





ANNUAL REPORT 2023-24

Royal Geographical Society of South Australia Inc.

 *Advancing public awareness of geography and environmental issues.*

 *Encouraging research and scholarship in geography.*

 *Recognising and rewarding achievements in geography.*

 *Commemorating past achievements of significance to geography.*

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Founded in South Australia in July 1885

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Governance

Patrons: Her Excellency the Honourable Frances Adamson AC,
Governor of South Australia, and Mr Rod Bunten

Fellows: Dr Sue Barker
Mr Colin Harris PSM
Mr Rod Shearing OAM
Dr Peter Smailes
Mr Brian Ward

Office Holders 2023-24

President	Leigh Radford OAM
Director	Emeritus Distinguished Professor Iain Hay
Vice Presidents	Dr Julia Short Professor Guy Robinson
Immediate Past President	Rod Shearing OAM
Treasurer	Tony Merchant
Secretary / Public Officer	Melissa Gibbs
Office Managers	Alan Pickering with assistance from Melissa Gibbs
Council Members:	Andrew Durham (deceased) Frances Gnodkte Dr Andrew Lothian Dr Matthew Rofe Joc Schmiechen Rob Shepherd Dr Gerti Szili Nona Verco Dr Md Aboul Younus

Committees of Council as at July 2024

The President is an *ex officio* member of all committees.

Administration

Leigh Radford (Chair), Tony Merchant (Treasurer), Professor Guy Robinson (Vice President), Dr Julia Short (Vice President), Melissa Gibbs (Secretary) and Alan Pickering (Office Manager).

Education

Rob Shepherd (Chair), Jodie George, Professor Iain Hay, Alaric Maude (Minutes), Malcolm McInerney (Deputy Chair), Simon Miller, Dr Susan Robinson and Professor Susan Schech.

Engagement and Communications

Dr Julia Short (Chair), Agung Asmoro, Melissa Gibbs (Minutes), Antoinette Hennessy, Joc Schmiechen and David Underhill.

Library Management

Nona Verco (Chair), Ingrid Ahmer, Frances Gnodtke, Rosemary Hocking (Minutes), Joyce Garlick, Janet Grant, Roger Irvine (maps), Geoff Lemmey, Rod Shearing, Phyl Twigg, and Gail Ward.

Program

Frances Gnodtke (Chair), Jan Clarke, Pam Deverell, Alan Deverell, Dr Andrew Lothian (Minutes), Sophie Penberthy, Joc Schmiechen and Dr Sandy Scott.

Research, Publications and Awards

Prof Guy Robinson (Chair), Walter Armitage, Dr Gareth Butler, Melissa Gibbs, Professor Iain Hay, Chris Hogan, Huw Morgan, Dr Moleen Nand, Dr Bingjie Song, Dr Gerti Szili, Dr George Tan and Dr Romy Wasserman.

Membership Task Force

Andrew Lothian (Chair), Brett Bowden, Michael Burdett (Deputy Chair), Mark Darter (Minutes), Ian Frost and Sophie Penberthy.

Others with regular administrative input and support

Library volunteers (in addition to committee members): Kate Buckley, Allison Bullock, Carol Grantham, and John Sloan.

Rare Books Group Convenor: Dr Jill Kerby, Sally Hanley, Nona Verco.

Office: Alan Pickering, Edwin Mann, Melissa Gibbs.

GeoNews Editor: Margie Dawson assisted by Dr Jill Kerby and Valerie Balagengadaran.

SA Geographical Journal Editors: Dr Gerti Szili, Dr Gareth Butler and Dr George Tan.

Book and Paper Conservation: Frances Gnodtke, Paul Mabarak.

Map Digitisation and Cataloguing: Roger Irvine, Dr Richard Barnes, Andrew Davies and George Willanski.

Relics: Liz and George Willanski, Dymphna Cudmore and Peter Becker.

Meeting Hospitality: June Hanley (deceased), Sally Hanley.

Web Page Design and Maintenance: Melissa Gibbs, Iain Hay and Julia Short.

Flinder Ranges Walks App: Marcus Marshall.

Geography Teachers' Liaison: Wally Armitage.

100 Treasures project: Hugh Orr, Noel Richards, Rod Shearing, Melissa Gibbs, Robert Dettman.

Annual Report: This Report was compiled with the assistance of many members including Sue Barker, Margie Dawson, Melissa Gibbs, Frances Gnodtke, Iain Hay, Rosemary Hocking, Roger Irvine, Jill Kerby, Rob Marshall, Tony Merchant, Alan Pickering, Leigh Radford, Guy Robinson, Rod Shearing, Rob Shepherd, Julia Short, Gerti Szili, Sandra Thompson and Nona Verco.

President's Report

When I reflect on the year that's been, I'm astounded by how much has been achieved, and how much is happening at the Royal Geographical Society of SA.

Our strong tradition of dedicated volunteer support continues to grow and importantly is now being complimented by professional effort. It's an indicator of the Society's Strategic Plan in action, whereby we're putting money and effort into professionalising RGSSA and doing all we can to make Geography great! The Society simply could not function without massive volunteer effort. However, Director Emeritus Professor Iain Hay is providing the additional professional expertise and effort to lift us to a new level. So much has been achieved in the first half of this calendar year and that is accelerating beyond the end on this annual reporting period.

One of the annual highlights for me has been our annual awards program. In a way it's a microcosm of the broader growth of the Society. The awards have growing profile and gravitas, as was reflected in the words of our Patron, the Honourable Frances Adamson AC, Governor of SA, at the May ceremony. She was generous in comments to award winners and towards the Society. Her Excellency and Mr Bunton are genuinely interested in the RGSSA and took time to pay us a personal visit last November, to see some of our treasures and to learn more about the Society. Both were spontaneously complimentary about the direction, activity and dynamism of the RGSSA.

The Treasures Project is another highlight, which has seen a simple idea, become a significant project under Hugh Orr's direction. Along with photographer Robert Dettman, Melissa Gibbs, Rod Shearing and other contributors, many of our treasures have come to life in [a new digital format](#). This opens new doors by offering people insight into what the Society has in its unique collection. Progress has been swift and sustained, with the project to reach its aim of showcasing 100 Treasures in this calendar year.

The long-promised Library refurbishment project has moved along steadily. Because of the heritage status of the building, there are multiple approval processes which need to be carefully navigated before works can begin. This is a transformational project for the Society which will open up our library space, making it more welcoming and functional. Two significant bequests are already dedicated to the works, and further donations will be canvassed to cover the costs. This project will be completed in the year ahead, with works likely to start by the end of 2024.

As President, I'm also pleased that the Society continues to engage in contemporary matters, and the past year we've become actively involved with future plans for the SA Museum (SAM) and more broadly with the Geography curriculum at the state and national level. With SAM, our members have been most concerned with plans for the direction of this much-loved institution and we've participated in a consultation process instigated by the Premier. We're confident that our involvement will lend weight to a better outcome. With respect to curriculum matters, RGSSA is actively seeking to influence and improve the Geography curriculum for schools. Our Education Committee is concerned to address a range of issues, which fundamentally affect the teaching of the subject. It also speaks strongly towards our Society's stated purpose for being.

While it's been a wonderful year of progress, there has also been some loss. Two significant passings were those of June Handley OAM and Bob Clisby. June was a wonderful and generous volunteer over many years, and a linchpin of providing hospitality at our functions. Her friendly demeanour and engaging smile will be missed. Bob Clisby was also generous with his time, was a source of so many great ideas and was a key player at critical times for the Society. Both have been an inspiration in continuing their efforts, despite the encumbrances of age and ill health. The Society is indebted for the dedicated efforts of people like June and Bob.

There are many other matters I could mention which speak positively about the relevance of the Society, some 139 years on from our formation. So many things are happening which indicate the growth, activity and influence of the Royal Geographical Society of SA. The year ahead promises a great deal more.

Leigh Radford OAM

President, Royal Geographical Society of South Australia

Director's Report

A Resurgent RGSSA

It is my pleasure to present this annual report, outlining aspects of the recent and significant progress achieved by the RGSSA..

With the unwavering support of our Council, the Society is undergoing a transformative period of consolidation, growth, and innovation. Our extensive collective efforts are revitalising the RGSSA, positioning it as a dynamic and influential force within the geographical community. The forward movement across a range of fronts is unambiguous.

To ensure the long-term sustainability of the RGSSA, we have reviewed aspects of our membership arrangements. We have set out a clear and comprehensive list of member benefits and introduced an anniversary-based membership model and discounted memberships for geography teachers, which add to our earlier creation of a new category for out-of-state and international members to broaden our membership base.

Importantly, the RGSSA is committed to reconciliation and building a more inclusive organisation. To this end we have initiated work on a Reconciliation Action Plan and seek to embed appropriate reconciliation principles into our operations and programs.

In efforts to enhance volunteer engagement, the Society has implemented a new [Volunteer Coordination System](#) managed by Dr. Ingrid Ahmer. We are actively identifying volunteer needs across the Society and working to match volunteer interests with available opportunities. This system aims to improve communication and streamline and improve the volunteer experience.

We have been working to heighten the Society's public profile and promote engagement. Our active presence on social media platforms, particularly Facebook and LinkedIn, has expanded our reach and fostered a more vibrant online community. Partnerships with organisations such as the Field Geologists Club and Paul Curnow's 'Starman' have amplified our impact. To these we have brought our usual active program of lunchtime and evening lectures (e.g. 'Food waste and insecurity'), rare books meetings (e.g. 'Churchill's Voyages and Travels', and exhibitions (e.g. 'The Power of Maps'). And, of course, our Head of Travel, Joc Schmiechen, led a successful trip to south-east SA and western Victoria (29 April – 4 May) which will be reprised in March 2025.

Our commitment to maintaining and sharing our valuable Library and collections is evident across a range of activities. We have recently completed the Library shelf check. The wonderful '[RGSSA Treasures](#)' project, mentioned in the President's report and dedicated to highlighting some of our remarkable collection items, has culminated in a significant milestone, laying the groundwork for future initiatives.

In efforts to promote our Library as a significant research resource, we have prepared a brief new website discussion of our welcome to, and resources for, visiting scholars and our willingness to act as a partner in research grant applications (e.g. ARC Linkage). And as part of the Society's purpose to encourage research and knowledge creation, we have been able to offer our inaugural awards this year under the new RGSSA Library Research Fellowship scheme (to Professor Don Albert from Sam Houston State University, Texas) and the Dorothy Pyatt Postgraduate Research Grants scheme (to Zhongqi Feng, a PhD student at the University of Adelaide). These initiatives, coupled with ongoing

work to revitalise the *South Australian Geographical Journal*, provide platforms for scholars to share their work and advance geographical knowledge.

It is particularly pleasing to report that we have also taken the very significant step this year of establishing an international book series entitled '[Antipodean Perspectives on Geography](#)' with UK-based publisher Anthem Press, founded in 1993. The Series has been advertised extensively through relevant local, national and international social/professional media and has met with very positive responses.

Going from an international research initiative to a local one, preparations are underway for the inaugural RGSSA Postgraduate Research Symposium to be held at Pridham Hall, City West Campus, University of South Australia on Friday 4th October. This Symposium is intended to provide a platform for South Australia's emerging scholars to share their research, engage in critical dialogue, and develop networks with peers and established academics from across South Australia. We hope too that it will help raise the profile of the Society amongst South Australia's emerging professional geographers.

Over the year, we have extended and deepened external or cross-disciplinary engagements locally, nationally, and internationally. In particular, we have made great deal of progress in 2024 enhancing our relationship with SA historical organisations. We have, for example, secured admission to the [South Australian History Network](#). And following an extensive self-review process RGSSA has been admitted to the History Trust of South Australia's [Museums and Collections \(MaC\) Network](#). This provides us with access to a significant development and funding program. We have also been included in the second edition (2024) of the *Wakefield Companion to South Australian History*.

Since 2022, when RGSSA became the first organisation in Australia to participate in the International Geographical Union (IGU) and Alliance of European Geographical Organisation's (EUGEO) global [GeoNight](#) initiative, the Society has been a regular contributor to this growing annual event. We participated again this year, on 5 and 12 April, with our contribution focused on the 'Treasures Project'.

The Society also worked with the Institute of Australian Geographers' (IAG) to help host their annual conference held at the University of Adelaide from 1-5 July. The Society's annual Brock Lecture, delivered this year by Professor Andrew Beer from UniSA, was incorporated into the program, and I was honoured to deliver the IAG's annual Wiley Plenary Lecture on the state of Australian geography and the vital role of societies such as ours to its future..

RGSSA has a seat at the table of the [Australian Academy of Science's National Committee for Geographical Sciences](#) and, as its current Chair, I have been working to ensure the activism of this key geographical body and to help encourage heightened levels of cooperation and collaboration between Australia's geographical organisations. It should not be surprising then that RGSSA has been working on exploring new opportunities for collaboration with the RGSQ.

The Society is playing a critical role in shaping geographical education in South Australia. Since its establishment in November 2022 our Education Committee has facilitated collaborative efforts to strengthen geography curricula at all levels. For instance, successful engagement with the SA Department for Education has provided an opportunity for RGSSA expertise to be integrated into the Year 7-10 Australian Geography curriculum. Moreover, our leadership in addressing inadequacies in

the Year 11-12 curriculum, in partnership with national geographical organisations, underscores our commitment to fostering geographical literacy.

Our media profile has been a little higher this year. The Society hosted an ABC TV crew for filming of an episode in the new series 'Eat the Invaders', hosted by Tony Armstrong. The series is scheduled for release on ABC in 2025. Additionally, on Saturday 6 July RGSSA I was delighted to be interviewed by President Leigh Radford on ABC Radio 891 about the discipline of geography and its current challenges.

So, to conclude, there really are many new things going on. It is timely to acknowledge the wonderful, sometimes anonymous and sometimes thankless, work done by so many dedicated volunteers to make our Society the magnificent, connected, and dynamic institution that it is. Thank you all.

Collectively, we have done a great deal to advance geographical science and promote public awareness and enjoyment of Geography whilst positioning ourselves for continued success. I extend my sincere gratitude to the Council, volunteers, and members for their invaluable contributions.

Together, we are building a stronger and more vibrant Royal Geographical Society of South Australia.

Professor Iain Hay

Director, Royal Geographical Society of South Australia

Activities in 2023-24 Program

Report from Program Committee Chair – Frances Gnodtke

The RGSSA Program Committee (PC) continues to meet monthly in Room 5, State Library of SA, North Terrace to plan wide ranging activities for the Society covering Lecture meetings, social activities, tours, assistance with the annual Awards Ceremony, the annual International GeoNight, and introducing other exciting activities that fall under the PC umbrella. The Committee numbers are currently small, but each person comes to meetings with great ideas and an enthusiasm for ensuring the success of the programs.

The Society's monthly Lecture meetings continue to be held in the easily accessible Hetzel Lecture Theatre, The Institute Building, State Library of South Australia (SLSA), which provides AV equipment, large screen, space for our hospitality catering and access to parking in a nearby Car park and assorted restaurants for post meeting dinners. Security is generously provided by the SLSA for the duration of our evening meetings.

In addition to the evening lecture meetings, the Geo@12 (lunchtime) sessions resumed as a result of their popularity and increasing attendance numbers. These sessions are held in the Hetzel Lecture Theatre and are scheduled according to the availability of the Speaker, and the venue. Details of these meetings are included in the RGSSA Calendar of events on the Society's website, the printed Programs and in GeoNews.

The Program Committee is considering ways to record our lectures to enable Members, and others, unable to attend the sessions for a variety of reasons, or those who reside out of the Adelaide area, to keep in contact with the RGSSA programs and activities. Members with an interest in photography and recording film etc, would be most welcome to assist in this activity.

On behalf of the Program Committee, I would like to thank the following people for their support during the past 12 months with finding suitable speakers, organising the various activities, assisting at functions, and advertising to the membership and a wider audience -

Dr Andrew Lothian (PC member and Flyer design), Mrs Pam Deverell (PC member and hospitality at functions), Mr Alan Deverell (PC member and hospitality), Mr Joc Schmiechen (PC member and tours), Dr Sandy Scott (PC member and hospitality), Sophie Penberthy (PC member and hospitality) Ms Melissa Gibbs (Website and Office), Mr Alan Pickering (Office), Ms Sally Hanley (Hospitality), Margie Dawson (GeoNews), President Leigh Radford OAM, Prof Iain Hay (RGSSA Director), Mr Patrick Bugeja (SLSA), The RGSSA Council and the RGSSA membership for attending the Society's activities and offering assistance when requested.

(Note: A huge vote of thanks is due to the Chair, Frances Gnodtke, for her excellent stewardship of the Society's large and diverse program of events!)

Lecture Meetings

One of the major tasks of the Program Committee is to find suitably qualified speakers experienced in specialties within the Geographical sciences who are able to disseminate current and relevant information to our members.

The monthly meetings continue to be popular with Society members, as well as non-members, with attendance numbers ranging from 60 – 90 per session, an increase from the previous year. Bookings are made through the RGSSA's website providing the Committee with attendance numbers for catering and seating in the Hetzel Lecture Theatre.

Non-Members pay \$10.00 and RGSSA members give a Gold Coin donation, which goes towards the pre-meeting refreshments.

The popular pre-meeting session from 5.00-5.30pm allows for members to socialise over a drink and snacks and to purchase some of the Society's Publications. Catering by Ms Sally Hanley, drink service by Mr Alan Deverell (+liquor licence) and Mr Alan Wallace. Book Sales by Mr Alan Pickering and Mr Tony Merchant.

Meetings are opened by the RGSSA President, Mr Leigh Radford, OAM, with Acknowledgement to Country and introduction of the Guest Speaker. The meetings finish by 7.00pm and the Guest Speaker is invited to join Members for Dinner at a nearby Restaurant.

Speakers and topics presented to members at the monthly meetings during the Reporting period were:

20th July 2023: **Ralph Abbot** – “Cacti Eradication in Flinders Ranges

17th August 2023: **Dr Sandy Scott** – “The Kimberley Coast”.

21st September 2023: **Dr Tony Press** – “Australian-Antarctic Program

19th October 2023: **Kim Mahood** – “Wandering with Intent”

 +10 minutes presentation by **Dr Moleen Nand “Fijian Agriculture”.

16th November 2023: **Prof Guy Robinson** – “Urbanisation in the Adelaide Hills”.

 +10 minutes presentation by **Dr Carmel Chiu-Sutcliffe “Bulgarian Romany”.

15th February 2024: **Frances Williams** – “The Search for How the Earth Works: A Detective Story”.

21st March 2024: **Adam Courtenay** – “Mr Todd's Marvel”.

18th April 2024: **Dr Roderick O'Brien** – “Tenison Woods. Precursor to the SE Tour”.

16th May 2024: **Dr Penny van Oosterzee** – “The Wallace Line”.

20th June 2024: **John Rymill** – “John Rymill – Polar Explorer”.

** Please note the inclusion of two (2) 2023 RGSSA recipients of the John Lewis Prize for Excellence in Doctoral Research in Geography who presented a ten-minute review of their research studies at

the October and November meetings. This is a new initiative from the Program Committee and followed up by Dr Andrew Lothian. This initiative is designed to give Award Recipients the chance to present and highlights their research to the RGSSA membership at one of the monthly meetings. In return, these sessions aim to inform Members of the Society's about the Annual Award recipients and their research studies.

Geo@12 Sessions

This new initiative commenced in 2022 and three Lunchtime lecture meetings were trialled in July, August and September 2022 to gauge Members interest. These sessions were in addition to the Monthly Lecture meetings and proved quite popular for members and non-members. Consequently, the initiative has been expanded resulting in attendance numbers for the four sessions in 2023 of **135 people**.

Thursday 6 th July 2023:	Dr Andrew Lothian – “Paradox of Beautiful Landscapes”
Wednesday 23 rd August 2023:	Mr Hans Gnodtke – “100 Years since the Opening of Pharaoh Tutankhamun’s Tomb”
Wednesday 11 th October 2023:	Frances Williams – “How the Earth Works”.
Monday 13 th November 2023:	Dr Philip Jones – “The Life of Captain SA White”.
Thursday 4 th April 2024:	Dr Sandy Scott – “Iceland”
Monday 6 th May 2024	Mike De Ruyter – “The Phantom of Djulirri – Rock Art NT”

Excursions and Events

Excursions

Two excursions were held in 2023-24;

- 24th September 2023: “Excursion on the PS Marion” organised and led by Jan Clarke. Full House.
- 29th April – 4th May 2024: “6 days excursion to the South East of SA & Victoria” – organised and led by Joc Schmiechen with 20 Participants. This Tour had been rescheduled from November 2023.

Both excursions were well attended and enjoyed by all who participated. Thank you to Jan Clarke and Joc Schmiechen, the RGSSA Travel Director, for arranging the programs.

Events

GeoNight

The RGSSA submitted an entry into this year’s annual International GeoNight 2024 on the 12th April. The entry featured several items from the RGSSA’s 100 Treasures Collection pertaining to South Australia. Further details on the entry are available on the RGSSA Website. The RGSSA’s participation in the annual International GeoNight allows the Society to receive added exposure and recognition in the international Geography Community. The 2024 RGSSA contribution was one of two from Australia.

Annual Dinner

The Annual Dinner was held on Thursday evening 7th December 2023 in the Pavilion Restaurant, South Terrace, Adelaide. A full house with 84 members in attendance. Professor Guy Robinson was the MC. Mr Ron Kandelaars was the guest speaker. The annual Quiz was again presented by Mr Colin Harris. The highlight of the evening was the Award Ceremony for members and other who had made an outstanding contribution to the Society and/or geography (see Awards section for details).

Annual Award Ceremonies

The annual Awards Ceremony was held on Thursday, 30th May 2024 in the Mortlock Wing of the SLSA. Her Excellency, The Governor of SA, Frances Adamson, was in attendance with her husband, Mr Bunton, who assisted with the presentation of the Awards. The evening was a great success as commented by the many guests, as well as the Award recipients and their families. Details of the Award Recipients appear in the July Edition of the GeoNews and the awards section of this report.

The role of the Program Committee is to provide catering and equipment for the ceremony and to assist the Office Administration as requested.

Annual Conference of the Institute of Australian Geographers

The Institute of Australian Geographers (IAG) held its annual conference at the University of Adelaide in early July 2024. It attracted over 350 delegates from Australia and a range of other countries. The RGSSA was represented on the conference organising committee, and the Society's annual Brock Lecture formed part of the programme. It was delivered by Professor Andrew Beer, Dean of Business at the University of South Australia. RGSSA Director Professor Iain Hay delivered the conferences' annual Wiley Plenary Lecture and the Society also hosted a special 'Treasures of the RGSSA Library' event for conference delegates.

Flinders Ranges Walks Maintenance Program 2023-24

Four weeks in July and August 2023 were busy in Central and Northern Flinders Ranges based at Oraparinna and Balcanoona, giving attention to 9 walks.

Two weeks in May 2024 were allocated to the Southern Flinders based near Quorn, for 2 walks. In all these work sessions shearers' quarters accommodation was generously made available by NPWS – rewarding comforts for hard work. We have a team of 8 or 10 for field work and about half are RGS members.

As usual our focus is making sure the trails are comfortable for visitors to find the features of interest described in the leaflets and more fully in the App. We cover natural and cultural history items in interpretation of the landscape. Encountering visitors enjoying the walks is our reward.

Hard physical work includes

- clearing earth drains,
- making repairs to and replacing lost markers,
- ensuring creek crossings are navigable
- control of weeds following regrowth after rain
- includes injecting wheel cactus – weed from Mexico

- working with Friends of the Heysen Trail to take a route from a tedious, up and down poorly maintained vehicle track to a more interesting creek-side route

For this work there is always 24/7 administration providing reports, paper work for the trips, applying for grants and training sessions, checking on accommodation etc.

Awards for 2023

The Society was delighted that our Patrons were able to present several awards at both the secondary and tertiary levels for a range of outstanding students on 30 May 2024. We were particularly pleased with the number of entrants in the SA Geography Fieldwork Awards in 2023 and thank Wally Armitage (RGSSA) and Chris Bright (GTASA) for facilitating these applications.

Prize	Awardees
The John Lewis Medal for Excellence in Doctoral Research In Geography - University of South Australia	No award
The John Lewis Medal for Excellence in Doctoral Research In Geography - University of Adelaide	Bingjie Song
The John Lewis Medal for Excellence in Doctoral Research In Geography - Flinders University	No award
The John Lewis Prize for Excellence in Undergraduate Geography - Flinders University Level I	Amber O’Grady
The John Lewis Prize for Excellence in Undergraduate Geography - Flinders University Level II	Rob Dinnen
The John Lewis Prize for Excellence in Undergraduate Geography - Flinders University Level III	Freya Barr
The John Lewis Prize for Excellence in Undergraduate Geography - University of Adelaide Level I	Eva Meade
The John Lewis Prize for Excellence in Undergraduate Geography - University of Adelaide Level II	Ruby Nixon
The John Lewis Prize for Excellence in Undergraduate Geography - University of Adelaide Level III	Hannah Nguyen
The John Lewis Prize for Excellence in Undergraduate Geography - University of South Australia Level I	Sara Slayman
The John Lewis Prize for Excellence in Undergraduate Geography - University of South Australia Level II	Jessica Klatt
The John Lewis Prize for Excellence in Undergraduate Geography - University of South Australia Level III	Samantha Donnell
SA Geographers’ Fieldwork Award- Year 7	Olivia Fan
SA Geographers’ Fieldwork Award- Year 8	Jackson Hefford
SA Geographers’ Fieldwork Award- Year 9	Della Davis
SA Geographers’ Fieldwork Award- Year 10	Samarbir Singh, Daniel Teng, Neel Rawat (joint)
SA Geographers’ Fieldwork Award- Year 11	Alana Kneebone
SA Geographers’ Fieldwork Award- Year 12	Charlotte Ellis
The Alaric Maude Medal for Excellence in Secondary School Geography (IB)	Danial Cramond
The John Lewis Medal for Excellence in High School Geography (SACE)	Jet Dixon

In addition to the student awards several other RGSSA members were recognised during 2023 with presentations occurring at the Annual dinner:

Award	Awardee
Fellowship	No award
Centenary Silver Medal	Jan Forbes
	Frances Gnodtke
Premier’s Certificate of Recognition for Outstanding Volunteer Service	Melissa Gibbs
	Frances Gnodtke
	Rod Shearing OAM
	Walking Trail Support Group – accepted by Marcus Marshall

Honorary Life Membership was awarded to two outstanding recipients – Denis Binion AM and Michael Lennon.

Rare Books Group

Report from Rare Books Group Convenor – Dr Jill Kerby

Sessions are held in the Jervois Room, on the southern (North Terrace) end to the ground floor of ground floor of the Mortlock wing in the State Library of South Australia, on the fourth Thursday of the month from 10.30am to 12 noon, unless otherwise indicated.

Bookings are made through the Society’s website: <https://rgssa.org.au/activities/rare-books-group>

Date	Presenter/s	Topic
27th July 2023	Nona Verco	Federick Lucas Benham One of RGSSA’s greatest benefactors
24th August 2023	George and Liz Willanski	What we came across doing a shelf check in the RGSSA library
28th September 2023	Frances Williams	Pioneers of South Australia’s Geological Heritage, with a Field Trip to the Tate Museum, University of Adelaide
19th October 2023	Dick Wilson and Participants	Ibn Battuta (1304-1369) Arab Traveller, geographer, explorer and scholar
23rd November 2023	Volunteer guide(s)	Field Trip to Charles Sturt Museum, Grange, including tour and morning tea, \$15/head.
22nd February 2024	Phyl Twigg and Will Clarke	Allied Military Intelligence behind Japanese Lines in WW11
28th March 2024	Hugh Orr	The RGSSA’s Treasures Project. Progress Report with Highlights.
25th April 2024	No session (Anzac Day)	
23rd May 2024	Phil McCarthy	Awnsham and John Churchill’s Voyages and Travels in the New World, published in 1704 and 1732
27th June 2024	Sally Hanley	Sir Joseph Banks (1743-1820) and the Age of Entitlement

Attendance numbers regularly reached 20 or more, with a record 45 attending the June session on Sir Joseph Banks. Most presentations were by members, who spend many hours in preparation. The Group is extremely grateful for the assistance provided by Melissa Gibbs for publicity and registration on the website, Nona Verco, Volunteer Librarian/Chair of the Library Committee (for a host of Library activities), Sally Hanley (multiple tasks) and others, so that the program runs smoothly. We would like to acknowledge the contribution of Sara Stoddart and Richard Moriarty from the State Library in retrieving our books from the Rare Book room.

Exhibitions

The Society hosted a very successful exhibition in May 2024 organised by Ingrid Ahmer, Rod Shearing and Nona Verco. “[The Power of Maps](#)” was very popular and was made available to the general public on 4 Sunday afternoons in May. This initiative, coordinated by the Library volunteers with the assistance of the Program Committee, was very successful and significantly increased the number of members of the public who were able to view some of our fascinating map collection.

Library

The Society’s library is the largest and most valuable asset the Society owns. It is one of the largest private geographical libraries in the southern hemisphere, consisting of around 25,000 items. The library has been classified through the National Library of Australia as nationally significant. The library offers twelve hours of public use a week with an additional twelve hours per week of maintenance, for cataloguing, shelf checking, paper repairs and digitisation. Some of the Treasures are on the Society’s web site. Volunteer Hugh Orr has been working diligently to update this list with over 100 now listed.

The library occupies seven volunteers on Mondays, five or six on Tuesdays, two each on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. It is a big regular operation which is to be expected for the collection of books, manuscripts, photographs, maps, works of arts and relics. The Library Committee generally meets every alternate month and manages on behalf of the Council, borrowings, institutional loans, collection digitisation, donations and acquisitions.

Significant activities this year have included a shelf check and list, so we finally know what we hold (this is the first serious asset listing that has ever been prepared). We opened extra hours at the instigation of our Program Committee on weekends in May, when we had our exhibition ‘The Power Of Maps.’ This exhibition and subsequent brochure, created by volunteer Ingrid Ahmer, was a highlight with good attendance on the weekends, as well as on the weekdays we opened, and generated a flow of interest.

Our volunteers have introduced and managed several innovations during the past year. Nona Verco took over as Chair after the sudden unexpected death of our Chair Andrew Durham. Ingrid Ahmer put up labels to enable users to identify the locations of material on our shelves. George and Liz Willanski are putting in a system to name our relics and allow for the inclusion of relics in our catalogue. Ingrid Ahmer has enabled one of the world’s famous manuscripts on the Zinca, a Romany group in Spain, to be digitised and viewed through our catalogue. The forerunner, we hope, of many items more to come.

Roger Irvine has led a team to digitise our 1,200 maps, and they are finally at the end of this process. Kate Buckley, volunteer is transcribing our 200 plus manuscripts ready for digitisation and she, along with librarian volunteer John Sloan are digitising the inaugural minute book of the Institute of Australian Geographers. Volunteer Frances Gnodtke has undertaken repairs to minor paper tears in maps and manuscripts. Nona Verco managed to fit in a visit to the Stockman’s Hall of Fame to assess our relics on long term loan. You will hear more about this next year.

We are very thankful for the book and paper conservation services supplied by Anthony Zammit, an Internationally accredited conservator.

The monthly Rare Books Group run by Jill Kerby, Sally Hanley and Nona Verco has had to almost put up the ‘house full’ sign at several successful sessions this year. There have been 2362 visitors to the Library during the year with many more using our catalogue online. Sandra Thompson, who manages our library blog, provides the most interesting reports and we note that the USA is by far the highest user of the blog. We received several donations this year which the Committee agreed to add to the collections through our policies (see list below).

The Committee is looking for volunteers, particularly for three hours per week, on a regular basis to provide some front-of-house services to our library. If you feel you can offer this time, please contact our library.

2023-24 LIBRARY STATISTICS

Visitors from Australia came from every state and many different locations including Abbotsford, Ardlethan, Bargara, Bawley Point, Beechworth, Bendigo, Blue Mountains, Bowen, Bundaberg, Burleigh, Caroon, Central Coast, Cooma, Cowangie, Cranbourne North, Dubbo, Fairfield, Gold Coast, Goonellabah, Gordon, Hunter Valley, Innisfail, Jervis Bay, Jindera, Kempsey, Kenmore, Lake Tabourie, Launceston, Maffra, Manly, Maroubra, Moe, Monbulk, Monterey, Mossvale, Mt Hawthorn, Mudgee, Murrayville, Newcastle, Pimpama, Sale, Shell Harbour, Sunshine Coast, Tamworth, Toowoomba, Townsville, Turramurra, Wantirna, Warana, Warragul, Wollongong, Woy Woy; and school groups.

Visitors from overseas included Argentina, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Cyprus, Ecuador, France, Germany, Hong Kong, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Italy, Japan, Malaysia, Maldives, Nepal, Netherlands, Norway, NZ, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Russia, Serbia, Singapore, South Africa, South Korea, Spain, Sri Lanka, Switzerland, Taiwan, Thailand, UK, USA, Venezuela, Vietnam; and cruise ship passengers.

Her Excellency the Governor and Mr Bunten visited the library as Patrons of the Society. We also had several groups visit the library including the Australiana Society, a 4WD club, Gawler High School, Black Forest Primary School, Walkerville Primary School, Oceanview School, Thebarton College, English language students, delegates from the annual conference of the Institute of Australian Geographers, and an ABC film crew filming a documentary.

Queries included the Overland Telegraph Line, Proceedings, Treasures, WWII, relics, specific books and maps, Aborigines, Coulthard, Churchill, Stuart, Gould, Flinders, coffee, Wallace, Sturt, Simpson Desert, Palmerston, Elder Expedition, botanic gardens, Elizabeth Sweet, Lake Eyre, Taylor, Heathcote, terrain maps, maps exhibition, Hindmarsh, East India Company, Ayers, deBry, Philippines, R.M. Williams, Grey, Calvert, and “Bounty”.

Statistic	2023-24	2023 Jan-June	2022	2021	2020	2019
Days open	236	111	190	209	130	225
Members use	854	310	568	619	329	726
Casual visitors	2362	967	1122	782	400	1,255
Library queries	200	39	74	79	29	154

Several books were acquired in 2023-4 covering a range of topics;

AUTHOR	TITLE
Appleyard, Ron	S.T. Gill: the South Australian years, 1839-1852
Australia Council. Aboriginal Arts Board	Oenpelli bark painting
Beinke, Gavin	The last link: the east west telegraph line, 1875-1877
Berndt, Ronald M	The Australian Aboriginal heritage: an introduction through the arts
Bolton, Margaret	Mapmaker: the life and times of Abraham Ortelius
Bonney, Neville	Economic native trees and shrubs for South Australia
Casey, Ada	Looking back: a history of Iron Knob
Corfe, Elizabeth	Hubert Wilkins: forgotten hero
Dunkley, J. R.	Caves of the Nullarbor: a review of speleological investigations in the Nullarbor Plain, Southern Australia
Edwards, Robert	Australian Aboriginal Art: the art of the Alligator Rivers Region, Northern Territory
Ellis, Elizabeth	Rare & curious: the secret history of Governor Macquarie's collectors' chest
FitzSimons, Peter	The incredible life of Hubert Wilkins: Australia's greatest explorer
Frankel, David	Remains to be seen: archaeological insights into Australian prehistory
Harris, Colin	Elder Scientific Exploration Expedition, 1891-92: discovery of glass plate negatives - report for Council
Holmes, Sandra	Yirawala: artist and man
Howchin, Walter	The stone implements of the Adelaide tribe of Aborigines, now extinct
Kaus, David A.	A different time: the exhibition photographs of Herbert Basedow 1903-1928
Konemann, Ludwig	Historical atlas of the world: with over 1,200 maps
Kupka, Karel	Dawn of art: painting and sculpture of Australian Aborigines
Lienert, John A.	So great a destiny: the history of the Lutheran congregation at Rosenthal 1850-2000
Maynard, Jeff	The illustrated Sir Hubert Wilkins: polar explorer, pioneer aviator, ANZAC photographer
Maynard, Jeff	Wings of ice
McCarthy, Frederick D.	Australian aboriginal rock art
Nasht, Simon	No more beyond: the life of Hubert Wilkins
Novaresio, Paolo	The explorers: from the ancient world to the present
Orr, Hugh G.	The golden age of large folio published prints 1825 to 1850: birds of a feather or chalk and cheese?
Orr, Hugh G.	Capt WN Goalen RN: charting the coast of South Australia and New South Wales and the maps of the Royal Geographical Society of South Australia
Orr, Hugh G.	David Roberts R.A.: artist, traveller and diarist: with special reference to his sketches of the Holy Land and Egypt and Nubia
Orr, Hugh G,	A guide to the locations and references for the works of Rosa Catherine Fiveash in Adelaide South, Australia

AUTHOR	TITLE
Roberts, Ainslie	The dreamtime: Australian aboriginal myths in paintings
Roberts, David Andrew	Ancient ochres: the Aboriginal rock paintings of Mount Borradaile
Royal Geographical Society of South Australia	The power of maps: exhibition 2024
Scarre, Christopher	Past worlds: the Times atlas of archaeology
	Sir Hubert Wilkins: collection of articles and clippings
Swain, Tony	Interpreting Aboriginal religion: an historical account
Tent, Jan	The globe: Journal of the Australian and New Zealand Map Society Inc. Number 89, 2021
Thorsell, Jim	Australia's world heritage
Venus, Richard	A walk with visionary Charles Todd
Wohltmann, Michael	Looking back to see the future: a revisionist history of Woomera, 1947-1980

Note: We are grateful to Gavin Beinke, Hugh Orr, Alan Pickering, David Wald and the estate of the late Stephanie Schrapel for the donation of some of the additions to our collection.

Relics

Before she had to relinquish the role due to work commitments, Barbara Levings kindly trained Liz and George Willanski to transfer the relics paper records to a digital record which they completed in the first half of 2024. They then endeavoured to locate the relics both upstairs in the top gallery and in the RGSSA rooms and add this to our digital records. They also began a search for the location of those that could not be found.

In addition, they also planned how to unpack, store and digitally record the relics from the Calvert expedition which had been sitting in boxes in the top gallery. Discussions with Philip Jones from the SA museum, Rod Shearing and Nona Verco helped to develop the plan. Finally, there is a team of four volunteers Liz and George Willanski, Dymphna Cudmore and Peter Becker who first met on Monday morning 17th June to begin this fascinating project.

Map Collection

The map volunteers moved during the year toward completion of the goals of digitising the remaining maps, and of reorganising the shelving of the physical maps within the cabinets. This included digitising those of the large rolled maps that could be fed through the scanner, and identification of the remainder that will need to be digitised photographically. Continued progress was made, as necessary, with map repairs.

Attention began to shift toward the next major stage of activity. This includes the updating and remodelling of the previous Excel spreadsheet containing data for previously digitised material, and supplementing it to include cataloguing data for the more recent map scans. This will provide the basis for subsequent inclusion of the map collection within the RGSSA online catalogue.

The number of dedicated map volunteers, who continue to meet weekly, grew to about seven.

Publications

Publications are managed by the Research, Publications and Awards Committee which has several potential new publication projects in the pipeline, including special issues of maps and online resources, based on a Council-approved Publications Strategy.

Sales

Sales of books amounted to \$5,710 in 2023/2024, largely due to strong interest in the sale of the Explore series. In the 18 months from January 2022 to July 2023 book sales amounted to \$5,486.

GeoNews

Edited by Margie Dawson, *GeoNews* is published six times a year and provides members with information about events (past and future), as well as many other items of interest. For example, photos of our annual Award Ceremony winners are published as well as comprehensive accounts of lecture presentations. The majority of content is provided by Society members. *GeoNews* is much appreciated by members and frequently elicits compliments from our members. Members will have noticed attractive new design features in the past year which have modernised and enhanced the appearance of *GeoNews*.

South Australian Geographical Journal (SAGJ)

The new editorial team of Gerti Szili, Gareth Butler and George Tan are relaunching the Journal with a special issue on 'Geography Futures.' The first papers will be published online in early-2025, with more to appear during the course of the year."

Antipodean Perspectives on Geography

On 26 March 2024 the RGSSA and leading international publisher Anthem Press announced the launch of the "Antipodean Perspectives on Geography" book series, a platform dedicated to amplifying the voices and insights of geographers from Australia and New Zealand. This series will focus on publishing monographs and edited collections of 20,000-30,000 words, aligning with Anthem Press' prestigious "Impact" series. The Series Editor is RGSSA Director Professor Iain Hay and the Editorial Board of over 20 Australian and New Zealand early career and more senior scholars includes several members of RGSSA.

Research

Research Strategy

Several aspects of a new Research Strategy have been implemented to support research. The first element is a Library Research Fellowship, drawing upon funds from the Dorothy Pyatt bequest to enable scholars from around the world to pursue their research using primary sources from the RGSSA's collections. The inaugural recipient was Professor Donald Albert from Sam Houston State University in Texas who spent a month as a visitor to the Society's Library. Professor Albert worked on different and conflicting 'facts' presented in material available in the Library regarding the settling of Pitcairn Island and the infamous mutiny on *HMS Bounty* in 1789. He gave a presentation in the Society's Lecture series and also participated in the annual conference of the Institute of Australian Geographers (IAG) hosted by the University of Adelaide.

As part of the Strategy, the RGSSA has also established awards to support field-based research carried out by geography postgraduates studying at the three South Australian universities, funded from the Dorothy Pyatt bequest. The first of these awards was presented to Zhongqi Feng, a PhD student at the University of Adelaide. It will enable him to travel to China to conduct fieldwork on 'Rural land consolidation and migration in the processes of urban-rural integration and rural revitalization in China.'

Online

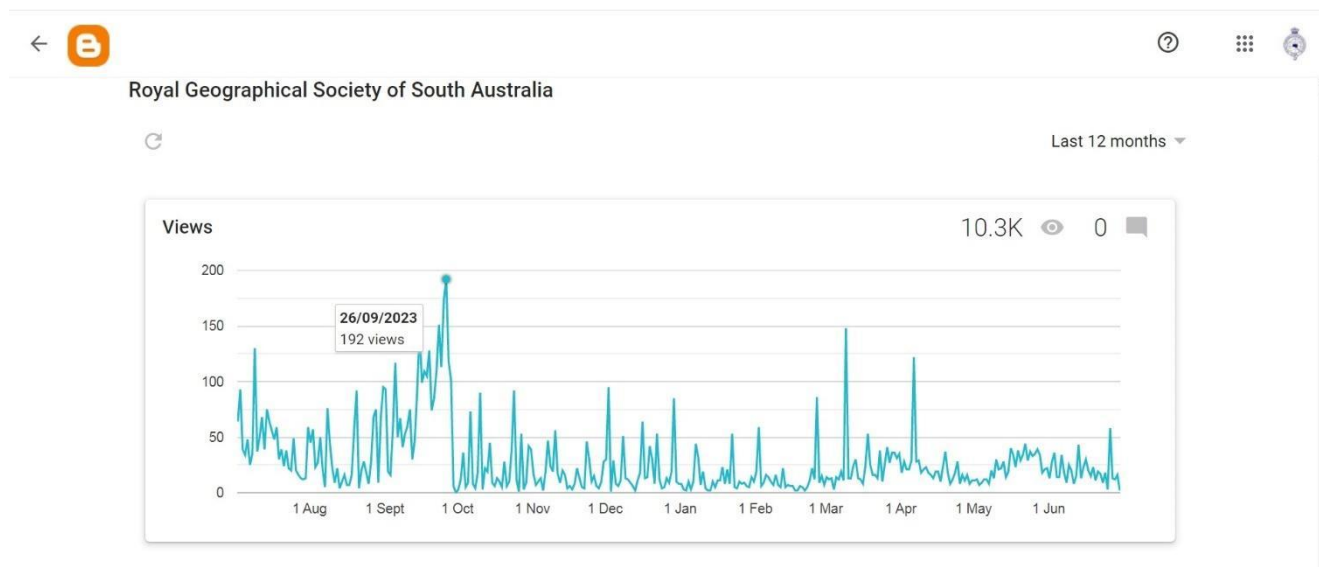
The Treasures Project

The [Treasures Project is an online display](#) of some of the Society's most interesting books, maps and artefacts. The display was launched early in 2023, with the intention of building into 100 items that will illustrate the remarkable collection held by the Society. It reached that goal in July 2024 with the project team planning to take time to consider 'where to next' in 2024-2025. The Society is indebted to Hugh Orr for the concept and preparing much of the information, to Robert Dettman, a professional photographer who donated his time and skill in supplying the accompanying images, to Rod Shearing and many others for assistance with the content, and to Melissa Gibbs for transforming the information and images onto the website.

Blog

Thanks to Sandra Thompson, the Society's [Official blog site](#), which had its first post on 19 September 2018, has continued to generate interest from around the world. The most visited content was the Cartagena post with 861 views, followed by the pirates collection with 479 views. Other sites of particular interest were the RGSSA's 2020 exhibition on Cook, 2018 and 2019 Rare Book entries, the Rio post and Robert H. Schomburgk. The total pageviews over the reporting year is given as 10,328 but this is misleading as almost half are 'fake'.

The following graph shows pageviews for 2023-24. Spikes on this graph coincide with cyber bot activity to the blog. The biggest spike of 192 pageviews on 26 Sep 2023 coincides with 2305 'fake' pageviews recorded by Singapore. The total of 'fake' pageviews for the year were 4186 from Singapore and Hong Kong and have quite an impact on the actual figures.



Title: Royal Geographical Society of South Australia:
<https://rgssa.blogspot.com/>

Facebook

Our Facebook page is a magnificent platform available to us to keep members and friends well informed of upcoming events and important information regarding our Society. We encourage members to spread the word about our Society and direct family and friends to our Facebook page and ask them to ‘Like’ or ‘Follow’ our page.

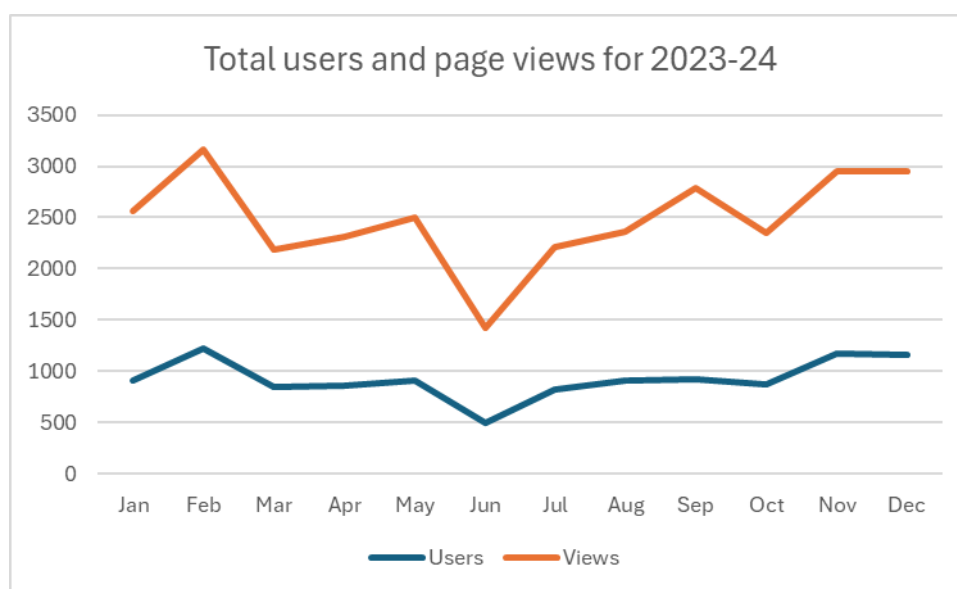
The Society was very fortunate to gain the assistance of a social media expert, Agung Amora, in May 2024. With his assistance, the Society was able to post an average of 3.3 times a week leading to an increased reach and engagement without Facebook presence. The RGSSA Facebook page thrives on historical content, local highlights, and community engagement, all presented in a visually appealing way. Since being revitalised, the RGSSA Facebook page received the highest engagement on Matthew Flinders’ “A Voyage to Terra Australis” (May 29): 21,769 reach, 666 engagements; Victor Harbor, South Australia (June 18): 12,134 reach, 336 engagements; and Dr. Donald Albert’s Whistle Stop Tour (July 15): 623 reach.

Please follow us and ‘Like’ our [Facebook Page](#)!

Website

The Society has continued to develop its [web site](#) which provides a great look and feel with the ability to join and renew membership as well as book a wide range of Society events in-house. It includes a great deal of information about the Society’s governance, activities, library, awards, treasures and much more. The website has continued to be well utilised with an average of just over 900 users and about 2,500 page views per month (totalling 11,077 users and 29,739 page views in 2023-24).

There has been a significant effort to ensure that information is kept up-to-date and relevant to the Society’s activities incorporating a ‘news’ section and automatically rotating the information about upcoming activities.



Not surprisingly, the home page receives the most page views - 17% in 2023-24 compared with 54% in 2022 and 43% in 2023. Although the Library Catalogue is still one of the more popular pages (3.5% of page views), it is no longer the second most frequently visited page. In 2023-24, the new Treasures page was still very popular accounting for 5.5% of page views, followed by lectures (3.5%), the library catalogue and membership (2.8%). The lower percentage of visit to the home page suggests that users of the website may have bookmarked pages they are interested in, or follow links advertising Society activities sent out on a monthly basis.

Users from more than 90 countries visited the website in 2023-24 with the vast majority (72%) coming from Australia. The USA accounted for 11% of users with Great Britain (2.4%), New Zealand (1.4%), India (1.1%) and Ireland (1%) being the next most common source countries. Other countries with more than 50 users included Sri Lanka, Korea, Denmark, Singapore, France, Sweden and China.

LinkedIn

LinkedIn is a web-based professional social networking platform. RGSSA is using it to broadcast information about the Society's activities and to alert followers to a range of related activities and events that may be of interest. Since its establishment in mid-2021 the RGSSA site has grown solidly to 400 followers.

Monuments

The Society has collaborated in the past with local Government and local Historical Societies in S.A., the N.T. and overseas, on a range of monuments commemorating geographical achievements of S.A. settlement. The Monument restoration fund is the current outcome of a long list of monuments and some grave restoration projects over the past 130 years for: Stuart, Thring, McGorrery, Nash, Kekwick, King, Flinders, Sturt, Wilkins, Goyder, Baudin, Charles Wells, Osmond Gilles, Thomas Gill and the Folland Family. We are the current grave lease holders for several graves and many more are named in the past Council minutes.

Education Committee

This standing committee of the Council was formed in November 2022 and began meeting on 20 February 2023. Key activities for 2023-24 have included;

- The continuing work with Department for Education (DfE) regarding the Geography Curriculum in the new Version 9 of The Australian Curriculum.
- Various members have met with a range of DfE personnel, and a consultation and advisory meetings have occurred. There has been a level of frustration from our members regarding the limited interaction and dialogue offered to our expert panel members so far. Malcolm McInerney has acted on our behalf in recent negotiations and Simon Miller has represented the Geography Teachers Association in the DfE consultation with that organisation.
- Currently we are awaiting a further opportunity for final advice to DfE
- In 2024 the Research and Publications Committee and the Education Committee are to convene a Seminar for Geography students at tertiary level at Pridham Hall Complex,

University of SA. The three Universities have agreed to participate. Guy Robinson is currently leading negotiations and Iain Hay has provided advice to the group .

Engagement and Communication Committee

From May 2024, the Engagement and Communications Committee started to meet more regularly while they also welcomed three new members: Agung Asmoro, David Underhill and Antoinette Hennessy. This has increased the momentum of the committee and has seen the development of a range of new ideas for engagement and communications content for the Society.

One of the most recent highlights is seeing an increase in the number and diversity of posts on the RGSSA's Facebook account which has broadened the Society's social media presence. Content now includes links to the Society's events, items of geographical interest and information on treasures and materials found in the Society's collection. A post on 29 May 2024 about one of the Society's held treasures: Matthew Flinders' "A Voyage to Terra Australis" reached 21,776 people. The Society continues to utilise LinkedIn and will explore the possibility of using Instagram in the future, to engage a different cohort of people.

The Committee aims to increase the diversity of engagement and communications for the Society in 2024-2025 through activities such as preparing video content of Society artefacts and activities and preparing to host a photo competition.

Strategic Planning

In November 2021 the Strategic Implementation Committee reported to Council that it had identified 6 areas which they considered as initial priorities;

- A longer term action plan (three years).
- Articulation of value propositions for different stakeholder groups – what value do the stakeholders receive/perceive and therefore what products and services should we be providing/strengthening.
- An upgrade of the website to include a paywall for membership. The revamp to be driven by the value propositions to increase membership, while continuing to provide a service our current members value.
- Potentially employing someone to briefly evaluate our assets and identify any duplicates in the Library collection.
- Identify the products that we sell now, or could sell in future, and how to make them more enticing e.g. an event or series of events on a topic related to how geography can support SA which could be advertised widely.
- Publications that could broaden the Society's offerings e.g. tie in with the themed events.

Significant progress on these priorities is highlighted in the President's and Director's Reports which catalogues the significant events for the Society. The Strategic Plan is available on the website at; <https://rgssa.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/Strategic-Plan-June-2021.pdf>)

Membership

Membership has remained fairly consistent over the period 2013 to 2023, although there has been an encouraging slight increase in membership over the last two years. There has been a continued decline in the number of institutional members, largely reported to be due to financial constraints within their institutions. Concessional membership is now available for both ordinary and family members and has been quite popular with both categories. Recently the Society has offered membership at the concessional rate to those who are current Geography Teachers Association of South Australia members. Significantly, Council agreed to change the basis of its membership from the calendar year to a rolling fee based on the month of joining.

Year	Honorary Life	Life	Family*	Ordinary	Students	Institutional	Corporate	Total
2013	13	20		238	5	9	1	286
2014	13	23		219	5	9	1	270
2015	12	26		246	1	14	2	301
2016	12	25		235	4	13	2	291
2017	11	23		248	5	15	1	303
2018	11	23		250	4	13	1	302
2019	12	20		254	3	10	1	300
2020	11	20	47	147	5	9	1	287
2021	11	19	52	164	8	7	1	314
2022	11	19	48	169	12	5	1	311
Mid 2023**	14	19	44	155	43	4	0	326
2024	16	20	47	153	48	4	0	342

* As family membership entitles two members to vote, it is counted as two members in the total.

** Student membership includes prize winners who receive membership as part of their award. Mid 2023 figures include prize winners for 2021 and 2022 years.

Membership Task Force

The Membership Task Force was established by Council to develop membership growth strategies, improve membership experiences, and devise an online volunteer system. Dr Andrew Lothian was appointed to chair the Task Force. The Task Force met by Zoom six times during the year. Actions taken during the year included:

- Geospatial Council/Frontier SI. Links were opened between these organisations and the RGSSA Library Committee.
- Attracting university students. Posters about the Society were placed in the University of Adelaide and Flinders University to attract those with an interest in geography.
- In cooperation with the Editor of GeoNews, improvements were made including a colour cover, a new cover design and different fonts.

- Institutional membership – letters were prepared to the CEOs of 373 organisations and institutions informing them about the Society and seeking their institutional membership. However, this has been deferred pending the appointment of a marketing person to assist in communication.
- Geography Teachers of SA. Concessional membership was proposed and actioned by the Director.
- Society Badge. Fifty RGSSA badges were designed and acquired and most have been sold to members.
- School resources on the website. Some progress has been made to provide these.
- Initial scoping of a social media strategy was prepared. Discussions were held with a person involved in social media. It was suggested this action be transferred to the Engagement and Communications Committee.
- The new surveying course at Flinders University provides the opportunity to inform students about the Society and the Surveyor-General was asked to inform students about the Society at orientation.
- A photo competition was proposed for members along the lines of the one held by the RGSQ. Action on the proposal was referred to the Engagement and Communications Committee.
- Retiree organisations. ARPA (Australian Retired Persons Assoc) is now Active SA. Others include the Council for the Ageing (COTA), The Senior (newspaper), University of the Third Age (U3A), and National Seniors Australia. Enquiries were made about advertising in the Senior newspaper.
- Promoting RGSSA through the RAA was discussed with them and they were open to publicise our exhibitions and they publicised our involvement in History Month.
- Gift membership for birthdays or Christmas was discussed. Only Zoos Adelaide and the RGS in London offer gift membership. It will require accounts to bill people during the year instead of at the end of the year. This has recently been approved by Council.
- Promoting the society to other clubs. The idea of promoting the Society to like-minded clubs such as 4WD and bushwalking clubs was developed with letters tailored to their area of interest. Some emails were sent but the promotion is on hold pending the appointment of a volunteer coordinator. Council was briefed on the proposal.

Financial Reports

The following pages include the audited financial records for the RGSSA at 30 June 2024

- Treasurers Financial Report
- RGSSA Income and Expenditure
- RGSSA Balance Sheet
- Trust Fund Summary
- RGSSA Library Trust Fund
- RW Bland Bequest Fund
- Warren Bonython Bequest Fund
- Memorials Maintenance Fund
- Dorothy Pyatt Bequest Fund
- Jim Faull Fund
- GW Symes Fund
- Wheaton Bequest Fund
- Stephanie Schrapel Bequest Fund
- RN Brown Bequest Fund
- DD Shearing Bequest Fund
- Audit Report for RGSSA
- Scholarship Fund Income and Expenditure
- Scholarship Fund Balance Sheet
- Audit Report for Scholarship Fund

Treasurers Financial Report

The accompanying Income and Expenditure, Balance Sheet and Trust Fund Statements need to be read together to obtain a complete view of the Society's finances. The Trust Fund entries are additional to the Income and Expenditure Statement.

In this period the Society posted a deficit of \$12,549. The combined trust funds show a surplus of \$24,344 resulting in an overall surplus of \$11,795 as shown below:-

	July 23 to June 24 (12 months)	Jan 22 - June 23 (18 months)
Surplus for Combined Trust Funds =	\$24,344	\$25,650
Less Deficit for General Funds =	(\$12,549)	(\$6,246)
Overall Surplus for period =	\$11,795	\$19,404

A day cruise on the PS 'Marion' was held on Sunday 24th September 2023. 30 members enjoyed a leisurely cruise from Swan Reach to Walker Flat. The Society obtained a net surplus of \$1,233.

A tour of the SE and western Victoria took place from 29th April to 4th May 2024 and proved to be a great success. All participants enjoyed the many experiences throughout the tour. A net surplus of \$6,571 was achieved.

A bequest totalling \$51,800 was received during the year from the estate of the late Stephanie Schrapel.

The total value of shareholdings decreased by \$5,293 from the previous year which has been reflected in the reduction of the 'Retained Earnings'.

The Lewis Scholarship Fund made a small surplus of \$19 for the period after the Society donated \$5,500 to help pay for expenses relating to the 'Awards Night'.

Tony Merchant FIPA
Treasurer

Income and Expenditure

Royal Geographical Society of SA Inc.

For the year ended 30 June 2024

Account	Jul 2023-Jun 2024	Jan 2022-Jun 2023
	(12 months)	(18 months)
Trading Income		
Dividends / Distributions / Interest	21,418	33,425
Membership Subscriptions	21,577	35,434
Program Activities	8,604	8,779
Publication Sales	5,710	5,486
Royalties	0	173
Tours / Excursions / Field Trips	48,789	46,173
Other Income	3,076	5,839
Total Trading Income	109,174	135,309
Gross Profit	109,174	135,309
Operating Expenses		
Administration Expenses	32,612	47,911
Awards Expenses	554	153
Depreciation Furniture & Fittings	7,667	3,662
Donation to Lewis Scholarship Fund	5,500	7,500
GeoNews Expenses	2,763	4,675
Insurance	3,566	3,386
IT Expenses	3,421	1,873
Library Expenses	5,977	7,462
Program Expenses	10,688	10,053
Publication Expenses	6,597	5,808
Tours / Excursions / Field Trips	39,838	45,542
Volunteer Expenses	1,953	3,121
Other Expenses	587	409
Total Operating Expenses	121,723	141,555
Net Profit	(12,549)	(6,246)

Balance Sheet – as at 30 June 2024

Account	30 June 2024	30 June 2023
Assets		
Bank		
Freedom Business Account	58,756	79,952
Term Deposit	31,360	0
Total Bank	90,116	79,952
Current Assets		
Petty Cash Float	100	100
Receivables: Accounts Receivable	1,465	3,491
Receivables: Franking Credits	13,799	11,583
Share Holdings: ANZ Capital Notes 5 (ANZPH)	61,230	51,450
Share Holdings: Argo Investments Limited (ARG)	118,377	120,021
Share Holdings: Aust Foundation Investment Co Limited (AFI)	49,535	48,981
Share Holdings: BHP Group Limited (BHP)	51,216	33,743
Share Holdings: Djerriwarrh Investments Limited (DJW)	56,050	44,335
Share Holdings: National Australia Bank Limited (NAB)	65,214	29,007
Share Holdings: WAM Leaders Limited (WLE)	136,767	157,309
Share Holdings: Washington H Soul Pattinson and Company Limited (SOL)	83,231	80,594
Share Holdings: Westpac Capital Notes 5 (WBCPH)	61,356	61,026
Total Current Assets	698,340	641,639
Fixed Assets		
Furniture & Fittings: Original Cost	133,272	133,006
Furniture & Fittings: Prov Accum Depreciation	(55,160)	(47,493)
Library, Yorkgate, Gill, Benham	10,862,655	10,862,655
Relics & Artefacts	117,223	117,223
Total Fixed Assets	11,057,990	11,065,391
Total Assets	11,846,446	11,786,982
Liabilities		
Current Liabilities		
Funds: DD Shearing Bequest Fund	19,840	18,869
Funds: Dorothy Pyatt Bequest Fund	174,692	167,606
Funds: GW Symes Bequest Fund	26,623	25,320
Funds: Junelee Wheaton Bequest Fund	53,669	52,607
Funds: Memorials Maintenance Fund	3,076	2,926
Funds: RGSSA Lewis Scholarship Fund	0	550
Funds: RGSSA Library Fund	113,007	107,090
Funds: RGSSA Library Fund Jim Faull	6,841	6,506
Funds: RN Brown Bequest Fund	1,096	1,043
Funds: RW Bland Bequest Fund	78,620	74,773
Funds: Stephanie Schrapel Bequest Fund	53,784	0
Funds: Warren Bonython Bequest Fund	33,440	31,803
Payables: Accounts Payable	1,228	2,425
Payables: GST	337	(963)
Payables: PAYG Withholding	2,873	1,092
Prepayments: Membership Fees	1,596	1,768
Total Current Liabilities	570,722	493,415
Total Liabilities	570,722	493,415
Net Assets	11,275,724	11,293,567
Equity		
Current Year Earnings	(12,549)	(6,246)
Retained Earnings	11,288,273	11,299,813
Total Equity	11,275,724	11,293,567

TRUST FUNDS SUMMARY		
Statement of Income and Expenses for the period ended 30th June 2024		
	Jul 23 - Jun 24	Jan 22 - Jun 23
	(12 months)	(18 months)
Opening Balances 01/07/2023	\$ 488,544	\$ 393,973
Total Amounts Received		
Total Bequests	\$ 51,800	\$ 68,921
Total Donations	\$ 7,037	\$ 7,826
Total Investment Income	\$ 27,132	\$ 26,797
Total Other Income	\$ -	\$ 1,902
Less Total Expenses	-\$ 9,825	-\$ 10,875
Closing Balances 30/06/2024	\$ 564,688	\$ 488,544
Total Surplus	\$ 24,344	\$ 25,650

RGSSA LIBRARY FUND		
Statement of Income and Expenses for the period ended 30th June 2024		
<i>ABN 93 978 549 002</i>		
	Jul 23 – Jun 24 (12 months)	Jan 22– Jun 23 (18 months)
Opening Balances 01/07/2023	\$ 107,090	\$ 102,395
Amounts Received		
Donations	\$ 6,837	\$ 7,826
Investment Income	\$ 5,580	\$ 5,802
Zincali Manuscript Digitization		\$ 766
Sale of Duplicate RGSSA Proceedings		\$ 1,136
Less Expenses		
Artlab Australia - Conservation Treatment of Glass Plate Negatives		-\$ 4,810
Drew Lenman Photography - Photographic Documentation of Maps		-\$ 3,950
Mary Rose Bindery - Conservation Treatment of the Jomard Atlas		-\$ 1,375
Mary Rose Bindery - Repair & Rebind 2 x Historical Publications		-\$ 700
Artlab Australia - Conservation Treatment 'Purchas the Pilgrime'	-\$ 5,200	
Mary Rose Bindery - Conservation Treatment 'Loss of the Captain Stout'	-\$ 200	
Mary Rose Bindery - Conservation Treatment 'Travels of Rabbi'	-\$ 200	
Mary Rose Bindery - Conservation Treatment 'Compresensive School Atlas'	-\$ 200	
Mary Rose Bindery - Conservation Treatment 'The New Relief Atlas'	-\$ 200	
Mary Rose Bindery - Conservation Treatment 'Visscher Atlas'	-\$ 500	
Closing Balances 30/06/2024	\$ 113,007	\$ 107,090
Surplus	\$ 5,917	\$ 4,695

RW BLAND BEQUEST FUND		
Statement of Income and Expenses for the period ended 30th June 2024		
<i>ABN 93 978 549 002</i>		
	Jul 23 – Jun 24 (12 months)	Jan 22– Jun 23 (18 months)
Opening Balances 01/07/2023	\$74,773	\$70,572
Amounts Received		
Investment Income	\$3,847	\$4,201
Less Expenses		
Nil	\$-	\$-
Closing Balances 30/06/2024	\$78,620	\$74,773
Surplus	\$3,847	\$4,201

WARREN BONYTHON BEQUEST FUND		
Statement of Income and Expenses for the period ended 30th June 2024		
<i>ABN 93 978 549 002</i>		
	Jul 23 – Jun 24 (12 months)	Jan 22– Jun 23 (18 months)
Opening Balances 01/07/2023	\$ 31,803	\$ 30,016
Amounts Received		
Investment Income	\$ 1,637	\$ 1,787
Less Expenses		
Nil	\$ -	\$ -
Closing Balances 30/06/2024	\$ 33,440	\$ 31,803
Surplus	\$ 1,787	\$ 1,644

MEMORIALS MAINTENANCE FUND		
Statement of Income and Expenses for the period ended 30th June 2024		
<i>ABN 93 978 549 002</i>		
	Jul 23 – Jun 24 (12 months)	Jan 22– Jun 23 (18 months)
Opening Balances 01/07/2023	\$ 2,926	\$ 2,762
Amounts Received		
Investment Income	\$ 150	\$ 164
Less Expenses		
Nil	\$ -	\$ -
Closing Balances 30/06/2024	\$ 3,076	\$ 2,926
Surplus	\$ 150	\$ 164

DOROTHY PYATT BEQUEST FUND		
Statement of Income and Expenses for the period ended 30th June 2024		
<i>ABN 93 978 549 002</i>		
	Jul 23 – Jun 24 (12 months)	Jan 22– Jun 23 (18 months)
Opening Balances 01/07/2023	\$ 167,606	\$ 158,190
Amounts Received		
Investment Income	\$ 8,586	\$ 9,416
Less Expenses		
Zhongqi Feng - Postgraduate Research Grant (1/2 Amount)	-\$ 1,500	\$ -
Closing Balances 30/06/2024	\$ 174,692	\$ 167,606
Surplus	\$ 7,086	\$ 9,416

JIM FAULL FUND		
Statement of Income and Expenses for the period ended 30th June 2024		
<i>ABN 93 978 549 002</i>		
	Jul 23 – Jun 24 (12 months)	Jan 22– Jun 23 (18 months)
Opening Balances 01/07/2023		
	\$ 6,506	\$ 6,140
Amounts Received		
Investment Income	\$ 334	\$ 366
Less Expenses		
Nil	\$ -	\$ -
Closing Balances 30/06/2024	\$ 6,840	\$ 6,506
Surplus	\$ 334	\$ 366

GW SYMES BEQUEST FUND		
Statement of Income and Expenses for the period ended 30th June 2024		
<i>ABN 93 978 549 002</i>		
	Jul 23 – Jun 24 (12 months)	Jan 22– Jun 23 (18 months)
Opening Balances 01/07/2023	\$ 25,320	\$ 23,897
Amounts Received		
Investment Income	\$ 1,303	\$ 1,423
Less Expenses		
Nil	\$ -	\$ -
Closing Balances 30/06/2024	\$ 26,623	\$ 25,320
Surplus	\$ 1,303	\$ 1,423

WHEATON BEQUEST FUND		
Statement of Income and Expenses for the period ended 30th June 2024		
ABN 93 978 549 002		
	Jul 23 – Jun 24	Jan 22– Jun 23
	(12 months)	(18 months)
Opening Balances 01/07/2023	\$ 52,607	\$ -
Amounts Received		
Bequest	\$ -	\$ 50,000
Donations	\$ 200	\$ -
Investment Income	\$ 2,687	\$ 2,647
Less Expenses		
R Wilson - Proposed Shelving Changes		\$ (40)
Arts SA - Application Fee	\$ (899)	
Arts SA - Building Consent	\$ (664)	
Arts SA - Compliance Consent	\$ (262)	
Closing Balances 30/06/2024	\$ 53,669	\$ 52,607
Surplus	\$ 1,062	\$ 2,607

STEPHANIE SCHRAPEL BEQUEST FUND		
Statement of Income and Expenses for the period ended 30th June 2024		
ABN 93 978 549 002		
	Jul 23 - Jun 24	Jan 22 - Jun 23
	(12 months)	(18 months)
Opening Balances 01/07/2023	\$ -	\$ -
Amounts Received		
Bequest deposited 24th November 2023	\$ 51,800	\$ -
Investment Income	\$ 1,984	\$ -
Less Expenses		
Nil	\$ -	\$ -
Closing Balances 30/06/2024	\$ 53,784	\$ -
Surplus	\$ 1,984	\$ -

RN BROWN BEQUEST FUND		
Statement of Income and Expenses for the period ended 30th June 2024		
<i>ABN 93 978 549 002</i>		
	Jul 23 - Jun 24 (12 months)	Jan 22 - Jun 23 (18 months)
Opening Balances 01/07/2023	\$1,043	\$-
Amounts Received		
Bequest	\$-	\$1,000
Investment Income	\$53	\$43
Less Expenses		
Nil	\$-	\$-
Closing Balances 30/06/2024	\$1,096	\$1,043
Surplus	\$53	\$43

DD SHEARING BEQUEST FUND		
Statement of Income and Expenses for the period ended 30th June 2024		
<i>ABN 93 978 549 002</i>		
	Jul 23 - Jun 24 (12 months)	Jan 22 - Jun 23 (18 months)
Opening Balances 01/07/2023	\$ 18,869	\$ -
Amounts Received		
Bequest	\$ -	\$ 17,921
Investment Income	\$ 971	\$ 948
Less Expenses		
Nil	\$ -	\$ -
Closing Balances 30/06/2024	\$ 19,840	\$ 18,869
Surplus	\$ 971	\$ 948



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2 October 2024

**INDEPENDENT AUDIT REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024
TO THE MEMBERS OF
ROYAL GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA INC**



Report on the Financial Report

We have audited the accompanying financial report of Royal Geographical Society of South Australia Inc (the Entity), which comprises the Balance Sheet as at 30 June 2024 and Profit and Loss Statement for the year ended 30 June 2024.

Council's Responsibility for the Financial Report

The council is responsible for the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and the Corporations Act 2001 and for such internal control as the committee determine is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view and is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibility

My responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Those standards require that we comply with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report is free from material misstatement. An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial report. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgement, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the Entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial report.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our qualified audit opinion.

Qualified Opinion

We have audited the accompanying financial report, being the special purpose financial report of the Entity, which comprises the Balance Sheet as at 30 June 2024 and Profit and Loss Statement for the year ended 30 June 2024.

In our opinion, the Entity has complied, in all material respects with the compliance requirements as evaluated against the suitable criteria throughout the 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024.

Yours faithfully

CMA Chartered Accountants

Con J Markou
Registered Company Auditor 5382
2 October 2024

CMA Chartered Accountants Financial & Management Accounting | Business & Tax Planning | Coaching | Business Development & Auditing | Bookkeeping Services

CMA Wealth Solutions Self Managed Super Funds | Financial Planning | Risk Insurance | Wealth Creation | Asset Protection | Retirement Planning

CMA Finance Commercial Lending | Residential Lending | Loans | Leases | Hire Purchases | Refinancing

Ludlow Design Pty Ltd ACN 008 213 787 trading as CMA Chartered Accountants "Liability limited by a scheme approved under Professional Standards Legislation"

Scholarship Fund Income and Expenditure

	<u>Jul 23 - Jun 24</u> <u>(12 months)</u>	<u>Jan 22 - Jun 23</u> <u>(18 Months)</u>
Income		
Donations Received	7,140	7,831
Interest received	1,920	120
Other Income	0	0
Total Income	<u>9,060</u>	<u>7,951</u>
Expenses		
Administration Expenses		
Auditing	200	136
Bank Fees	120	180
GST over/under	-4	-0
Total Administration Expenses	<u>316</u>	<u>316</u>
Award Prizes & Expenses		
Medals and Certificates	1,548	1,432
Membership RGSSA as Prize	2,773	1,477
Monetary Awards	2,430	2,750
Catering & Set-up for Awards Night	1,974	3,121
Total Award Prizes & Expenses	<u>8,725</u>	<u>8,781</u>
Total Expenses	<u>9,041</u>	<u>9,097</u>
Net Profit	<u><u>19</u></u>	<u><u>-1,146</u></u>

Scholarship Fund Balance Sheet

	<u>30 Jun 24</u>	<u>30 Jun 23</u>
ASSETS		
Current Assets		
Cheque/Savings		
Term Deposit	49,000	48,000
Freedom Business Account	1,010	1,957
Total Cheque/Savings	<u>50,010</u>	<u>49,957</u>
Total Current Assets	<u>50,010</u>	<u>49,957</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>50,010</u>	<u>49,957</u>
LIABILITIES		
Current Liabilities		
GST Payable	-622	-456
Uncleared Cheques	200	0
Total Current Liabilities	<u>-422</u>	<u>-456</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES	<u>-422</u>	<u>-456</u>
NET ASSETS	<u>50,432</u>	<u>50,413</u>
EQUITY		
Current Year Earnings	19	-1,146
Retained Earnings	50,413	51,559
TOTAL EQUITY	<u>50,432</u>	<u>50,413</u>



2 October 2024

**INDEPENDENT AUDIT REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024
TO THE MEMBERS OF RGSSA SCHOLARSHIP FUND**

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enquiry@cmaca.com.au
www.cmaca.com.au
ABN 46 008 213 787



Report on the Financial Report

We have audited the accompanying financial report of RGSSA Scholarship Fund (the Entity), which comprises the Balance Sheet as at 30 June 2024 and Profit and Loss Statement for the year ended 30 June 2024.

Council's Responsibility for the Financial Report

The council is responsible for the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and the Corporations Act 2001 and for such internal control as the committee determine is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view and is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibility

My responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Those standards require that we comply with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report is free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial report. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgement, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the Entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial report.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our qualified audit opinion.

Qualified Opinion

We have audited the accompanying financial report, being the special purpose financial report of the Entity, which comprises the Balance Sheet as at 30 June 2024 and Profit and Loss Statement for the year ended 30 June 2024.

In our opinion, the Entity has complied, in all material respects with the compliance requirements as evaluated against the suitable criteria throughout the 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024.

Yours faithfully

CMA Chartered Accountants

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Con J Markou".

Con J Markou
Registered Company Auditor 5382
2 October 2024

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Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

Held in the Hetzel Lecture Theatre, State Library of South Australia,
THURSDAY 19 OCTOBER, 2023 at 5:00 P.M.

Apologies: Matthew Blampey, Andrew Durham, Jan and Patrick Forbes, Colin Harris, Andrew Lothian, Libby Miller, Rick Moore, Geoffrey Paterson, Matthew Rofe, Rod and Pat Shearing, Julia Short, Elaine Smyth, Gerti Szili, Graham Vickery, Brendan Whyte.

Present: Lesley Abell, Ingrid Ahmer, Valerie Balagengadaran, Sue Barker, Peter Becker, Dick Blandy, Ros Blandy, Greg Campbell, Jan Clark, Lyn Cook, Dymphna Cudmore, Andrew Davies, Alan Deverell, Pam Deverell, Raymond Duance, Kym Fullgrabe, Mary Gabb, Melissa Gibbs, Frances Gnodtke, Hans Gnodtke, Susie Greenwood, Sally Hanley, Roger Irvine, Margaret Keath, Jill Kerby, Robin Lamacraft, Robin Marshall, Gilbert Matern, Tony Merchant, Moleen Nand, Hugh Orr, Fi Pahor, Lee Philp, Alan Pickering, Leon Pitchon, Raelene Potticary, Leigh Radford, Tracey Radford, Guy Robinson, Susan Robinson, Mike Scherer, Joc Schmiechen, Sandy Scott, Robin Shepherd, Peter Smailes, Sally Tideman, Nona Verco, Alan Wallace, Wendy Wallace, Amanda Wells, Dick Wilson, Glen Woodward, Md Younus.

1. Welcome

The President, Mr Leigh Radford OAM, welcomed everyone and acknowledged that the meeting was being held on the traditional lands of the Kurna people.

2. Minutes of Previous AGM

The minutes of the previous AGM held on 21 July 2022 had been circulated as part of the Annual Report and were taken as read.

Motion: That the minutes of the 2022 AGM be accepted.

Proposed by Guy Robinson and seconded by Hugh Orr. Carried.

3. President's Report

Leigh Radford noted that an exhaustive summary of the Society's significant activities over the last 18 months was available in the Annual Report and provided the following highlights;

- Although only in the position for 6 months, the appointment Iain Hay as the inaugural Director made a profound difference to the Society's growth and professionalism, assisting in drawing the many volunteer lead threads together and moving the strategy forward. Council is taking a pause before making a subsequent appointment while it considers options for more sustainable funding of the position in future.
- Raising the Society's profile and opening its doors to all, is a mission of the current presidency, as is professionalising its operations. The Society has so much to offer, especially its people who make the Society the success that it is.
- The very busy role of President has been supported thanks to the Executive team including the Vice-Presidents who provide key support, the Treasurer who is extremely efficient and a blessing, the unified and supportive Council and Committees, the hard working Secretary and the often unseen work of Alan Pickering in the Office. Thanks must also go to all volunteers and members who make the Society the success it is.

Motion: That the 2022-23 President’s report be accepted.

Moved Rob Shepherd; Seconded: Hugh Orr. Carried

4. Treasurer’s Report and Financial Statements

Tony Merchant commended the comprehensive annual financial report, which was included in the Annual Report, to the members and asked if there were any questions. There were none.

Motion: That the 2022-23 Financial Statements be accepted.

Moved: Tony Merchant; Seconded: Guy Robinson. Carried.

5. Election of Office Holders

The President declared all Executive positions vacant and handed the chair to Alan Pickering to conduct the election. Those members who had been proposed and seconded according to the Rules were;

Position	Nominee	Proposer	Second
President	Leigh Radford OAM	Richard Wilson	Nona Verco
Vice President	Guy Robinson	Jan Clarke	Robin Lamacraft
Vice President	Julia Short	Melissa Gibbs	Leigh Radford
Treasurer	Tony Merchant	Melissa Gibbs	Frances Gnodtke
Councillor	Frances Gnodtke	Guy Robinson	Tony Merchant
Councillor	Andrew Lothian	Frances Gnodtke	Guy Robinson
Councillor	Joc Schmiechen	Suzette Cook	Philip Boulden

Alan asked if anyone present wished to object to the nominations. No one did. He then asked if the meeting would be agreeable to have a single vote for all the positions. As there was no objection Alan invited all financial members, with 6 months membership or longer, to vote by a show of hands. The vote was unanimously in favour. Alan then handed the meeting back to the newly re-elected President.

The President thanked all those who had nominated and urged other members to consider applying in future, noting that there were currently 2 vacancies on Council.

6. Recommendations for Honorary Life Membership (HLM)

Recommendations for 2 HLM had been proposed by the Research, Publications and Awards Committee and endorsed by Council as being worthy recipients for a general meeting of the Society to endorse. The brief information provided to the meeting about each nominee is included as an appendix.

Motion: That Denis Binnion be accepted as an Honorary Life Member of the Society.

Motion: That Michael Lennon be accepted as an Honorary Life Member of the Society.

Proposed by Leigh Radford and seconded by Lesley Abell. Carried.

7. Appointment of Auditor

The Treasurer reported that our previous Auditor had declined to audit the Society's accounts for 2022-23. Consequently, he had sought 3 quotes and Council had accepted his recommendation for the lowest price as CMA Chartered Accountants offer a discount for not-for-profit organisations such as ours.

Motion: That CMA Chartered Accountants be accepted as the Society's auditors.

Proposed by Tony Merchant and seconded by Dick Wilson. Carried.

8. Any Other Business

a. Zincali Manuscript – question from Brendan Whyte

"In August last year, the Society received a donation to digitise and make available online MS4a, being an 1840 manuscript of drafts for The Zincali, George Borrow's book on Spanish gypsies. The digitisation has been completed (and images supplied to the sponsor), but the work is still not accessible online.

- What progress has been made to date by the Society with regard to making this and future digitised material available online, either through the Society's website or that of another institution (e.g. the State Library or Trove)?
- Can the committee please advise when will the scans of MS4a be available for public viewing/download?"

Melissa Gibbs explained that the manuscript was too large to upload to the RGSSA website in its current format. Ingrid Ahmer offered to produce a version that could be uploaded as an interim measure. This version should be available online in the next two weeks and referred to via the Treasures and Library webpages. A longer-term solution for uploading this manuscript and other high quality scanned materials from the Society's collection will need to be sought.

b. Library Shelving Update

Andrew Davies queried the status of the Library shelving project. Dick Wilson explained that revised architectural drawings were submitted to the State Library of SA in August 2022. Despite repeated enquires from the Society, it has taken twelve months for the SLSA to properly consider the plans. Dick will be attending a meeting with the project officer, architect and SLSA contract manager tomorrow. All work on the Mortlock wing must be managed by the official external project manager. Hopefully progress will be made soon. Leigh Radford noted that the costs of the project will be considerably more than initially anticipated due to the requirement to use the external contractor and others who already have approval to work on heritage buildings.

There being no further business, the President declared the meeting closed and thanked all members for attending.

APPENDIX: Nominations for Honorary Life Membership

Mr Denis BINNION AM

Denis Binnion AM has been instrumental in introducing thousands of South Australians to the geographical issues that helped to develop our state and the adjacent states. As a geographer, he understands the associated issues both past and present of the regions of South Australia (hundreds), the development that has ensued since European occupation and the Aboriginal history at that time. For many years he was the Chief Executive of the Worker Educational Alliance (Adult Education) where he established WEA Travel, a licensed travel agency that has been conducting Australian and overseas study tours for 24 years. He personally led dozens of group tours to India, Sri Lanka, Egypt, Canada, Peru, Argentina, Chile and New Zealand bringing a background in cross cultural studies and history to his work and travel.

Mr Michael LENNON

As a professional planner Michael Lennon worked at the interface between urban and regional planning and human geography for over thirty years, in Australia, the UK and New Zealand. In honouring him, the RGSSA acknowledges the huge role he has played in developing planning in South Australia and beyond, directly contributing to shaping a new urban and regional geography. His varied and distinguished career working in government and the private and not-for-profit sectors, has been hugely influential in shaping urban planning in different contexts. In particular, he has focused in recent years on housing issues and the need to create more affordable housing options. He is committed to helping government restore equity and fairness to the housing sector, for all Australians, and is actively involved in research and teaching in Geography and Planning.

Benefits of Membership

- Belonging to, and sharing expertise and experiences with, a friendly network of likeminded people, passionate about geography and dedicated to the multiple scientific and community objectives of the Society.
- Superior access to the most significant collection of rare geographical books and manuscripts in Australia located in one of the world's most beautiful libraries.
- Discounted access to the Society's program of bespoke field trips and excursions.
- Discounted access to a diverse frequent program of fascinating guest lectures.
- Chances to learn, to develop new skills, and to apply familiar ones.
- Access to *GeoNews*, our bi-monthly newsletter that delivers news of key Society activities and events, delivered straight to your inbox/letterbox.
- Opportunities to purchase RGSSA publications and products offered at a substantial discount.
- Entrée to other South Australian, Australian, and international cultural and academic institutions.
- Sustaining the vitality and value of geography, a critical discipline for current times.
- Admission to one of the oldest learned societies for geography in the world.
- Members admitted to Fellowship are entitled to use the letters FRGSSA after their name.
- Full access to our flagship learned publication, *South Australian Geographical Journal* which, since its foundation in 1885 as the Society's *Proceedings*, is both Australia's most longstanding scholarly periodical devoted exclusively to geography and one of the oldest geographical journals in the world.
- Scope to offer or receive research, fieldwork, and publications support.
- Becoming part of thriving state, national, and international communities of geographers.
- Influencing the contemporary character of geography through educational advocacy and practice.
- Eligibility to vote in all RGSSA elections and to stand for election to the Society's Council.

Notes

Advancing your Society

There are several ways that you are able to advance your Society;

- **Adopt a book;** this will leave in perpetuity an identifying book plate on one of the Society's collections of rare and valuable books, showing that your contribution was responsible for the future preservation and conservation of that book.
- **Donate or provide a legacy to the Society's Trust Funds** to support;
 - a number of library activities including repair and conservation of rare books and manuscripts, purchase of new books and the like, or,
 - the Lewis RGSSA Scholarship Fund for scholarships, bursaries or prizes that promote the discipline of geography.
- **Volunteer your time** as a gift 'in kind' to assist with our geographical conservation or interpretation or with any of the Society's various other programs.
- **Bequeath an amount of money or property** to the Society through your will.

Please contact the Society if you would like to pursue any of these ideas. In many cases donations are tax deductible, and there is training and mentoring available for any 'in kind' volunteer contribution.