

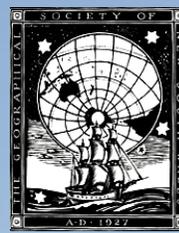
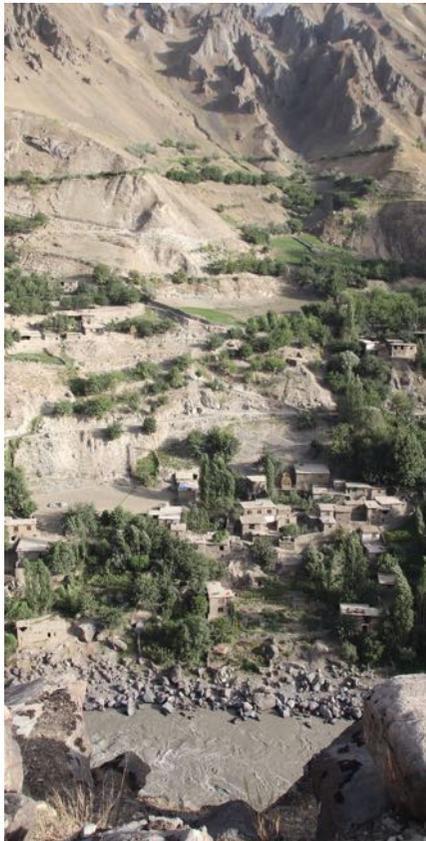
The Speaker - Stephen Codrington

Dr Stephen Codrington is the author or co-author of 59 books, mainly books that focus on his life-long passion for Geography. He now serves as Director of School Governance and Leadership Development at Alphacrucis College, and also works as a consultant on school board effectiveness in his position as President of Optimal School Governance.

Stephen is a former President of both the Geographical Society of New South Wales and the Geography Teachers' Association of New South Wales (twice), as well as being current Treasurer of The Geographical Society. His work has taken him to 157 countries. He maintains a website with details of his travel diaries at www.stephencodrington.com

Stephen's earlier talks to the Traveller's Club:

- 1989 - Eastern Europe and the USSR
- 1990 - Change in the Highlands of Irian Jaya
- 1992 - The former Soviet Union today
- 1994 - Bolivia
- 1996 - Hidden Burma
- 2005 - Mali - the Jewel of West Africa
- 2006 - North Korea - the world's least known, least understood country
- 2007 - Iceland - Land of Ice and Fire
- 2008 - China's Ancient Tea Horse Route
- 2009 - Ethiopia - cradle of humanity
- 2010 - Guardians of the Red Sea - Yemen, Eritrea and Djibouti
- 2011 - Middle East Hotspots - Iraq, Israel, Lebanon, Palestine, Syria
- 2012 - Last Threads of the Iron Curtain - Transnistria and North Korea's border regions
- 2013 - Iran - what is it really like?
- 2014 - Beyond Siberia - Russia's Wild Far East
- 2015 - Tunisia and Algeria - Springs of the Arab Spring
- 2016 - The African Sahel - Mali, Niger, Burkina Faso
- 2017 - Three Pacific Micronations - Kiribati, Nauru, Palau
- 2017 - Turkmenistan
- 2018 - Coastal West Africa - Benin, Gambia, Ghana, Liberia, Togo)



The Geographical Society of New South Wales presents

TAJIKISTAN

WHERE THE SILK ROAD CONFRONTS THE PAMIR MOUNTAINS

Sunday 5th May 2019
Norths, 12 Abbott Street, Cammeray

Stephen Codrington

VISIT THE WEBSITE OF THE GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY OF NEW SOUTH WALES

WWW.GSNSW.ORG.AU

Sunday 5th May 2019

Tajikistan

... where the Silk Road confronts
the Pamir Mountains



A weathered sign indicated my altitude as I crossed Tajikistan's Ak-Baital Pass – 4,655 metres above sea level.

Barren mountains stretched away from me in every direction, casting their shadows over the second-highest international road in the world. China was just over the eastern horizon. The plains and valleys of Kyrgyzstan were behind me. To the south lay Afghanistan, the Hindu Kush Mountains and the fabled Wakhan Corridor.

I was heading south, along the Pamir Highway, once part of the Silk Road but now officially known as the M41. Rightly celebrated as one of the planet's most intrepid road trips, this 2,038-kilometre-long road winds its way from the plains of Central Asia through the heart of the High Pamir Mountains, along the Panj River that marks the Tajik-Afghan border, and through to Dushanbe, one of the world's newer capital cities.

My destination was Tajikistan, still an isolated land of breathtaking scenery, amazing traditions and colourful markets, just like it was when the ancient traders of the Silk Road travelled along this same road. It is where Russia's expansion confronted Britain's defence of India during the Great Game of the 19th century, the area that later became the most southerly republic of the Soviet Union.

This richly illustrated talk will share Stephen's experiences of two recent trips through Tajikistan – surely one of the world's least known but most fascinating countries.

TO HELP WITH CATERING, PLEASE LET US KNOW YOU ARE COMING BY 30TH APRIL 2019

There is a \$15 entry fee to cover the cost of catering, payable when you arrive.

To let us know you will attend, please phone Bronwyn on 0413 894 454 or send her an e-mail at b.bate@westernsydney.edu.au



We meet in the McKinnon Room on the 1st floor at Norths from 2:00pm (for drinks and snacks) until 4:00pm.

The presentation starts at 2:30pm and goes to about 3:30pm.

At Norths, there are 30 surface parking places in front of the building, plus hundreds more free places in the multi-storey car park (entrance from Palmer Street). The 4th (top, open) level is the same level as the ground floor of Norths with a direct walkway. There are stairs and an elevator to the Irvine Room on the 1st floor.