



Australia's Representative  
International Cartographic Association

# MSI- Connected!

Newsletter of the Mapping Sciences Institute, Australia

NOVEMBER 2013 EDITION

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## FROM THE EDITOR

These days, I attempt to shy away from contentious and complex topics. However; in stating such, I would like to pose a question? What has the ability to help people out of poverty, provide a more knowledgeable society, enable people to see fact over fantasy or rituals, and allow people to acquire marketable skills? The answer is: Education. That's right, as simple as it may, education has the ability to develop societal norms and enable people to develop skills that will allow them to solve (World) problems and collaborate with others. This leads into the disappointment regarding the lack of cartographic related studies and courses in Australia. The profitability of



courses, rather than skills requirements for the Nation seems to be apparent. Where do we go from here? Are cadetships, work experience and online courses the way forward to develop education solutions here in Australia? I would like to hear your thoughts on this matter. In this edition, there is a sneak preview of the brand new 'RU?' membership promotion campaign, targeting a number of audiences. The 'RU?' is designed to raise the profile of MSIA and to encourage non-members to join, and existing members to engage others in the profession of cartography. We hope you support the 'RU?' campaign, and encourage friends and colleagues to join MSIA. There are also news articles, and of course, a President's Report on the next page. Enjoy!

*Adam Ladhams*

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## LOOKING FOR CONTRIBUTIONS

Got a story to tell, want to honour a work colleague, promote your company, or provide a product review, contact Adam Ladhams on [adam.ladhams@hotmail.com](mailto:adam.ladhams@hotmail.com) to forward contributions.



## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

When we are born, we come into the world with nothing, but as we grow, we have a choice as to whether we want to be a part of the world or just a statistic in it. Fortunately, since the world began, a majority of people have wanted to be a part of the world and contribute something special to the lives we lead. There are too many things to itemise but I look at the work of the great explorers, the great mariners, the great architects and builders, the great engineers, the great doctors and scientists, the great airmen and more recently, the men of space, all of whom have made such a great contribution to our lifestyle and left their monuments behind.

I recently watched a program on TV about the sewers under the streets of Paris, an incredible piece of engineering, built in 1812, just 200 years ago. Today, engineers are distributing fibre optic cable, attached to the roof of the sewers, throughout the city to provide a free WiFi system that can be accessed on any street by everyone. They have used the sewer network to save digging up the streets, a huge cost and time saving. In Dubai, the Burj Khalifa, the tallest building in the world at 2625 feet, has been built in the desert sands and just opposite, the Jumeirah Beach Hotel, both stunning examples of architecture and engineering skills and passion.

They have been designed by men who wanted to push the boundaries of their professions to see what would happen, as the ancient mariners did, sailing further and further to see if they would fall off the earth. In a less spectacular but no less important way, cartographers with similar skills and passion, have shown through maps, how our world has developed over the centuries. For anyone travelling to London, a visit to the British Map Library is a wonderful experience as is the Library of Congress in Washington DC.

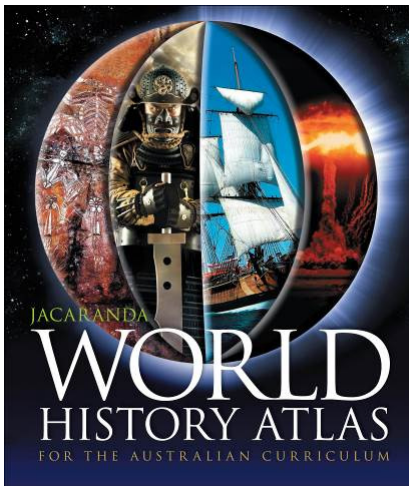
Closer to home, the National Library in Canberra will house an exhibition called "Mapping the World" from 7th November until 10th March. This remarkable exhibition will bring together some of the World's greatest maps, atlases, globes and scientific instruments, many of which have never been seen in the Southern Hemisphere. One item alone is costing \$200 000 to bring out. The Exhibition will take you on a spiritual, artistic and scientific journey showing how European explorers gradually unveiled the secrets of the South lands. An excellent catalogue is available at \$49.99. Any cartographer close to Canberra should make the effort to see this once in a lifetime opportunity.

There has been much debate over past years as to whether "Cartography" should be still used as the name of our profession. I think this Exhibition will remove any doubt that it should and give modern map makers something to be proud of and marvel at. While our map products of today are also examples of incredible skills, technology and talent, I am not sure they will be the subject of an Exhibition in 200 years time.

*Don Pearce, MSIA President*

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## LATEST NEWS: ANNOUNCING THE WINNER OF THE EDUCATIONAL CARTOGRAPHIC PRODUCTS CATEGORY AT THE INTERNATIONAL CARTOGRAPHIC CONFERENCE 2013 MAP AWARDS



Australian publisher, John Wiley and Sons Australia, has struck gold at the ICC Map Awards hosted in Dresden, Germany. The Jacaranda World History Atlas for the Australian Curriculum won first place in the Educational Cartographic Products category. The winning entry reinforces the exceptional quality of mapping products in Australia. The contribution by Australian publishers, such as John Wiley & Sons, proves that Australia is able to compete on the world stage. Congratulations to everyone involved in the creating the winning Atlas.

For more information about future map awards, contact the MSIA Secretary, Keith Smith, by email on [national.secretary@mappingsciences.org.au](mailto:national.secretary@mappingsciences.org.au)

For a full list of maps exhibited at the ICC 2013, visit <http://icaci.org/icc2013/>

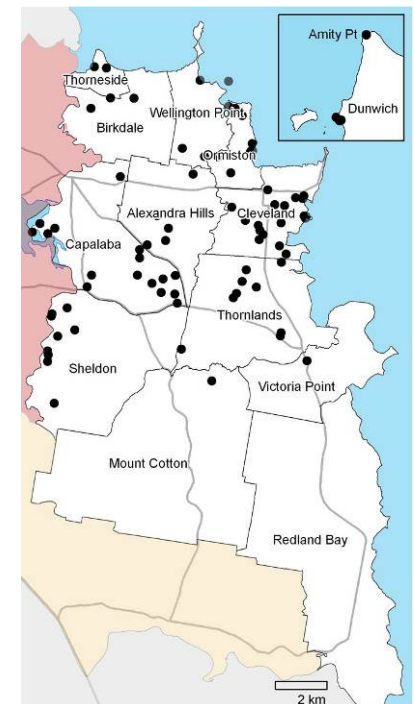
### NEWS ARTICLE: REPORT-A-KOALATHON

So how much can a koala bear? Yes, I am aware that koalas are a marsupial and not a bear. These furry, loveable critters are becoming scarcer in residential areas due to dog attacks (if only they would fight back), car strikes, and disease. Residents in the Redland City Council area have been asked to record sightings of koalas. The location of a koala sighting can be pinned to a Google map, and other information is collected for research and planning purposes. Koala numbers are in decline, but apparently they are resourceful animals and fairly resilient despite human settlement.

So unless you only like stuffed koalas rather than the real McCoy, you may like to support tree conservation and employ other mechanisms, such as koala friendly fencing, to ensure that koalas are here for our children's children. And of course, if you happen to live in the Redlands region, you might be interested in getting out the binoculars (explain that one to the neighbours with the pool on the other side of the fence), look for droppings from a koala (getting weirder) or keep an ear out for funny noises (yes, way too bizarre), then map it on the Web.

Written by Adam Ladhams

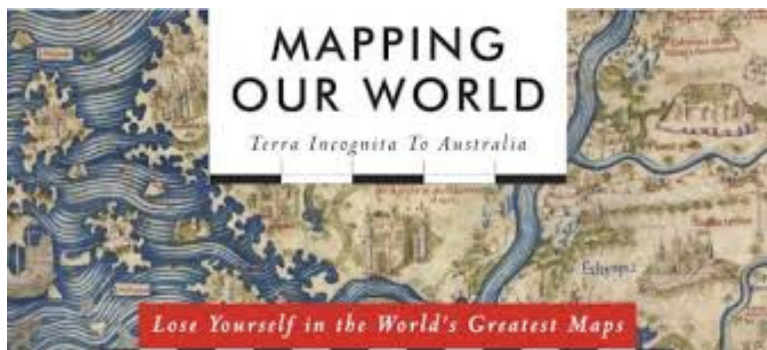
Image source: <http://www.koalagroup.asn.au/images/stories/documents/map.jpg>



## PRESS RELEASE

### “Rare map to star in National Library’s summer blockbuster”

Article from: <http://www.nla.gov.au/media-releases/2013/10/09/rare-map-to-star-in-national-librarys-summer-blockbuster>



One of the rarest maps in the world, the first large-scale map of New Holland, has been acquired by the National Library of Australia and will take centre stage in the Library’s summer blockbuster exhibition, *Mapping Our World: Terra Incognita to Australia*.

The map, *Archipelagus Orientalis, sive Asiaticus* (the Eastern and Asian archipelago), created in 1663 by master cartographer for the Dutch East India Company, Joan Blaeu, was found in a storage facility in Sweden in 2010. A few examples of the map were known worldwide – but none had come to light since the 17th century.

Chair of the National Library of Australia Council, Mr Ryan Stokes, described the Blaeu as the most important map documenting Australia’s presence prior to the arrival of the British.

‘It is the map on which all subsequent maps of New Holland are based, the primary source for the mapping that Cook had to complete the picture in 1770. It also has the distinction of including, for the first time on a map, details of the sighting of Tasmania by Tasman’s crew aboard the *Zeehaen* on 24 November 1642,’ Mr Stokes said.

‘The fact it survived at all is remarkable, and probably owes much to the fact no-one knew it existed for about a century.’

Mr Stokes said expert National Library Preservation staff had examined the map, which is in a very fragile state, and had begun specialised conservation work to stabilise it.

‘Four conservators are working on it full-time so it can safely be displayed in *Mapping Our World* when it opens on 7 November.’

Many of the other greatest maps in the world will be on show in the exhibition, including treasures which have never before been allowed out of their European vaults.

Maps from the British Library, the Vatican, the Bibliotheque Nationale de France as well as from Australia’s leading institutions will go on show in *Mapping Our World*.

‘It will be the first time many of these maps have been seen in the southern hemisphere,’ Mr Stokes said.

*Mapping Our World: Terra Incognita to Australia*, opens at the National Library of Australia, Canberra on 7 November 2013 and runs until 10 March 2014.

Free exhibition but bookings essential.



TIME FOR A PICTURE...



Zhangjiajie Stone Forest in Hunan, China. It is the inspiration for the floating mountains in the movie "Avatar."



## INTERNATIONAL CARTOGRAPHIC CONFERENCE (ICC) 2013 REPORT. Written by Trisha Moriarty, MSIA President-elect

The [International Cartographic Association \(ICA\)](#) held its 26th [International Cartographic Conference \(ICC\)](#) in Dresden, Germany in August this year. This was the first ICA conference I have attended and I would like to share just a few of the highlights with you in this article.

I was impressed by the variety in talks presented, demonstrating the amazing reach and pervasiveness of cartography into so many aspects of our lives. Sessions ranged from geovisual analytics, automative data quality assessment, eye movement analysis to environmental monitoring, social mapping and cartography in art, and that was just the first day. Coupled with the heritage rich town of Dresden to explore, there was no risk of boredom only sensory overload.

### Presentation highlights

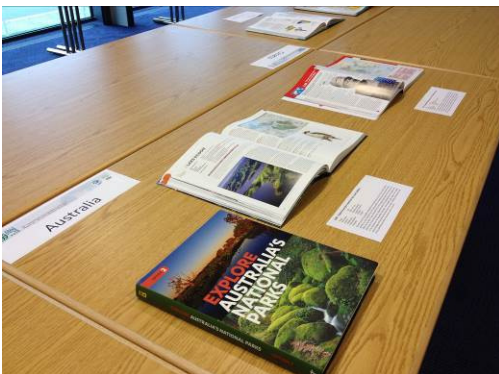
The keynote presentation by Fenella France (Chief, Preservation Research and Testing Division, Library of Congress) on the Waldseemuller Map detailed how the hyperspectral imaging, used as part of the preservation process to determine paper composition, reveals surprising new information regarding the reuse of the paper media in its construction, adding much more to the map's story than expected.

Jack Dangermond's (CEO, ERSI) keynote presentation highlighted the use of web maps to tell stories and the trend towards services, seen in the recently launched [Urban Observatory](#). Where maps are used to displays patterns in big data sets, by allowing the side by side comparison of urban environments.

Jan Mersey's (University of Guelph Geography, Ontario, Canada) presentation on Cartography in Art looked at three very different artists who each used or incorporated cartographic maps and elements into their art. I would recommend checking out the artist's websites to see their art for yourself. [Mathew Cusick](#), [Nancy Goodman Lawrence](#) and [Joao Machado](#).

### International Cartographic Exhibition

Australia was well represented in the map and atlas exhibitions that ran concurrently with the conference. The Jacaranda World History Atlas for the Australian Curriculum was deservedly rewarded with a first place in the Educational Cartographic Products category. Congratulations to all other entrants who submitted their work. I went back to the exhibition hall many times to pursue the offering from cartographic agencies from around the world and the exhibition area was always crowded, with delegates enjoying and discussing the works of cartographic excellence on display.



Exhibiting at the conference is a sure fire way of getting global exposure to your work, I would encourage cartographers and publishers to submit their work for the next conference in 2015 to be held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Information will be available on the MSIA website, early 2015. Perhaps even volunteer to assist the MSIA to set up the display.

### **Barbara Petchenik Children Maps Competition**

The childrens' map exhibition was a particular delight; I was amazed at the artistic talent on display and I was also intrigued by the glimpses they offered, into the minds of children and their use of cartographic representations to describe their worlds. Winners are displayed online at [Carelton University Library](#).



### **Conclusion**

This was the first ICC conference I have attended and I am very glad I did. Dresden itself has a fascinating history as the home to the Saxony royal family for many years. Elector August of Saxony (ruled 1553-1586) who played a prominent role in Saxony history was very much interested in cartography and surveying. The museum, [Royal Cabinet of Mathematical and Physical Instruments](#), holds some of the early drafting and survey equipment he used to conduct surveys of the region.

Sometimes the enjoyment of cartography gets a little lost amongst the more mundane aspects of a day job, but attending a mapping conferences can really serve to reawakens senses. Mingling with like-minded (or not so like-minded) people can generate sparks of creativity that would not be ignited elsewhere. Keeping abreast of developments in spatial technologies and theories is a must for all cartographers, and the opportunities to network and be exposed to new and developing ideas make attending conferences like this a must.

## GIS DAY 2013: CELEBRATE IN BRISBANE

**Wednesday 20th November marks this year's International GIS Day. Join in the fun at Australia's largest event in Brisbane CBD!**

This GIS Day, Australia's largest geospatial display will be held at the Riverside Centre in Brisbane. Running from 9am to 5pm, this FREE event will showcase the innovative and stunning uses of GIS technology in Queensland.

With interactive maps from Queensland Government to play with, Brisbane's Virtual 3D model, gadgets such as unmanned drones and vehicle tracking systems, and technical experts to demonstrate how maps today are made, this event has something for everyone.

Members of the public, schools, local and state government, and private sector companies will all be in attendance to celebrate the fascinating and useful world of GIS. So come along and see what's happening, and how you too can utilise these technologies in your own world.

There will be competitions, free activities and free giveaways throughout the day!

The event is also supporting Doctors Without Borders, so drop in and help this charity make a difference.

### Main event details

**Date:** 20th November 2013

**Time:** 9am-5pm

**Location:** Riverside Centre, 123 Eagle Street, Brisbane CBD

**Entry price:** FREE

Brisbane-based company GIS People is organising the event. For more information, please see [www.gisday.com.au](http://www.gisday.com.au) or contact [info@gispeople.com.au](mailto:info@gispeople.com.au).





## QUEENSLANDERS ENCOURAGED TO HELP MAP SHIPWRECKS – PRESS RELEASE

Earlier this year, the Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection issued a press release as part of National Archaeological Week, celebrated earlier this year. Below is an extract of the press release.

### ***'Uncovering Queensland's sunken treasures'***

*Queenslanders are encouraged to get involved in National Archaeological Week by providing any information they have about ship wreck sites along the state's east coast to the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection.*

*Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection Andrew Powell said the department was looking for any information relating to ship wreck sites, including known dive sites, unusual fishing spots or net 'hook ups', photographs, drawings or family records of shipwrecks, to help it piece together a part of Queensland's history.*

*"The Department of Environment and Heritage Protection (EHP) is leading a five-year Queensland Historic Shipwreck Survey which involves carrying out dive inspections on identified wrecks and coordinating remote sensing surveys of targeted areas within Moreton Bay and along Queensland's east coast," Mr Powell said.*

*"Estimates by marine archaeologists indicate that, since the 18<sup>th</sup> century, more than 1400 ships have been wrecked or abandoned along the Queensland coastline, on fringing reefs or inland waters.*

*"While we know the locations of ships that were deliberately scuttled on beaches and foreshores or abandoned up rivers and creeks, others were lost at sea and never seen again and we are keen to find exactly where those wrecks are."*

*Mr Powell said detailed information collated through this historic survey would be used to update the Australian National Shipwreck Database (ANSDB).*

*"Members of the public have a rare opportunity to critique information, conduct research and visit these unique heritage sites," Mr Powell said.*

*"While ships need to be wrecked for 75 years or more to automatically be declared historic, more recent shipwrecks can be declared historic if, for example, they are associated with important people or events."*

*Mr Powell said there were a number of World War Two era shipwrecks that had been declared historic in recent years including three United States warships lost during the Battle of the Coral Sea in 1942 and the AHS Centaur, which was torpedoed off Moreton Bay in 1943.*

EHP's Principal Heritage Officer Paddy Waterson said the shipwreck survey, which commenced in July 2011, had initially focussed on the state's south-east and would move progressively up the coast during the course of the project.

"Queensland's coastline is littered with untold stories under the sea," Mr Waterson said.

"We know there are more than 1,400 historic shipwrecks or abandoned vessels along the State's coast, as well as in our rivers and bays. But in most cases, data on these shipwrecks is scant and often inaccurate.

"Every one of these ships is an irreplaceable archaeological site which can tell us much about the lives of past generations of Queenslanders and others who visited our shores.

"Information the public can provide will also be vital in discovery more about our past.

"Local residents and tourists are invited to visit and enjoy our maritime heritage but are reminded that it is illegal to interfere with these fragile sites," Mr Waterson said.

The Queensland Heritage Act 1992 and the Commonwealth Historic Shipwrecks Act 1976 provide protection for and guides the management of all shipwrecks and associated artefacts older than 75 years.

Members of the public can conduct a search for a shipwreck, relic or particular area on the ANSD's database at [www.environment.gov.au](http://www.environment.gov.au) and if their information does not appear to be known, click on the link and submit a 'Notification of Discovery' report.

Alternatively, details of a shipwreck or relic can be emailed to [archaeology@derm.qld.gov.au](mailto:archaeology@derm.qld.gov.au) or given over the phone on 13 QGOV (13 74 68) during office hours.

The location of the Grace Darling wreck, near Bulwer on Moreton Island, was verified in September last year thanks to information provided by members of the local diving community.

For more information on Queensland's shipwrecks visit the EHP website at [www.ehp.qld.gov.au](http://www.ehp.qld.gov.au)



Source:

[http://www.ehp.qld.gov.au/heritage/documents/shipwrecks\\_moretonbay.pdf](http://www.ehp.qld.gov.au/heritage/documents/shipwrecks_moretonbay.pdf)



*Well – are you ...*

- **RETIRED?**

*Are you recently retired from a career in cartography or geographic information science?*

- **CARTOPHILIC?**

*Are you still enjoying a love of maps and map-making?*

- **INTERESTED?**

*Are you interested in the history of cartography over time?*

- **FASCINATED?**

*Are you following the extraordinary technical developments in mapping science and geographic information?*

Then – you may wish to join others of similar interest in MSIA.

Membership of the Mapping Sciences Institute, Australia will put you in touch with the cartographers of today and yesterday, who have never lost their interest in this most fascinating of professions.

*Check out Membership details at –*

*<http://www.mappingsciences.org.au/new-members/qualifications-for-membership>*