



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 21 February. Items of interest include:

- John Tasker updated Councillors on progress with the Strategic Plan.
- The Finance Committee is to check if the Society's investment strategy needs to be reviewed to align with the Society's values.
- Council discussed a proposal on links with the University of Queensland Geography, Environmental Management and Science Society (a student group).
- The Australian Geography Competition has unexpectedly had to shift online platforms which has meant a lot of work with tight deadlines for Rachel Honey and the Committee.
- The Collections Committee's next focus will be on the Society's digital collections.
- Pam Tonkin outlined the Geography in Conversation programme for the next three months.
- The Map Group's presentation on plate tectonics was very successful, and also touched on the current disaster in Turkey and Syria.
- Some staff and key members are due to update their first aid and fire warden training.
- The Society will apply for a grant under the Gambling Community Benefit Fund for new microphones and an updated webcam.
- Work is progressing on interviewing selected members to update the Society's history.
- Iraphne Childs updated Councillors on the proposed trip to New Zealand in October. The itinerary will appeal to lots of members.

For further information on any item, please talk to a Society Councillor at a Society event or send an email to info@rgsq.org.au.

Australian Geography Competition

Thank you to the volunteers who assisted in creating the information packs to be sent to schools for the 2023 Australian Geography Competition. They were Graham and Kay Rees, Pamela Tonkin, Ralph Carlisle, John and Doreen Wilkinson, and Sue Reid.

WHAT'S ON

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

Monthly Lecture

Tuesday 14 March

A Clean Energy Future for Queensland

presented by
Allison Warburton

Register: <https://rgsq.org.au/event-5162406>

On premises and via Zoom. The lecture will not be recorded.



As Queensland powers towards a net zero future, state-owned energy companies have a critical role to play in developing, investing in, and connecting renewable energy generation and storage solutions to support businesses and communities to decarbonise.

Join Allison Warburton, CleanCo Queensland Board director, as she discusses Queensland's energy transformation including the opportunities and challenges for transitioning Queensland to renewable energy. The discussion will focus on the critical role of CleanCo in supporting the Queensland Government's Energy and Jobs Plan with key topics of interest to include CleanCo's vision and goals.

Ms Allison Warburton

Ms Warburton has 30 years' commercial, operational, policy and governance experience in the energy sector. In October 2022, she joined the board of CleanCo

Queensland, a state-owned low-emission and renewable energy generator, developer, and retailer.

Ms Warburton has previously served as Commissioner at the Australian Energy Market Commission overseeing the development of energy policy reforms and market rules. She was a director of Stanwell Corporation Limited and was appointed to the Queensland Government's independent Renewable Energy Expert Panel. Ms Warburton spent 18 years as a partner in the energy practice of professional services firm Minter Ellison and was national head of the firm's climate change practice for 10 years.

She is currently also a director and co-founder of Lacuna Professional Solutions and sits as a member of the King's College Council, University of Queensland. Ms Warburton holds a Bachelor of Laws (Hons) and Bachelor of Arts and is a member of the AICD (Australian Institute of Company Directors).

Geography in Conversation

Tuesday 28 March

Sustainable Action for Climate Change

Register: <https://rgsq.org.au/event-5178716>



Photo credit: Paul Hanly - Own work, CC BY 3.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=5929212>

Guest speakers, **Dr Aysin Dedekorkut-Howes**, Climate Change Adaptation, Senior Lecturer of Urban and Environmental Planning at the Griffith School of Engineering and Built Environment, **Dr Michelle Maloney**, National Convenor with Australian Earth Laws Alliance (AELA), and **Clare Silcock**, Energy Strategist with the Queensland Conservation Council. Moderated by Dr Keith Treschman.

Climate change action has to be sustainable for the long term and not merely meet short-term targets. It also needs to be resilient over time. It will rely on transformative changes in the way the public and private sectors form policies. Consumers also need to be guided in ways of adopting sustainable behaviours to lower emissions. How can leaders in the climate and environmental science space influence decision makers and educate a new generation of young leaders?

You have 60 minutes to ask questions of the experts on the urban planning codes in regard to sea level change,

training of future leaders, environmental laws, and conservation action.

Enjoy light refreshments and networking 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. Mingling 7:30 – 8:00.

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

Map Group Presentation

Moving Maps and Maps for Industry

presented by Alan Mayne of Mayne Maps

30 March, 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM @ Gregory Place, 1/28 Fortescue St, Spring Hill Qld 4000

Register: <https://rgsq.org.au/event-5142410>



Alan Mayne started his career as a teacher of science and mathematics. His first map was produced when he was a teacher to show the school buildings and the relationship with the school grounds. When the map was used for multiple purposes, he realised the importance and versatility of maps.

Alan started Mayne Maps and developed a methodology using low-cost vector and image software. His maps are used in property management applications for real estate, agriculture, caravan parks, tourist industry, farm production and emergency applications. Alan uses basic vector software and satellite imagery to produce an attractive map for property management and display purposes. His latest application allows the user to orientate position on the property and navigate across the map. Alan will step us through the process so that we can produce our own maps.



Treks and Activities

Caloundra Eco Explorer Cruise

Thursday 27 April, **only 2 spots left**



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!

Coordinator: Jeanette Lamont

GEOGRAPHY UNEARTHED: What are the UQ Geographers doing?

Friday 21 July

Register: <https://rgsq.org.au/event-5159282>



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

This will be an interesting trip learning about the geography programs at the University of Queensland including work of Geographers at the School of Earth and Environmental Sciences.

Date: Friday 21 July, starting at 9am and finishing about 3pm.

Venue: Meet at the rear of Steele Building on Campbell Place, off Campbell Road.

The visit includes morning tea and presentations from UQ staff on:

- Physical and Human Geography programs
- Queensland Centre for Population Research
- Atmospheric/climate science
- Remote Sensing Centre and Earth Observation Program
- Great Barrier Reef Habitat Mapping & Coral Reef Atlas
- Demonstration of weather monitoring equipment
- Coastal engineering lab in the Advanced Engineering Building

Lunch will be on the deck at Nano's Lakeside café at your own choice and expense. It will also include a short talk on the refurbishment of the lake.

After lunch, there will be a short walk across the new lake walkway for a guided tour of the Alumni Rainforest.

The trip should conclude at about 3pm.

Public transport is recommended. The tour is not during the semester and therefore there should also be limited parking for \$5 along the Brisbane River and at some other areas.

Details of the venue and the transport options will be provided to participants closer to the event.

Cost: Members \$7 Non-members \$17

This trip will be limited to 30 people and if full, please join the waitlist if you are interested.

For further information please contact us at info@rgsq.org.au.

Coordinators: Iraphne Childs/Chris Spriggs

RGSQ Map Group: CANUNGRA Extended Outing 9-11 May 2023



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

Register: <https://rgsq.org.au/event-5142632>

The Base Camp 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) or arrive in Canungra on Monday 8 May during the afternoon after a pleasant country drive and time for drinks and nibbles (BYO) on the creek bank before dinner.

The camping ground has good facilities, camp kitchen with large undercover area, hot showers, all on the well-kept banks of Canungra Creek in the Sarabah Valley. Camping fees - \$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 and B&B's in Canungra are very close to the base camping ground. In Sarabah Valley (5-minute drive from the base camping ground) 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. Neville will do that as you nominate for the outing. B&B's should be booked as early as possible, that's your responsibility. Neville will be staying at the camping ground from Monday afternoon.

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

The outing will finish a little after lunch on Thursday 11 May.

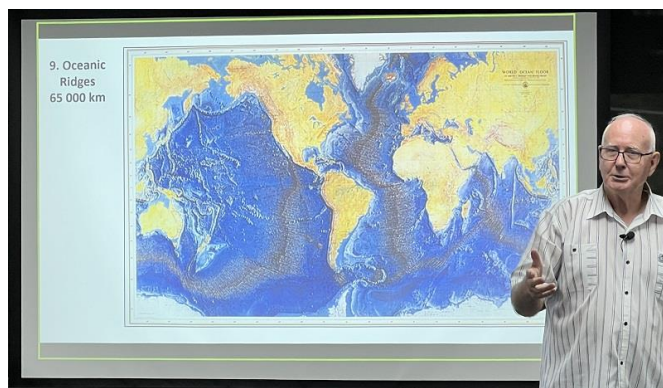
Registration costs: \$65.00 for RGSQ members and \$80.00 for non-members which includes one barbeque meal at the campground. Accommodation costs are additional to the registration costs. If staying at the camping ground, please contact Neville at nevmmcm@onthenet.com.au to organise. Accommodation external to the camping ground to be organised privately.

Registration on the website required. Further information will be provided to the registrants closer to the event.

Trip manager: Neville McManimm

Report: Map Group Presentation *Plate Tectonics*

Contributed by Michael Papageorgiou



At the first Map Group Event for 2023, held on 14 February, Keith Treschman provided a very interesting and entertaining talk on the global concept of plate tectonics. It was a very well attended talk with more than 30 people present in the RGSQ's offices with some others following the proceedings online.

Keith started with his experience as a geography teacher in Papua New Guinea and described his initial concerns with the validity of the concept of 'plate tectonics'; seeming at first to be based on the appearance of interlocking shapes of some of the continents. With further investigation Keith explained how his views changed as he learned more about the theory.



The structure of Keith's presentation was to set out the evidence, in the mode of a lawyer engaged in a court case, to progressively build up the evidence for plate tectonics. Keith took a comprehensive approach, starting with some of the simpler explanations and then continuing through 17 separate pieces of evidence. This was done with the engaging use of maps, diagrams and illustrations to show how the world's land and sea floors are constantly in motion.

We were intrigued to learn how the distribution of plants and animals (as well as fossils) show past geographic relationships between now distant continents.

Keith used humour, anecdotes and observations to lead us through a mind-boggling reveal about the forces acting upon the continental plates and sea floor plate: how these butt up against each other and force up new mountain ranges, and seed island arcs and volcanic hot spots across the globe. Most intriguing was the evidence that there have been many times in the past when the magnetic poles have reversed direction and this is recorded in the

geology of the earth, and in particular in those linear zones in the sea floor where new land is thrust up as a result of tectonic plates moving apart.

Keith included a map and discussion of the recent catastrophic earthquakes in Turkey and Syria which generated a lot of discussion and questions about the prospect for better prediction of earthquakes.

This was an excellent talk that provided a 'moving' experience for all as we thought about how our world is shaped. Keith conveyed an enormous amount of fascinating information in a logical and engaging presentation. The lively discussion continued over a generous morning tea.

Thank you, Keith, we look forward to more talks like this!

Photos: Kay Rees

What's happening with our weather? BOM's latest climate outlook

Contributed by Iraphne Childs

La Niña weakening



With serious bushfires affecting the Western Downs in Qld and cyclone activity around our coasts, maybe you have been wondering what is happening with our weather patterns?

What is the forecast for the next few weeks?

Large areas of western Queensland are hot and dry, hence the bushfire risk, but tropical lows recently developed across northern Australian waters with two - TC Freddy in the West and TC Gabrielle in the Coral Sea - becoming tropical cyclones. The Bureau of Meteorology (BOM) indicates that while the current La Niña event continues to ease, **"the atmosphere has been slower to respond and remains La Niña-like"** (BOM 14/2/2023). Consequently, monsoon conditions are expected to continue, resulting in above-average rainfall for many parts of northern Australia. The BOM issues interesting **weekly climate updates** which explain what is happening - they indicate a transition coming around late February. Here are the key **climate drivers** that BOM monitors for Australia's climate:

SSTs sea surface temperatures have weakened since their peak during spring 2022 but are still warmer than average to the south and south-east of Australia resulting in greater evaporation, humidity, cloudiness, and rainfall. All models anticipate SSTs in the central Pacific will return to neutral ENSO (El Niño Southern Oscillation) levels during late February, with neutral conditions (neither La Niña nor El Niño) anticipated until at least mid-autumn.

SAM Southern Annular Mode refers to the north-south movement of the strong westerly winds that blow almost continuously in the mid- to high-latitudes of the southern hemisphere. These westerly winds are associated with storms and cold fronts that move from west to east. The

SAM is currently strongly positive, indicating increased summer rain, but is anticipated to ease over the coming weeks and then remain neutral.

MJO Madden-Julian Oscillation is a feature of the tropical atmosphere, an eastward moving 'pulse' of cloud and rainfall near the equator that typically recurs every 30 to 60 days. A strong MJO pulse is currently over the western Pacific bringing monsoonal conditions and above-average rainfall across northern Australia. This MJO pulse is forecast to move into the eastern Pacific in late February.

IOD Indian Ocean Dipole is the difference between SSTs of the tropical western and eastern Indian Ocean. The IOD has three phases: positive, neutral, and negative. A positive IOD results in suppressed rainfall and conversely a negative IOD results in enhanced rainfall in the Australian region. Currently the IOD is neutral and is having little influence on Australian climate.

The BOM also notes that climate change continues to influence Australian and global climates. Australia's climate has warmed by around 1.47 °C over the period 1910–2021. There has also been a trend towards a greater proportion of rainfall from high intensity short duration rainfall events, especially across northern Australia.

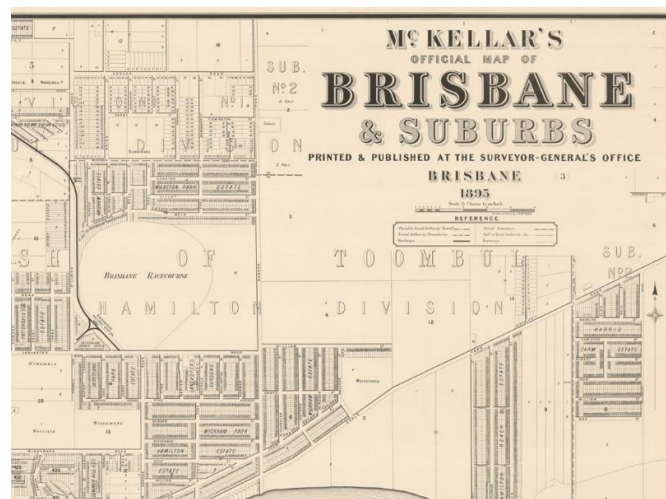
References:

<http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/enso/outlook/>
<http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/tropical-note>
<http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/model-summary>

Map Donation to RGSQ

Contributed by Ralph Carlisle

In February this year, James Delahunty, a life member of RGSQ, donated to the Society a partial set of the McKellar maps, laminated and in excellent condition.



This is the title block of the set (on Sheet 3), showing Ascot and Hamilton. Note that land use between Eagle Farm Road (now named Kingsford-Smith Drive) and the Brisbane River has greatly changed, obliterating the street layout of the early estates. Also, the railway had not then been extended beyond Ascot.

Prepared by AR McKellar and published in 1895 by the Surveyor-General, the McKellar map of Brisbane, and its then suburbs, consists of 12 sheets - the first cadastral

mapping of Brisbane to extend so far in such detail. The set ranges from Enoggera and Hamilton in the north to Indooroopilly and Holland Park in the south.

The donated maps extend the Society's collection from 4 of the 12 sheets to 10.

Many thanks to James for his generous donation.

Sheets 2 and 6 of the McKellar maps are not in our collection. If any members are able to donate them, it would complete the set and be greatly appreciated.

Welcome New Members

We have much pleasure in welcoming *Gillian Rowan, Raja Ram Aryal and Su Zhou* as new members. We hope your association with your new Society is long and mutually enjoyable.

Contributors

Kath Berg, Ralph Carlisle, Iraphne Childs, Rachel Honey, Jeanette Lamont, Alan Mayne, Neville McManimm, Michael Papageorgiou, Kay Rees, Pamela Tonkin

RGSQ Bulletin

March 2023

Lecture/Meeting: Tue 14 March

A Clean Energy Future for Queensland

Tue 28 March: Geography in Conversation

Sustainable Action for Climate Change

Thur 30 March: Map Group Presentation

Moving Maps and Maps for Industry

Trips/Activities: Thur 16 March

Cross River Rail and Macarthur Museum

W: www.rgsq.org.au

E: info@rgsq.org.au

P: 07 3368 2066

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

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

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