



MSI - CONNECTED!

Newsletter of the Mapping Sciences Institute, Australia

mappingsciences.org.au

September 2014

Presidents Report

August has been a very busy month. Work has begun on organising a joint conference to be co-hosted by MSIA and ANZMapS next year in Canberra. The organising committee has been established with representation from both groups and the Memorandum of Understanding, governing the partnership, has just been signed.

The conference theme is the Power of Maps and we are hoping to present a broad and interesting array of presentations looking at the authoritative and influential role maps play in our lives.

As many of you may be aware it's the ANZAC centenary this year, marking the beginning of the ANZAC tradition with Australian and New Zealand participation in World War 1. There was a recent exhibition at the Newcastle Museum that told the story of the Australian Mining Battalion and Tunnellers in World War 1. It included a display of the geology maps and cross sections from the Western Front. The knowledge of the local geology was useful for both defensive and offensive purposes as the maps were designed to show the suitability of the ground for tunnelling or construction of trenches. It will also be the 100th anniversary of the Royal Army Survey Corps next year and it's clear to me there is a rich cartographic history in our immediate past to be explored. It would be great to see similar stories presented at the conference. The organising committee is also investigating other ways to do this with perhaps an exhibition of maps or posters during the conference at the National Library.

So on this note, remember you can participate in the conference as either a delegate or presenter. It's never too early to start preparing your ideas and beginning your research. Keep an eye on the website, we will be calling for abstracts shortly. But even if presenting is not your thing, please don't hesitate to spread the word among your colleagues and friends.

Also if you can assist by promoting our event, distributing the conference flyer at work, or through other networks, please contact us via the email addresses below.

MSIA representatives on the conference organising committee are;

Trisha Moriarty president.msia@gmail.com
Dr David Fraser national.secretary@mappingsciences.org.au

Please feel free to contact us with ideas and suggestions.

Trisha Moriarty President MSIA

For further information on the planned ANZAC commemorative events
www.anzacentenary.gov.au

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(Facebook Inc.)



Trisha Moriarty, President MSIA

Rocking Chair Mapping

Here I am rocking gently back and forth in my rocking chair, lightly running my fingers over the keys of my new computer, wondering 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 consists of a computer designing the product and its component parts, then utilises 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” or “spatial whatever”, how does this have any effect 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 by practitioners employed in the government, privately and 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 minded people to join her and keep the Institute in the forefront of mapping as it is practiced in this country to day.

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”.....
“Cartography” popped up once on the first page.



Chairman
MSIA Executive
25th August 2014.

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 October 2014 edition is Tuesday 23rd September 2014

Upcoming Events

2014

September 2

MSIA Technical Lunch (Bathurst Group) | "Cox's Road Dreaming" | Land & Property Information, Bathurst NSW, Australia

September 3 - 5

GeoCart'2014 | Auckland, New Zealand

October 14 - 17

QCON14 | Cairns QLD, 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 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!

From the Editor...

Welcome to the September 2014 edition of MSI-Connected!

Thank you to those that have contacted me to express their views, comments and feedback regarding the August issue of MSI-Connected, it is most appreciated.



Shane Oates, Editor

Now, lets move onto general business or more specifically, I'd like to comment in regards to the article on the previous page by Alan Armitage (Chairman - MSIA Executive) titled "**Rocking Chair Mapping**".

When I was sent the article for inclusion in the newsletter, it resonated with some of my observations of the MSI-Connected newsletter. These observations touch on the future direction of MSI-Connected in regards to content and its relevance, which in broader terms may also apply to the MSIA in general.

So where is Shane going with this you might be thinking? Simply, it is as follows;

Do I, as editor, include content that is more traditionally cartographic in nature and purpose which many of our membership enjoy? Or do I branch further out in terms of content into the continuously growing and diverse world that is "spatial", and engage a wider audience and potentially new members?

This I feel, applies to the Institute on the whole. Do we keep pace with the industry and the multitude of areas that "spatial" now resides? Or do we cling on to the Institutes history and roots and potentially lose our footing in the mapping and "spatial" world and in turn lose our relevance to the industry in its current form? Personally I think we can do both. However, the membership has to want it, be a part of it and drive it.

As mentioned in my first paragraph, I am encouraged by the feedback I have received regarding the last issue. It lets me know that our members still hold value in the newsletter, its history and the Institute from where it was born.

Regards
Shane Oates

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.

27th International Cartographic Conference

16th General Assembly of ICA

August 23-28, 2015 | Rio de Janeiro / Brazil

“Maps Connecting the World”

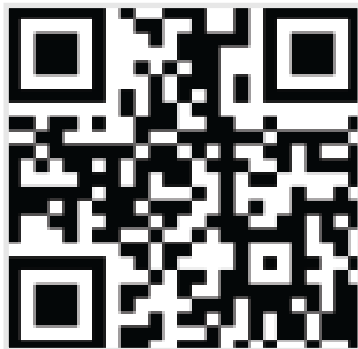
The **27th International Cartographic Conference** will be held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil in August 2015. This conference takes place for the first time in Brazil and for the second time in South America. The International Cartographic Conferences take place every two years, in 2015 this event will be held in the "The Marvelous City".

We want you to participate in what is going to be a wonderful event. It will provide the opportunity to attend presentations and Commissions and Working Groups meetings, to visit technical and international mapping exhibitions and to socialize with colleagues from the international Cartography and GI Science community at a place where people love hosting visitors, are cheerful, friendly, happy and show receptivity at all times.

The Call for Abstract is open.

The conference will provide a forum for the presentation of scientific papers illustrating the current efforts of the research community, professional papers describing the cutting-edge methods employed by mapping organizations, meetings of the ICA Commissions and Working Groups, furthering their international collaborative efforts to advance knowledge and techniques in cartography, map exhibitions and the chance to meet again with colleagues and friends.

Full conference information can be found at www.icc2015.org or by scanning the QR code below with your mobile phone or other compatible QR Code Reader.



What is a QR code?

A QR code (Quick Response Code) is a machine-readable code consisting of black modules (square dots) arranged in a square grid on a white background, which can be read by an imaging device (such as a camera) and processed using Reed–Solomon error correction until the image can be appropriately interpreted.

The required data are then extracted from patterns present in both horizontal and vertical components of the image.

ICC2015 Important Dates

Please be aware of the deadlines for the submission:

Paper Submission Deadline	October 15, 2014
Papers Acceptance Notification	February 15, 2015
Final Paper Deadline	March 15, 2015
Authors Registration Deadline	March 15, 2015
ICC2015 Conference	August 23-28, 2015



MSIA National Council

President

Trisha Moriarty
(Education Manager)

Immediate Past President

Don Pearce

Chairman of Executive

Alan Armitage

Secretary

Keith Smith

Treasurer

John McCormack
(Program Manager for Promotion & Management)

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Professor Graeme Wright
(Editor-in-Chief of the 'Journal of Spatial Science')

Dr. David Fraser
(Research & Scholarship Program Manager, Webmaster, Editor of "Cartography")

Alan Unkles
(Membership Manager)

Les Isdale
(QLD Division)

Colin Mitford
(NSW Division)

Michael Turner
(NSW Division)

Doug Herrick
(Bathurst Division)

Pat Killoran

Program Managers

Trevor Menzies
(Heritage Program Manager)

Bill Cartwright
(International Program Manager)

On with the Show *Written by Les Isdale*

I've been to the Ekka.

In Queensland, that means only one thing – the annual Royal National Association exhibition, which has claimed the affection of kids of all ages for a hundred years.

My earliest memories of the fairground and farm produce, axe men and acrobats, tractors and toffee, somehow survive into old age – and I had a ball.

For me the Queensland Government display held special memories. In the 1970s I assisted Guy Smith, later Chief Cartographer, set up the first RNA exhibit to promote the new Department of Mapping and Surveying. What a buzz! We had a splash of map products, and DIY stereo viewing of air photo pairs. We gave visitors the story of mapping, old and new. It went very well.



The 2014 version was off another planet. The guys patiently briefed me on the Department's current offering, where the digital data base now extends to the furthest reaches of administrative GIS, and under the QTopo system is available free online. I think I need to repeat that – FREE, ONLINE.

This is a quantum leap from the lithographs of my cadet years, with maps going quietly going out of date on the map room shelves. Continuous updates enable reliability we could only dream of. I was drop-jawed at the multiplicity of layers of information, and the lightning fast delivery through the data projector on to the display wall.

Visitors could be forgiven for failing to recognise it as the most valuable giveaway at the Show.

I am as proud of it as if I'd done it myself. Perhaps we all had a hand in it, as we built up the hard-copy cadastre and the DCDB developed from it. It's a great time to be a Cartographer, with brilliant tools to match with creative imagination, for a geographic information service we all can be proud of.

The Newsletter Story

Revisited by Keith Smith, August, 2014

As far as I know, our first national newsletter was issued in June, 1954. It was titled “The Australian Institute of Cartographers Australian Newsletter” and it had the stated aim “... to keep members abreast with the activities of the Institute in Australia.” However, this was not the first known publication of the AIC. This distinction goes to the first [and only] edition of the journal, “Graticule” produced by the New South Wales Division in May 1954. We also know that later that year, the national body published the first edition of its technical journal, “Cartography”. It is also noteworthy, that the Institute of Cartographers Western Australia published its first “Cartographers’ Bulletin” in November 1955.

Although from its beginning, “Cartography” included a small Bulletin section dealing with national news items, the major component comprised technical articles. Thus, reporting of local news largely fell to the Divisions. This role seems to have been taken up with considerable enthusiasm so that as soon as they became established, Divisions kept their members apprised of activities through regular newsletters. Much individuality was displayed in the naming and designing of these publications, some of which have survived to this day. New South Wales, for example, adopted the name “CartoCourier”, while Queensland opted for “Scribesheet”. Late in the piece, a competition was conducted to decide which Division was producing the “best” newsletter and I seem to remember that the Northern Territory won hands down.



Keith Smith (Smithy) finding a new place to practice his backswing.

The Council of the Institute always placed great score on communicating with members at a national level and persisted with the bulletin section of “Cartography”. Indeed, an attempt was made to give greater breadth and depth to its content by appointing a “Bulletin Correspondent” in each of the Divisions. This system worked well for a time, but proved difficult to coordinate and gradually fizzled out. Then we introduced the concept of distributing Annual Reports to the membership. This too was short-lived, and in 1995 we turned full-circle and resorted to the original idea of producing periodic national newsletters.



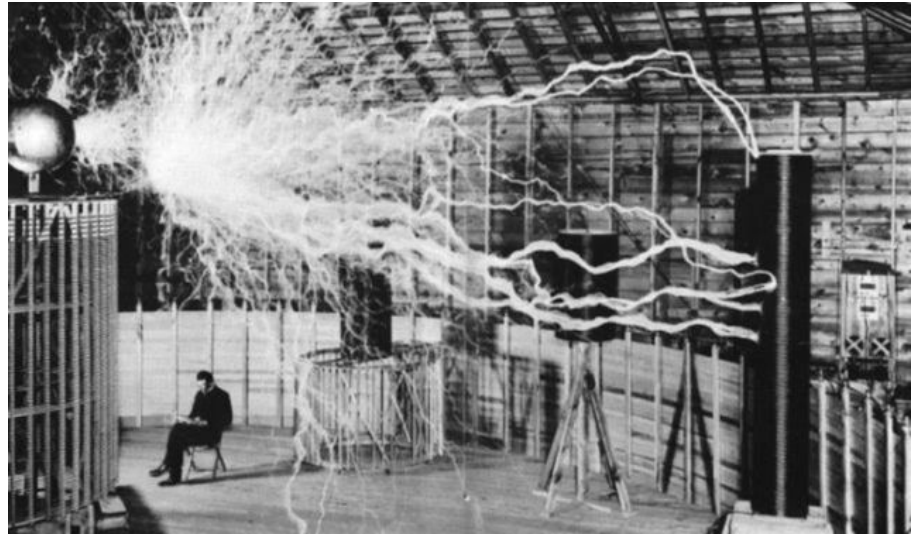
Shane Oates searching for content for the next edition of MSI-Connected.

The first editor was David Taylor [Bathurst] who was then the Manager of the Marketing Program. David’s effort was well received and we continued with more or less the same format for about a decade. Editors/compilers included Graham Baker, Greg Heron, Peter Bowen, Andrew O’Dempsey, Alan Unkles, John McCormack and Mark Reed.

Continued next page

With the decimation of the Divisions resulting from the emergence of the Spatial Sciences Institute, the need for a regular national newsletter became obvious and Council was pleased to accept Greg Heron's offer to act as its editor. Consequently, Greg issued a series of splendid editions under the masthead of "Mapping Sciences National". The first edition, in 2005, comprised eleven pages, was printed in reflex blue on A4 white paper and was stapled in the corner. John McCormack organized the printing and distribution. So well received was this inaugural issue that Greg and John were encouraged to move to full-colour printing and the content was increased to twenty pages, saddle-stapled.

Meanwhile, Council decided that it was high time that the Institute joined the digital-age. So it was that, in 2010, then-President David Fraser produced our first online national newsletter, appropriately named 'Connected National Newsletter'. For those members without email access, print copies of extracts of the newsletter were distributed by mail. When Les Isdale became President in 2012, his first reports to members were made by way of blogs and .pdf attachments. Les then became the editor of the national newsletter, re-named "MSI – Connected!".



Doug Herrick reading the latest electrifying issue of MSI-Connected!

Adam Ladhams took over as editor in May, 2013, and produced issues of consistently excellent standard every month until July 2014 when the pressure of work forced him to relinquish the position.

Shane Oates of the Bathurst Group volunteered to fill the gap and his first edition went online in August, demonstrating that members will continue to be kept informed of both Council activities and mapping matters generally in a professional manner.

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

By J. E McCarthy (Author)

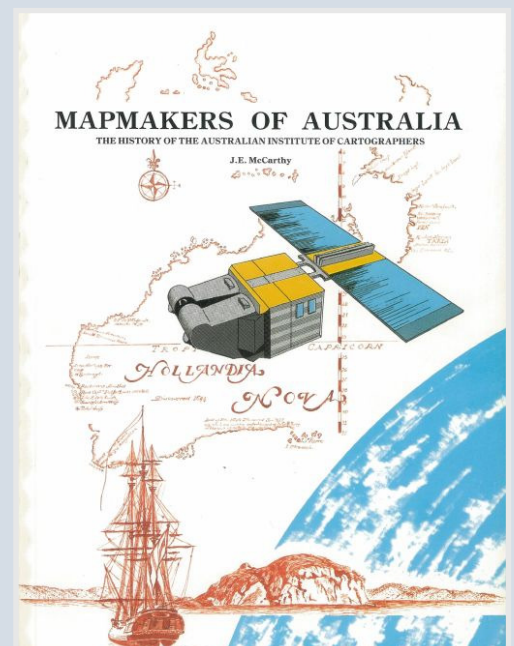
ISBN: 0731654757

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.



International Cartographic Association (ICA) News

International Map Year 2015–2016

It is my sincere pleasure to inform you that at the fourth session of the **United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management** at the UN Headquarters in New York, 6–8 August 2014, the ICA Initiative on an International Map Year 2015–2016 was positively discussed.

The resolution states:

The committee endorses the International Map Year 2015–2016 as proposed by the International Cartographic Association as a valuable means to promote the importance of maps and geoinformation.

With this we have reached a most prominent framework for the planned activities and I invite all members of the ICA family to consider their active participation.

To stay up-to-date with all activities around the International Map Year, please visit

www.internationalmapyear.org

Georg Gartner
President of the International Cartographic Association



Image: United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management



Prof. Chen Jun (ISPRS President), Jeff McKenna (OSGeo President) and Prof. Georg Gartner (ICA President) during their meeting at AfricaGEO in Cape Town in July 2014 to discuss future collaboration for Geo4All

Geo4All Initiative

The “**Geo for All**” Initiative has developed out of the Memorandum of Understanding Activities between ICA and OSGeo (the Open Source Geospatial Foundation). So-called “ICA-OSGeo Labs” have been founded in unexpected high numbers in the last months (www.geoforall.org/locations), demonstrating the great interest and demand for evaluating and using Open Source Software in the area of Cartography, GI Science and Geospatial Information Management.

In order to direct the development of this initiative an Advisory Board has been found, co-chaired by the Presidents of ICA (Georg Gartner) and OSGeo (Jeff McKenna). Due to the inclusive character of this initiative and a strong interest being expressed several times from the **International Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (ISPRS)** is now joining this initiative.

We are looking forward to working together in our common aim to expand geospatial education and opportunities to all.

Map of the Month

Visualising Friendships (Facebook Inc.)

The map of the month for September is from Facebook Inc. The map is an amazing visual representation of the “friendship connections” of over 500 millions users on the social network.

To read the full article from the Facebook website and learn how the map was created please visit <https://www.facebook.com/notes/facebook-engineering/visualizing-friendships/469716398919>



Caption: Visualizing Friendships - By Paul Butler

Source: https://fbcdn-sphotos-f-a.akamaihd.net/hphotos-ak-prn1/163413_479288597199_8388607_n.jpg

high-res (3.8MB)

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Contact Us

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

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Not a MSIA member?

If you are not a MSIA member and wish to join our organisation, please visit;

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.