on Pacific islands

presentation by Dr Annie Lau, UQ

7 Jun 2022, 7:30 PM – 9:00 PM @ Gregory Place, Level 1/28 Fortescue St, Spring Hill and via Zoom

Register: <https://rgsq.org.au/event-4806607>



Photo A 7.2m-long coral boulder transported by large waves generated by Cyclone Winston (2016) and deposited on the reef at Lavena, Taveuni Island of Fiji. Courtesy of Annie LauTeena Saulo

Tsunamis and severe storms pose significant threats to coastal communities, especially if accurate risk assessment is hindered by a lack of hazard information. In

the South Pacific, geological and historical evidence of past extreme wave events is present at many locations but the generation mechanisms, source of tsunamis, or wave propagation characteristics of those events are un(der)studied. Consequently, the recurrence interval, and the type of coastal inundation event that can cause severe damage, are still largely unknown. In this lecture, Dr Lau will present her works from several beautiful Pacific islands and atolls to demonstrate how a combination of mapping, sediment analyses, numerical modelling, and age-dating help to understand what happened in the prehistoric past.

Bio: Dr Annie Lau is a Lecturer in geography at UQ's School of Earth and Environmental Sciences. She is a coastal geomorphologist with specific interests in identifying sedimentary signatures of coastal hazards, interpreting late-Quaternary climatic and environmental changes, and understanding coastal changes at various timescales. She is recognised as a coastal boulder expert as her PhD project focuses on this topic and has authored several publications including a book on boulder transport on tropical reefs. Annie is a Councillor and the current treasurer of RGSQ.

Please note: if you register for the lecture via Zoom, the access link will be emailed to you closer to the lecture date. If you have any questions, please email us at info@rgsq.org.au.

Geography in Conversation

Wetlands or Development

Tuesday June 28

Time: 5:30 light refreshments – doors open at 5:15

Q&A Forum: 6:00 – 7:30

Location: Gregory Place, L1, 28 Fortescue St, Spring Hill

Cost: \$5.00 for refreshments

Register: <https://rgsq.org.au/event-4835586>



*Eastern Curlew –
photo credit Wild
Redlands*

Chris Walker, Secretary for Redlands 2030 and Joshua Wilson, PhD student, UQ researching 'What role drones could play in shorebird conservation', will be panellists moderated by Dr Keith Treschman.

The Toondah Harbour development, costing \$1.3 billion, at Redland Bay in Brisbane's Moreton Bay – a Ramsar-protected wetland – will have significant impacts on many vulnerable species, including the harbour's migratory birds, the endangered Eastern Curlew and its turtles, dugongs, and koalas.

It promises, to be an exciting new, modern coastal village, incorporating a vibrant harbourside precinct, foreshore parklands, and waterfront homes. Wetlands or development set to transform Redlands.

90 minutes for you to ask questions on the proposal, plans, environmental impact, sea level rise issues, and community engagement on Redlands shoreline. It will be a Q&A style forum with you posting questions on notice and asking them from the floor.

Members, please post your questions on notice to the GIC forum <https://rgsq.org.au/geographyinconversation/>

Non-members, email: questionsonnotice@gmail.com

Pamela Tonkin, Co-Convenor

Building a City on a Floodplain 24 May Forum

Attendees will have the opportunity to purchase a copy of Dr Margaret Cook's book on the night.

A River with a City Problem: a History of Brisbane Floods. UQ Press, 2019.

Cost \$25.00; cash only. Margaret will happily do book signings.

MAP GROUP Presentation

Portuguese Maritime Explorers

presented by David James

23 June, 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM @ Gregory Place, 1/28 Fortescue St, Spring Hill Qld 4000 and via Zoom

Register: <https://rgsq.org.au/event-4811498>

Overview: The Portuguese age of exploration is a presentation which traces the history of the surprising influence of a small Iberian kingdom on medieval discovery of the wider world. The driving factors and development of maritime navigation are discussed.

Speculation regarding Portuguese discovery and mapping of Australia is also covered.



TREKS AND ACTIVITIES BINNA BURRA PAST AND PRESENT DAY TRIP Tuesday 25 October 2022

Register: <https://rgsq.org.au/event-4790014>



This trip combines optional walks and a presentation and tour by the management of Binna Burra of the history and particularly the recovery plans following the disastrous fires of 2020.

Although this is a day trip, participants would be able to make arrangements to book camping facilities and accommodation directly with Binna Burra for the nights before and/or after the formal trip. It is advisable to book as accommodation is limited and can be booked out. Visit: <https://www.binnaburrallodge.com.au/accommodation/>.

Those travelling to Binna Burra for the day will meet in Canungra at the DJ Smith Memorial Park in the centre of town at 9:00 am sharp. We can arrange carpooling for the drive to Mount Roberts and Binna Burra for those returning to Canungra on the same day.

We will have time for a **morning tea** at the Teahouse before commencing the Tullawallal Circuit walk by 10:15 am.

Bob Reid will conduct the Tullawallal Circuit Walk which takes us along the main Border Track through rainforest on the eastern side of the ridge for about 1.9 km to the track junctions at the 'Coomera Seat'. From here, ascend to the summit of Tullawallal where we find the closest stand of Antarctic Beech (*Nothofagus moorei*) trees to Binna Burra.

We will walk back to the Coomera Seat then follow the circuit track back to Binna Burra on the western side of the ridge, generally in more open vegetation with more *Eucalypts* (or *Corymbias*).

The total climb is given as 175 m but happens over 2.5 km, so grades are easy, with a few steps, but no flights of steps.

Below is a 2021 description of the walk by Elaine P:

"Really easy (very gentle grade up, practically level) with dense forest until atop the boulders at Tullawallal, which then provides glimpses across the valley. Beautiful ferns, mushrooms and beech trees with whipbirds, bellbirds, and some chattering birds (unknown). A few spiked plants with spikes in top and underside of each leaf, impressively serious defence!"

Source: <https://www.aussiebushwalking.com/qld/se-qld/lamington-np/tullawallal-circuit>

The plant hazards mentioned above are easily avoidable with a little care!

We should be back at Binna Burra by 12:30pm for lunch at the Tea House.

An alternative stroll for those who do not wish to come to Tullawallal would be the 1.2 km Rainforest Circuit with very easy grades. This walk starts on the Border Track then has a (signed) route across the very low ridge to the circuit back to Binna Burra from Tullawallal. Those who choose this option would be responsible for themselves, so we ask that no one does this on their own, and with other RGSQ participants, if possible.

Lunch is at the Tea House Café at approximately 12.30pm at your own cost.

A presentation will be given by the management of Binna Burra starting at approximately 2pm on the formation and history of Binna Burra with some concentration on the plans and recovery from the bushfires which destroyed much of their facility in Spring 2019.

Cost: \$5 members, \$10 non-members, which of course excludes meals and any accommodation.

Limit: 20 participants, please register on the website at <https://rgsq.org.au/event-4790014>.

Further details will be circulated to registered participants closer to the event.

Convenors: *Bob Reid* and *Chris Spriggs*

Photo: *Forest Giant Binna Burra - Flickr - gailhampshire*
gailhampshire from Cradley, Malvern, U.K, CC BY 2.0
<<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.0>>, via *Wikimedia Commons*

REPORT: CALOUNDRA GEMS DAY ACTIVITY 27 APRIL 2022



Graham Smith addressing the RGSQ group at Caloundra; (photo courtesy of Ralph Carlisle)

Twenty-one members traveled by coach to Caloundra from the bus stop near Eagle Junction railway station and we were joined by two Sunshine Coast-based members.

Ian Peacock gave us an extensive briefing on the Bruce Highway, land use along the route, and Caloundra with some of its history on our way to Landsborough. We had a quick cup of coffee at Landsborough before heading to the Queensland Air Museum adjacent to Caloundra Airport.

The Museum Tours Manager, Leon Lenz, split us into three groups for guided tours of the collection of aircraft and memorabilia. The museum has a collection of more than 80 civilian and military aircraft including an F111, a Canberra and a DC3. There is a focus on planes with links to Australia and Queensland. The guides had an incredible knowledge of many of the aircraft and were happy to pass that on.

The museum is managed and run entirely by volunteers with huge amount of effort going into restoration and maintenance, though not to airworthiness standards.

Lunch was at the Caloundra RSL Club followed by a visit to the Military Display put together and run by the RSL Sub-Branch. Trevor Smith of the Sub-Branch organized our visit. There is a very extensive collection. Though the layout is crowded because of a shortage of space, the exhibits are well labelled. The Caloundra Lighthouses on Canberra Terrace date from 1896 when the first was built with a hardwood frame and cladding of heavy gauge galvanized steel sheeting. It operated with a kerosene lantern system with the light intensified by an optical apparatus until 1910 when a much brighter kerosene vapour and mantle system was installed. The kerosene system was replaced by an electric light in 1942. This ran on mains power, with a backup generator.

The primary purpose was as a navigation aid for entry to the Brisbane River and the port.

A new reinforced concrete lighthouse was built on the site in 1966 but downgraded in 1968 because of high-rise development nearby. It continued to operate as a harbour light until 1992. Roger Todd and two others from Friends of Caloundra Lighthouses greeted us there and gave us some background

On leaving the lighthouses, we headed to Fraser Park on Golden Beach where we were able to see the breakthrough of Bribie Island that started in January. The breakthrough is now 400 m wide and growing.

Graham Smith who is involved with Pumicestone passage community groups, spoke to us about the factors likely to have contributed to erosion of both sides of the narrow strip of sand towards the northern end of Bribie Island. Some of the factors that Graham mentioned were:

- dredging of the Northwest approach channel to the Port of Brisbane causing sand to move offshore on the northern part of Bribie to partly fill the dredged void
- wash from large vessels turning hard close to the shore at appreciable speed to enter the channel
- dredging in the Bribie Passage
- increased tidal flow to and from the large canal developments almost opposite the breakthrough compared to when the channels were small tidal creeks
- narrowing of the island neck because of the above causing subsurface salt water to move further from the sea and kill vegetation.

Graham noted that impacts of the breakthrough included:

- changed sand bank and shoreline sand distribution in the passage
- dangerous situations for small boats
- increased tidal range in the passage because of higher inflows and outflows of tidal waters through the break
- increased exposure of the mainland shoreline to wave action near the break
- increased probability of seawater flooding on the mainland on high tides, particularly when there are heavy seas resulting in infrastructure damage, vegetation damage and shoreline instability.

Bob Reid, trip coordinator

Map Group Morning Tues 10 May 2022 Qld Globe Overview with Dr Kerry Raymond



If one wishes to know the guts of a subject without doing all the digging, just call on Kerry who gives a presentation

that introduces enough detail for you to decide if you wish to proceed. This was the case last month with the *Where's Wallace* talk and the subject of Kerry's latest presentation to Map Group - *Queensland Globe*. We made a heap of notes during the presentation but really it is not possible to condense it in a summary.

The talk went a little longer than usual but there was so much to try and tell in a short time, especially when the questions just kept coming at the conclusion of the talk. That showed the strong interest in the subject. Qld Globe has a lot to offer and members who attended this session now have more knowledge to help navigate their way around the site. If you were not there you also missed out on snacks and good company.

Map Group Committee: Neville, Len & Kay

TALES OF BINNA BURRA TRAILS Members' memories ...

As one project in our developing collaboration with Binna Burra Lodge, the RGSQ Scientific Studies Committee is seeking to capture Members' experiences and memories of the walking trails at Binna Burra – both in the past and more recently. We would aim to record orally members' contributions via an interview process. If you would be willing to share some of your memories, please contact Iraphne either via email i.childs@uq.edu.au or ph. 0419 756 936.



In addition, if there is any member who could volunteer to help with the interviewing and/or transcribing of the recordings we would greatly appreciate it.

Congratulations to Kath Berg!

The International Geographical Union (IGU) has conferred its prestigious Lauréat d'Honneur on long-time RGSQ member Kathryn Berg. **IGU established its Lauréat d'Honneur** in 1976 to recognize individuals who have achieved particular distinction or who have rendered outstanding service in the work of the IGU or in international geography and environmental research. This award recognizes Kath's deep commitment to the International Geography Olympiad (iGeo), acknowledges her leadership of the IGU Olympiad Task Force and as "a great ambassador for the iGeo". Kath said that she could not compare with many eminent Australian geographers; that in giving her this award the IGU was marking the important role the iGeo played in encouraging the next generation of geographers. As well as her enduring work for Geography and Geographic Education via the Australian Geography Competition, Geography's Big Week Out (GBWO) and the iGeo, Kath continues to make a major contribution to RGSQ currently in the role of RGSQ Secretary. Thanks for all your efforts, Kath, and once again hearty congratulations on this well-deserved and prestigious award.



Iraphne Childs, on behalf of all RGSQ Members



GBWO students in Brisbane

Geography's Big Week Out

Each year sixteen Year 11 students from around Australia are selected to participate in Geography's Big Week Out (GBWO) based on their scores in the Australian Geography Competition. The 2020 GBWO had to be cancelled because of Covid. Continually changing border, quarantine and gathering restrictions made organising the 2021 GBWO particularly challenging, but we persevered. On the fourth attempt, the "2021" GBWO was relocated to Brisbane and held 9-13 April 2022.

Activities were led by Julie Davis (GTAQ President), Prof Johnathon Corcoran (RGSQ Councillor) and John Tasker (RGSQ President). Kath Berg (RGSQ Secretary) and Rachel Honey (Competition Coordinator) organised all the logistics.

The evaluation from students was very positive.

The geographical concepts and skills learnt through participation in fieldwork has inspired me to further analyse and evaluate urban environments in other parts of Australia. GBWO gave me opportunities to collect primary quantitative and qualitative data/observations which was a fun yet challenging experience that has deeply enhanced my geographical skills and understanding. Jessica

On the last day the students sat a 2-hour test. The four highest-scoring students from that have been selected as the team to represent Australian at the 2022 International Geography Olympiad. This was to have been held in Paris but is now to be held virtually.

These students will gather on the Gold Coast in August to compete:

Lucy Schwarz, Arden Anglican School, Sydney, NSW

Justine Thomas, Comet Bay College, Rockingham, WA

Ioanna Vaughan-Jones, Walford Anglican School for Girls, Adelaide, SA

Jessica Wang, St George Girls High School, Sydney, NSW



Surveying users

The fieldwork focussed on investigating public spaces in central Brisbane and assessing their quality. Tasks included mapping, surveying users, estimating transient populations, and analysis and visualisation of data.

Kath Berg, photos John Tasker

Welcome New Members

We have much pleasure in welcoming *Paul Johnson* as a new member. We hope your association with your new Society is long and mutually enjoyable.

Thomson Oration recording available at:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC2WD4ARJhBDliOxa3qndb4Q>

Contributors

Kath Berg, Iraphne Childs, Annie Lau, Len Lowry, Neville McManimm, Kay Rees, Bob Reid, John Tasker, Pamela Tonkin

RGSQ Bulletin

June 2022

Meeting/Lecture: Tuesday 7 June

Big rocks moved by waves: storm and tsunami evidence on Pacific Islands
presentation by Dr Annie Lau

W: www.rgsq.org.au

E: info@rgsq.org.au

P: 07 3368 2066

Activities: Tuesday 14 June

Bremer River Junction Day Cruise

Thursday 23 June: *Portuguese Maritime*

Explorers

Tuesday 28 June: *Wetlands or Development*

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

The Royal Geographical Society of Queensland Ltd
PO Box 625, Spring Hill QLD 4004

POSTAGE
PAID
AUSTRALIA