



MSI- *Connected!*

Newsletter of the Mapping Sciences Institute, Australia
Editors: Les Isdale and Keith Smith

www.mappingsciences.org.au

July 2012 ... Celebrating our 60th Anniversary

Australia's Representative
International Cartographic Association

Moving on



Les Isdale

My Presidency was extended to 20 July, so this is the last newsletter I will author as MSIA President. The experience of working with Councillors and members to promote cartography and cartographers has been a busy time, and a rewarding experience.

At the Council meeting in Brisbane on 8 July, we were reminded of the amount of creative effort which goes to make the Institute deliver its services to members.

I am very pleased to have been a part of it, and look forward to continued association with the work of Council.

'BIGF' – Big Success!

The Brisbane International Geospatial Forum 9-11 July was a notable success. It was innovative in being presented by three kindred organizations – IMTA (International Map Trade Association, Australia/Pacific), ANZMapS (the Australia New Zealand Map Society), and MSIA. It worked very well, and all the participants felt encouraged to undertake similar cooperative ventures in future.

Adam Ladhams, President Queensland Division and MSIA representative on the BIGF Organizing Committee, provided these quick notes on the Forum:



I was hoping to be slightly poetic and write a few lines, alas I have been preoccupied with other issues. Below is a quick summary of my take on the BIGF.

The Brisbane International Geospatial Forum 2012 attracted around 150 people from abroad and from all over Australia. The pre conference events including golf at the Victoria Park golf course, and an ESRI workshop.

The opening reception featured a spectacular performance by the Australian Girls Choir, and the official opening of the forum and map booth exhibition.

The first day of the forum was kicked off by the keynote from Charles Reagan who shared an insight into the past, current and future mapping trends and National Geographic operations with the use of vibrant and action images. A number of papers and presentations and sessions were presented over the course of 2 days, including topics such as disaster management, education and mapping, heritage and history, data management, new technologies including Lidar and social media, use of GIS, and mapping standards and programs.

The dinner was held at 66 on Ernest restaurant at the Southbank Institute and allowed delegates to indulge in some mouth watering canapés and sumptuous 3 course dinner. The drinks were constantly being poured and a number of old friendships were rekindled and new one formed by nights end. Entertainment was provided by the MC Les Isdale and he dazzled the audience with a harmonica, with special mention of his rendition of Edelweiss.

A number of awards were presented towards the end of the night including the IMTA Asia Pacific 2012 awards, MSIA award for best QUT Geospatial Mapping student poster, and on a lighter note, the golf awards.

Georg Gartner was the keynote for the 2nd day of technical papers and provided an insight into the functions of ICA as the peak international organization for cartography.

Around 30 people braved the rainy weather for an intimate tour of the State Library of Queensland and in particular the White Gloves Room. A guided tour and interesting facts about Brisbane were recited by the host. The tour also featured a visit to the Maritime Museum (with a intriguing onboard tour of the HMAS Diamantina, and viewing of the exhibition space), guided tour of QUT Gardens Point by Dr John Hayes, and lastly a visit to the convict museum at the Commissariat Store.

The Forum was a huge success and thanks goes out to the 3 organizations MSIA, IMTA and ANZMaps who jointly organized the Forum. Thank you also to the keynote speakers, presenters, sponsors, trade exhibitors and delegates for contributing to the Forum.

Queensland Division Awards QUT Student

Queensland Divisional President, Adam Ladhams, reports that he recently had the pleasure of presenting the MSIA Award to QUT student, Richard Wealleans, for achieving the highest grade in the Geospatial Mapping Unit.

The Industry Awards Evening was held at Old Government House where Adam took the opportunity to converse with the Chair of the SSSI Young Professionals, the Executive Officer of the Surveyors Board of Queensland, academics and of course the students themselves.

Our congratulations and best wishes to Richard.

Top Award to New Zealand

The IMTA (Asia Pacific) 2012 Map Awards attract the best of Australian and international contemporary cartographers, to win distinction for their products.

I was privileged to join two other judges, David Bateman and Sudarshan Karki, working with competition organizer Adam Graham in the challenging task of identifying the best entries.

The work was of a uniformly high order, making the judging so much harder – and so much more rewarding. We can be very proud of these home-grown map products, which compare favourably with world's best practice. We warmly congratulate the winners in each of the categories listed below:

Map Sheet

Gold Award – Tongariro National Park Map (**Geographx**) – see next.

Silver Award – Great Desert Tracks Simpson Desert Map (**Hema Maps**)

Book Based Product

Gold Award – Australia Motorcycle Atlas (**Hema Maps**)

Silver Award – Australia Photo Atlas (**Hema Maps**)

Tourist/Free Publication

Gold Award – YHA Australia Map & Hostel Guide (**Cartodraft Australia**)

Silver Award – Siam Paragon & Emporium Custom Map (**Groovy Maps**)

Map Related Product

Gold Award – Unisex iPad Bag Vienna (**Quovadis International**)

Silver Award – Cork Map Coasters (**Quovadis International**)

Digital Mapping Product

Gold Award – Mapscape (**Spatial Vision**)

Silver Award – 4WD Australia Application (**Hema Maps**)

Internet Web Site

Gold Award – Web Map Tiles Website (**PSMA**)

Silver Award – www.globeshop.com.au (**Cartodraft Australia**)

President's Innovation Award

Smart Globe Application (**Seo Jeon Globes**)

Graham Stanton Award

Tongariro National Park Map (**Geographx**)



And the winner is ...

Roger Smith, CEO Geographx Ltd, described the map concept:

We created this map to mark the 8th ICA Mountain Cartography workshop which will be held up at Tongariro National Park in early September.

"We wanted something a little different - essentially something visual that would attract viewers (the target market is

visitors to the area looking for something they can take home to hang on the wall). It needed to come across as an artwork from across the room yet provide detailed information on close inspection. This meant we had to be very careful in how we handled the type labels, type placement and symbology. The type in particular was challenging as it needed to be reversed out in order to be legible against such a bold coloured background, yet we wanted it to all but disappear when you stepped back from the map.

The background itself is not a photograph but a composite image (texture map) we



constructed from dozens of vector feature types sourced from publicly available digital source data. The other key aspect of this map is the unusual oblique orthographic projection. This has parallel projection lines as opposed to conventional 3D panoramic views which show a perspective view. Perspective views come with undesirable baggage - you get wide variation in direction and scale, you get occlusions (areas hidden from view), and they tend to focus on the central area at the expense of peripheral areas. The oblique orthographic projection either eliminates or minimizes all these undesirable effects by removing the perspective altogether. To replicate the view in nature one would have to go several hundred kilometres into space and look back through a narrow view telescope (hoping there are no clouds!)."

The following link allows viewers to zoom in and pan around.

<http://geographx.co.nz/what-we-do/cartography/tongariro-national-park/>

Journal to go Online



Starting next year , JoSS will be issued online. A major consideration is the cost – approximately \$14 to print compared to \$1 for the digital publication. Editor-in-Chief Graeme Wright says that the option to receive hardcopy remains – you will need to make your preference known through a circular which will be forwarded to members.

In order to capitalize on the citation rate of the Journal and to improve the impact factor and recognition, the publication schedule will change from June and December each year to March and September from 2013.

UN Role for Prof. William Cartwright



Bill Cartwright has taken up a new appointment following his four-year Presidency of the International Cartographic Association. In addition to his duties as Immediate Past President, Bill has been appointed Chair of the Joint Board of Geospatial Information Societies. He will also serve as a member of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management.

New Rep on ICA Commission



Trisha Moriarty has joined David Fraser as an Australian representative on the Commission of Education and Training of ICA.

The MSIA focuses on education relating to cartography and geo-information technology. The present focus is on education and training projects at the ICA level, through the Commission on Education and Training. The commission's website address is <http://lazarus.elte.hu/cet/>. There are two key sections of the website which related to the MSIA...

(1).Undergraduate Cartography Courses – This is a listing of many cartography related programs from countries around the world.

(2) Internet Cartography Teaching Courses – This is under development and the aim this year is to (re)design this webpage in such a way that people anywhere in the world, with an Internet connection, can access a well designed set of topics which are backed up by courses and resources already available over the Internet.

MSIA member (and Councillor) Trisha Moriarty has kindly agreed to be the Australian representative on the Commission from 2011-2015, along with David, and will be working with him to develop the two projects outlined above.

David has been invited on to the ICA Technology Outreach Working Group by the Chair Mr. E. Lynn Usery. The group is tasked with organizing workshops for nations who submit formal requests through the ICA.

History Updated

The Heritage Program has produced a summary of the MSIA history from 1988 to the present, written by Keith Smith. It will be placed on the Institute website. It complements the official history by John McCarthy, 'Mapmakers of Australia', which documents our history from 1952, and events leading up to the formation of the Institute.

AIC/ MSIA Archive Established



Heritage Program Manager Trevor Menzies has commenced a listing of the archival records of the Institute. No attempt will be made to amalgamate the records in a single repository, but the list will be available to researchers through the MSIA website.

Next G? – Future Directions for MSIA

It's not just Telstra announcing plans to upgrade its ageing networks and systems. MSIA Council is acutely aware of the need to rejuvenate its membership and operations.

David Fraser expressed his concern that MSIA must recognize the danger of stagnating, and offered a plan to ensure the long-term prospects of the Institute. One way was to rejuvenate the Council by personally inviting younger members to join Council where initially they would be mentored individually by current Councillors.

It is feasible to proceed with such a proposal under the provisions of the Constitution - "... the Council ... may, at any time, invite one or more other corporate members of the Institute to become members of the Council".

The Institute has a proud past. It can have a brilliant future too, but only through the direct involvement of members in the midst of busy careers, taking time to steer the MSIA into the future. Please take this as a personal invitation from me as President, with the assurance of a warm welcome to members prepared to join Council's efforts to promote cartographers and cartography.

New Member:

We welcome our latest member Wendy Ronda to the Queensland Division.

Keith's Korner: FROM ONE PLUS FIVE TO NONE

Keith Smith

There was a time, a very strange, unhurried time; a time when we sat at our cluttered desks and wrote our reports by manoeuvring our biros across successive foolscap pages. When our task was done we added a little instruction to the mistress of the typing pool such as the cryptic “1+5”, which was to say, one original and five carbon copies. Should more than five copies be requested, the mistress had recourse to a very clever mechanical device called a duplicator. More generally known by their brand names, such as Gestetner, these machines produced any number of exact copies at the turn of a handle – sometimes from a stencil made by the typewriter.

Efficient as these duplicators were, other means of making copies of documents were being developed, and in the early 1970's a new word was catapulted into our language – Xerox! Here was the ultimate in copying. Any number from one to a hundred on plain paper and quality so good it was difficult to pick the copy from the original. Trees were felled all over the world as we copied everything in sight for little more than the cost of the paper. And we went like: “Make an extra couple of copies, just in case.” and “Make sure you keep a copy of that before you throw it out.”

Perhaps a decade later another revolution started. It began with the wondrous word-processor which enabled us to see on a screen what was being typed and adjustments made before printing. Forests everywhere breathed a sigh of relief as wastepaper baskets were no longer filled with mistake-ridden typing paper. But before we could fully appreciate this functionality along came the personal computer and when a few were linked we could actually send word messages to one another without using paper. Enter the internet and we could do likewise globally. In about the mid- eighties I attended a demonstration of the paper-less office of the future and it all seemed quite feasible, but nevertheless, some of us persisted in printing and filing emails.

On another subject, the first AIC council meeting I attended began with what I would describe as the paper chase. Here councillors, heavily laden with duplicated copies of their reports, chased each other around the table busily distributing their literary output. Then followed the paper-shuffle phase where councillors tried to establish a semblance of order to the pile of paper which now confronted them. Then before we got around to considering the reports, the secretary was called upon to (and did) read aloud the Minutes of the previous meeting - notwithstanding the fact that by then we all held copies in our hands.

When I became President, I circumvented the excruciating avalanche of paper which preceded the meetings by requiring reports to be forwarded to the secretary, allowing enough time for him to assemble and distribute a portfolio back to councillors well before the meeting. When we became masters of the information technology in the early 1990's we switched to distributing our reports by email. We then dutifully printed them and still carried our bundles of paper into the meetings.

At the council meeting of July 2012, nearly 25% of Councillors arrived armed with their laptops and not a scrap of paper in sight. And this, just 40 years after the days of 1+5.

Joke:

Busload of Paddys on a mystery tour conducted a sweepstake on the destination – the driver won \$50.

Letters to the Editor? ... Welcome !

