



The Royal Society of Queensland

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Dear colleague,

We write to invite your contribution to a timely and unique Special Issue of the Royal Society of Queensland regarding Great Artesian Basin springs.

The Editors would like this Special Issue to stand as a current summary of expertise surrounding the Great Artesian Basin and the unique Australian springs it feeds. We see this as an opportunity to highlight the importance of GAB springs in particular, but extend the invitation to include other GAB groundwater-dependent ecosystems.

Australia's GAB springs provide a unique focal point for the intersection of many types of knowledge – narrative and historical of both First Nations and colonial perspectives, of science and discovery, and of governance and policy. Progress and advances in each of these themes has been great since the early descriptions of the system. As we apply more effort and technology into research and documentation of the GAB, we must also take a moment to pay respects to those who have worked in the system in the past, to summarise our current states of knowledge, and to create a vision for the future.

This Special Issue provides a timely opportunity to take stock of our GAB springs, one of the greatest groundwater systems in the world, at a time when globally such systems are being depleted at a significant rate and discussions of how they are governed or what we stand to lose are limited.

We envision a volume that will bring to light the history and current state of information regarding GAB dependant spring ecosystems gathered around four key themes (summarised in more detail below): history and narratives, hydrogeology, ecology and governance. We hope that such a source will be approachable to a non-scientific audience, whilst providing overviews and reviews of scientific thought from those who research the GAB springs and their dependant systems (be they social or ecological).

Submissions are welcome in any theme, or combination of themes, and new themes are open for negotiation with the editors. We emphasise that the unique nature of a Special Issue, presented by one of Queensland's oldest scientific institutions, provides an opportunity to be creative and reflective, and welcome styles of submission beyond the standard scientific format.

As highlighted in the attached submission guideline, we invite the tentative titles of papers and first author details by 30 September 2018. We will close submissions on 30 April 2019, with the final publication anticipated during 2019.

We thank you in advance for your consideration and anticipate your contributions.

Dr. Renee Rossini, University of Queensland
Emeritus Professor Angela Arthington, Griffith University



Proposed themes for GAB springs Special Issue

Editors: Renee Rossini, Angela Arthington, Jenny Davis, Steven Flook, Sue Jackson, Moya Tomlinson, Craig Walton

THEME 1 - YARNING SPRINGS

Interviews/conversations between people who have been working in springs for a long time. These submissions will preferably have a casual tone, story-telling, documenting history and perspectives, and feature lots of photos and drawings. The editors are willing to accept transcripts of interviews or conversations between experts, and to facilitate such discussions.

This theme is open to anyone, and we envision that it will primarily be conversations between those with stories, observations and histories that often escape the scientific literature. Those interested in contributing to this theme, please contact Renee Rossini to discuss options.

THEME 2 – HYDROGEOLOGY

Papers and contributions of a scientific, theoretical or informed opinion-based nature about anything hydrogeological concerning the GAB spring systems.

Our desire is that this section will provide insights and overviews of thinking regarding the GAB as a whole, the distribution, formation, history of GAB springs, and the mechanisms that maintain different types of springs, govern their flow paths and dynamics, or predict their possible futures. We envision the primary contributors to this theme to be hydrologists, geologists and water scientists.

THEME 3 – ECOLOGY

Papers and contributions of a scientific, theoretical or informed opinion-based nature about anything ecological concerning GAB spring systems. Our vision for this section is to see papers that summarise patterns of diversity, distribution and evolution in broader groups of taxa, though taxa-specific accounts will be welcome. We are also interested in papers on ecosystem processes and the factors that govern them.

Our desire is that this section will give a broad and approachable overview of the amazing patterns of diversity in all forms of life that rely on GAB springs, highlight novel and interesting stories of flora and fauna or ecosystem processes that maintain spring systems, and directions for future ecological research. We would like this section to act as a guide and tool to support the conservation of these unique taxa and ecosystems. We envision primary contributors to this theme be ecologists, biologists and taxonomists.

THEME 4 – MANAGEMENT, CONSERVATION & GOVERNANCE

Papers and contributions of a commentary, policy or informed opinion-based nature about anything regarding Australian GAB groundwater policy and governance. We imagine this section being diverse, and likely to be primarily opinion based, but hope that submissions will focus on potential problems, success stories or solutions for groundwater and biodiversity management, conservation and governance of GAB springs.

Our desire is that this section will highlight the ways systems of policy and governance have helped, hindered, or been complicated by the inevitable connection between science, conservation and governance or policy. We envision government and policy workers, advocates, lawyers and conservation practitioners will contribute to this section.

