



MSI - CONNECTED!

Newsletter of the Mapping Sciences Institute, Australia

mappingsciences.org.au

December 2014

Presidents Report

It's been a busy and successful year for the MSIA, with a new counsellor Doug Herrick and MSI-Connected Editor Shane Oates joining the team and launching themselves into their roles with enthusiasm. I would like to take this opportunity and thank them both. As we draw nearer to the end of 2014, let's not forget that next year is the International Year of the Map. Back in August I called for everyone to put on their thinking caps to find ways to promote cartography during this special year. Many members of the council have been busy with the preparations for the Barbara Petchenik Children Maps Competition and the Power of Maps conference, but I am sure there are many more wonderful opportunities out there to be explored.



Trisha Moriarty, President MSIA

2015 is also coincidentally the 200 year anniversary of the first geological map of Britain, produced by William Smith. It's significant for being the first nation-wide map published and with a scale of 5 miles per inch; it measured 6 feet by 8 feet six inches. But more importantly it was significant for Williams's insight in distinguishing rock strata that could be aged and therefore linked by the fossils found within, a technique that became critical to the evolution of geological theory and one that is still important today despite the advancements in technology and other rock dating techniques.

It is therefore also fitting we have been fortunate to secure Dr Chris Pigram, Chief Executive Officer of Geoscience Australia, as one of our keynote speakers for our conference in 2015. Geoscience Australia's National Geographic Information Group is also the Australian Government's national mapping agency and will be one of the sites visited on the conference tour.

We have also be fortunate to lock in Professor Georg Gartner, current ICA president and Professor for Cartography and Geo-Media techniques at the University of Vienna as another keynote speaker. Having heard Professor Gartner speak before, I know we will be inspired by his passion for cartography.

Further information about the conference will be up on the web at www.powerofmaps.org.au shortly.

I wish everyone a safe and enjoyable holiday season, and I look forward to 2015 with great excitement as to what we may achieve for our profession in the International Year of the Map.

Trisha Moriarty
President MSIA

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WE  MAPS
INTERNATIONAL MAP YEAR 2015-2016

MSIA National Council

President

Trisha Moriarty
(Education Manager)

Immediate Past President

Don Pearce

Chairman of Executive

Alan Armitage

Secretary

Keith Smith PSM

Treasurer

John McCormack
(Program Manager for Promotion & Management)

MSIA Councillors

Professor Graeme Wright
(Editor-in-Chief of the 'Journal of Spatial Science')

Dr. David Fraser
(Research & Scholarship Program Manager, Webmaster, Editor of "Cartography")

Alan Unkles
(Membership Manager)

Les Isdale
(QLD Division)

Colin Mitford
(NSW Division)

Michael Turner
(NSW Division)

Doug Herrick
(Bathurst Division)

Pat Killoran

Program Managers

Trevor Menzies
(Heritage Program Manager)

Bill Cartwright
(International Program Manager)

From the Editor



Shane Oates, Editor

Welcome to the December 2014 edition of MSI-Connected.

What a year 2014 has been! As Trisha mentioned in the Presidents report, 2014 has been a busy and successful year.

In the short time I have been involved with the MSIA, I have seen some great advancement and progression of the MSIA as a whole. The enthusiasm, optimism, passion and communication between members has for me, been the shining success of the year.

What to expect in 2015?

- The redeveloped MSIA website will be ready for deployment in early 2015.
- Barbara Petchenik Children's Map Competition
- The Power of Maps Conference will be taking place between the 29 April - 1 May 2015.
- 27th International Cartographic Conference, 16th General Assembly of ICA. (Brazil)
- Many other programs and initiatives to further promote the MSIA and enhance the provision of services to members

I am looking forward to the Power of Maps Conference next year and the opportunity to meet many of the people I have corresponded with within the MSIA and the profession in person.

I hope you enjoy the December edition of the newsletter. There will be no newsletter until February 2015, so until then I wish everyone a happy and safe holiday break!

Regards
Shane Oates

We still have copies available!

Mapmakers of Australia: The history of the Australian Institute of Cartographers

The MSIA has a limited number of copies of the publication "Mapmakers of Australia: The history of the Australian Institute of Cartographers" available to members for **FREE** on a first come, first served basis.

If you are interested in obtaining a copy of this publication, please see Page 8 for more details.



Barbara Petchenik Children's Map Competition 2015 Invitation



On behalf of the Mapping Sciences Institute, Australia and the International Cartographic Association, it is my pleasure to invite you to participate in the Barbara Petchenik Children's Map Competition 2015, an event created with the aim of promoting the creative representation of the world in graphical form by children.

In 2015, the International Map Year, this biannual international award has the theme of **"My place in today's world"** and entries can be nominated in four age groups: under 6 years, 6-8 years, 9-12 years and 13-15 years. The deadline for participation in the contest is **Thursday, 2 April 2015**.

Australian entries will be judged at "The Power of Maps" conference in Canberra from 29 April to 1 May 2015. The best 6 entries will be sent to the international judges at the "27th International Cartographic Conference" in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil from 23 to 28 August 2015.

For more detailed information about the competition, please visit the MSIA website <http://mappingsciences.org.au>. International details and teachers' material are available at the website of the International Cartographic Association <http://icaci.org/petchenik/>, the Commission on Cartography and Children <http://lazarus.elte.hu/ccccc/ccccc.htm> or their Facebook profile <https://www.facebook.com/icacccc/>

If you are interested to see the entries from the previous competitions, you can find all of them on the website entitled "Children Map their World" maintained by the Maps, Data and Government Information Centre at Carleton University Library <http://children.library.carleton.ca/>.



Yours sincerely,

Doug Herrick
National Coordinator
Barbara Petchenik Children's Map Competition 2015
mapcompetition@mappingsciences.org.au

MSI - Connected! content submissions

If you have an article, report, comment, image or any other content that you would like to share with fellow MSIA members, please send an email to msi-connected@mappingsciences.org.au

Content submission deadline for the February 2015 edition is Thursday 29th January 2015

Upcoming Events

2015

April 29 - May 1

The Power of Maps -
(ANZMapS and MSIA) | National
Library of Australia, Canberra
ACT, Australia

August 23 - 28

**27th International
Cartographic Conference,
16th General Assembly of ICA**
| Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

2016 / 2017

July 2 - 7, 2017

**28th International
Cartographic Conference |**
Washington DC, USA

**Do you know of a mapping
or a spatial related event, in
which other MSIA members
may be interested in
attending?**

**Let us know and will may
include the details in our
next newsletter!**

**We will soon be listing
Esri Australia events
and training courses on
the new MSIA website!**

**Training opportunities
and events from other
providers are currently
being sourced.**

Student Membership of the MSIA is now FREE!!!

Council has decided that, commencing in 2015, Student Membership will be free. This will apply to existing student members and to future student enrolments.



Seen at Brisbane's GIS Day 2014

MSIA Councillor Les Isdale (pictured) was spotted on the GIS Day held in Brisbane recently studying the hardware associated with remote pilot training. Surely Les is not contemplating adding this to his already crowded C.V.

Adam Ladhams report of GIS Day in Brisbane is on [page 5](#)
Les's photo record of GIS Day in Brisbane is on [page 9](#)



Source: Les Isdale

GIS Day Brisbane – Veni, Vidi, Vici

By Adam Ladhams

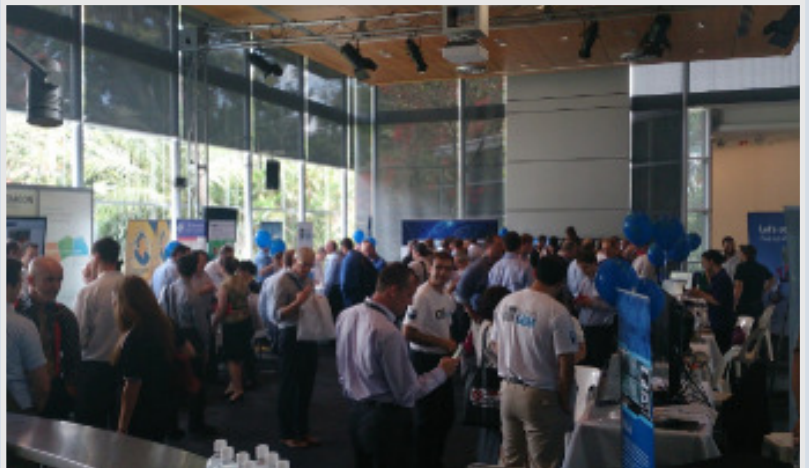
I went back to university last month. No, I wasn't studying another course (I have already collected 3 degrees and not in need of another), but to visit the GIS Day at the Queensland University of Technology's (QUT) Gardens Point campus in Brisbane City.

For those familiar with the campus, particularly as their old stomping grounds would know, the heart of the action is on Kidney Lawn, aptly named due to the shape of the grassed area near Old Government House. I was beckoned by the buzz of a drone hovering above the Lawn, which was incidentally part of a contest to manoeuvre the drone closest to the 'X'.

Due to the heat, I strolled past a series of tents promoting 'spatial' services and products and ventured inside the glass walled (air-conditioned) auditorium. Once I had stepped inside, I was handed a bag of free stuff disguised as marketing material. There were about a dozen vendors and organisations set up and space was packed with people. The chatter was almost deafening, but alas I pressed ahead – a man on a mission to do what I had intended to do – try out the Google glasses.

As I bumped into people and excused myself for what seemed be the 100th time, I found the display at the back of the room. I introduced myself and stated my intentions. "I would love to test out the glasses", I told the Google partner sales person, beaming from ear to ear. "Of course she said" and rather than extolling the advantages of the glasses and breaking out a marketing spiel, she grabbed a pair of Google glasses from the table. "Here, try these on size", she said "just tap your finger on the side and then scroll using your finger, or tell the glasses what you want to do".

I would have to say, that after a few moments of fumbling with the glasses, I was surfing the web, looking at a night sky constellation and searching for the nearest cafes and restaurants in real time. The glasses have a solid glass prism that projects an image into the right lens. The heads up display was relatively crisp, whilst still providing visibility. It was easy to see the practical use for the glasses.



Caption: A crowded auditorium at the GIS Day in Brisbane
Source: Adam Ladhams



Caption: Vendors ply their trade and seek out shade from the hot and humid Brisbane weather.
Source: Adam Ladhams

After a couple of promotional photos with the sales rep, I asked the burning question "how much do they cost?". "\$2,100 for the base pair. They come with a case and interchangeable sunglass lenses and a cleaning cloth". But wait there was more. There is an annual cost for something or rather, and a cost to develop the apps for the glasses.

After thanking the sales woman, I ventured around the other stands. I even managed to pick up a Connect 4 game for the kids, ignoring the countless free pens and stress balls on offer. A couple of professional associations also had a stand – but more on that at the end of this article. **Continued Next Page**

After dropping in a couple of my bosses business cards (as a favour and 'cause I don't have my own) in the lucky door prize boxes, I braved the hot weather outside and quickened my pace past another row of marquees, grabbing a pencil sharpener and oversized pencil along the way (another freebie for the kids), to take a gander at the map wall. There were around 20 oversized A0 maps on the panels some pictorial in nature, others showing places and terrain data.

The QUT Science and Engineering Faculty building housed the next display I was interested in seeing – the 3D printer. There were a number of polymer and wood based

objects such as a model of a car, a banana, vase, geisha doll and more specific to cartography, a shaded relief map, all of which had been created using a 3D printer. I overheard that a colour 3D printer would set me back about \$60,000 so I decided to move on before I made a snap decision to re-mortgage my house just to buy one.

In the building, the sponsors had hijacked the two storey high interactive series of digital screens, which was showing a video on loop, impressive nonetheless. Disappointedly, unlike a week earlier, there was no Prime Minister

Modi to greet me, but I did manage to spot Gary Nairn, the current SIBA chair and former politician.

All in all, I achieved all the things I was wanting to do at GIS Day. I even managed to meet up with lecturers who taught me there up to 20 years earlier (geez I am getting on these days), university classmates and other industry colleagues.

In addition to the various displays and stands, there were free seminars in the main theatre. I should mention that the event was free, with reliance on sponsorship from vendors. Whilst there weren't any school students to be seen, I suspect that school students would have greatly benefited from attending,

especially if they were looking to work in a technologically exciting industry with plenty of opportunities (and growth).

In its second year, the GIS Day in Brisbane was an excellent showcase of technology and many companies who are actively looking to expand their business. Over 2000 professionals and public on-lookers attended the event, the biggest event of it's kind in Australia.

If you would like a free copy of the Position magazine (I received at the GIS Day), email me your name and address to adam.ladhams@hotmail.com

So, let me set a challenge to MSIA to explore the prospect of organising a stand in 2015 to encourage people to join up and educate others on the virtues of being involved in the mapping industry. Or better yet, at the next Conference, extend an invitation to the general public and professional types to attend a free seminar or open day to view exhibits and a map gallery (coordinate map entries from school children).



Caption: An impressive collection of colourful and detailed maps.
Source: Adam Ladhams



Caption: Examples of objects on the table, printed using a 3D printer. [The extended arms from the person (center) reminds me of a joke about the one that got away]
Source: Adam Ladhams

Moving Forward

By Alan Armitage

I am presenting this article as my perspective of MSIA as it stands now, and how our future is shaping. We have been somewhat static for some years, and previous reports of this nature, that I have produced, have never indicated any sort of advancement.

I believe 2014 has been a good year, and I am already confident that we, as an institute, have started "Moving Forward".

The following is a listing of some of the "positive" ideas and suggestions that have been put forward, and some of the responses that have emanated.

1. It is vital that the MSIA has a motivator and ideas person.
Keith Smith has been nominated to be the lead here. An excellent choice, but it won't hurt if he has some help.
2. It is critical that we have a president who is astute, capable and part of the current industry mix.
This is already in operation in the person of Trisha Moriarty.
3. It is essential that we have individuals who are willing to take on new initiatives.
In action we have Trisha, Shane Oates as our new newsletter editor and Doug Herrick organising map competitions.
4. We need to recruit "young" members to council, or perhaps I should say "younger".
Take my case as an example... I am an octogenarian, decrepit, and while not quite past my use-by-date, am getting close. If the "Chair of Executive" is to be maintained, it should be filled by someone equating to the capabilities as mentioned in "3" and able to work hand in hand with the President.
5. We must continually communicate to the members what projects etc. we are undertaking.
At this point we do have quite a few projects and actions in progress, such as...
 - Website being updated
 - Newsletter under new management
 - Dedicated conference coming up in 2015
 - An Australian map competition
 - A children's map competition
 - On-going building of relations with like organisations
 - Looking into the possibility of an international event in Australia in 2016
6. Continual contact with student organisations at universities and colleges, and sponsoring relevant events and awards.

There is another addition to this list which deserves some serious thought, and that is we should endeavour to change the way we are sometimes perceived and to publicise the outcome. This refers to the image of a bunch of oldies doing the same old things. Some ramping up and glamourising needed, and we could use our newsletter and website to good effect here.

I believe that we have already started to "move forward" and applaud Trisha and her helpers, young and old, who have initiated this effort.

The last issue of "MSI – Connected" published an article which I am afraid I can only refer to as a "blast from the past". While I applaud the references made to the influences that marketing can engender, I am sorry, but I cannot see any relevance in going back to square one, changing our name back to what it was, and then endeavouring to convince educational institutions to change the titles of their courses which might reflect a taste of mapping.

Continued Next Page

Your thoughts continued...

I thought our aim was to attract youngish type members, not retired members. Youngish members who are mostly engaged in spatial sciences and geomatics courses if that is the right terminology.

I have decided to offer the following as a sort of an analogy...

I belong to an organisation that is managed by two boards. One covers the workings, every day operations etc. and the other deals with all the finances. Both boards have traditionally been over staffed by mainly older retired type members, most of whom slept through the meetings leaving the work to just a few. Profits were seldom with recent years running at consistent losses. Last year both boards were restructured with less numbers, but those called to serve being well credentialed businessmen with proven expertise in their relevant fields. This year we are headed for a profit of over half a million dollars... and we didn't need to change our name.

What I am getting at is... I believe, if you have the right people working in their fields of expertise and keen on moving forward, it is not the name that attracts but the services and benefits that are offered.

EDITORS COMMENT:

Thank you Alan for this months article and response. There has been some great discussion surrounding the future of the MSIA and it is looking more and more positive as the discussions continue.

We would like your input!

Submit your thoughts or opinions regarding cartography, mapping in general or even the MSIA to us at MSI-Connected!

Articles and opinion pieces can be emailed to the editor at
msi-connected@mappingsciences.org.au

Mapmakers of Australia: The history of the Australian Institute of Cartographers

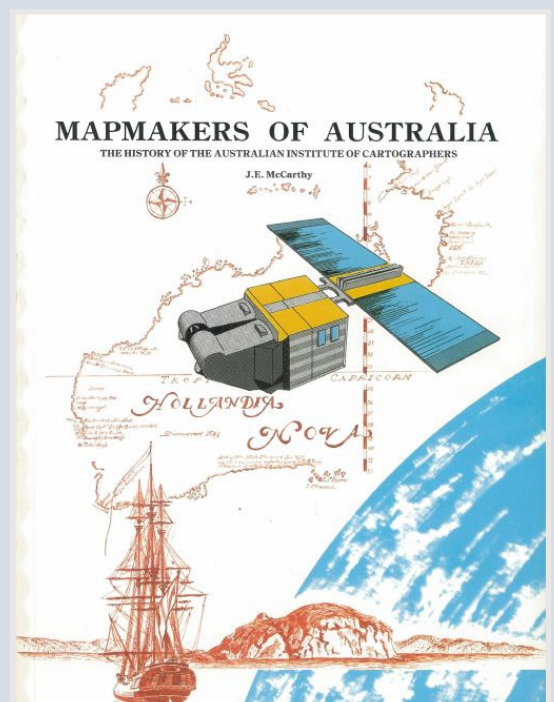
By J. E McCarthy (Author)
ISBN: 0731654757

The MSIA has a limited number of copies of the publication "Mapmakers of Australia: The history of the Australian Institute of Cartographers" available to members for **FREE** on a first come, first served basis.

If members are interested in a copy of this excellent publication, please send an email with your name and postal address to;

msi-connected@mappingsciences.org.au

"Mapmakers of Australia: The history of the Australian Institute of Cartographers" covers the period between 1952 to 1988 and provides a valuable insight and detailed knowledge into the creation of the Institute and the challenges and victories faced along the way.



GIS Day 2014

@ NSW Land & Property Information (LPI - Bathurst)

By Shane Oates

On the 19th November, GIS Day at Bathurst LPI (Topographic / Addressing Applications / Imagery and Elevation sections) was celebrated with CAKE!.... and a little bit of trivia, competition and prizes.

As the two images below show, there was a feast of a morning tea to be had to celebrate World GIS Day. Besides cake, profiteroles, other tempting snacks and even more cake, GIS was celebrated, discussed and showcased through the use of map displays and a trivia competition.

Doug Herrick (MSIA Councillor) also liberated an old topographic map and with some clever tailoring, fashioned a wearable map in the form of a vest. (see November MSI-Connected article by Doug Herrick regarding “wearable maps”). Although I do have a photo of the map vest, I’ll leave that one for another edition.



Caption: A small table of treats to celebrate GIS Day.

Source: GIS Day 2014 (NSW LPI Bathurst – Topographic / Addressing Applications / Imagery and Elevation)



Caption: Putting Bathurst on the map with cake!

Source: GIS Day 2014 (NSW LPI Bathurst – Topographic / Addressing Applications / Imagery and Elevation)

Contact Us

Visit our website www.mappingsciences.org.au or email us for more Information about our organisation.

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Not a MSIA member?

If you are not a MSIA member and wish to join our organisation, please visit;

www.mappingsciences.org.au/new-members/

The four levels of membership and associated costs vary depending on academic qualification, relevant and professional experience, and willingness to further the objects of the Institute.

Member: - \$170 (retired \$85 per year)

Associate: - \$170 (retired \$85 per year)

Affiliate: - \$170 (retired \$85 per year)

Student Member - FREE

Fees are per year.



ANZMapS

The Power of Maps 2015

April 29th - May 1st

**National Library of Australia
Canberra**

The Australian & New Zealand Map Society (ANZMapS) along with the Mapping Sciences Institute, Australia (MSIA) are hosting this mapping conference over three days in the national capital, Canberra.

Submissions are now invited on any topic in cartography, map curatorship, history of cartography or exploration, geovisualisation and GIScience, or related disciplines, covering work of a professional or academic nature.

In acknowledgement of the 100 year anniversary of the ANZAC Corps and the 100 year anniversary of the formation of the Royal Australian Survey Corps, one session will be dedicated to military mapping.



Further details can be found on the conference website:
www.anzmaps.org/conferences/



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