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**Subject:** Mapping Sciences Newsletter, May 2012



**NEWS UPDATE**

## *Mapping Sciences Newsletter*

May 2012

Les Isdale, National President, MSIA

### *Celebrating 60 years of service*

MSIA grew out of the Australian Institute of Cartographers (AIC) incorporated on 30 September 1952. Its formative years were shaped by the rapid increase in topographic mapping post WW-II, and by the rapid change in mapping technologies which has been a feature of the mapping scene ever since.

The impetus for a single professional organization which could speak for Australia's mapmakers came with the growing awareness of the scope of cartography beyond the dominant cadastral mapping. The emergence of an institute with such wide horizons was seen by some (not all) surveyors as an unwelcome change. Then, as now, the Institute had to prove its worth through its focus on professional development.

The change of name to Mapping Sciences Institute of Australia (MSIA) was registered by ASIC on 1 November 1995, to reflect the diversity of roles and technologies by which our members now deliver geographic information to clients. Under those name the Institute has represented cartographers locally, nationally, and internationally as the Australian member of the International Cartographic Association. And it's time to celebrate!

I'm attaching the logo I designed to support the promotion of MSIA through its anniversary. It will be used in the map display associated with the July conference with IMTA and ANZMapS in Brisbane. Please use it in your Division publications and correspondence, and display it proudly as a token of sixty years of achievement. (We have a larger file for A4 prints).

The logo captures this idea of name change by infilling the '60' with the badge of the AIC. I hope the image of the Australian coast suggests the change and growth – even vibrancy – that characterize the cartography scene today





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## ***MSIA Council, and you***

Council has decided to extend the term of my Presidency to 20 July, to embrace the period of 'BIGF' – the Brisbane International Geospatial Forum. It's an honour to serve the Institute in this capacity, and I welcome the opportunity to have a leading role in the events in prospect.

My initiatives to establish good relations with our 'sister societies' – ANZMapS, IMTA, NZCS and SSSI – have met with some success, and the events of July in a shared conference will be a powerful statement about the possibilities of our future dealings with them. I have no doubt that cartographers will continue to provide their expertise in project teams with other professionals, and effective communication with their organizations is an important goal.

Good things have happened in the areas of cartographic education and the website, and in active online communication with members through eCarto and these online newsletters.

The Institute faces an urgent need to attract to Council those members who in mid-career have most to gain from a vigorous and expert professional body, and can bring experience in the workplace to guide its programs to that end. Every member will understand that this is a matter of crucial importance to the future welfare of the Institute. Nominations to Council (including to the Presidency) accompanied by the agreement of the nominee – and reasons for both the nomination and the acceptance – should be mailed to the Secretary. Council will give them careful consideration. Keith Smith, National Secretary, is at the email address [msiau@gil.com.au](mailto:msiau@gil.com.au), the postal address GP Box 1817, Brisbane 4001, and Fax: 07 3219 2281.

It is time for us all to reconsider this challenge, and to offer to bring our professional experience to the level of leadership of what David aptly describes as a 'great little Institute'. Please take this challenge personally, and decide that you can, and will, take this commitment.

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## ***Time for action!***

The Earlybird registration for the July conference has been extended to **May 31**. Don't miss out!

Conference details may be seen, and documents downloaded, at the official BIGF website –

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

Online registration at –

[https://www.imtamaps.org/events/IMTA\\_Conference\\_ap2012.php](https://www.imtamaps.org/events/IMTA_Conference_ap2012.php)

To view more information about this event, visit the website, and click on the links below. PDF viewer required.

[Brisbane Flyer](#)

[Registration Form](#)

Exhibitor Form

Walking Tour Information

Map Awards Entry Letter

Map Awards Entry Form

Golf Day

Programme Schedule

Presentation Programme

Presentation Programme with Abstracts

Discount Offer for the Airport Airtrain into Brisbane

Media Partners

Sponsorship Opportunities

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Once again in his April issue of eCarto David lead us to internet sites which speak volumes about the future possibilities of cartography. For a quick look at what is already being done, check out the site –

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aTFib3D6D-A&feature=related>

... which deals with 3D data in AutoCAD Map 3D 2009.

The only problem I find with eCarto is – it's hard to get away, once you start exploring the great things being reported online.

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*Have you visited the new MSIA website yet? I think you will like it. Find it at –*

<http://www.mappingsciences.org.au/new/>

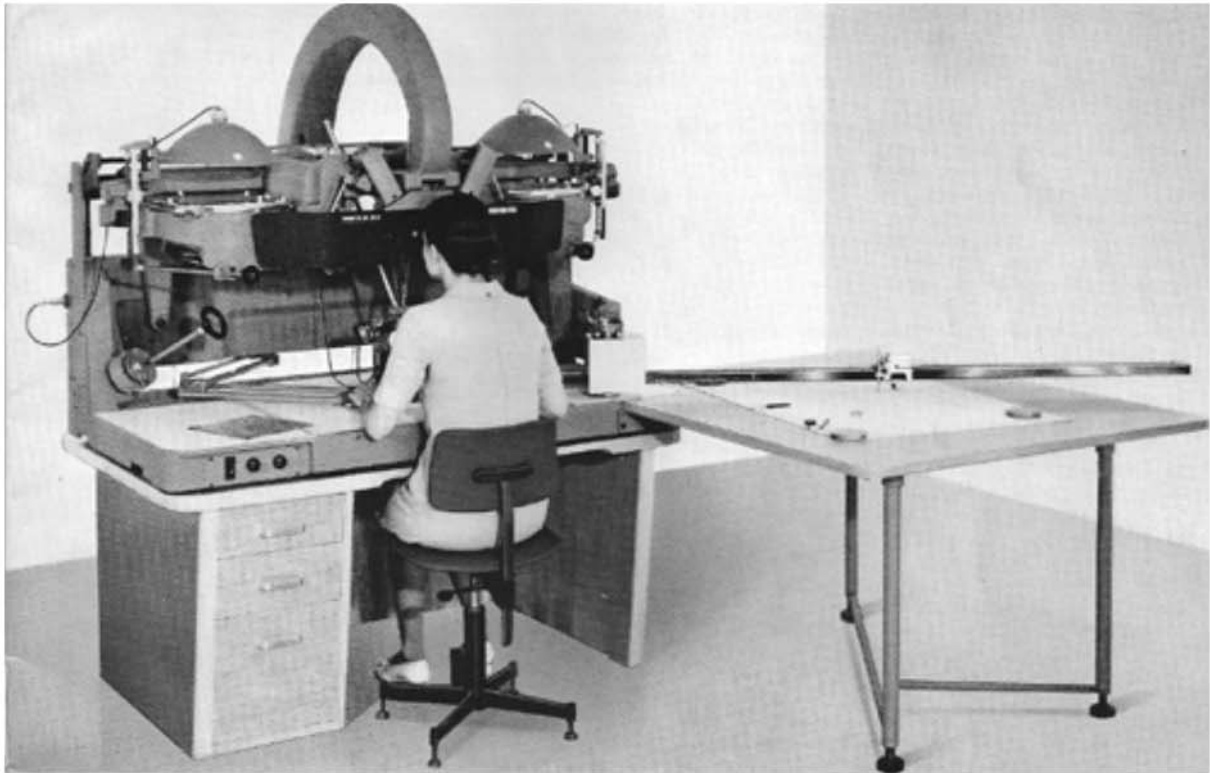


### ***STEREO-SCOPING: A COLLECTION OBSESSION*** by Adam Ladhams

After reading an article about a collection of cameras in a previous edition of the MSI Connected (dated 21 January 2012), I was prompted to share my experiences in collecting stereoscopes. This article is not intended to be a history lesson, as I am certain others can re-collect and offer a more practical account of using stereo plotters (or using quill pens and slide rules). Chances are that if you worked in cartography from the 1940s to 1970's you would have used a stereoscope at some time – personal computers in the 1980's changed all that.

Whilst at university, I possessed a penchant for 3d. For my final year project at university, I evaluated the significance of synthetic environments or virtual reality for use in the spatial industry just so that I could wear 3d glasses.

Now all I need to do is purchase a 3d led television, but that doesn't provide the same coarse experience. It was in my earlier years at university that I discovered stereo pairs in the photogrammetric laboratory. The photo lab as it was affectionately called by students housed mechanical and analogue equipment, in addition to two Silicone Graphics computers worth about \$10k each. The menacing green machines (the Zeiss stereo plotters) were used to create topographical plots using an extension arm fixed to a piece of lead. The trick to ensuring you had a stereo pair and able to sketch contour lines was to keep an eye on the floating dots without going cross-eyed. I remember when it was announced in the late 1990's that the stereo plotters were to be decommissioned and crated off to continue service in a developing country – I even managed in being lucky enough to salvage a dovetailed wooden box that housed the extension arms and weights as a memento of the hours I spent behind the binoculars.



(Image Source: Queensland University of Technology)

The Adam technology analogue plotter was a more compact machine which used small diapositives to perform an interior, relative, exterior and absolute orientation, a method termed as 'IRA' to remember by acronym in the exams - sadly that's all I can recall from my studies in photogrammetry (please don't ask me to calculate a 7 or even a 3 parameter shift matrix).





During the university subject Photogrammetry 1, students were issued with a task of calculating the focal length of a camera. I later discovered that if you taped two disposable 35mm film cameras together, stereo images could be produced (2 examples of Melbourne monuments (state library; shrine of remembrance) are provided below). In the early 2000's I went on to purchase my first digital camera (a Pentax 2 megapixel which cost me about \$400 duty free) that was able to create panoramas and stereo images.



The history of stereo viewers in Australia can be traced back to the Melbourne Centennial Exhibition, when in 1888, Queen Victoria held a stereoscope for the first time with, I am sure, some amazement. During that era it would have been easy to entertain the masses, or indeed royalty.

Over the last 10 years I amassed a sizeable collection of stereo viewers and vintage Bakelite View Masters. I enjoyed the chase to acquire rare, elusive and limited edition reels. At one stage I amassed dozens of stereo viewers and decided (after pressure from my wife) to rationalise my collection. I have only retained a few View Masters. Maybe I can look forward to collecting expensive toys in the future – classic cars anyone?

**DO YOU HAVE A HOBBY OR INTEREST THAT YOU WOULD LIKE TO SHARE WITH MSIA MEMBERS?**

*(Adam has arranged his photos for 'cross-viewing 3d'. Google that for more examples. Is this ability very common? Has it potential for a wider public? It would be interesting and informative to hear from members who resolve the 3d images without the use of stereoscopes. Just hit Reply, and drop me a line).*



