



Australia's Representative
International Cartographic Association

MSI- Connected!

Newsletter of the Mapping Sciences Institute, Australia

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TRISHA MORIARTY,
PRESIDENT

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

I would like to start my first report by thanking the members of the Council for electing me to this position. It will be an honor to serve on the council representing the many professionals that now work and contribute to the domain of mapping sciences. I look forward to working with all council members, from both the national and state divisions. The collective wisdom that is MSIA is impressive for as much as its depth as it breadth across the fields of cartography, GIS, management, history and education and I am sure I will learn much.

I would also like to thank past president Don Pearce. Don has an extensive history of being involved in the institute and showed great dedication in once again stepping up to assist the institute when it was required.

I would like to harness the collective knowledge and expertise of our membership and would like to encourage all to participate in some way with the institute and there are many ways to do this from assisting with events to contributing content for MSI- Connected!

It is an exciting time for our profession on many levels. The ubiquitous presence of location services in the new technologies and software tools that have become

abundant in our everyday lives, means everyone is exposed to a map in some form on a daily basis, even if they are unaware of it.

As professionals so reliant on technology, a key challenge is keeping up to date with the rapidly changing work environment. Keeping abreast of the new software tools, developing methodologies and the evolving standards required to maintain integrity of our work is a full-time job within itself and this is one area the institute can be of great assistance to members.

Our website and e-newsletters contain a plethora of information that should regularly explore to ensure you get the most from them. And don't forget to look out for the MSIA hosted or partnership events being held as they provide an excellent way to stay informed of the latest technologies and to network with the experts.

Trisha Moriarty
National President, MSIA

MY LAST REPORT

As my term as President of MSIA draws to a close, I would like to thank Council for the opportunity after all these years and it might be some sort of record to have a gap of 50 odd years between terms. I would also like to wish my successor, Trish Moriarty, all the best for her term and assure her of my support. I tried my best to re-establish the use of Cartography and Cartographer as the correct terms to be used in and for our profession in place of the variety of terms that have arisen, none of which are adequate in my view.

In a year that saw the magnificent exhibition at the National Library of Maps of Our World where the terms "Cartography and Cartographer" dominated the descriptions of the Exhibition in reports and press releases and proved to be the most popular exhibition ever held at the Library. It meant that the terms used resonated with the general public in a way not seen before.

Also during the year ABC Television ran a 3 part documentary on Mapping Our World that began with the first maps and continued up to the production of modern maps and again utilised Cartography and Cartography all the way through with little reference to modern terms.

On the basis of these 2 issues alone it is clear that the claims often made that "cartography 'is old fashioned cannot be substantiated.

A look at the monthly Cartography Journal produced by David Fraser will further emphasise my point that Cartography and Cartographer are alive and well and shows the enormous field of cartographic applications that exist for students of cartography to follow.

What is upsetting to me is the sad fact that there is no longer a tertiary level course in Australia with the name "Cartography" heading it but covered by other obscure names. I did not do enough to push this issue but would hope that the new Administration might do so.

There are many challenges that remain for our profession and I would hope that our younger members might step up and take them on. Communication is probably the major one in that how do we utilise the technology to our advantage to converse with members? Our new President is much more in tune with these systems than I am and with support from the Y generation, I believe we can go forward as we did when the Institute was first established.

While values and concepts change, there is still the need for a professional body such as the Institute to set standards for industry and education. There is a very strong future for the MSIA if members take up the challenges as we did when the Institute was established and when we were asked to host the 1984 General Assembly and Conference.

I wish everyone, particularly our new President Trisha, all the very best for the coming year.

Don Pearce
Immediate Past-President, MSIA
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DON PEARCE, IMMEDIATE PAST
PRESIDENT

SPATIAL INFORMATION MASTER CLASS

QUT has appointed world-renowned environmental scientist Dr Tim Foresman as its inaugural SIBA Chair in Spatial Information, a position co-funded by the university and the Spatial Industries Business Association (SIBA).

Dr Foresman's leadership of NASA's Digital Earth Initiative helped pave the way for Google Earth.

He will spend the next several years building a critical mass of spatial information expertise in Queensland - and that will change the way we view our world, literally.

"About 90 per cent of all data is spatial in nature - consumer buying habits, land valuations, electricity and phone usage, tax revenues and spending within electorates, population demographics, economics - you name it," Dr Foresman said.

"We can capture those geographical elements in data and map them out to more easily visualise what that data is telling us. And when we can visualise information, then we can gain a well-informed consensus out of a group of people who might otherwise be divisive.

"This is the magic of the spatial revolution - the visualisation of information enables humans to sit down and make reasonable decisions about the world we live in. It empowers us to understand the value of the everyday decisions we make as individuals or communities."

As the SIBA Chair at QUT, Dr Foresman will focus on driving the spatial revolution in the business and government domains, showing them how cutting-edge spatial information research can be applied to existing and new decision-making tools.

The unique industry-endowed position is designed to increase the academic focus to real and imminent challenges facing our society and build the key business relationships to build the economy.

Much of Dr Foreman's work will build on the vast amount of spatial information now publically available through the Queensland Global application, the Queensland Government's pioneering interactive online tool that allows the public to easily access a range maps, imagery and government-owned data.

"Spatial information is the key to making informed decisions that benefit all sectors of business, government and the community," Dr Foresman said.

"For instance, a city facing congestion problems can use spatial information to determine if congestion would be best combatted by spending millions in tax revenue building a new superhighway or the same amount on a stronger public transport system.

"In agriculture, farmers could be using a variety of spatial information - satellites, in-field sensors, environmental monitoring - to reduce fertiliser and water wastage for example, and optimise the productivity of the whole industry."

Dr Foresman sees a near future of unprecedented transparency in government information, where residents have a true bird's-eye view of their world and how it interacts with all other government business.

It's a future in which all citizens actively engage with government and business to make sure they are receiving the best service.

For the rest of the press release refer to: <https://www.qut.edu.au/science-engineering/about/news/news?news-id=72198>



DR TIM FORESMAN, SIBA CHAIR IN SPATIAL INFORMATION

**NATIONAL CARTOGRAPHIC CONFERENCE
3-5 SEPTEMBER 2014
AUCKLAND, NEW ZEALAND**

The seventh National Cartographic Conference GeoCart'2014 / 42nd ANZMapS conference / 3rd ICA Regional Symposium on Cartography for Australasia and Oceania will be running together this year and convene in Auckland, 3-5 September 2014. It will be held at the outstanding facilities of The University of Auckland in the City of Sails - Auckland, New Zealand.

The Conference is jointly organised by the New Zealand Cartographic Society and the Australia and New Zealand Map Society, and is endorsed by the International Cartographic Association (ICA).

Keynote Speakers include:

- Kenneth Field, ESRI, USA
- Will van den Hoonard, Saint Thomas University, Canada
- Kristoffer Kristiansen, Norwegian Mapping Authority, Norway
- Granville Allen Mawer, Australia

Special Presentation by:

- Georg Gartner, President of the ICA, Austria

Abstract submissions are now invited on any topic in cartography, map curatorship, history of cartography or exploration, geovisualisation and Geographical Information Science, or related disciplines, covering work of a professional and /or academic nature. Further details can be found in the Invitation page accessed via the conference website link.

The official Conference website is:

<http://web.env.auckland.ac.nz/public/geocart2014/>

Submission of abstracts is through the EasyChair conference management system:

<https://www.easychair.org/conferences/?conf=geocart2014>

**Submissions for
abstracts close
7 July 2014**

GeoCart'2014

Cartographic Journeys through Space and Time

**Auckland
New Zealand
3-5 September 2014**

IMIA 2014 CONFERENCE
17-19 AUGUST 2014
MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA

On 17-19 August, the IMIA Asia Pacific conference will feature an exciting programme of speakers that will showcase how the “Power of Location” is put to good use in the real world. Business leaders, managers, academics and GIS professionals from the public and private sectors will attend – so should you. Sign up today!

The International Map Industry Association (IMIA) Asia Pacific conference is an annual event that promotes networking and education for organisations involved in the mapping and geospatial industry.

Whether you are in the business of maps or your organisation uses location-based technologies to make important, well-informed and evidence-based decisions, this year’s event will highlight the value of Geographic Information Systems and associated technologies.

For more information, visit the website:

<http://imiaconferences.com/>





Persian-Star.org

ROCKING CHAIR MAPPING
BY ALAN ARMITAGE
NATIONAL CHAIRMAN

Here I am rocking gently back and forth in my rocking chair, lightly running my fingers over the keys of my new computer, wandering what to type in..... should it be “mapping“, “cartography” or “spatial something“

I suddenly recall a conversation I had earlier this year with a very good friend of mine, who is in the same age group. His career had been associated with cabinet making. He informed me that these days his old profession now consisted of a computer designing the product and its component parts and then utilising a machine to cut out such parts to their precise measurements. The “Cabinet Maker“ then assembles such parts into the finished article.

Well, I thought, how does this differ to mapping?

Why then is so much time wasted conjuring up arguments about what terminology should be used to describe it. Whether it is called “cartography“, “spatial whatever“ or what, how does this have any affect on ensuring the continuity of an organisation such as ours. “ Mapping Sciences “, in my opinion, is as broad a term as you can get to cover the many, many facets now incorporated in such activities. For me, the word “mapping“ is more recognisable than any of the spatial concoctions that are commonly used. I do, however, recognise the fact that spatial usage is here and well understood by our younger compatriots.

Looking back on my local scene, Queensland

In my day cartography was a term fairly widely used for its practitioners employed in the government and privately, and also to describe their educational courses. These days, within the government, I doubt the existence of many cartography titled positions, and there are certainly no such courses. Some States differ, and still do encompass cartography terminology.

The point I am trying to make, is that the future of our organisation is not in its name, which I think is great anyhow, but what it can do to attract members, keep them interested, and keep them as members.

The MSIA now has as its president a young type person, Trisha Moriarty. Her position is Team Leader Geospatial Knowledge Management, Geological Survey NSW. She holds a Bachelor of Science in Cartography from Curtin University. She is obviously well versed in modern technology with its qualifying terminology and usage. She is looking for like people to join her and keep the Institute in the forefront of mapping as it is practiced in this country today.

Us oldies, still well represented in the organisation, should support this operation in full, and step aside as the younger forces manoeuvre into place. Getting older each day, I am happy to hand over to these modern practitioners and wish them well in their endeavours.

I have finally decided what to type in. I have just Googled “mapping “..... No sign of “cartography” as yet, in the headings popping up.



CHESSE AND BISCUITS (NOT TO MENTION THE BEER)

BY KEITH SMITH

“Are you coming to the a.g.m?” He queried, a note of desperation apparent in his voice. My interrogator was **Bryce Beikoff**, trying to drum-up support for his latest preoccupation, the Australian Institute of Cartographers. Bryce was a draftsman in the Queensland Survey Office and he had become convinced that the way to a brighter future for cartographers would be through the operation of the AIC. To this end, he had single-handedly established a Queensland Division and was keen to ensure that it prospered.

In answer to his question, my response was swift and incisive: “What’s an a.g.m?” So Bryce explained the importance of the Annual General Meeting and detailed the procedure - speeches by the President and the Treasurer and the confirmation of the Minutes of the previous AGM. He was appalled that members demonstrated their apathy by staying away. Then we went like:

K: “You mean to say that members would rather go home and watch ‘I Love Lucy’ than listen to this rigmarole?”

B: “I don’t want sarcasm; I want a solution.”

K: “Beer.”

B: “Listen. This isn’t a football club, it’s a professional institute.”

K: “I think you’ll find that professionals drink beer.”

Bryce was not only complaisant but very resource

-ful, so it was that the invitation to attend the next meeting included the tag line “Complimentary refreshments will be served at the conclusion of business.” In those pre-stubby days, “refreshments” was taken to mean a five gallon (Google it) keg of beer. Cheese and biscuits were a nice touch, adding a modicum of sophistication. On the night, members came early and stayed late. And they came in droves. From that point on, the Institute was seen in a new light and a transformation began almost immediately. What ensued was the adoption of an annual program, starting with the AGM, followed by a mid-year technical session and concluding with a Christmas party.

Lest it be thought that the Institute had degenerated into a social club, let me assure you, dear reader, that the technical sessions, which involved payment of a modest entry fee, were extremely well attended. Nevertheless, our Christmas parties soon became the highlight of the mapping and surveying social calendar and were graced by the presence of senior managers of relevant government departments and private firms. And never again was it necessary to coerce members to attend AGM’s to satisfy the quorum requirement.

Bryce went on to become National President of the AIC in 1971, and, in recognition of his outstanding contribution to the Institute and to cartography generally, was elevated to the grade of Honorary Fellow.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING EXPLAINED

The Mapping Sciences Institute, Australia is a registered public company and as such is subject to the provisions of Corporations legislation and is required to make information available to the Australian Securities and Investment Commission on request. As part of these circumstances, we are obliged to conduct an Annual General Meeting at which our financial dealings for the year are reported to members.

Most recently we held our AGM on 24 May, 2014, in Brisbane, to explain our financial transactions for the year 1 January to 31 December 2013. At the meeting, the Honorary Treasurer provided details of our income and expenditure and money held in bank accounts. In summary, the Institute incurred an operating loss of a little over \$2100 for the year and holds sufficient cash reserves to be able to pay its debts when they fall due for the foreseeable future.

Details are available on request from the Honorary National Treasurer, John McCormack:
<national.treasurer@mappingsciences.org.au>

BATHURST GROUP UPDATE

BY DOUG HERRICK

You might already know me from previous articles in the newsletter so I'll just bring you up-to-date with what I currently do.

I spend most days looking at aerial imagery over NSW - enjoying the changing landscape in two and three dimensions. It's just part of imagery processing, quality assurance, and digital surface model editing. Occasionally I also get to test new software and processing methods.

Working at Land & Property Information (LPI) NSW, I have access to the advice of professionals in fields ranging through Geodesy, Surveying, LiDAR, Imagery, Cadastral, Topography, Graphics and Information & Communications Technology. At the same time, due to the large number retiring, I also get to work beside quite a few new members to our profession.

It has been these new members joining the MSIA that has brought life to the Bathurst MSIA group. We are continuing our semi-monthly lunchtime talks, with our next talk on the role of GIS in managing the forest life cycle. In the future we hope to be able to record some of these talks for web access by all MSIA members.

As part of MSIA's support for the profession, the Bathurst group has been awarding the top TAFE student in LPI's trainee program each year. This year I was happy to congratulate Rohan Moppett (right) on his achievement.

