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MSI- *Connected!*

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

June 2012 ... Celebrating our 60th Anniversary

Editorial

From Physical to Digital

For years our members enjoyed Institute news, edited by Greg Herron in a series of great colour publications on paper, styled '*Mapping Sciences Newsletter*'. Council has moved with the times to issue the news online, and I have produced emails to members with contributions from Keith Smith, Bill Cartwright, and Adam Ladhams. A number of these took the form of a blog, which seemed to offer advantages, not least a 'hit count' which showed that the site was attracting visits in satisfactory numbers. The masthead for these was '*MSI-Connected!*', with a covering email to members. Hard copy of these has been posted to the ever-decreasing number of members without email addresses.

Most recently, under the title '*Mapping Sciences Newsletter*', I tried the direct route to our members emailboxes, rather than invoke the Internet. This issue reverts to its original title, with the same intention – to bring members MSIA news in an informal format. In this issue, we recognize the elevation to Honorary Fellow of two distinguished members of the Institute, and report the change in chairmanship of the Bathurst Group. The 'BIGF' – Brisbane International Geospatial Forum – is nearly upon us, and there is a reminder here to visit the website for final information – and of course, registration.

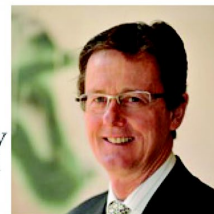
As always, we want the communication to be a two-way channel, and would welcome contributed articles or letters to the Editor.

Our Top Academics Honoured

Our congratulations to two of Australia's foremost academics in the geospatial field, members of MSIA and leaders in its affairs, who have been awarded the highest grade of membership in the Institute, that of Honorary Fellow.

Professor Graeme Wright

Most of Graeme's achievements are in the University sector and many are directly related to mapping sciences/GIS/spatial sciences. As Editor-in-Chief of the *Journal of Spatial Science* Graeme's role is partly focussed on MSIA, but clearly reaches across SSSI and the related associations that became the SSSI. In a competitive publishing environment, the *Journal* has now been supported by a major international publishing house (Taylor & Francis) and has become a significant international journal. Graeme's leadership role in the Cooperative Research Centre for Spatial Information is important for industry, the professions and research organizations.



Dr David Fraser

David retired as an Associate Professor from the RMIT University in April 2011. He had been involved in the teaching and application of cartography for more than 30 years along with 10 years in the Victorian Government, Lands Department. He is currently chair of the Commission on Education and Training for the International Cartographic Association, and is currently Manager of the MSIA Scholarship and Research Program.

David has a Bachelor of Applied Science in Cartography and a Master of Environmental Science. His PhD research related to the development of a spatial database capability model for rural applications. He is a Federal Councillor and past-President of MSIA, currently Webmaster for the MSIA website, and produces the on-line newsletter eCarto each month.

Countdown to BIG Forum

Adam Ladhams represents MSIA on the Organizing Committee, and the information already available is evidence of the excellent work being done in this shared endeavour. Brisbane in midwinter? – not to be missed. Please check out the website, and join the excitement on 9-10 July.



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MAPPING SCIENCES INSTITUTE
AUSTRALIA

ANZMapS

2012 Brisbane International Geospatial Forum

8th-10th July 2012, at the State Library of Queensland
Brisbane, Queensland, Australia

“Global Connections through Mapping”

Details at –

<http://www.imtamaps.org/events/displayevent.php?id=130>

See Virtual Brisbane at BIGF

Within the MSIA map display at the Forum, we hope to offer a movie presentation of the Virtual Brisbane map system. The map has been produced by Brisbane City Council's Urban Modeller, Infrastructure Coordination and Urban Design, City Planning and Sustainability Division. It is cartography at its best, allowing infinite variety of views and display options. See it online at –

<http://www.brisbane.qld.gov.au/planning-building/planning-guidelines-and-tools/online-mapping-tools/virtual-brisbane/index.htm>



Brisbane in Flood

By a happy coincidence, another brilliant map display is available at the Forum – and it's within the State Library of Queensland just round the corridor from the BIGF auditorium! The exhibition called 'Floodlines' depicts in word and images the drama of Brisbane's floods, especially the natural disasters of the summer of 2010-11.



In the Floodlines exhibition, images like this card are viewed by iPad or iPhone, using Floodlines software freely downloaded.

The image is transformed into a 3D model of the precinct, from any point of view, and with a slide icon which shows floodwater inundation at different times. The cards provide a portable 3D map of the city.

The website is informative – <http://www.slq.qld.gov.au/whats-on/events/floodlines/exhibitions/memory#app>

Bathurst Group Sees Change

In the words of 'The Banjo' ... *'There was movement at the station, for the word had passed around ...'*. And not least of the movements gathering pace in Institute affairs at the moment is the change in Chairmanship of the Bathurst Group.

Tony Baker provided leadership to the Bathurst Group over eight very active and productive years. He is moving on to a new job, and Doug Herrick has stepped up to take his place. We welcome Doug to his new responsibilities, and offer our best wishes to Tony.

Through NSW President Col Mitford I obtained from Doug some details of his professional background. Doug writes ...

I originally joined MSIA about 10 years ago, mainly for the technical information contained in the MSIA journals. Until now I haven't had much involvement with it. I have always enjoyed the Carto newsletter as it gives me a broad range of mapping information.

I became interested in a career in cartography/photogrammetry because of my ongoing fascination with hardcopy aerial photographs, paper maps and mathematics. Without knowing very much about the field I enrolled in a Bachelor of Spatial Information Systems at Charles Sturt University, which I completed in 2002.

While at Uni, I was lucky enough to get an LPI scholarship (Land and Property Information) which included a year's work. This was when LPI was starting to plan for the retirement of a number of employees.

From 2003 until now I've done the following at LPI:

** Processed cadastral updates - updating the Digital Cadastral Database from survey plans (including the occasional plan in feet/inches and chains/links).*

** Processed frame-based aerial photography. I can still remember getting up from the computer at the end of each day and seeing red crosses in front of my eyes - caused by looking at an endless number of magnified airphoto fiducials.*

** Updated topographic maps for the Digital Topographic Database.*

** Working on the Single Land Cadastre project for several years. This project was set up to integrate Sydney Water's cadastre with LPI's cadastre. I was involved in formulating and testing different methods of doing the processing. It was on this project where I first met up with Tony Baker*

** LPI bought an ADS40 airborne digital sensor to replace their existing frame-based camera in 2007. I was part of the team that implemented this change; working out the processing methods and the software required to process the new imagery. The recent upgrade to an ADS80 sensor will further improve our processing.*

** I hope to pursue a management role at LPI in the near future.*

As you can see, I have been very fortunate to be involved in the implementation of new technologies in both hardware and software.

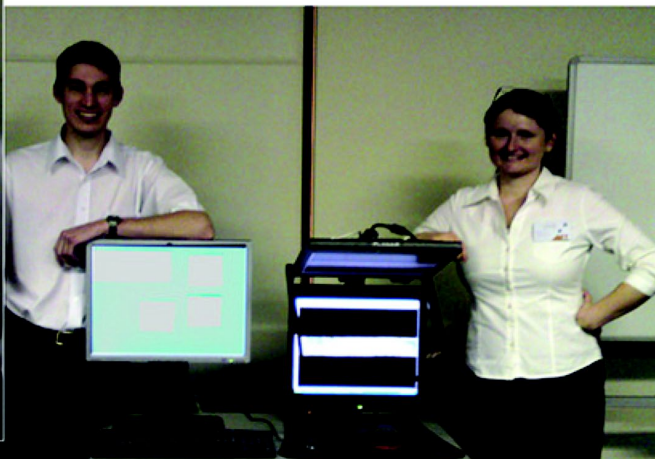
Doug

Doug Herrick - Senior Spatial Technician, Imagery Applications
Land and Property Information

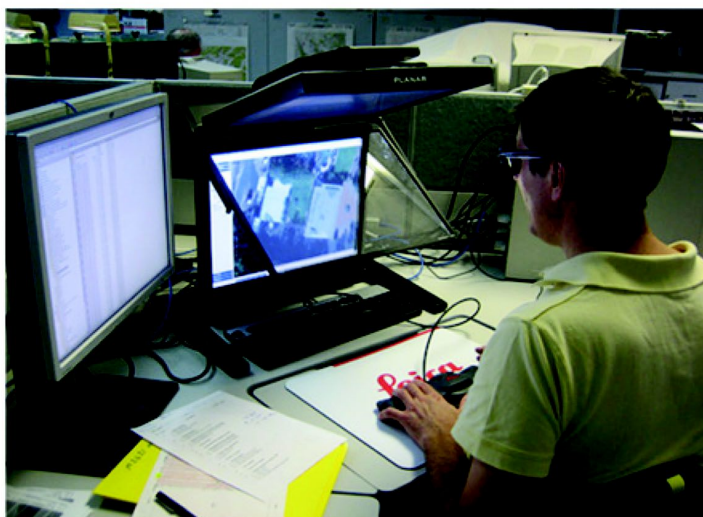
Our congratulations and thanks to both Tony and Doug. And best wishes to Col, on the mend after falling ill on his European holiday.



Doug as part of an LPI team giving a presentation on the ADS40 sensor at UNSW a few years ago.



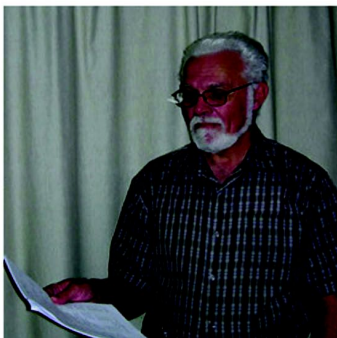
'Using one of our planar screens to look at stereo imagery. In the background you can still see some of the old stereo plotters.'



Treasurer reports changes to Corporations Law

Following the change in June 2010 in audit requirements for a 'Small Company Limited by Guarantee', the Institute books are audited by an accountant rather than a Company Registered auditor, at a considerable saving of money. Wilson Accountants have been engaged to review the financial statement and prepare the appropriate financial report as required. This change was detailed by Treasurer John McCormack at the 2012 Annual General Meeting held in Brisbane on Saturday 26 May.

Treasurer John McCormack tabled a report detailing MSIA income and expenditure for 2011. The report provided comprehensive details of income and expenditure for the National Executive; the Queensland, New South Wales and Northern Territory Divisions; the Bathurst Group and the Journal of Spatial Science. The result was an operating loss - details of which will be advised to members in the near future.



Councillors

Also at the AGM the secretary advised that Council for 2012 – 2013 comprises: Les Isdale (retiring 2012), David Fraser, Alan Armitage, Keith Smith, John McCormack, Adam Ladhams, Alan Unkles, Colin Mitford, Graeme Wright, Michael Turner, Pat Killoran, Trisha Moriarty and Trevor Menzies.

The departure of Greg Herron and Bill Cartwright, and the addition of Trisha as an 'invited Councillor' have already been noted. We wish them all well in their changed responsibilities.

New Roles for ICA past-President

Bill Cartwright is now chairing the Joint Board of Geospatial Information Societies, until August this year. This role also includes his contributions to the United Nations Experts Committee on Global Geospatial Management. Bill as Immediate Past-President of the International Cartographic Association will continue for the next four years to contribute to the work of ICA, and holds the Professorial Chair of the School of Mathematical and Geospatial Sciences, RMIT University. He is assured of our good wishes as he works through all these agencies to promote the cause and quality of cartography world wide.

Website revamped

Discussion of the MSIA website with a colleague, Dale Rodgie, led to his consulting with John McCormack and David Fraser to redesign the site, which now offers an attractive source of up-to-date information about the Institute. This has been a long and difficult process managed by John, and David's work as Webmaster finally achieves the professional image online that we needed. See it at www.mappingsciences.org.au.

MSIA Archive to be documented

Within the Heritage Program, there has long been a concern to secure the essential documents of MSIA history in an authoritative and accessible form. Trevor Menzies has compiled a draft table of these materials as a basis of an Institute archive, covering minutes, journals, conference papers, newsletters and National Reports, which includes description and location of each.

History of the Institute updated

The history of the Institute from 1988 to the present has been written for the Heritage Program by Keith Smith, and provides a welcome complement to the official history '*Mapmakers of Australia*' by John McCarthy covering the origins of the Institute in the 1950's to 1988. Entitled 'Cartography in Retreat', Keith's account provides a summary of events that impacted on the AIC and MSIA from 1988 to 2012.

Council to meet in Brisbane

The Institute Council will meet at the State Library of Queensland in Brisbane on Sunday 8 July. The meeting will receive my report as President, the financial report from Treasurer John McCormack, and a report from Adam on the 'BIGF' conference to commence the following day. The new President will be elected at the Council Meeting.

From Trevor Menzies we will have the final report of the MSIA 2011 conference in Canberra which celebrated 100 Years of Topographic Mapping. Reports from Program Managers will follow, defining in detail the activities through which Council has provided services to members.

Retiring President's Report

Approaching the end of my tenure as President, my report to the AGM dealt with a number of activities, including Newsletters, *eCARTO* magazine and the JoSS journal; Relationships with kindred societies; The Brisbane conference; The revamped website; and the Recorded history of AIC/MSIA 1988 to 2012.

I believe we are very fortunate in our technical publications, especially in our 'flagship' publication *Journal of Spatial Sciences* under Editor-in-Chief Prof. Graeme Wright; and in the monthly window on world cartography published online by Dr. David Fraser in *eCarto*.

After a short evolution as a blog, my email Newsletter aimed at bringing news of Institute activities to members. Both of these online publications invite input by members about local MSIA matters, but in 'a time without time' that is proving difficult.

I am pleased with the positive responses to my contacts with 'sister' organizations through their Presidents, and in some cases as guest columnist in their publications. The most dramatic exercise in good relations is the upcoming 'BIGF' – the Brisbane International Geospatial Forum – in which MSIA, IMTA and ANZMapS are co-operating to bring a wider professional horizon to all those whose business is maps.

The Future

In the midst of change in the mapping environment, from traditional cartography to geo-information services, it would be easy – and quite mistaken – to suppose that an institute which grew out of the topographic mapping of Australia, and the transformation of technology post-WW11, is doomed to irrelevance. Maps are in use like never before, and in forms never before seen, as cartographers embrace the new mapping environment.

We face the obvious challenge of keeping pace with technology. That's the price we pay, if the unique contribution we can make from our understanding of graphic design is to help shape the ways in which geographic information is manipulated and presented. For this reason education opportunities being offered under the Research and Scholarship Program are so important. At the same time, mapping is becoming a popular activity through readily available software, and in the movement styled 'Open Street Mapping', where communities join in mapping a locality and its social dimensions. We have seen excellent work from the Orienteering groups, and print and electronic media bristle with ever more sophisticated maps – because the map is such a universal language.

Our history does not assure us of a leading place in all this action, but the spirit of those sixty years in pursuit of cartographic excellence is key to our leadership role in the future of mapping. *eCarto* continually reminds us of the possibilities of our profession. It only remains for us to take the personal decisions which secure our individual position, and by supporting MSIA, ensures the health and strength of your Institute.

Les Isdale

National President, MSIA