



MSI - CONNECTED!

Newsletter of the Mapping Sciences Institute, Australia

mappingsciences.org.au

October 2014

Mapping Presidents meet in Auckland

Mapping Sciences President Trisha Moriarty flew into Auckland early in September to participate in a major cartographic event for the region. The conference combined -

- New Zealand's seventh National Cartographic Conference,
- GeoCart2014,
- the 42nd ANZMapS Conference, and
- the third ICA Symposium on Cartography for Australasia and Oceania.

Conference was attended by the President of the International Cartographic Association, Georg Gartner. Trisha took the opportunity to catch up with the President of the Australian and New Zealand Map Society, Maggie Patton; and the new President of the New Zealand Cartographic Society, Roger Smith. Trisha said this is the first time that all four Presidents participated in meetings which enabled an exchange of views, focussed on international events impacting on mapping associations. **For Trisha's report see Page 2**

One of a long list of distinguished speakers, Professor Georg Gartner presented two papers in the Social and Natural Environment strand, and in the Plenary Session II discussed The Relevance of Cartography.

Details of the programme are posted at

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

It brought together a great team of speakers on topics of importance to map producers, librarians and researchers. Also scheduled were the New Zealand Cartographic Society Biennial General Meeting, and the Australian and New Zealand Map Society Annual General Meeting. At these meetings, Roger Smith succeeded Igor Drecki as President of NZCS, and Maggie Patton was returned as President of ANZMapS.

Publication of conference papers or abstracts, and the proceedings of the meetings will be keenly awaited by members of the participating organizations. The event was held at The University of Auckland from 3 to 5 September, on the theme, Cartographic Journeys through Space and Time.

Now in prospect is another conference, jointly organized by MSIA and ANZMapS, to be held in Canberra next April. Planning is already under way - watch this space.

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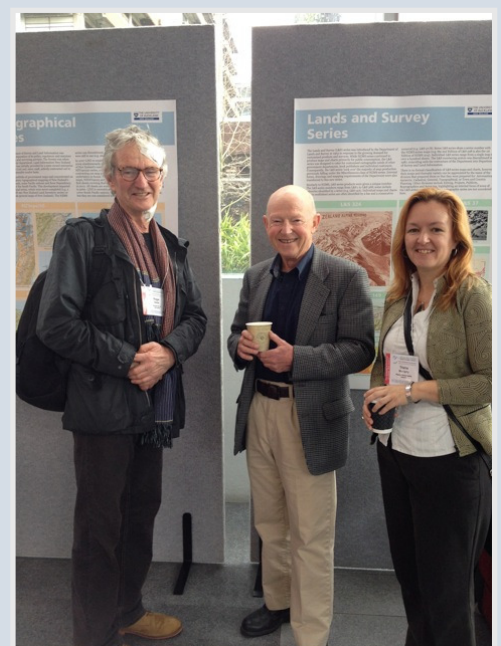
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Left to right: Rodger Smith (New Zealand Cartographic Society President), Granville Allen Mawer (Keynote speaker) and Trisha Moriarty

Presidents Report

Congratulations to the organisers of the GeoCart 2014 conference held earlier this month in Auckland, it provided an excellent forum for the exchange of ideas and techniques across disciplines, institutions and jurisdictions. This is what I enjoy most about Cartography and GIS focused conferences, the bringing together of a diverse range of practitioners in one location and being exposed to ideas I would not normally come across in my day job. Despite often suffering a bout of job envy, I always go home with an idea or technique that I can apply to my own work situation. There are so many resources available at our finger tips on the internet to assist professional development but a good conference does rejuvenate the soul.

The President of International Cartographic Association (ICA), Georg Gartner also made an important announcement during his keynote presentation, the Relevance of Cartography, that the ICA had been accepted as a full member of the International Council for Science (ICSU).

The ICSU acts as a principle advisor to the United Nations and the member status of the ICA recognizes the relevance of our discipline to global discussions within the scientific community at large. This goes in part to answer the question that has been raised in recent times, does Cartography matter? Well, yes it does, and recognition at this level echoes this. Cartography may be currently suffering an identity crisis of sorts, but I believe that's all it is.

Still it's important that we, as professionals, continue to promote the importance of spatial information and the need for professional expertise to ensure quality and trustworthy outputs. Despite my work increasingly being more about the data than the interface (that is the map) I still call myself a cartographer whenever I'm asked what I do. Eight out of 10 times I then have to explain what a cartographer does, but that means, that at the end of the conversation there is one less person who doesn't know what a cartographer does. One small step ...

Trisha Moriarty
President MSIA



Trisha Moriarty, President MSIA

ICA Announcement about ICSU General Assembly news

<http://www.icsu.org/general-assembly/news/press-release-2013-leading-scientists-from-around-the-world-gather-in-auckland-for-key-strategy-summit-of-global-scientific-organizations>

About the ICSU

The International Council for Science (ICSU) is a non-governmental organisation with a global membership of national scientific bodies (121 Members, representing 141 countries) and International Scientific Unions (32 Members). <http://www.icsu.org/about-icsu/about-us>

MSI - Connected! content submissions

If you have an article, report, comment, image or any other content that you would like to share with fellow MSIA members, please send an email to msi-connected@mappingsciences.org.au

Content submission deadline for the November 2014 edition is Tuesday 28th October 2014

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From the Editor



Shane Oates, Editor

Welcome MSI-Connected! October 2014

I apologise for this months edition being a little delayed, but what a busy couple of months September and October have turned out to be.

For reasons I am not 100% sure of, I decided to take on more study courses earlier in the year, which on the professional / personal skill list will be great, however I am finding it really is a great way to realise how much free time a person used to have at their disposal.

In this issue, there are a two items that I am eager to briefly cover here.

Firstly, and it is a pretty exciting one for me, I have recently acquired some original World War 1 maps showing the front lines over Europe, particularly covering the areas of France and Belgium. They are road network maps, and appear to be on fairly thin canvas. **More details on page 7**

Secondly, planning is currently underway for the MSIA website to undergo an upgrade and be revitalised to serve MSIA members and the general public in a more user friendly and interactive way.

An online survey is planned to be developed and sent out to members to gather critical feedback and suggestions as to what service and functions members expect of website, what content members want or would you like to see on the website along with a few other questions.

More planning is required, however I look forward to it progressing as a worthwhile service and source of information for members and the public.

Regards
Shane Oates

We still have copies available!

Mapmakers of Australia: The history of the Australian Institute of Cartographers

The MSIA has a limited number of copies of the publication "Mapmakers of Australia: The history of the Australian Institute of Cartographers" available to members for **FREE** on a first come, first served basis.

If you are interested in obtaining a copy of this publication, please see Page 7 for more details.

Upcoming Events

2014

October 14 - 17

QCON14 | Cairns QLD, Australia

December 2

Beck to the Future: The London Underground map as a design icon | RMIT Melbourne VIC, Australia

December 2 - 3

Geospatial Science Research 3 Symposium (GSR_3) | RMIT Melbourne VIC, Australia

2015

April 29 - May 1

The Power of Maps - (ANZMapS and MSIA) | National Library of Australia, Canberra ACT, Australia

August 23 - 28

27th International Cartographic Conference, 16th General Assembly of ICA | Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

2016 / 2017

July 2 - 7, 2017

28th International Cartographic Conference | Washington DC, USA

Do you know of a mapping or a spatial related event, in which other MSIA members may be interested in attending?

Let us know and will may include the details in our next newsletter!

New Moves for Maps

***A long - established map seller moves off prime commercial sites - and on to the Internet.
A sign of the times?***

World Wide Maps enjoyed prominence in Brisbane from its beginnings in the early 1980s. Back then, map shops flourished in big cities around the world. Rand McNally in New York showed the way, and it prompted a visiting manager of government mapping (who prefers to be nameless) to encourage its imitation at home.

The business soon passed into the ownership of a cartographer / photogrammetrist who was keen to take his skills to the market place – and established a family business that attracted great public support. What WWM found after 30 years is that the old business plan is in trouble, but map retailing still has a great future – if marketing moves with the times.

We wish them well. This awareness of public preference is critical not just to selling maps. It ought to be a driver in map design as well. Cartography covers the whole spectrum, from concept through production to delivery of a product that meets market demand. We have any number of members successful in business because they understand that basic process.

It's a good news story really. It calls for a whole range of skills beyond technical savvy. The changes are all about new possibilities, with the prize going to cartographers who turn changing public preferences, and new technologies, into success stories.

The place for world maps, topo maps, maps & flags of countries and places from all over the world.

Even with all the digital maps around there is still nothing easier than a paper map.

We are now a totally “online” store.

<http://worldwidemaps.spiffystores.com>

Centenary of the formation of the Royal Australian Survey Corps

MSIA, in conjunction with ANZMapS, is hosting a conference in Canberra from 29 April to 1 May 2015. The year 2015 is a significant one in Australia's military history. Not only will that year be the centenary of ANZAC but it is also the centenary of the formation of the Australian (later Royal Australian) Survey Corps. In recognition of these historic milestones the conference organisers have fittingly included a session on military mapping in the program.

Since its formation the Survey Corps has undertaken extensive mapping programs for military purposes whilst at the same time providing quality map coverage for national development in Australia and elsewhere. In undertaking this work the Corps has been at the forefront in the development and application of mapping technology as it has evolved over time.

In its early years the Survey Corps was given very modest resources to produce maps over training areas and other priority areas mostly in the south east of the Country. The first maps were compiled in the field using laborious plane table methods but aerial photography soon became the norm when the technology became available in the 1930s.

On the outbreak of war in 1939 only a fraction of the country had topographic map coverage suitable for defence purposes. The Survey Corps was called upon to address this deficiency and to provide maps to support the operations of Australian forces deployed on overseas campaigns.

The Corps grew from 50 personnel in 1939 to a peak of about 1700 in 1944. Units carried out mapping in various parts Australia but the priority was to provide maps to support the allied campaigns in the south west Pacific. A map production plant was established at the historic property of Fortuna in Bendigo, Victoria where some 21 million maps were printed over the course of the war. Fortuna was to remain the home of army cartography for the next 54 years until the Corps was disbanded in 1996.

After the war the Australian government realised the importance of having good map coverage for defence purposes as well as for national development. To fulfil this objective the Survey Corps then became a major contributor to an expanded national mapping program. At the same time the Corps was called upon to participate in aid schemes to provide mapping assistance to neighbouring countries to facilitate their national development. From the 1960s to the early 1990s extensive mapping programs were carried out in Papua New Guinea, Indonesia and several Pacific nations. Detachments also operated in Vietnam from 1965 to 1972 to provide support to the Australian Task Force.

Survey Corps operations were at the forefront in developments in surveying, cartographic and lithographic technology. Ground control survey methods were greatly improved by the adoption of the first electronic distance measuring equipment on land (Tellurometer) and in the air (Aerodist); the first doppler (Geoceiver) and later GPS satellite position fixing equipment; the airborne radar terrain profile recorder (APR) and the later laser terrain profiler. Map compilation went digital with the pioneering Automap 1 computer system in 1976 followed by the upgraded Automap 2 version in 1984. Map production saw the adoption of many developments in photolithographic and printing technology.

Throughout its existence the Survey Corps fulfilled with distinction its role to enhance the nation's defence capability and its economic development. In doing so the activities of the Corps are now a big part of our cartographic heritage. I look forward to the conference presentations when these achievements will be acknowledged and become more apparent to delegates.

Trevor Menzies
MSIA Program Manager Heritage



World War I Maps

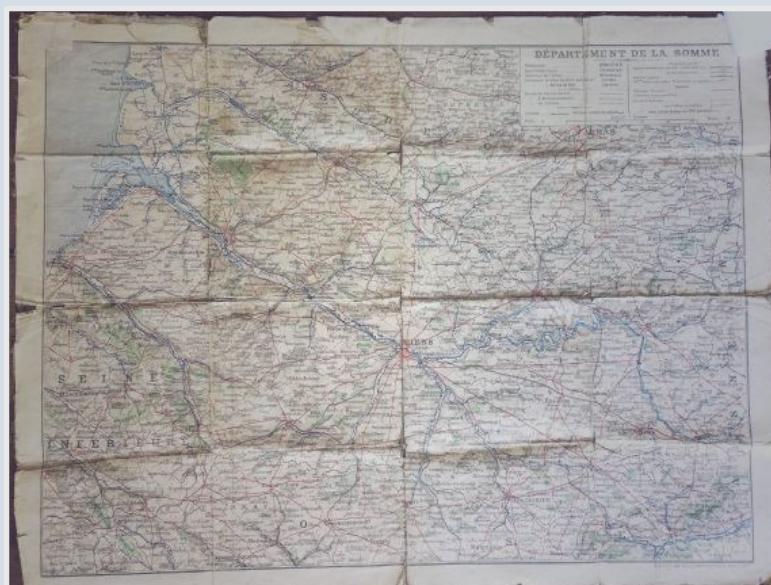
I have been fortunate recently to be able to come into possession of four maps dating back to roughly 1915 - 1919 which show the frontlines of WWI in the northern France / Belgium region,

All four maps are canvas backed and have generally seen the ravages of time, along with the usual wear and tear, however I am enquiring as to the best means to have the maps preserved and possibly framed later on for display at activities next year.

To my surprise, after looking over the maps for a couple of hours with excitement, I noticed that on the reverse of two of the maps are the names, service numbers and in one case the unit, of two AIF personnel that possibly used the maps to carry out their duties.

Of course I had to research who the two soldiers were and after a little bit of a search, I was able to retrieve their personnel records from the internet. One soldier belonged to the 7th Field Ambulance, the other 1 FAB (Field Artillery Brigade).

The image quality in the above picture isn't of great quality as I need to keep the size of the newsletter to a minimum, however on the right hand side of the map running from top to bottom, is a hand drawn line depicting the frontline. The date is scribbled in at the bottom of the line, however, at this stage I am unable to determine the final number and only have 20 June 191?. It may require some digital processing and trickery to get the last one.



Map Title: Department de la Somme

Subject: World War 1 maps showing the frontline in northern France

Mapmakers of Australia: The history of the Australian Institute of Cartographers

By J. E McCarthy (Author)

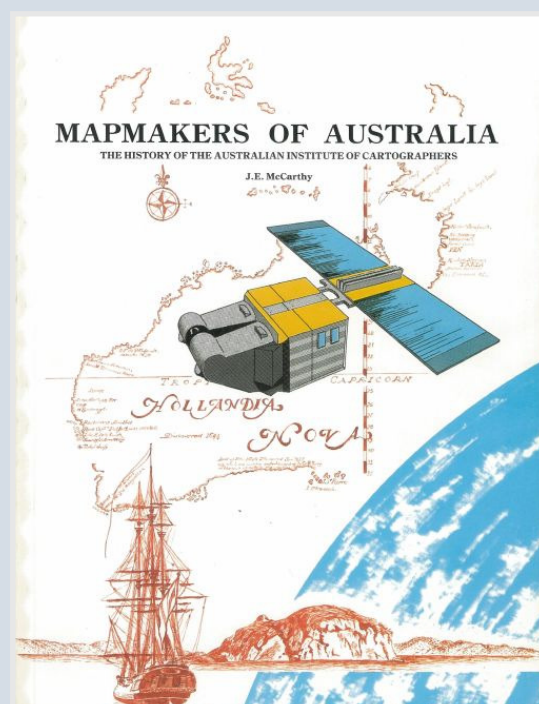
ISBN: 0731654757

The MSIA has a limited number of copies of the publication "Mapmakers of Australia: The history of the Australian Institute of Cartographers" available to members for **FREE** on a first come, first served basis.

If members are interested in a copy of this excellent publication, please send an email with your name and postal address to;

msi-connected@mappingsciences.org.au

"Mapmakers of Australia: The history of the Australian Institute of Cartographers" covers the period between 1952 to 1988 and provides a valuable insight and detailed knowledge into the creation of the Institute and the challenges and victories faced along the way.



Geospatial Science Research 3 Symposium (GSR_3)

2-3 December 2014 | RMIT Swanston Academic Building, Melbourne

The Geospatial Science Research Group at RMIT is once again hosting the GSR Symposium in 2014. The aim of the symposium series is to bring together colleagues from the academic, research and professional sectors of the geospatial sciences, in its broadest context.

The original concept behind this symposium series was to focus on research in the Geospatial Sciences and to provide an inclusive forum for advancing research in this discipline. GSR_3 is the third event in this symposium series that aims to provide a forum to showcase and critique current research, foster existing collaborations and establish new alliances.

GSR_3 will feature a keynote address from Ken Field from ESRI in California on 'The shifting personalities of map-making'. The program also includes invited presentations from:

- Professor Tim Foresman, Queensland University of Technology
- Professor Brett Biddington AM, Space Environment Research Centre
- Professor Christina Hulbe, University of Otago
- Associate Professor Matt Duckham, University of Melbourne

A preliminary program is available here. <http://gsrthree.wordpress.com>

There is no registration fee for attendees. However, for logistics and catering purposes, please inform the organising committee that you will attend via email to gsr@rmit.edu.au providing your name, organisation and contact details. Please include 'GSR_3' in the subject line.

We look forward to seeing you at RMIT in December
GSR_3 Organising Committee.

Beck to the Future: The London Underground map as a design icon

2 December 2014 | RMIT Swanston Academic Building, Melbourne

Ken Field from ESRI in California will present a public lecture on **Beck to the Future: The London Underground map as a design icon**

When one thinks of a map depicting London, generally the image that appears is that of the map designed by Henry (Harry) Beck. It has become a design icon despite the fact that it eschews topography (other than the River Thames) and focuses on the simplified depiction of the topology of the Underground rail network. Beck's map, designed in 1931, and first made available to London commuters in 1933, has become the image of the geography of London and, generally, the mental map that defines how London 'works'. Station names have become synonymous with the above-ground landscape and the network is such that most of London's landmarks can be readily located through the map. Navigating between them is a simple process and while the city above is a socio-economic and cultural soup, the simplicity of the map brings a sense of order, structure and sensibility. It is a perfect counterpoint to the chaos at street level.

In cartographic terms, as a communication tool, Beck's map works and marries form with function perfectly. It retains the status of 'the' map of London. The symbols are clear and well crafted; the composition and layout, though somewhat challenged by network changes since 1933, remains beautifully balanced; and the design has remained relatively unchanged over the last 80 years which creates stability in appearance and breeds confidence in its use.

There is no attendance fee for this public lecture. However, please RSVP via email to gsr@rmit.edu.au providing your name, organisation and contact details. Please include 'Public Lecture' in the subject line.

Map of the Month

Winner of the New Zealand Cartographic Society Maps Award 2014

West Coast of the Southern Alps

The Southern Alps run 450 km north to south extending along much of the length of New Zealand's South Island. The tallest peak is Aoraki / Mount Cook, the highest point in New Zealand at 3,754 metres (12,316 ft.)

This large format map was designed to communicate visitor information at the Hokitika iSITE visitor information centre.



Map: West Coast of the Southern Alps

Produced by: Geographx

[www.http://geographx.co.nz](http://geographx.co.nz)

Winner of the New Zealand Cartographic Society Maps Award 2014

Contact Us

Visit our website www.mappingsciences.org.au or email us for more Information about our organisation.

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www.mappingsciences.org.au/new-members/

The four levels of membership and associated costs vary depending on academic qualification, relevant and professional experience, and willingness to further the objects of the Institute.

Member: - \$170 (retired \$85 per year)

Associate Member: - \$170 (retired \$85 per year)

Affiliate Member - \$170 (retired \$85 per year)

Student Member - \$26

Fees are per year and include GST.