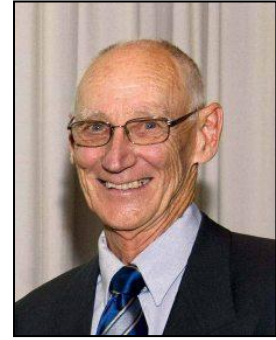


Robin Peter Simson

History of Outdoor Education, Outdoor Recreation and Sport involvement



While Geography Subject Master at Mt. Gravatt High School 1965-74

- Led numerous field trips and field base training camps for students at Mt. Gravatt including Stradbroke Island, Fraser Island etc.
- Organised annual field camps for GTAQ attracting keen senior geography students for high schools throughout SE Queensland
- Formed the Mt. Gravatt High Bushwalkers with usually 4 outings a year including extended trips to Carnarvon Gorge (3) Warrumbungles (3) Kaputar (1) Whitsunday Island (2)
- Formed and operated Field Study Promotions as a private venture, producing field trip guides for school excursions in SE Queensland, 1968-1974.

Foundation staff as DP at Maroon Outdoor Education Centre 1975-78

- Set the pattern for MOEC environmental programs as well as outdoor pursuits with visiting school groups.
- Gained an Innovations Grant and conducted 3 Project Carnarvon 7 day on the trail expeditions for selected senior secondary students in the Carnarvon Range area. This was pioneering student expedition programs in Australia.
- Conducted the first inter-school Queensland School Orienteering program and helped establish Queensland Orienteering including producing the first full colour orienteering map in Queensland.
- Completed a Masters Degree in Environmental Science and a thesis on Landscape Aesthetics. With field studies in the Gold Coast and Tweed Valley region.

In my time as Principal, Maroon Outdoor Education Centre 1979-81

- Proposed and became the first President of the Outdoor Educator's Association of Queensland. Hosted the first national Outdoor Education conference at Maroon OEC.
- Helped found Toohey Forest Orienteers in 1979, the first orienteering club in Queensland as separate from Queensland Orienteering,
- President of newly formed Queensland School Orienteering, a position I held for twenty years.

In my time as a Secondary School Principal 1982-1993

- Continued promoting Orienteering, completing innumerable mapping projects, coaching juniors, and organising major carnivals such as the Australian Easter 3 Day 1987 at Cherrabah
- Continued to organize the annual Qld School Orienteering Championships, several Queensland Orienteering Championships and be part of the planning team for national events.
- Lobbied for and had established the Australian Schools Orienteering Championships from 1989 and with all states represented from 1992.
- Became National Secretary for School Orienteering 1989-1999
- Helped found the Toohey Forest Protection Society and campaigned for protection of the forest and the completion of the Toohey Forest Management Plan, 199the first such bushland protection plan in Brisbane.

In retirement 1993 – present

- Lectured part at Griffith University in the Education faculty – first year programs in Geographical and Environmental Science 1994-2000 including field programs.
- President, Toohey Forest Protection Society, 1993-2005 when this society folded.
- Continued all my involvement in all aspects of Orienteering. Mapping officer 1996-2007. Established the Mini-Cyclones junior program and have continued as squad manager, 2003 – present.
- Became an active member of and outings leader for Bushwalkers of Southern Queensland
- Voluntary consultant to the South East Queensland Scenic Amenity Study during 2003-5.
- Campaigner on scenic issues especially against large third party billboards that cast a blight on city and rural landscapes.
- With Queensland School Sport de-registering Orienteering have accepted position as Chair of the OQ School Orienteering Committee, and begun a new promotion and lobbying campaign for just treatment of our sport.
- Author of various documents and reports and the field guide Find Your Way in Toohey Forest, 2000.
- Author of 3 novels with landscape themes, one self published, and one currently under consideration by a quality publisher.

Honours:

- Royal Geographical Society Bronze Medal, 1985
- Fellow of OEAQ, 1992
- Silva Medal from Orienteering Australia, 1993
- Australian Sports Medal, 2000
- Order of Australia Medal, 2001
- QORF Individual Award, 2009