





ANNUAL REPORT 2024-25

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 Buntun

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

Office Holders 2024-25

President	Leigh Radford OAM
Director	Emeritus Distinguished Professor Iain Hay
Vice Presidents	Dr Julia Short Emeritus 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:	Michael Burdett Frances Gnodkte Dr Andrew Lothian Hugh Orr Joc Schmiechen Rob Shepherd Dr Gerti Szili Nona Verco

Committees of Council as at July 2025

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), Iain Hay (Director), Melissa Gibbs (Secretary) and Alan Pickering (Office Manager).

Education

Malcolm McInerny (Chair), April Bickley, John Butler, Neil Coffee, Jodie George, Alaric Maude (Minutes), Zhen Ma, Simon Miller, Owen Nicholson, Susan Robinson, Susan Schech, Domna Taverna, and Romy Wasserman.

Engagement and Communications

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

Investment

Tony Merchant (Chair), Professor Iain Hay, John Seaton, Leigh Radford, and Richard Wilson.

Library Management

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

Program

Frances Gnodtke (Chair), Michael Burdett, Alan Deverell, Dr Andrew Lothian (Minutes), Joc Schmiechen and Dr Sandy Scott.

Research, Publications and Awards

Prof Guy Robinson (Chair), Walter Armitage, Melissa Gibbs, Professor Iain Hay, Huw Morgan, Dr Moleen Nand, Dr Rebecca Pearson, Dr Udoy Saikai, Dr Gerti Szili, Dr George Tan, Dr Rosa Teimouri and Dr Romy Wasserman.

Membership Task Force (disbanded February 2025)

Dr Andrew Lothian (Chair); Prof Brett Bowden, Michael Burdett; Mark Darter; Ian Frost and Sophie Penberthy.

Others with regular administrative input and support

Librarians - Janet Grant, Carol Grantham, Rosemary Hocking, John Sloan, Phyl Twigg, Nona Verco and Gail Ward

Library volunteers - Ingrid Ahmer, Peter Becker, Kate Buckley, Alison Bullock, David Craig, Dymphna Cudmore, Joyce Garlick, Carol Grantham, Tina Hunter, Norman James, Marie Christine Lamy, Geoff Lemmey, Bev Nester, Felicity Small, Scarfe Vince, George Willanski and Liz Willanski

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 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: Sally Hanley and Alan Deverell

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

Social Media: Agung Asmoro, Sally Grundy, Iain Hay and Julia Short.

Flinders Ranges Walks App: Marcus Marshall.

Geography Teachers' Liaison: Wally Armitage.

100 Treasures project: Hugh Orr, Melissa Gibbs, Robert Dettman.

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

President's Report

This Annual Report is a milestone for many reasons, not the least of which, is that it falls into the 140th anniversary year of our Society.

It also reflects a year of burgeoning activity and growth for RGSSA.

There are many achievements which illustrate a year of success and may I offer a selection of the most notable.

The refurbishment of our Library space has been physically transformative for the Society. It has been the result of an architectural vision to better organise and use our space, which has been backed up by enormous volunteer effort to deliver it. The result has been stunning. It has opened up the library, making it more functional and welcoming to enter. It gives focus for our regular exhibitions, helps showcase a selection of our artifacts and makes a grand statement with our most valuable books gracing the large new bookcases. A final significant piece of furniture commissioned by Council will be the final embellishment, offering bespoke storage for our maps and more display area. I believe that our Library is now the 'jewel in the crown' of the Mortlock wing, recognised itself as one of the most beautiful libraries in the world.

As part of our broader strategic vision, Council commissioned local company Nation Creative to help enhance the brand of RGSSA and to develop new assets to enable the Society to make advances in its 3 key strategic areas - Champion, Strengthen, and Enlighten¹. Examples include the production of a Video and new brochure material to showcase our strengths and appeal. These new assets will be delivered in the next financial year and will provide yet a further boost for the Society.

In terms of professionalisation, our Director Professor Iain Hay has made enormous strides in overseeing our activities, providing focus and vision for RGSSA, and helping to build and expand our profile and outreach. A single, but very good example of this, has been Iain's determination to establish a dynamic new young professional cohort, in the form of what we now know as 'GeoNext' (see the report from GeoNext's Chairman). This group has made the strongest of starts and is growing as a vital new element of RGSSA. The effects of this will ripple through our broader Society as this group gains traction.

¹ Strategic Goals – Strategic Plan June 2021

- **Champion** – Making Geography Great Again – branding and our role as a society in geography; increase marketing through merchandise and promotion; increase partnerships with other societies, universities, industry and political sectors; influencing and promoting the role of geography.
- **Strengthen** – From Strength to Strength – sale of unrelated assets, sponsorship, products, improve management of volunteers and hire paid staff, increase membership.
- **Enlighten** – A Society for the Future – revamp publications; improve offerings to young and multicultural communities and on geography relevant to today; enhance custodianship for books, maps etc.

It is abundantly clear that Council's strategic vision to establish our first paid position in the form of a Director, is also going from strength to strength. May I thank Director Iain Hay for all his valued work and for the energy, enthusiasm and commitment he brings to enhancing RGSSA.

One of the greatest challenges which Council has needed to grapple with as part of our strategic ambition, has been how to fund initiatives and growth. Up until the appointment of a Director, our Society has been entirely run by the dedicated efforts of volunteers. That will continue to be the mainstay of our activities, but aspirations towards achieving our strategic goals demand a capacity to bring in paid positions, to add to the enormous volunteer effort. It remains a strategic aim for the Society to employ a Library Manager and potentially a Business Manager, sometime in the future. To do this, about five years ago, Council resolved to realise a very limited number of assets to raise capital. The intent has been to establish a strategic investment fund which builds further on the initial capital over time, but also allows the Society to fund paid positions. As our accounts for the last year clearly demonstrate, Council has been very successful in this ambition and has already reached a point of being able to sustainably fund the Director position into the long term. Our relatively new Investment Committee was established this year to advise Council on the ongoing investment of funds, with a view to the long-term health and growth of our finances, through prudent management. As work continues, we expect that in the next financial year, the dividends of a sustainable investment strategy will help fund further growth. It will also help us better care for and conserve the valuable physical assets which we have in our collection. This is a real challenge and a large responsibility for the Society into the long term. As President, I have been strongly motivated to find ways for our Society to flourish. I take responsibility for persuading Council down this path now for some years and I believe that the culmination of our ambitions in this last year, has set RGSSA up for the strongest of futures, for the next century and beyond.

We will continue to raise our profile, increase membership and activities, and play a positive and proactive role in the world of Geography, the nation and in our home state of South Australia.

May I thank all our volunteers for their wonderful efforts; all of our committees for their vital work; and our Council for their unwavering support and far-sighted decision making.

I commend this annual report to members, with the confidence that our Society has never been in a more robust position of strength in the last 140 years. We are in the best possible position for sustained future success.

Leigh Radford OAM

President, Royal Geographical Society of South Australia

Director's Report

This past year has been a period of significant activity and progress for the RGSSA, marked by exciting initiatives, strengthened partnerships, and a renewed commitment to promoting the vital role of geography in our community. As we celebrate our 140th birthday in 2025, we reflect on a year of dynamic growth. From launching a new book series to advocating for curriculum reform and expanding our digital presence, the Society has worked tirelessly to advance geographical science and promote awareness and enjoyment of Geography and ensure its relevance for the future.

Nurturing the Next Generation of Geographers Here and There

A core focus this year has been on nurturing emerging talent and advocating for the discipline at all levels.

To engage more productively with our own state's young geographers, we launched GeoNext, a network that offers connections and support through professional development, networking, and mentorship. The inaugural meeting saw a fantastic turnout of students and professionals, and the group's leadership committee has been active in planning future events.

Under the leadership of Professor Guy Robinson, our inaugural Postgraduate Research Symposium in October 2024 was a tremendous success, bringing together more than two dozen South Australian doctoral scholars in geography and cognate fields. We are currently preparing for the second symposium later this year, building on this positive momentum.

I was also delighted to participate in the formal launch of '[Geography Victoria](#)' in Melbourne. This is the first state-based geographical society to be established in Australia since 1927. Its formation addresses a key recommendation of the Australian Academy of Science's Decadal Plan for Geography. This is a genuinely once-in-a-century event for the discipline in Australia.

Member Services and Public Programs

Our public-facing activities continue to thrive.

The Society's 2024 Awards Ceremony at Government House was a resounding success, with a fantastic turnout for what is always a joyous occasion.

In mid-2024 I was interviewed by our President Leigh Radford on ABC Radio 891. The Saturday morning interview explored the definition of geography as 'the science of place' and some of the contemporary challenges confronted by the discipline of geography in Australia.

To make our lectures more accessible to all members, we employed AD Photography to provide high-quality video recordings of our Geo@12 and evening lectures. These videos are being uploaded to our YouTube channel, offering a valuable, globally accessible resource for those who cannot attend in person.

The Society now also offers membership on a rolling annual basis rather than by calendar year only. This makes it easier to run membership recruitment initiatives throughout the year (e.g. refer-a-friend; birthday gift memberships).

There are now more than 100 [Treasures](#) on the RGSSA website, prepared by a team comprising High Orr, Robert Dettman, Melissa Gibbs, and a cast of many others. This wonderful resource highlights the depth and breadth of our collections and is invaluable for promotional work.

We have been working to convene a crucial public forum to be held later this year on the complex issue of housing affordability in our state, titled "Can Higher Density Housing Reduce Adelaide's Housing Costs?" The event will bring together leading voices from government, academia, and the private sector to examine potential solutions to this pressing challenge.

Advancing Geographical Research and Publishing

We have made substantial strides in our research and publishing efforts. The Society's new "Antipodean Perspectives on Geography" book series, a collaboration with Anthem Press, was officially launched on June 25, 2024, and has been met with enthusiastic support from prospective contributors. This initiative provides a crucial platform for geographical scholarship in the region.

We have also been working to advance a compelling publication proposal from Dr. Dany Bréelle (Flinders) and Emeritus Professor Wolf Mayer (ANU) on French placenames along the Australian coastline. The remarkable manuscript documents 667 placenames bestowed by French explorers in the late 18th and early 19th centuries. To enhance this work, Professor Guy Robinson and I are collaborating with the authors on grant applications to fund an ArcGIS StoryMap, which will be a unique and significant contribution to our historical and geographical record.

To further promote the Society as a hub for research, our website now includes a new section located at <https://rgssa.org.au/awards-research/research-welcome> welcoming visiting scholars and outlining our willingness to act as a partner in grant applications, such as the Linkage grants offered by the Australian Research Council.

In late August 2024, I attended the International Geographical Congress (IGC) in Dublin, where I was honoured to accept the IGU Lauréat d'honneur, the International Geographical Union's highest award to geographers. My address at the IGC, "Beacons of hope for geography," explored how voluntary learned societies like the RGSSA are vital to the future of the discipline in Australia. This theme was also central to my Wiley Plenary Lecture at the 2024 Institute of Australian Geographers (IAG) conference, my Thomson Oration at the Royal Geographical Society of Queensland, and the Society's 51st Brock Memorial Lecture. A paper based on this lecture is now freely available online at <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/1745-5871.70011>

Advocacy and Leadership

As Australia's largest geographical organisation, RGSSA is taking a leading role in advocating for the future of geographical education and the discipline itself.

RGSSA member Alaric Maude AM and I were part of a workshop at the 2024 IAG conference held in Adelaide to develop a strategy for responding to the flawed Australian Year 11-12 Geography curriculum review by ACARA. The Society, alongside other major geographical organisations, is keen to ensure that curriculum matters are handled with proper consultation and that writers have a background in geography.

For the first time in years, the National Committee for Geographical Sciences (NCGS) met in person in Adelaide following the 2024 IAG conference. I serve as the RGSSA representative and Chair for this committee, which fosters geography in Australia and links us to the Australian Academy of Science and the International Geographical Union. I have been reappointed as NCGS Chair until the end of 2025.

I was also honoured to be appointed to the International Science Council's inaugural Committee for Membership, nominated by the Australian Academy of Science for a two-year term.

In other advocacy news, my letter of protest, written on behalf of the RGSSA, regarding the University of Wollongong's proposal to disestablish its Geography and Sustainability discipline helped lead the University to "continue teaching in this discipline," a much better result than was initially proposed.

Partnerships and Outreach

Strengthening our partnerships has been a key theme this year.

The RGSSA has been admitted as an eligible organisation to the History Trust of SA's MaC Network, allowing us to apply for funding for a range of projects. We are also exploring grant opportunities through the History Trust's larger 'History Fund.' I have also had discussions with the President of the Royal Society of South Australia, Dr Wayne Harvey, to explore closer links between our two organisations.

On a visit to Brisbane, I discussed opportunities for collaboration with the Royal Geographical Society of Queensland (RGSQ), including shared advertising of programs and tours. Councillors Nona Verco and Joc Schmiechen have subsequently taken up these and other matters of collaboration.

In September 2024 past-President Rod Shearing and I welcomed The Hon Heidi Girolamo MLC to the Society Rooms and Library. She was genuinely delighted and posted a helpful comment on her official Parliamentary Facebook site soon afterward. When we again have access to our Rooms, it is our intention to invite local dignitaries to our premises.

To further improve our public profile, and as noted in the President's report, we are continuing to work with notable SA-based advertising agency, NATION Creative on a new branding strategy.

I am also delighted that we now have a presence on Wikipedia which promises to raise our profile, lend the Society additional credibility, improve our search engine optimisation (potentially driving more traffic to our website and social media channels), and support fundraising initiatives.

Our Library Research Fellows program has proved a great success. In collaboration with the State Library of South Australia (SLSA), we hosted Dr Donald Albert (Sam Houston State University, Texas) in 2024 and in 2025 we were pleased to welcome three fellows: Professor Marc Serge Rivière (University of Limerick, Ireland); Dr Melina Ey (University of Newcastle, New South Wales); and Associate Professor James L. Wilson (Northern Illinois University, USA). This program is an excellent way to promote our Library as an internationally significant research resource.

We are also exploring the possibility of a partnership with Wiley Publications Digital Archives Initiative to preserve and digitise our historical records in ways that would make them accessible to researchers worldwide. This could be a game-changer for our collection.

The range and extent of activities covered in this report is a testament to the dedication of our members, volunteers, and partners. The coming year promises to be just as productive as we continue to build on recent successes.

Professor Iain Hay

Director, Royal Geographical Society of South Australia

Activities in 2024-25

Program

Report from Program Committee Chair – Frances Gnodtke

Report from Program Committee Chair – Frances Gnodtke

The RGSSA's Program Committee has continued to provide a Program of interesting, educational and informative of geographical interest to the Society's members and the wider community during the past reporting year, 2024 -25. The wide-ranging activities have included lecture meetings, tours, assistance with the Annual Awards Ceremony, the annual International GeoNight, the Annual Dinner, to name but a few.

The past year has not been without its challenges for the Program Committee. The working Committee numbers remain small, but each member brings enthusiasm and great ideas to meetings, helping to ensure the success of the programs we present to the Membership. The RGSSA Library was closed for nearly 3 months over the 2024 Christmas and New Year period due to the refurbishment of the Bookshelves and new room layout. Shortly after the reopening of the RGSSA Library, the Mortlock Wing was closed for carpet refurbishing, with no access to the rooms. This was still in effect at the time of this report.

The Program Committee continued to hold its monthly meetings in the State Library.

The RGSSA's lecture meetings, evenings and lunchtimes, have continued to be held in the easily accessible Hetzel Lecture Theatre, on the ground floor of the Institute Building, SLSA. This area provides AV equipment, large wall screen, space for our hospitality catering and access to parking in nearby car parks and a variety of restaurants for post-meeting dinners. Security is generously provided by the SLSA for the duration of the evening meetings. Details of these meetings are included in the RGSSA calendar of events on the Society's website, Facebook, social media, the printed program, and in GeoNews.

Videorecording the RGSSA's lectures and special events commenced during the current year. To date, the recordings have been quite successful and can be easily found on the RGSSA YouTube site. This allows members who are unable to attend the meetings the opportunity to view the recorded lecture in their own space and time.

On behalf of the Program Committee, I would like to thank the following RGSSA members for their support during the past 12 months with sourcing out suitable speakers, organising the various activities, planning and assisting at functions, and advertising to the membership and a wider audience.

Dr Andrew Lothian (PC member and Flyer designer), Mrs Pam Deverell (PC member and hospitality at meetings/functions), Mr Alan Deverell (PC member and hospitality), Mr Joc Schmiechen (PC member and tours), Dr Sandy Scott (PC member and hospitality), Ms Sally Hanley (hospitality), Mr Rod Shearing OAM (hospitality), Mr Michael Burdett (PC member), Mr Yan Liang Jared Leo (PC member and hospitality), Leigh Radford OAM (RGSSA President), Prof Iain Hay (RGSSA Director), Ms Melissa Gibbs (RGSSA Secretary & Website), Mr Alan Pickering (RGSSA Admin Office), Margie Dawson (Editor of GeoNews), Mr Tony Merchant (RGSSA Treasurer), Mr Yan Liang Jared Leo (PC member and Hospitality), Ms Julia Short (Communications), Mr Agung Yoga Asmoro (Social media), Mr Patrick Bugeja (SLSA), the RGSSA Council and the RGSSA membership for attending the Society's activities and offering assistance when requested.

Lecture Meetings

One of the major tasks of the Program Committee is to find suitably qualified speakers experienced in specialities with the geographical sciences who are able to disseminate current and relevant information to the Membership. Geography is the study of place, space and the environment, and of people and others in relation to those.

The monthly meetings are generally held at 5.30pm on the 3rd Thursday of each month from February to November with attendance numbers remaining steady from 45 to 92 members – depending on speaker and topic. Attendance bookings are made on the RGSSA website. The SLSA is twice yearly provided with the membership attendance numbers using the Hetzel LT, for their Statistics.

Non-members pay \$10.00 with members costs increased to \$5.00, helping to cover costs for hospitality and video recordings. The popular pre-meeting session from 5.00-5.30pm allows members to socialise over a drink and snack, with the opportunity to purchase RGSSA publications.

The meetings are opened by the RGSSA President, or deputy in his absence, with Acknowledgment to Country, RGSSA news and the 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.

The Speakers and Topics presented to members at the monthly meetings during the Reporting period 2024-25 were:

2024

2 nd July	Prof Andrew Beer – BROCK LECTURE – Solving Intractable Problems: Geography and the Grand Challenges of our Time.
18 th July	Prof Donald Albert – Evaluating Maude’s and Hooker’s HMS Bounty Tracks after leaving Tahiti on 22 nd September 1789. RGSSA Library Scholar for 2044.
15 th August	Dr Steve Lapidge – “Fight Food Waste CRC – update”
19 th September	Dr Paul Dare – “South Australia from Above”
23 rd October	Chris Rawlinson – “From Sextants to Satellites: Where on Earth am I?”
14 th November	Professor Andy Gleadow – Melbourne University – “Rock Art Australia”.

2025

20 th February	Prof Udoy Saikia – “Update on Timor-Leste 5 years on”
27 th March	Danielle Clode – “French Exploration in South Australia”
10 April	Graham Walker – “How High am I? The History of the Australian Height Datum”
8 th May	Sophie Thomson “Save the World with Gardening”
19 th June	Skye Krichauff – “Mapping Early Encounters of colonists with Aboriginal people”

Geo@12 Sessions

These lunchtime sessions have proved quite popular with attendance numbers steady around 25-35 per meeting and attracting many non RGSSA members. As previously mentioned in the 2023-24's Annual Report, the Geo@12 sessions are held when suitable speakers are available, and the Hetzel LT is available.

11 th September 2024	Rosemary Cadden – ‘Tracing the Route of John McDouall Stuart’
7 th November 2024	Prof Corey Bradshaw – “How the Ancestors of Indigenous Australians settled and thrived since their beginning”
12 th June 2025	Prof Emeritus Marc Serge Riviere – “A Woman’s Voice: Translating Rose de Freycinet’s Journal on her voyage around the World (1817-1820) – Visiting RGSSA Library Fellow
16 th June 2025	Dr Melina Ey – “Black Swan Futures? Looking backwards to shape new possibilities with Australia’s Black Swans” – Visiting RGSSA Library Fellow – Newcastle Uni, NSW.

Excursions and Events

Excursions

Further tours are in the planning stage. Discussions had been held between RGS Queensland and RGSSA to plan combined tours. Thank you to Joc Schmiechen, RGSSA Travel Director.

Events

GeoNight

The RGSSA submitted an entry into the annual International GeoNight 2025 in April, 2025. The entry featured a number of items specific to South Australia from the RGSSA’s 100 Treasures Collection. 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.

Annual Dinner 2024.

The RGSSA Annual Dinner was held on Thursday, 12th December 2024 in the Pavilion Restaurant, South Terrace, Adelaide. There were 79 guests in attendance. The RGSSA Director, Professor Iain Hay, was the MC. Ian Doyle was the guest speaker. The Annual Quiz was arranged by Ms Margie Dawson, Editor of GeoNews, helped by Joc Schmiechen. A table prize was awarded to the winning table. The door prize was again offered this year. The highlight of the evening was the Award Ceremony for members, and others, who had made an outstanding contribution to the Society and/or Geography (see Awards section for details). Feedback on the Dinner was provided for consideration when planning the 2025 Annual Dinner.

Annual RGSSA Awards Ceremony.

The Annual RGSSA Awards Ceremony was held on Tuesday, 27th May, 2025, in Government House. Her Excellency, The Governor of SA, Frances Adamson, was in attendance with her husband, Mr Rod Bunton, who assisted with the presentations 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, except when held in Government House.

Flinders Ranges Walks Maintenance Program 2023-24

As usual, 4 weeks in July and August 2024 were spent in the far north of the Flinders Ranges in Vulkathunha Gammon Ranges National Park, Arkaroola and Moolawatana Station. Apart from work on trails some time was spent introducing walkers (by leaflet or App) to ancient environments – 650 million years ago-reef-building in Kingsmill Creek Arkaroola and Cretaceous (133 million years ago) glaciation in Hamilton Creek Moolawatana.

Much time in our 2 weeks in the southern Flinders in May 2025 were spent at the Ranger’s request, repairing a track below the summit of Mount Brown. But the Dutchmans Stern did not miss out. We are now considering others means of presenting walk leaflets more cheaply.

While the Flinders Ranges Walks App provides plenty of information, wisdom from several sources says, ‘No one should walk in the bush without a paper map.’ So we will continue to address this need, with highlighted points of interest in the landscape shown on the map.

Awards for 2024

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 27 May 2025 at a function at Government House (See Events section). We were pleased with the number of entrants in the SA Geography Fieldwork Awards in 2024 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	Rebecca Pearson
The John Lewis Medal for Excellence in Doctoral Research In Geography - Flinders University	Roksana Tarannum
The John Lewis Prize for Excellence in Undergraduate Geography - Flinders University Level I	Dakota Said
The John Lewis Prize for Excellence in Undergraduate Geography - Flinders University Level II	Noah Amundson
The John Lewis Prize for Excellence in Undergraduate Geography - Flinders University Level III	Robert Dinnen
The John Lewis Prize for Excellence in Undergraduate Geography - University of Adelaide Level I (Joint)	Francie Heinsen Sage Tempest
The John Lewis Prize for Excellence in Undergraduate Geography - University of Adelaide Level II	Rebecca Pratt
The John Lewis Prize for Excellence in Undergraduate Geography - University of Adelaide Level III	Harrison Hylan
The John Lewis Prize for Excellence in Undergraduate Geography - University of South Australia Level I	Finn Mckechnie
The John Lewis Prize for Excellence in Undergraduate Geography - University of South Australia Level II	Daniella Dimaggio

Prize	Awardees
The John Lewis Prize for Excellence in Undergraduate Geography - University of South Australia Level III	Jessica Klatt
SA Geographers' Fieldwork Award- Year 7	Moksh Patel – Prince Alfred College
SA Geographers' Fieldwork Award- Year 8	No Award
SA Geographers' Fieldwork Award- Year 9	Annabelle Pillar – Emmaus Christian College
SA Geographers' Fieldwork Award- Year 10	Caleb Van Wezel – Emmaus Christian College
SA Geographers' Fieldwork Award- Year 11	Finley O'Brien - Pembroke College
SA Geographers' Fieldwork Award- Year 12	Mollie Kristensen - Glenunga International High School
The Alaric Maude Medal for Excellence in Secondary School Geography (IB)	Luca Sung Rok Shin
The John Lewis Medal for Excellence in High School Geography (SACE)	Alana Kneebone

In addition to the student awards several other RGSSA members were recognised during 2024 with presentations occurring at the Annual dinner:

Award	Awardee
Fellowship	No award
Centenary Silver Medal	Nona Verco
Premier's Certificate of Recognition for Outstanding Volunteer Service	Phyl Twigg Nona Verco

Life Membership was awarded to Colin Harris for over 50 years of continuing membership.

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
25th July 2024	Elizabeth Dunlop and Jill Kerby	The diverse life of Samuel White Sweet (1825-1886): sea captain, surveyor and photographer.
22nd August 2024	Nona Verco	The River Thames flows through the York Gate Library
26th September 2024	RBG participants	What’s in the RGSSA Collections about the Men and Women of the North Terrace Plaques?
24th October 2024	Jill Kerby and Kate Buckley	A walk with visionary Charles Darwin (with credit to Keith Conlon and Richard Venus)
28th November 2024	Kate Buckley	Discoveries from the Manuscript drawer
Feb/March/Apr 2025	No sessions due to further delays in RGSSA Library refurbishment – planned sessions were rescheduled for later in 2025/2026	
29th May 2025	Sally Hanley Held in the Circulating Library	1660s Diary of Samule Pepys, including the Coronation of Charles II, Black Plague and Great Fire of London.
26th June 2025 POSTPONED	Phil McCarthy	Treasures of the East Indies

Rare Books Group sessions were restricted in the first six month of 2025 by (a) refurbishment of the RGSSA Library and (b) recarpeting of the State Library’s Mortlock Wing, including the Jervois Room. Of the six sessions offered, attendance numbers regularly reached 20 or more, with a record 47 attending the November session on Kate Buckley’s discoveries from the manuscript drawer. Most presentations were by members, who spent 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 assistance of Patrick Bugeja from the State Library during the closures, and contribution of Sara Stoddart and Richard Moriarty in retrieving our books from the Rare Book room.

Exhibitions

The Society again hosted a very successful exhibition in May 2025 organised by the Relics Group *Triumph and Tragedy – Early Decisions that shaped the Development of Australia*. The exhibition 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 collection.

Library

This year has been a year of ups and downs in the library of the RGSSA. The highest peak has been the wonderful refurbishment thanks to the generosity of the Wheaton family and other members who have kindly donated to the project. It now looks magnificent, but this is only due to the effort put in by our members. Firstly, thanks to Dick Wilson and his team in the structural stage, then to all the volunteers who emptied the space and then replaced the books when the shelving was in place. It could not have been achieved without so many enthusiastic people, some of whom started at 7.30am! You know who you are, and we thank you all.

Unfortunately, although it appears to be complete, there is more shelving to be built and thus more work required before we can be satisfied that the sequence of books is correct. We are aware that this is our chance to rearrange the library for the future and we are doing our best. We had only just reopened our new library when the State Library announced the closure of the Mortlock Wing to replace the carpet. This has stretched out in time so that as well as closing the library we have had to cancel many of our Rare Books Group presentations.

In between the closures, the Relics team mounted a fantastic exhibition for the History Festival based around our early explorers. The public flocked to see it, and once again we opened on Sunday afternoons during May. So great thanks go to Liz and George Willanski, Dymphna Cudmore and Peter Becker. Three visiting scholars have come to do research in the library this year, they have been warmly welcomed and seemed to enjoy their time with us. Janet Grant has been a wonderful deputy and help to me over the year.

We have many volunteers who commit to manning the library on their allotted day, we thank you all. Others work on particular projects, such as Kate Buckley transcribing manuscripts, Carol Grantham and Alison Bullock organising photographs, and another group work on the maps. Frances Gnodtke has continued her excellent work on repairing tears in the maps. Many thanks also to Ingrid Ahmer for her amazingly detailed computer work adding information about the maps.

Last year's report mentioned my visit to the Stockman's Hall of Fame in Queensland, I can now say that all four items loaned to them in the 1980s have been returned to us. The Maritime Museum in Port Adelaide still has many of our items on show, and the National Maritime Museum in Sydney is currently displaying our log book from the ship South Australian which went down off Encounter Bay in 1837.

So, with items on loan plus visiting scholars, word of our magnificent library is spreading around the world.

Nona Verco
Chair
Library Management Committee

2024-25 LIBRARY STATISTICS

Visitors from Australia came from every state capital, and other specified places included Albury, Armidale, Artarmon, Broken Hill, Busselton, Cairns, Carnarvon, Clifton Springs, Coffs Harbour, Croydon (Vic), East Brunswick, Falcon, Fitzroy, Geelong, Glen Innes, Gold Coast, Gympie, Inglewood, Ipswich, Menai, Mentone, Newcastle, Newtown, Port Macquarie, Queanbeyan, Sarina, Stirling (WA), Sunshine Coast, Surfers Paradise, Tambourine, Warriewood, and Wodonga.

Visitors from overseas included Argentina, Austria, Barbados, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Denmark, Ecuador, England, France, Germany, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Iran, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Java, Malaysia, Mexico, Nepal, Netherlands, NZ, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Poland, Samoa, Scotland, Singapore, South Africa, South Korea, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan, Thailand, UK, Ukraine, USA, and Vietnam.

We had several groups visit the library including the Institute of Australian Geographers, a school group from China, Willunga High School, Ngutu College, North Adelaide Primary School, Glenunga High School, Balaklava High School, Modbury Primary School, and Adelaide Secondary School of English.

Queries included Babbage, Joseph Banks, Bowen journal, Burr & Grey, Calvert, Colonial Commissioners, Crafers, Crawford diary, de Bruy, George Dodwell, Thomas Elder, Haines, Lapland, Terrain handbooks, and York Gate Library.

Statistic	2024-2025*	2023-24	2023 Jan-June	2022	2021
Days open	161	236	111	190	209
Members use	735	854	310	568	619
Casual visitors	1,590	2362	967	1122	782
Library queries	78	200	39	74	79

*The Library was completely closed for refurbishment from December 2024 to April 2025, and closed to the public for flooring works in the Mortlock chamber during June 2025.

Relics

From June 2024 the Calvert expedition relics were unpacked and recorded digitally. The collected rocks were identified by Geologist Bill Fawcett and included in the records. The extant paper-based relics records were then digitised and additional items discovered during the pack up of the Library were recorded.

In October the relics group attended a State Library workshop on storing and handling relics and artwork.

We prepared the May 2025 History festival displays on the theme of Decisions which affected South Australia. We were very pleased with the response to our first relic display, the History Festival Display, Triumph, and Tragedy. The booklet about the display was very well received, many people taking it with them for future reference.

Thank you to the many volunteers from RGSSA who provided support and showed the visitors the display.

Patrick Bugeja from the State Library was very helpful in arranging signage within the library to encourage visitors to seek us out.

The children's corner was well received, and families appreciated the worksheets for children to use. Three primary school classes also visited. Our favourite feedback was from a girl aged about 8 "pretty good and I liked the hunt and the globe thingy"

We received the Jack Cross Fellowship Award from The Friends of South Australia's Archives and are now looking at buying the correct archival storage of the relics, particularly the Calvert relics. We are currently planning a display for the 140th anniversary of RGSSA.

Map Collection

There has been a lot of discussion on the RGSSA maps collection. There is a team of enthusiastic members who are planning and working their way through the existing data base.

There are 500 maps listed on our current catalogue. We have just over 900 scanned images of the maps, so the total is close to 1400+

It has been agreed that we will create a separate web site linked catalogue of all our map holdings. The catalogue will have in addition, we plan, a low-resolution image of the map and an icon of where abouts in the world the image relates. This is important for online enquiries and will help to cut down on staff time in the library. The maps range in date from the 3rd century and the 11th to the 20th centuries, and are very strong on Australian exploration by sea and on land in the 19th and 20th centuries, with some iconic images by the early cartographers of fictitious animals on what is the Australian mainland. The early maps tell a story, for their makers and users, who ranged from heads of state to campaign generals for the Romans, Dutch, Ottomans, Spanish, Portuguese, French and British as these communities discovered the Americas, The Far East, Africa and Australia. Our maps show how they established fluctuating territorial influence over around 1/3rd of the world's population.

Today GIS technology has made cartography a secondary art, but it is still interesting to examine, on a map, how all of this influence unfolded. The Society has, courtesy of NASA, one of the first detailed images of South Australia taken by an Australian astronaut from space 1996.

Later plans may enable enquirers to order a copy of any map they are interested in for their own use.

GeoNext

The end of the 2024/25 Financial Year caps off a fantastic start to the life of the RGGSA's newest committee, GeoNext. This committee brings together a remarkable group of young geographers based in South Australia, with a diverse range of backgrounds and experiences. GeoNext is working closely with the RGSSA's Council and with other committees on bringing together and engaging with South Australia's community of young geographers.

This committee was brought to life at an inaugural meeting on the February 18th 2025, at the University of Adelaide, attended by 20 of the Society's members, as well as young geographers from across industry, academia, and the publicsector. From this, nominations were opened to interested parties with the first committee elected and meeting monthly from March.

The committee started its work this year at the Society's stall for Volunteering SA & NT's International Volunteering Expo on the May 20th. From here, we were able to help spread the message for the Society and

bring on board an additional committee member. With the success of this event, GeoNext then held its first event, with a social event on the evening of the 4th of July where a number of our committee members and young geographers braved the cold to share a drink or two.

For the rest of 2025, GeoNext will be spreading the word about upcoming RGSSA events that will appeal to young geographers, including the Housing Symposium (DD of September) and = the Postgraduate Symposium (October 24th). We are also excited to continue our momentum and organise future events, including more social gatherings and around upcoming monthly lectures on Thursdays.

I'd like to give a special thanks to my fellow committee members, Jennifer Krauss, Charlotte McDonald, Jared Leo, Rosie Newman, Tim Pickering, and Maia Norhafiz, who have showed such enthusiasm for setting up this committee. A huge thank you to Iain Hay who has provided much valued guidance in the first few months of GeoNext's work.

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 have remained consistent and amounted to \$5,718 in 2024/2025, largely due to strong interest in the sale of the Explore series. In the previous 12 months book sales amounted to \$5,710.

GeoNews

Expertly edited by Margie Dawson, GeoNews continues to be appreciated by the membership for the crucial, interesting and informative role it plays within the Society. GeoNews continues to publish six editions per year. Due to the prohibitive cost of colour printing, all printed copies are in black and white. Over 2024/2025 postage costs have increased.

In July 2024 we successfully changed our printer company. Currently we do 210 copies per print run and whilst there has been an uptake in new members, numbers of members who are opting for electronic copies only, have increased. Spare copies are kept in the office with some made available for distribution at lecture events and also placed in the Mortlock Library. In case a print run of 200 would now be adequate, these numbers are being monitored prior to making any decision.

Gratitude to Pam and Alan Deverell for their support with the bulk mail outs and also to proofreaders Jill Kerby and Valerie Balagengadaran.

South Australian Geographical Journal (SAGJ)

The South Australian Geographical Journal (SAGJ) received eight submissions during the reporting period, comprising three papers for the 2025 issue and five for the Special Issue: *Geography Futures Past*. By the end of August 2025, three papers had been published, with a further five progressing through review and typesetting.

Readership of the Journal is strong, with the most viewed papers being *Evaluating Maude's and Hooker's HMAV Bounty* (149 views) followed by *Dancing in Fear: Insights into Disaster Management* (64 views). The download figures, though modest, indicate steady uptake, with the top two articles recording 7 and 6 downloads respectively. The Journal's readership continues to extend beyond Australia, with significant interest from the United States, Australia, and Canada.

The editorial team looks forward to finalising the Special Issue *Geography Futures Past* and continuing to grow the Journal's reach and reputation in the year ahead.

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

A successful Postgraduate Symposium for higher degree research students studying at the state's three universities was held in Pridham Hall on the City West Campus of the University of South Australia. There were a total of fourteen presentations from students and a series of workshops/discussion groups on 'Overcoming problems along the PhD journey,' 'Life after the PhD,' and 'Getting Published,' The aim is to hold similar symposia on an annual basis as a permanent fixture in the RGSSA calendar.

Having launched the **Library Research Fellowship** in 2024, this was extended in 2025 to three visiting scholars, each of whom were able to visit the Society's Library to pursue their research. All three gave talks in the Society's Lunchtime Lecture series:

- Dr. Melina Ey, University of Newcastle, New South Wales, 'Environmental histories of non-human survival and encounter on colonised lands (beginning with the Black Swan)'
- Professor Serge Riviere, University of Limerick, Ireland, "'The difference in value": Women travellers' perceptions of travelling at sea and ports of call, such as Port Jackson and Mauritius, in their nineteenth-century travel narratives'
- Associate Professor James L. Wilson, Northern Illinois University, United States, "An Australian 19th century botanical community of practice network'

The **Dorothy Pyatt bequest** funded two postgraduate research awards to support field-work, one for research in Australia and one for research overseas:

- Christopher Hogan (Flinders University), 'Investigating well-being and development outcomes of labour migration through the Pacific Australia labour mobility scheme.'
- Munkhzul Chimid-Ochir (Flinders University), 'The paradox of high human development with persistently high poverty and inequality in Mongolia.'

A successful bid was made to the History Trust of Western Australia to support research on 'French footprints on the Western Australian coastline: A digital exploration of placenames and their legacy.' The bid was led by Dr. Dany Bréelle (Flinders University) and Dr. Wolf Meyer (Australian National University) supported by Professors Iain Hay and Guy Robinson on behalf of the RGSSA. The aim is to develop an interactive publicly accessible digital platform that maps and documents the 228 place names assigned to locations along the Western Australian coastline during the French voyages of discovery led by Antoine Bruny d'Entrecasteaux (1791-1794) and Nicolas Baudin (1800-1804).

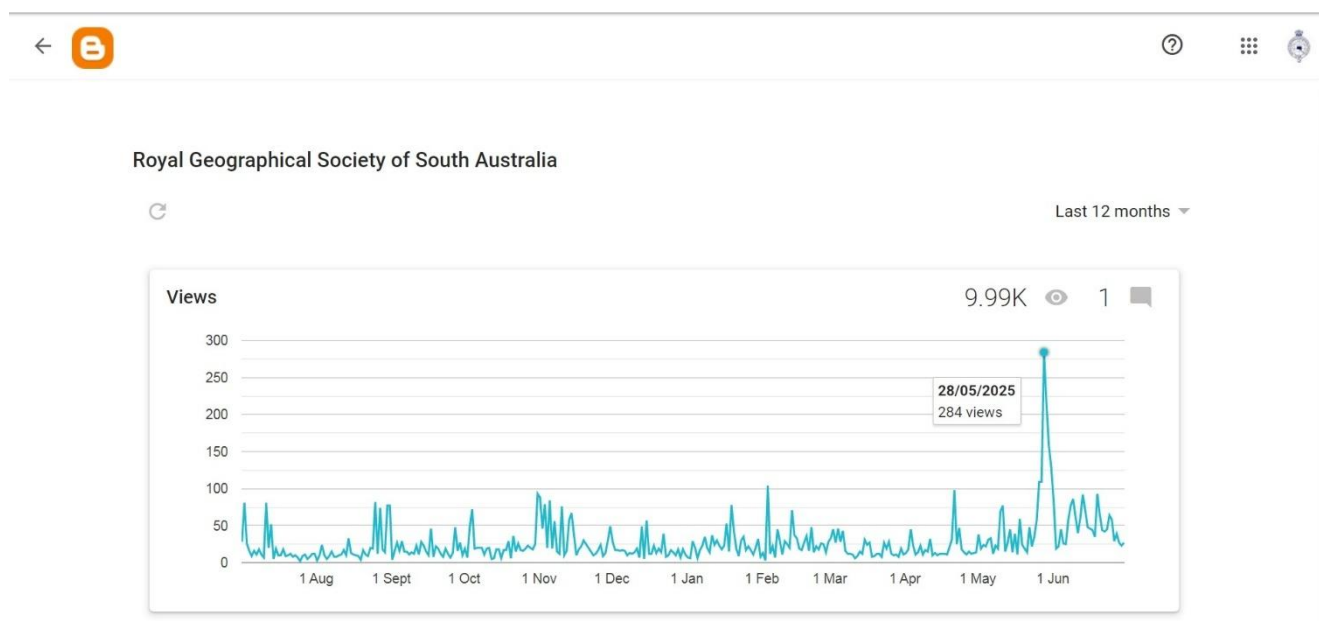
Online

The Treasures Project

The [Treasures Project is an online display](#) of some of the Society's most interesting books, maps and artefacts. The initiative 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. There are now more than 120 available on the website with the collection being promoted via GeoNight and social media. 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. As a result, we have accumulated a collection of over 800 first class images of some of the most impressive treasures in the Society's collection.

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 blog has recorded 8,376 pageviews for the year. This total excludes 1,162 pageviews identified as cyber activity. As in previous years the largest number of page views arose from the United State of America (3,770), followed by Australia (837), Russia (619), Germany (396), United Kingdom (251), Brazil (229), France (208), Canada (162), South Korea (149) and Finland (130). The most popular site was once again the Cartagena post (724) views, followed by pirates of the collection (692), Rio post (587), and various Rare Book Group sessions. The Overland Telegraph line attracted 209 views.



Title: Royal Geographical Society of South Australia:

<https://rgssa.blogspot.com/>

Facebook

Angung Amoro who started regularly posting on our Facebook page has continued to do so despite his busy studies. Posts on the RGSSA's Facebook page have included historical content, content from the Society's library, local and Australian content and awareness of Society's activities.

There have been trials in using video content on the Facebook page, with both a before and after video of the refurbishment of the Society's rooms. The posts with the largest number of views in the past year were:

- A post on 30 April 2025 advertising Sophie Thomson's lecture "How geographical futures can be navigated via our connection to nature" with 13, 670 views
- A post on 6 January 2025 with an update on the Society's Library refurbishment with 4159 views
- A post on 21 January 2025 advising of the closure of the Mortlock wing, with 2794 views
- A post on 17 June 2025 advertising Dr Skye Krichauff's lecture "Mapping early encounters of colonists with Aboriginal people" with 2368 views.

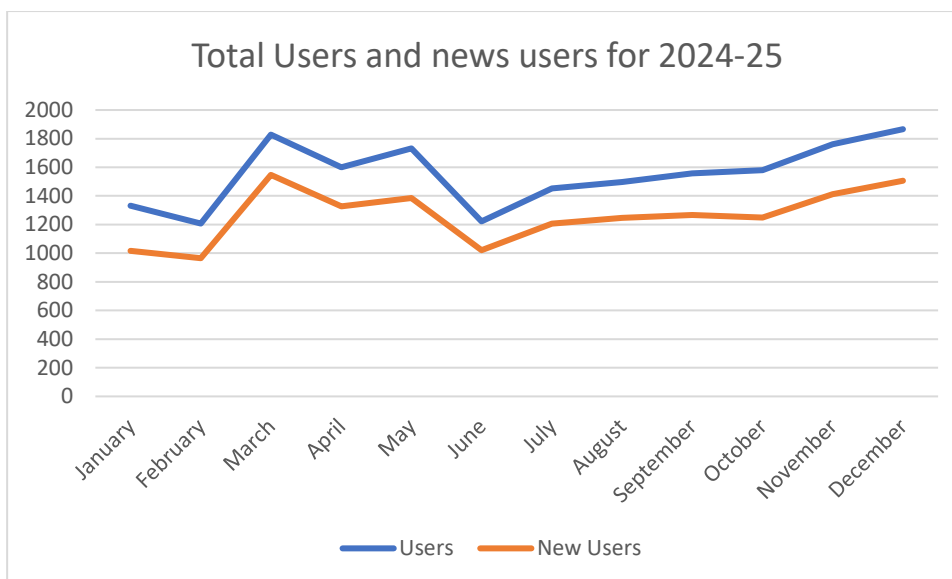
Overall, engagement of the RGSSA's Facebook Page has increased in comparison to the previous financial year. The page had a total of 2671 followers during the time period with an increase of 5% from previously. Approximately 23% of those who like the Society's page are Australian, or Adelaide, based. Please continue to promote our Facebook page and engage with any post that is made. This helps share and spread the word of our Society.

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 seen a major growth in its usage over the past year with an average of just over 1,550 users and about 3,500 page views per month (compared to 900 users and about 2,500 page views per month in 2023-24). This is a total of 18,635 users, including 15,150 new users, and 41,803 page views in 2024-25). Most users land on the RGSSA webpages via an organic search (64%), with a further 30% following direct links (most likely from email sent by the Society informing members about activities). About 3% arise from social media sources.

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. The continued effort being made to include more of the Society's treasures online has also increased the web site's popularity.



Not surprisingly, the home page receives the most page views - 14% in 2024-25 (5,671 views) compared with 17% in 2023-24. Although the Library Catalogue is still one of the more popular pages (2.2% of page views – 923 views), it was the sixth most frequently visited page. Other more popular pages included lectures (5.7%; 2,363 views), the Wallace Line (4.2%; 1,773 views), treasures (3.8%; 1,576 views) and membership (2.5%; 1,057 views). Encouragingly, many other pages were viewed an encouraging number of times including contacts, trips and tours, activities, rare books group, and various of the specific treasures and lectures.

Rank	Country	Active users	New users
1	Australia	9,754 (63%)	9,523 (63%)
2	United States	1,967 (12.7%)	1,925 (12.7%)
3	United Kingdom	611 (3.9%)	605 (4.0%)
4	Canada	269 (1.7%)	266 (1.8%)
5	India	249 (1.6%)	249 (1.6%)
6	New Zealand	230 (1.5%)	199 (1.3%)
7	Germany	173 (1.1%)	171 (1.1%)
8	China	147 (0.95%)	136 (0.9%)
9	France	129 (0.83%)	129 (0.85%)
10	Ireland	93 (0.6%)	92 (0.61%)

Users from more than 120 countries visited the website in 2024-25 with the vast majority (63%) coming from Australia (see table). The USA accounted for 12.7% of users with United Kingdom (3.9%), Canada (1.7%), India (1.6%), and New Zealand (1.5%), India (1.1%) and Ireland (1%) being the next most common source countries. The pattern of new users was very similar to that of total active users.

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, moving from 410 followers in late 2024 to 667 on 30 July 2025. Whereas the Society's Facebook site is dominated by Bangladesh-based followers, LinkedIn's RGSSA followers are predominantly located in Australia (Adelaide: 26.7%; Sydney: 5.7%; Melbourne: 4.7%; Brisbane: 2.9%). The Society's LinkedIn location is: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/royal-geographical-society-of-south-australia-inc/>

YouTube

At the beginning of 2025 we appointed AD Photography to video record our monthly evening lectures and our lunchtime lectures. Since then we have been posting high-quality video recordings to the Society's YouTube channel. This provides a valuable resource for RGSSA members who cannot attend lectures in person, due to factors like ill-health, transport difficulties, or remoteness. The recorded lectures can also be shared with other organisations such as RGSQ. Lectures are available for viewing at: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCR4niBHrvB4gM6A6KoUM-JQ>

Instagram

The Society has an Instagram account (the_rgssa), established in 2024. The account currently has 42 followers and is managed by Rosie Newman of GeoNext. The ECC shall work with GeoNext and others to provide regular content that can be posted. The aim of Instagram is to capture a broader audience.

Monuments

The Society has inspected that surveyor's interpretive plaques at Mern Mora Station in 2024, south of Leigh Creek. The signage is badly weathered to be almost illegible. The cairn is badly crumbling. If we can find some funding and willing help we may be able to remake the plaques with sturdier graphic artwork that withstands the relentless hot Australian sun. We have the original plaques wording on file.

Education Committee

The Education sub-committee has continued its work in 2025 to promote and support geographical education in our schools and universities. The committee now comprises 13 geography educators from a wide range of settings. The membership is diverse, involving early career school geography teachers, experienced school geography teachers, university lecturers in geographical education and retired geographers. Membership is across Government, Catholic Education and Independent school sectors and from Flinders, Deakin and Adelaide Universities.

The committee has set an ambitious program, and various projects are well underway. They include a teacher workshop at the RGSSA rooms with HaSS Association Australia on 10 October. The workshop is focussed on geographical storytelling and the use of artefacts to engage and inform students about geography. Other projects the committee is planning involve producing a map of the teaching of senior school geography in South Australia, curriculum work with the Department for Education, webinars for geographical education and the development of an article for journals on the importance of geographical education in the 21st Century. The committee is very committed to develop achievable, relevant and impactful projects to promote geographical education in our schools and universities.

Malcolm McInerney

Chair, RGSSA Education Committee

Engagement and Communication Committee

The Engagement and Communications Committee (ECC) continued to meet last financial year although not as regularly as previously. Meetings have focused upon social media content including the type of posts and events to advertise.

Recruiting members to the committee has been a difficult task and will become a focus of the new financial year. The committee sought help from the volunteer coordinator, Ingrid Ahmer in recruiting new members and shall continue to work through this, to provide additional momentum to the Engagement and Communications Committee.

However, the Committee progressed the photo competition with the Society's Inaugural Photo Competition commencing in July 2025.

Julia Short, Committee Chair

Strategic Planning

The motif of the Society's 2021-2025 Strategic Plan is 'Champion, Strengthen and Enlighten through Geography'. Progress on work around these themes is evident from the President's and Director's reports as well as from the reports associated with the various contributions of the Society's committees. Key work has been undertaken to:

- shore up the Society's limited resources (including finding appropriate grant, award and philanthropic funds);
- encourage members to take on active volunteering roles (e.g. work of our Volunteer Co-ordinator);

- reshape geography’s identity and repair misconceptions about the discipline’s nature and value (e.g. the 2025 Brock Lecture; public symposia on urban planning issues);
- balance our focus on the past with future-facing activities that of appeal to younger members (e.g. GeoNext); and
- engage more comprehensively with audiences beyond our local area (e.g. Library Research Fellowships and Dorothy Pyatt Postgraduate Awards; rebuilding our YouTube channel; heightened emphasis on social media).

In addition, we have been working with NATION Creative, an Adelaide-based marketing company to develop professional, contemporary marketing materials for the Society. These will include a manifesto, a short promotional video, social media content, and a new membership brochure.

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 shown a slight annual increase from 2013 to 2024-25, although there has been a decline in the number of institutional members (schools no longer being prepared to fund RGSSA membership largely 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. The relatively new category of Interstate/Overseas has also proved popular.

In 2024 the Society offered membership at the concessional rate to those who are current members of the Geography Teachers Association of South Australia. In the 2 years this has been available, no teachers have taken the opportunity to join using this category. Currently the Society has no corporate 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. This has increased the administrative load somewhat but has removed the disadvantage of joining the Society later in the calendar year.

Year	Honorary Life	Life	Family*	Ordinary	Students **	Institutional	Corporate	Inter-state	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
2025	17	19	49	162	56	0	0	14	366

* 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.

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. The task force was intended to operate for two years and finalised its work in February 2025.

The Task Force met mainly by Zoom. Actions taken by the Task Force were:

- 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 Adelaide and Flinders universities 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. A value proposition will be developed for the Society to demonstrate the benefits of membership.
- Geography Teachers of SA. Concessional membership was proposed and approved by the Society's Council.
- Society Badge. Fifty RGSSA badges were designed and bought, and most have been sold to members.
- Initial scoping of a social media strategy was prepared. Discussions were held with a person involved in social media. This was transferred to the Engagement and Communications Committee.
- The new surveying course at Flinders University provided 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 Queensland RGS. Action on the proposal was referred to RPAC.
- 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 and was approved by Council.

- Promoting the society to other clubs. The idea of promoting the Society to like-minded clubs such as 4WD, Friends of Parks, geology, environmental and bushwalking clubs was developed with letters tailored to their area of interest. Letters were emailed in October 2024 to 337 clubs and positive responses were received from some.
- A meeting of RGSSA members to discuss their experiences with cruises was held in February 2025 and over 20 attended on a Saturday afternoon.
- In conjunction with the Director, Iain Hay, a Member Referral Program was proposed and approved by Council.

Financial Reports

The following pages include the audited financial records for the RGSSA at 30 June 2025

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

Treasurer's 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.

The financial position of the Society has improved significantly this financial year due to the sale of two items from our library collection. This was necessary to help raise capital to fund the Society's Strategic Plan and ensure the Society's long-term sustainability and future growth.

This financial year the Society posted a surplus of \$3,219 in general funds and an overall surplus of \$1,238,938 as shown below:-

	July 2024 to June 2025	July 2023 to June2024
Surplus for Combined Trust Funds	\$1,235,719	\$24,344
Add Surplus for General Funds	\$3,219	(\$12,549)
Overall Surplus for period	\$1,238,938	\$11,795

RGSSA Investment Committee

The committee was established in 2024 to manage the significant increase in capital funds. The Investment Committee has prudently invested the proceeds of the asset sales into various investments to provide long-term income and growth (as shown in the Current Assets section of the Balance Sheet).

RGSSA Strategic Fund

The fund was established to receive the proceeds of asset sales and pay expenses relating to the Society's Strategic Plan, including the Director's salary and the Society's brand development. As the investments were only in place by February 2025 the income generated during the year did not cover the expenses. In future years income is budgeted to exceed expenses to ensure that capital funds are not depleted and in fact grow over time.

Dorothy Pyatt Bequest Fund

The fund made a deficit of \$1,738 for 2024/25 (The only fund in deficit).

This occurred due to payments totalling \$4,280 related to the 2023/24 period (Refer to the Trust Funds for detailed information).

Library Refurbishment Bequest

The Wheaton Foundation has kindly donated a further \$50,000 to the Library Refurbishment Fund.

Fixed Assets

The balances of the following fixed assets were increased due to the latest valuation changes that were not adjusted previously:-

Library, Yorkgate, Gill, Benham - Increased by \$1,452,690

Relics & Artefacts - Increased by \$10,245

The journal that was sold during the year was not included in previous valuations and therefore there was no adjustment required for this item in the Fixed Assets.

Lewis Scholarship Fund

The fund made a surplus of \$264 for the period. Since the accounts were separated in 2016 the Society has made a yearly donation to the Scholarship Fund to supplement its income. As the expenses were lower this year, a donation of \$2,500 was made to the fund compared to \$5,500 last year.

Tony Merchant FIPA

Treasurer

Income and Expenditure

Royal Geographical Society of SA Inc.		
For the year ended 30 June 2025		
Account	2025	2024
Trading Income		
Dividends / Distributions / Interest	\$12,636	\$21,418
Membership Subscriptions	\$20,809	\$21,577
Program Activities	\$9,333	\$8,604
Publication Sales	\$5,718	\$5,710
Tours / Excursions / Field Trips	\$0	\$48,789
Other Income	\$3,865	\$3,076
Total Trading Income	\$52,360	\$109,174
Gross Profit	\$52,360	\$109,174
Operating Expenses		
Administration Expenses	\$4,792	\$32,612
Awards Expenses	\$16	\$554
Depreciation Furniture & Fittings	\$6,046	\$7,667
Donation to Lewis Scholarship Fund	\$2,500	\$5,500
GeoNews Expenses	\$3,429	\$2,763
Insurance	\$3,761	\$3,566
IT Expenses	\$2,316	\$3,421
Library Expenses	\$7,228	\$5,977
Program Expenses	\$6,863	\$10,688
Publication Expenses	\$7,528	\$6,597
Tours / Excursions / Field Trips	\$0	\$39,838
Volunteer Expenses	\$3,776	\$1,953
Other Expenses	\$886	\$587
Total Operating Expenses	\$49,141	\$121,723
Net Profit	\$3,219	-\$12,549

Balance Sheet – as at 30 June 2025

Account	30 June 2025	30 June 2024
Bank		
Freedom Business Account	\$174,283	\$58,756
Term Deposit 1	\$32,665	\$31,360
Term Deposit 2	\$50,000	\$0
Total Bank	\$256,949	\$90,116
Current Assets		
Petty Cash Float	\$100	\$100
Property Investments: Ark Bedrock Mortgage Fund	\$200,000	\$0
Receivables: Accounts Receivable	\$354	\$1,465
Receivables: Franking Credits	\$26,640	\$13,799
Share Holdings: Ampol Limited (ALD)	\$95,238	\$0
Share Holdings: ANZ Capital Notes 5 (AN3PH)	\$0	\$61,230
Share Holdings: ANZ Group (ANZ)	\$104,976	\$0
Share Holdings: Argo Investments Limited (ARG)	\$128,100	\$118,377
Share Holdings: Aust Foundation Investment Co Limited (AFI)	\$80,850	\$49,535
Share Holdings: BHP Group Limited (BHP)	\$117,600	\$51,216
Share Holdings: Djerriwarrh Investments Limited (DJW)	\$112,110	\$56,050
Share Holdings: Fortescue (FMG)	\$90,152	\$0
Share Holdings: National Australia Bank Limited (NAB)	\$114,144	\$65,214
Share Holdings: Origin Energy (ORG)	\$116,532	\$0
Share Holdings: WAM Capital (WAM)	\$135,960	\$0
Share Holdings: WAM Global (WGB)	\$113,000	\$0
Share Holdings: WAM Leaders Limited (WLE)	\$130,350	\$136,767
Share Holdings: WAM Microcap (WMI)	\$48,720	\$0
Share Holdings: Washington H Soul Pattinson and Company Limited (SOL)	\$0	\$83,232
Share Holdings: Westpac Capital Notes 5 (WBCPH)	\$100,000	\$61,356
Share Holdings: Woodside Energy (WDS)	\$111,061	\$0
Total Current Assets	\$1,825,887	\$698,340
Fixed Assets		
Furniture & Fittings: Original Cost	\$142,269	\$133,272
Furniture & Fittings: Prov Accum Depreciation	-\$61,206	-\$55,160
Library, Yorkgate, Gill, Benham	\$12,315,345	\$10,862,655
Relics & Artefacts	\$127,468	\$117,223
Total Fixed Assets	\$12,523,876	\$11,057,990
	\$14,606,712	\$11,846,445

Balance Sheet cont'd		
Current Liabilities	30 June 2025	30 June 2024
Funds: DD Shearing Bequest Fund	\$21,012	\$19,840
Funds: Dorothy Pyatt Bequest Fund	\$172,954	\$174,692
Funds: GW Symes Bequest Fund	\$27,418	\$26,623
Funds: Junelee Wheaton Bequest Fund	\$85,741	\$53,669
Funds: Memorials Maintenance Fund	\$3,258	\$3,076
Funds: RGSSA Library Fund	\$114,524	\$113,007
Funds: RGSSA Library Fund Jim Faul	\$7,244	\$6,840
Funds: RGSSA Strategic Fund	\$1,191,448	\$0
Funds: RN Brown Bequest Fund	\$1,161	\$1,096
Funds: RW Bland Bequest Fund	\$83,267	\$78,620
Funds: Stephanie Schrapel Bequest Fund	\$56,963	\$53,784
Funds: Warren Bonython Bequest Fund	\$35,416	\$33,440
Payables: Accounts Payable	\$2,060	\$1,228
Payables: GST	\$104,247	\$337
Payables: PAYG Withholding	\$3,588	\$2,873
Prepayments: Membership Fees	\$1,295	\$1,595
Prepayments: Program Activities	\$11,000	\$0
Total Current Liabilities	\$1,922,598	\$570,722
	\$1,922,598	\$570,722
Net Assets	\$12,684,114	\$11,275,723
Current Year Earnings	\$3,219	-\$12,549
Retained Earnings	\$12,680,894	\$11,288,273
	\$12,684,114	\$11,275,723

TRUST FUNDS SUMMARY		
Statement of Income and Expenses for the year ended 30th June 2025		
	Jul24 - Jun25	Jul23 - Jun24
	(12 months)	(12 months)
Opening Balances 01/07/2024	\$ 564,688.30	\$ 488,543.94
Total Amounts Received		
Total Sales of Items in Library Collection	\$ 1,216,000.00	\$ - .00
Total Bequests	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 51,800.00
Total Donations	\$ 21,973.40	\$ 7,037.00
Total Investment Income	\$ 102,052.53	\$ 27,132.00
Less Total Expenses	-\$ 154,306.44	-\$ 9,824.64
Closing Balances 30/06/2025	\$ 1,800,407.79	\$ 564,688.30
Total Surplus	\$ 1,235,719.49	\$ 24,344.36

RW BLAND BEQUEST FUND		
Statement of Income and Expenses for the year ended 30th June 2025		
<i>ABN 93 978 549 002</i>		
	Jul24 - Jun25	Jul23 - Jun24
	(12 months)	(12 months)
Opening Balances 01/07/2024	\$ 78,620	\$ 74,773
Amounts Received		
Investment Income	\$ 4,647	\$ 3,847
Less Expenses		
Nil	\$ -	\$ -
Closing Balances 30/06/2025	\$ 83,267	\$ 78,620
Surplus	\$ 4,647	\$ 3,847

WARREN BONYTHON BEQUEST FUND		
Statement of Income and Expenses for the year ended 30th June 2025		
<i>ABN 93 978 549 002</i>		
	Jul24 - Jun25	Jul23 - Jun24
	(12 months)	(12 months)
Opening Balances 01/07/2024	\$ 33,440	\$ 31,803
Amounts Received		
Investment Income	\$ 1,976	\$ 1,637
Less Expenses		
Nil	\$ -	\$ -
Closing Balances 30/06/2025	\$ 35,416	\$ 33,440
Surplus	\$ 1,976	\$ 1,637

MEMORIALS MAINTENANCE FUND		
Statement of Income and Expenses for the year ended 30th June 2025		
<i>ABN 93 978 549 002</i>		
	Jul24 - Jun25	Jul23 - Jun24
	(12 months)	(12 months)
Opening Balances 01/07/2024	\$ 3,076	\$ 2,926
Amounts Received		
Investment Income	\$ 182	\$ 150
Less Expenses		
Nil	\$ -	\$ -
Closing Balances 30/06/2025	\$ 3,258	\$ 3,076
Surplus	\$ 182	\$ 150

DOROTHY PYATT BEQUEST FUND		
Statement of Income and Expenses for the year ended 30th June 2025		
<i>ABN 93 978 549 002</i>		
	Jul24 - Jun25	Jul23 - Jun24
	(12 months)	(12 months)
Opening Balances 01/07/2024	\$ 174,692	\$ 167,606
Amounts Received		
Investment Income	\$ 9,842	\$ 8,586
Less Expenses		
Donald Albert - Library Research Fellowship 2024	-\$ 2,800	
Zhongqi Feng - Postgraduate Research Grant 2024 (Balance)	-\$ 1,480	-\$ 1,500
Munkhzul Chimid-Ochir - Postgraduate Research Grant 2025	-\$ 3,000	
Chris Hogan - Postgraduate Research Grant 2025 (Half)	-\$ 1,500	
Melina Ey - Library Research Fellowship 2025	-\$ 1,400	
Serge Riviere - Library Research Fellowship 2025	-\$ 1,400	
Closing Balances 30/06/2025	\$ 172,954	\$ 174,692
Surplus	-\$ 1,738	\$ 7,086

RGSSA LIBRARY FUND		
Statement of Income and Expenses for the year ended 30th June 2025		
ABN 93 978 549 002		
	Jul24 - Jun25	Jul23 - Jun24
	(12 months)	(12 months)
Opening Balances 01/07/2024	\$113,007	\$107,090
Amounts Received		
Donations	\$6,413	\$6,837
Investment Income	\$6,197	\$5,580
Relics Group - Donations	\$250	\$0
Less Expenses		
ALS Library Services - Shelf Check of Library	-\$8,910	
Mary Rose Bindery - Conservation Treatment 'Forest Flora Atlas'	-\$300	
Mary Rose Bindery - Conservation Treatment of 2 x fragile	-\$400	
Roman Design - Brass Book Bindings	-\$1,600	
Relics Group - Materials for preserving & archiving relics	-\$133	
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 'Comprensive School Atlas'		-\$200
Mary Rose Bindery - Conservation Treatment 'The New Relief Atlas'		-\$200
Mary Rose Bindery - Conservation Treatment 'Visscher Atlas'		-\$500
Closing Balances 30/06/2025	\$114,524	\$113,007
Surplus	\$1,517	\$5,917

JIM FAULL FUND		
Statement of Income and Expenses for the year ended 30th June 2025		
<i>ABN 93 978 549 002</i>		
	Jul24 - Jun25 (12 months)	Jul23 - Jun24 (12 months)
Opening Balances 01/07/2024	\$ 6,840	\$ 6,506
Amounts Received		
Investment Income	\$ 404	\$ 334
Less Expenses		
Nil	\$ -	\$ -
Closing Balances 30/06/2025	\$ 7,244	\$ 6,840
Surplus	\$ 404	\$ 334

GW SYMES BEQUEST FUND		
Statement of Income and Expenses for the year ended 30th June 2025		
<i>ABN 93 978 549 002</i>		
	Jul24 - Jun25 (12 months)	Jul23 - Jun24 (12 months)
Opening Balances 01/07/2024	\$ 26,623	\$ 25,320
Amounts Received		
Investment Income	\$ 1,545	\$ 1,303
Less Expenses		
Yianni (John) Cartledge - GW Symes Award 2025	-\$ 750	\$ -
Closing Balances 30/06/2025	\$ 27,418	\$ 26,623
Surplus	\$ 795	\$ 1,303

WHEATON BEQUEST FUND		
Statement of Income and Expenses for the year ended 30th June 2025		
<i>ABN 93 978 549 002</i>		
	Jul24 - Jun25	Jul23 - Jun24
	(12 months)	(12 months)
Opening Balances 01/07/2024	\$ 53,669	\$ 52,607
Amounts Received		
Bequest	\$ 50,000	\$ -
Donations	\$ 15,310	\$ 200
Investment Income	\$ 3,615	\$ 2,687
Less Expenses		
Arts SA - Shelving Project - Deposit	\$ (27,446)	
Precious Cargo Removals - Shelving Project	\$ (8,377)	
The Engraving Crew - Wheaton Plaque	\$ (1,030)	
Arts SA - Application Fee		\$ (899)
Arts SA - Building Consent		\$ (664)
Arts SA - Compliance Consent		\$ (262)
Closing Balances 30/06/2025	\$ 85,741	\$ 53,669
Surplus	\$ 32,072	\$ 1,062

RN BROWN BEQUEST FUND		
Statement of Income and Expenses for the year ended 30th June 2025		
<i>ABN 93 978 549 002</i>		
	Jul24 - Jun25	Jul23 - Jun24
	(12 months)	(12 months)
Opening Balances 01/07/2024	\$ 1,096	\$ 1,043
Amounts Received		
Investment Income	\$ 65	\$ 53
Less Expenses		
Nil	\$ -	\$ -
Closing Balances 30/06/2025	\$ 1,161	\$ 1,096
Surplus	\$ 65	\$ 53

DD SHEARING BEQUEST FUND		
Statement of Income and Expenses for the year ended 30th June 2025		
<i>ABN 93 978 549 002</i>		
	Jul24 - Jun25	Jul23 - Jun24
	(12 months)	(12 months)
Opening Balances 01/07/2024	\$ 19,840	\$ 18,869
Amounts Received		
Investment Income	\$ 1,172	\$ 971
Less Expenses		
Nil	\$ -	\$ -
Closing Balances 30/06/2025	\$ 21,012	\$ 19,840
Surplus	\$ 1,172	\$ 971

STEPHANIE SCHRAPEL BEQUEST FUND		
Statement of Income and Expenses for the year ended 30th June 2025		
<i>ABN 93 978 549 002</i>		
	Jul24 - Jun25	Jul23 - Jun24
	(12 months)	(12 months)
Opening Balances 01/07/2024	\$ 53,784	\$ -
Amounts Received		
Bequest	\$ -	\$ 51,800
Investment Income	\$ 3,179	\$ 1,984
Less Expenses		
Nil	\$ -	\$ -
Closing Balances 30/06/2025	\$ 56,963	\$ 53,784
Surplus	\$ 3,179	\$ 1,984

RGSSA STRATEGIC FUND		
Statement of Income and Expenses for the year ended 30th June 2025		
<i>ABN 93 978 549 002</i>		
	Jul24 - Jun25	Jul23 - Jun24
	(12 months)	(12 months)
Opening Balances 01/07/2024	\$ -	\$ -
Amounts Received		
Sale of Items in Library Collection	\$ 1,216,000	\$ -
Investment Income	\$ 69,229	\$ -
Less Expenses		
Salary & Oncosts	\$ (78,780)	\$ -
Brand Strategy Development	\$ (15,000)	\$ -
Closing Balances 30/06/2025	\$ 1,191,448	\$ -
Surplus	\$ 1,191,448	\$ -



CMA chartered accountants
Business Development Specialists

22 September 2025

**INDEPENDENT AUDIT REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025
TO THE MEMBERS OF
ROYAL GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA INC**

219 Henley Beach Road
Torrensville SA 5031

PO Box 540
Torrensville SA 5031

tel [08] 8234 0055
fax [08] 8234 1642

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 Royal Geographical Society of South Australia Inc (the Entity), which comprises the Balance Sheet as at 30 June 2025 and Profit and Loss Statement for the year ended 30 June 2025.



CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS
AUSTRALIA + NEW ZEALAND

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 2025 and Profit and Loss Statement for the year ended 30 June 2025.

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 2024 to 30 June 2025.

Yours faithfully

CMA Chartered Accountants

Con J Markou
Registered Company Auditor 5382
22 September 2025

Scholarship Fund Income and Expenditure

	<u>Jul 24 - Jun 25</u> <u>(12 months)</u>	<u>Jul 23 - Jun 24</u> <u>(12 Months)</u>
Income		
Donations Received	2,550	7,140
Interest received	2,506	1,920
Other Income	0	0
Total Income	<u>5,056</u>	<u>9,060</u>
Expenses		
Administration Expenses		
Auditing	200	200
Bank Fees	120	120
GST over/under	1	-4
Total Administration Expenses	<u>321</u>	<u>316</u>
Award Prizes & Expenses		
Medals and Certificates	64	1,548
Membership RGSSA as Prize	1,382	2,773
Monetary Awards	2,825	2,430
Catering & Set-up for Awards Night	200	1,974
Total Award Prizes & Expenses	<u>4,471</u>	<u>8,725</u>
Total Expenses	<u>4,791</u>	<u>9,041</u>
Net Profit	<u><u>264</u></u>	<u><u>19</u></u>

Scholarship Fund Balance Sheet

	<u>30 Jun 25</u>	<u>30 Jun 24</u>
Current Assets		
Cheque/Savings		
Term Deposit	\$49,000	\$49,000
Freedom Business Account	\$1,532	\$1,010
Total Cheque/Savings	<u>\$50,532</u>	<u>\$50,010</u>
Total Current Assets	<u>\$50,532</u>	<u>\$50,010</u>
	<u>\$50,532</u>	<u>\$50,010</u>
Current Liabilities		
GST Payable	-\$164	-\$622
Uncleared Cheques	\$0	\$200
Total Current Liabilities	<u>-\$164</u>	<u>-\$422</u>
	<u>-\$164</u>	<u>-\$422</u>
	<u>\$50,696</u>	<u>\$50,432</u>
EQUITY		
Current Year Earnings	\$264	\$19
Retained Earnings	\$50,432	\$50,413
TOTAL EQUITY	<u><u>\$50,696</u></u>	<u><u>\$50,432</u></u>



22 September 2025

**INDEPENDENT AUDIT REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025
TO THE MEMBERS OF RGSSA SCHOLARSHIP FUND**

219 Henley Beach Road
Torrensville SA 5031

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Torrensville SA 5031

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fax [08] 8234 1642

enquiry@cmaca.com.au
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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 2025 and Profit and Loss Statement for the year ended 30 June 2025.



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 2025 and Profit and Loss Statement for the year ended 30 June 2025.

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 2024 to 30 June 2025.

Yours faithfully

CMA Chartered Accountants

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

Con J Markou
Registered Company Auditor 5382
22 September 2025

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

Held in the Hetzel Lecture Theatre, State Library of South Australia,
WEDNESDAY 23 OCTOBER 2024 at 5:00 P.M.

Apologies: Uni Carnegie, Hans Gnodtke, Linda Hanlan, Robin Lamacraft, Rick Moore, Hugh Orr, Geoffrey Paterson, Leigh Radford, Joc Schmiechen, Julia Short, Bradley Slape.

Present: Ingrid Ahmer, Sue Barker, Kate Buckley, Mike Burdett, Jan Clarke, John Coles, Lyn Cook, Andrew Davies, Elaine Davies, Margie Dawson, Alan Deverell, T G Donald, Paul Ensor, Marg Folkard, Rob Fowler, Kym Fullgrabe, Melissa Gibbs, Frances Gnodtke, Ann Gorey, Colin Harrison, Jeanne Harrison, Iain Hay, David Inverarity, Christine James, Norman James, Susan Lee, Andrew Lothian, Marcus Marshall, Rob Marshall, Graham McLeod, Tony Merchant, Fi Pahor, Alan Pickering, Leon Pitchon, Raelene Potticary, Chris Rawlinson, Noel Richards, Guy Robinson, Susan Robinson, Linda Sampson, John Seaton, Pat Shearing, Rod Shearing, Rob Shepherd, Peter Smailes, Neil Teague, David Underhill, Pat Venning, Nona Verco, Graham Walker, George Willanski, Liz Willanski, Richard Wilson, Glen Woodward.

1. Welcome

The Director, Professor Iain Hay, 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 19 October 2023 had been circulated as part of the Annual Report and were taken as read.

Motion: That the minutes of the 2023 AGM be accepted.

Proposed by Guy Robinson and seconded by Andrew Lothian. Carried.

3. President's Report

Iain Hay delivered the President's report in Leigh Radford's absence. He noted that Leigh's detailed report, together with those of the Society's many committees, was available in the Annual Report. Iain thanked all who contributed to the production of the Report, and especially Melissa Gibbs who collated the information. He encouraged members to read it carefully as it provided an informative insight into the many activities undertaken in the past 12 months.

The RGSSA is a voluntary, not-for-profit organisation for advancing geographical science and promoting public awareness and enjoyment of Geography and related topics. Encouragingly, it made substantial progress towards these ambitions over the past year. Our member numbers have begun an upward trajectory now standing at close to 350, having risen from about 300 five years ago. This is in no small part the result of the amazing customary activities of the Society such as our Lectures, Geo@12, Rare Books, GeoNews, Exhibitions, and Awards to name a few. But there is a new dynamism in the Society that promises greater growth and the capacity to serve the geographical

interests of more people. IH then highlighted some evidence of that dynamism (or resurgence as he put it in the Director's report):

- Completion of Treasures project with 100+ treasures now online showcasing the Society's extraordinary collection (Hugh Orr, Robert Dettman, Melissa Gibbs, Red Shearing et al.)
- Highly successful tour of the State's Southeast (Joc Schmiechen and members of the Program Committee)
- Volunteer Management System implemented (Dr Ingrid Ahmer)
- Membership of the SA History Network and Museums and Collections (MaC) Network. This provides us with preferred access to SAHT grants and other resources.
- Library Refurbishment project about to commence (Dick Wilson) – works to be undertaken in December/January.
- Welcomed our 1st Library Research Fellow, Prof Don Albert from Sam Houston State University in Texas.
- Made first awards under the new Dorothy Pyatt Research Grants scheme to support postgraduate student study.
- Convened a very successful Postgraduate Research Symposium (Prof Guy Robinson)
- Launched a new book series in partnership with international publishing house, Anthem Press. The series is entitled Antipodean Perspectives on Geography.
- Engaged with Department for Education to help make repairs to the Australian Geography Curriculum (Malcolm McInerney)
- Involved in consultation processes associated with the proposed reimagining and restructuring of the SA Museum.
- Began work on a Reconciliation Action Plan (Joc Schmiechen, Matthew Rofe and Jane Austen)

All of this great work is dependent on the remarkable efforts of volunteers. Iain sincerely thanked all the Society's many volunteers for their amazing and much appreciated efforts.

Iain noted that the Society needs additional funds to sustain and extend these initiatives and others. He encouraged members to donate or to let him know of any people and organizations from the broader community to whom we might 'reach out' for donations.

Finally, he requested that members and friends join us at the Society's Xmas Dinner to celebrate an amazing 2024 for the RGSSA and the prospects of an even better year in 2025 – our 140th anniversary.

4. Treasurer's Report and Financial Statements

Tony Merchant noted that this was the first year that the Society's financial reports matched the July to June taxation year. He 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 2023-24 Financial Statements be accepted.

Moved: Tony Merchant; Seconded: Rob Shepherd. Carried.

5. Election of Office Holders

The Director declared all Executive positions vacant. Those members who had been proposed and seconded according to the Rules were;

Position	Nominee	Proposer	Seconded
President	Leigh Radford OAM	Kate Buckley	Norman James
Vice President	Guy Robinson	Iain Hay	Gerti Szili
	Julia Short	Melissa Gibbs	Leigh Radford OAM
Treasurer	Tony Merchant	Kate Buckley	Norman James
Councillor	Nona Verco	Rod Shearing	Leigh Radford OAM
	Gerti Szili	Guy Robinson	Leigh Radford OAM
	Hugh Orr	Leigh Radford OAM	Richard Wilson
	Rob Shepherd	Leigh Radford OAM	Melissa Gibbs

Iain asked if anyone present wished to speak 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 Iain invited all financial members, with 6 months membership or longer, to vote by a show of hands. The vote was unanimously in favour.

Iain 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. Any Other Business - nil

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

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.