



RGSQ Bulletin

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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 13 December – earlier than usual to avoid Christmas week. Items of interest include:

- Congratulations to the winners of the photographic competition.
- The State Library of Queensland is going to publish a short article on our Mitchell items in its Memory enews.
- The process of uploading the library catalogue onto eHive has started. This will make the catalogue accessible via the internet.
- The Young Geographers and the Treks and Activities Committee have both planned interesting and diverse programmes for 2023, and the Map Group is finalising theirs.
- The Geography in Conversation Committee have put in place the first few events for 2023. Later events will be planned closer to the time to take advantage of current issues.
- The Binna Burra trail mapping reports are now on the [Society's website](#) – look under Projects, then Scientific Studies.
- The Property Committee is investigating improving the quality of Zoomed and recorded presentations. If you have expertise in this area, please volunteer to help.
- The contracted teachers have started writing questions for the Australian Geography Competition.
- Thanks to the 2023 Competition sponsors: University of NSW, Monash University, University of Queensland, University of Melbourne, Curtin University and Australian Institute for Disaster Resilience.
- The legalities to amend the Ken Sutton Trust Deed are progressing very slowly.

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.

WHAT'S ON

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

Welcome Night 2023

7 February @ 7:30pm

Gregory Place, Level 1, 28 Fortescue St, Spring Hill

Register: <https://rgsq.org.au/event-5082317>

Please join us for the first social evening of the year when the Society's 2023 program of activities and events will be presented.

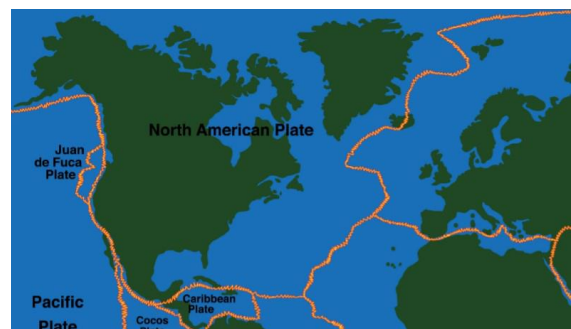
This is a social function with drinks and light supper served, and plenty of time for conversation, commencing at 7.30pm. *Entry is free to members, \$5 for non-members. We would appreciate a small donation on the night to help cover the cost of the food and drinks.*

Map Group Presentation: Plate Tectonics presentation by Keith Treschman

Tuesday 14 February 10:00am - 12:00 noon

Gregory Place, 1/28 Fortescue St, Spring Hill Qld 4000

Register: <https://rgsq.org.au/event-5082427>



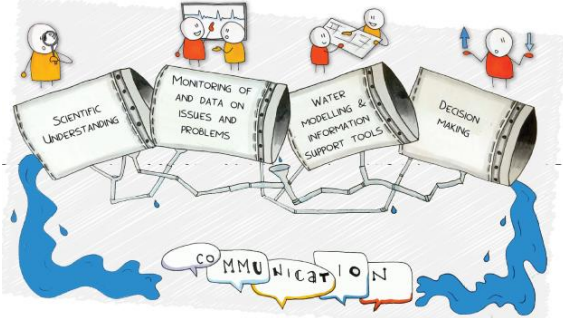
This presentation will describe the current understanding of the motion of the continents and ocean floor. It will provide some history of the development of this model; explanations of how the evidence fits the theory of plate tectonics will follow. Some points covered will be the patterns of mountain chains, volcanoes, earthquakes, ocean ridges, island arcs, animal and plant distribution, Earth magnetism.

Geography in Conversation

28 February 2023

Water and Soils: Natural Resource Management

Register: <https://rgsq.org.au/event-5122307>



With Guest speakers, **Dr Piet Filet**, Griffith University, Australian Rivers Institute, and a second speaker yet to be confirmed. Moderated by John Tasker, RGSQ President.

Water management and soil profiles have always been important in the expansion of agriculture in Qld. Agricultural production to provide for population growth and export markets relies heavily on soils and the available water. Is it possible to regenerate the balance between water resources, healthy soils and fulfill the increasing demand for agricultural production?

The Q&A forum will enable you to ask questions on the hydrological resources, water flow, storage and quality, and how that impacts on soil quality and food production in SE Qld.

Come along for light refreshments before settling in for an informed conversation on a topic of interest to us all.

Members registering please post your questions on notice to the GIC forum:

<https://rgsq.org.au/geographyinconversation/>

OR non-members email: questionsonnotice@gmail.com

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

Q&A Forum 6:00 – 7:30pm

Address: Gregory Place, Level 1, 28 Fortescue St, Spring Hill.

Cost: \$5.00 for refreshments, included in registration

Cost: \$5:00 Members

\$10:00 Non-members

\$5.00 Students

Pamela Tonkin, Co-Convenor GIC



Treks and Activities

Cross River Rail and Macarthur Museum

Building for the future (Cross River Rail) and **remembering the past** (Macarthur Museum)

When: Thursday 16 March

Where: Brisbane City - the event commences at 10.30am with a visit to the Cross River Rail Experience Centre, (Elizabeth St) and concludes about 2.30 pm following the visit to the Macarthur Museum (Edward St).

*This event is now **fully booked**. If interested, please proceed with your booking on the website to add your name to the waitlist and, depending on interest, we can possibly duplicate the event later in the year.*

Register: <https://rgsq.org.au/event-5110685>

Caloundra Eco Explorer Cruise

Thursday 27 April 2023



What: Bus and cruise

Departure: 2 pick-up locations

A. Arrive at **7.15am for 7.30am** departure from bus stop 27 Park Av (Clayfield) near Eagle Junction station

B. **7.50am** - Petrie station

Please indicate when booking on the website.

Return: 4 pm

Register: <https://rgsq.org.au/event-5081034>

The Pumicestone Passage on Caloundra's doorstep is 35 km long and separates Bribie Island National Park from the mainland. The internationally significant Marine Park with its numerous islands and creeks is home to over 300 species of birds and is an important sanctuary in their migration. It is part of the Moreton Bay Ramsar site.

- Follow the lighthouse keepers' journey south on the Eco Explorer Cruise. This 2.5hr cruise travels to the heart of the Pumicestone Passage Marine Park
- See the Breakthrough on Bribie Island
- Hear the fascinating history, geography and ecology of this pristine region
- Observe wildlife - spot a sea eagle or wading bird as we travel the foreshore of Bribie
- Enjoy a generous **morning tea** (scones, date slice, fruit platter) while the boat is at anchor at lighthouse reach

The activity involves a 1.5hr bus trip (there and back) and a 2.5hr cruise (seated) with ample opportunity to move around during the cruise. The vessel is boarded at a fixed wharf and has a toilet facility.

Lunch: 12.00 noon at Pelican Waters tavern (not included), **own expense**.

Wear comfortable shoes and sun safe clothing.

Bring a hat, camera, sunglasses, sunscreen, and wind jacket. It is recommended to wear a mask on the bus.

Cost: \$100 members and \$105 non-members.

Register and pay by 30 March.

Participation limited to 35 with waitlist.

Do hope you can come!

Jeanette Lamont, Coordinator

RGSQ Map Group: CANUNGRA Extended

Outing 9-11 May 2023



Photo: "Cuppa with a View"; courtesy of Neville McManimm

This is information to give early details of proposed extended outing to the Canungra area.

Dates are from Tuesday 9 May to Thursday 11 May 2023 inclusive. Our *base site* will be a Camping ground 10 minutes from Canungra township. As things will start about 9am on Tuesday 9 May, consider if you wish to travel early on Tuesday morning from Brisbane (2 hours travel, rush, rush) or actually arrive in Canungra on Monday 8 May during the afternoon after a pleasant country drive and time for nibbles on the creek bank before dinner.

The campground has good facilities, camp kitchen with large undercover area, hot showers, all on the well-kept banks of Canungra Creek in the Sarabah Valley. Camper vans - \$15 pp per night; on-site tents have two bedframes with mattress (bring your own sleeping gear) - \$25 pp per night.

For those who wish other accommodation, try the following - Canungra Hotel, B&B's in town or, very close to the base Camping ground, in Sarabah Valley (5-minute drive), are the Greenlee Cottages, phone (07) 5543-4021 or check their website. There is no operating motel in Canungra.

There is no need to book the camping ground ahead of time. I will do that as you nominate for the outing. **BUT**, B&B's should be booked as early as possible, that's your responsibility. I will be staying at the campground from Monday afternoon.

Car-pooling will be the order of each day. If we have a few 4wd's this will add some interest to the outings!!!!!!

The outing will finish a little after lunch on Thursday.

More detailed information will follow in the coming weeks. Write it on your calendar now.

Please email your expressions of interest to Neville McManimm at nevmcm@onthenet.com.au

Neville McManimm, Coordinator

Geography in Conversation Report

Bribie Island Breakthrough



Graeme and Stella Rush and the lucky winner of the hamper, Michael Dempsey.

The November event attracted a full house of over 50 members and non-members all keen to discuss the breakthrough of the spit at the northern end of Bribie Island.

Moderator Dr Duncan Cook deftly introduced the four panellists who proceeded to cover the causes and causal effects of the breakthrough.

Dr Javier Leon, coastal scientist and geomorphologist, the University of the Sunshine Coast, presented research data on the changing coastline because of the erosion of the sand island.

Flotilla Commander Roger Pearce, Coast Guard Caloundra, outlined historical events from the 1890's to present which caused sand movements which he was able to illustrate resulted in the opening and closing of successive Caloundra Bars. Dredging for sand and its removal to mainland building sites, e.g., the second runway at Brisbane Airport has eroded the island.

Richard Ogden, President of the Bribie Island Environmental Protection Association, concentrated on the local and state government decision making in relation to keeping the Pumicestone Passage open and protecting fragile marine ecosystems.

Ken Mewburn, from Take Action for Pumicestone Passage outlined the concerns of keeping the Passage navigable and the movement of the bar within the tidal range.

All the panellists were concerned with the flow of water not only within the Passage but also onshore and then recycled back into the Passage. The movement of the sand bar has resulted in difficulties in navigating a passage through, and in the changes in the foreshore at Golden Beach. The presentations brought on many questions and resulted in a lively discussion.

Minister Grace Grace, McConnel MP, The Honourable Minister for Education, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing very kindly donated an impressive hamper for us to draw on the evening.

Photo: Kay Rees

**Contributed by: Pamela Tonkin, Co-convenor
Geography in Conversation**

Society's lantern slides transferred to State Library, 28 November 2022

Over the past 120-odd years the Society has collected about 2,000 lantern slides. Some were sourced by the Society for its numerous presentations, such as the one on Antarctica by the President Sir Hugh Nelson in 1903. Others have accumulated over the succeeding years as other organisations have donated their sets because, until recently, the Society has had a working lantern slide projector. This is now too risky to use safely, and modern light bulbs cannot provide the intense light required.



The lantern slides in boxes ready for transfer. The slide projector and a few slides have been kept for display purposes.

Some of the slides contain images that could be useful to researchers and the public as the photographs they were made from may be lost.

To this end the State Library of Queensland (SLQ) has offered to take the slides and digitise those that are of interest, including some 200 deemed to be of use to the Society. These include, for example, images of the Thursday Island Jubilee celebrations that were organised by the Thursday Island Branch of the Society in 1927, the first Carnarvon expedition organised by the Society in 1937, and the expedition by our founder James Park Thomson to determine the Burke and Wills' camp on the Bynoe River in 1909.



L-R: project team members Reuben Hillier (State Library), Neville McManimm, Peter Lloyd (Kerry Raymond and John Huth could not attend); Pamela Tonkin representing the Council and Rob Cook, Chair of the RGSQ Collections Committee.

A few slides will be retained to accompany the lantern slide projector and demonstrate the technology used for presentations over a long period of the Society's existence.

A document record of the slides and descriptions transferred will be held in the Society archives and SLQ will attribute and identify the Society in its records so that they can be readily identified on-line. Copies and descriptions of the slides digitised specifically for the Society will be held in digital systems currently being developed by the Collections Committee.



Rob Cook (right) signing the Deed of Gift transferring ownership of the slides to the Library Board of Queensland.

Photos of the event were taken by Kay Rees.

Contributed by: Peter Lloyd, Transfer Project Leader

Map Group End of the Year Show'n'Tell

At Map Group's End of the Year Show'n'Tell on Monday 5 December, we had 18 members in attendance with 11 folk presenting a various array of objects and slideshows. They ranged from a "wire strainer", planet models, maps, atlases and photos. We travelled across the country including Enoggera, Alice Springs and Cravens Peak and to a number of places around the world e.g. the Kokoda Trail, Linz, Hong Kong and Dubai.

Our group has had so many interesting travel experiences which always makes our get-togethers so enjoyable. Thank you to all who participated.

RGSQ members presenting to the Map Group:



Kevin Teys

Neville McManimm

Len Lowry

Map Group Committee: Len Lowry, Neville McManimm and Kay Rees

2022 RGSQ Photographic Competition

The 2022 Photographic Competition - "Wetlands or Waterways of Qld" - was a very successful activity of the RGSQ Publications Committee. Thanks to all 20 members who entered the competition, submitting a total of 82 photos. This time judging for the prizes was conducted entirely by voting online - 45 members voted via the RGSQ website. Here are the competition winners:



1st prize RON OWEN - image #13 *Early morning at Lake Cootharaba, Boreen Point campsite.*

Ron also won 1st prize in 2021, so there's certainly some talent there. The prize - one night stay in Binna Burra's Sky Lodge donated by Binna Burra Lodge.



2nd prize GISELLE PICKERING - image #75 *Wide expanses of estuarine wetlands, Hinchinbrook Island.*

The prize - drawing of a native hopping mouse donated by wildlife artist and RGSQ member Alison Carlisle.



3rd prize BRUCE URQUHART - image #31 *Blencoe Falls Top Pool, Girrigun National Park, North Qld.*

The prize - book "Wetlands of Queensland" (Qld Museum, 2022).

Four more entries were highly commended:

- **Annie Lau** #37 Moss Garden, Carnarvon National Park
- **Rob Cook** #69 Fishing for Breakfast, Nudgee Beach
- **Jessica Syme** #78 Softly Haunting Melaleucas, Varsity Lakes
- **Ron Owen** #48 Magpie Geese and White Egret, Mutton Hole Wetlands, Normanton

All entries can be seen on the RGSQ website via links on the home page <https://rgsq.org.au/>; the winning and highly commended images can also be viewed on the board room wall at RGSQ. Thanks to the Publications Committee - Iraphne Childs, Kay Rees and Jonathan Corcoran - for again organising the competition. The committee will meet in February to decide on the theme for the 2023 competition. So keep your cameras rolling!

Iraphne Childs, Publications Committee

Letters from Members

From: Bob Abnett, RGSQ member

I read Peter Griggs' article *Netherlands concerned about future sea level rises* published in the [December 2022](#) issue of the RGSQ Bulletin. Way back in 1973, I went across what was then called the Zeider Zee, the huge dam wall protecting a large part of Holland from the North Sea. I also went to the same 'viewing area' that Peter went to.

Back in the late 1920s and early 1930s, when the Dutch built the huge dam wall, the country (not a town), wished to expand its land area, and it did, with the building of the huge dam wall. The current work to raise the dam wall fits in with current views held throughout Europe about climate change and rising sea levels. Peter raises climate change in relation to Australian towns and suburbs.

Currently, I have noted in the media coverage of the floods in NSW that flooding of similar magnitudes happened about 70 years ago in Forbes just before a boom occurred in sheep prices and production in 1951/52. (In Wagga Wagga, it was last at high levels in 1974, at a time when Brisbane flooded too). Today there is a greater understanding of weather patterns in Australia (e.g., the current flooding is influenced by the third La Nina event along the eastern part of Australia, creating far more rainfall than normally occurs). Very few news reports actually attribute the massive flooding in NSW to climate change, but a few do. This is quite wrong, as weather patterns are affecting many parts of Australia today and it happened in the 2011 floods of Brisbane. Maybe, if weather forecasters went way backwards in time, they may "discover" that the early 1950s were also influenced by weather patterns - this is not a new thing (and neither is climate change over longer periods).

However, in some media reports I have noted that over recent years, way too many local councils have allowed land developers to develop flood liable lands for housing (it raises rates for councils!). Maybe this is a problem that Peter is not aware of in the Australian towns and suburbs he mentions in his article (he targets mainly coastal locations, as he relates them to rising sea levels).

I was recently in Redcliffe (a suburb of Metro Brisbane that Peter mentions) and was truly amazed to see that Moreton Shire Council had approved land subdivisions right across swamp lands up to the edge of Redcliffe Aerodrome, a place I knew well about 30 years ago and had flown into and out of at the time and in the 2010s. In the newer housing subdivision, there is major landfill occurring to raise the level of the house sites, as they are part of an expensive development, not a "cheap housing site". In times like at present in Eastern Australia, landfill is simply not enough to keep land dry underneath future expensive housing (or any housing), as is occurring near Redcliffe Aerodrome. The land sinks anyway, so in the next flooding event, the raised sites may not be so high!

Redcliffe is merely one example of housing being allowed in flood liable lands near Australian towns and suburbs. I can also mention Miles, west of Toowoomba, where a newer housing estate had to be raised well above flood levels about 10 to 12 years ago, before Western Downs Regional Council approved it! I worked for the Development Co concerned, mainly on industrial lands, but visited the raised sites for houses in Miles, out of sheer curiosity. The housing estate went ahead, and although the houses were above flood levels, the new streets (they became Council owned), were not. So, the residents were stuck in their houses in times of

floods! This is not an uncommon story these days and it is rarely mentioned in national news or even regional news.

I also knew some of the towns being flooded in Central Western NSW, such as Forbes and Eugowra and newer housing has continued in these towns, over the past 30 to 40 years, when I then worked in that part of NSW – Eugowra was in the shire I worked in (I was put onto firefighting duties when the whole area in 1981 was threatened, but never put onto flood watch or rescue duties, as it was a drier period at the time). Houses are still being built in these country towns, as the number of people in each house is far less today than 50 or 100 years ago. However, Eugowra still has about 700 to 750 residents today, at a supposed time when people are leaving country towns.

Welcome New Members

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

Contributors

Bob Abnett, Kath Berg, Iraphne Childs, Roger Grimley, Jeanette Lamont, Peter Lloyd, Len Lowry, Neville McManimm, Kay Rees, Pamela Tonkin, Chris Spriggs, Keith Treschman

RGSQ Bulletin

February 2023

Meeting: Tue 7 February
Welcome Night 2023

Tue 14 February: Map Group Presentation
Plate Tectonics

Tue 28 February: Geography in Conversation
Water and Soils: Natural Resource Management

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

The Royal Geographical Society of Queensland Ltd
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