# ICSM NEWS  -  December 2006

## AUSTRALIA'S TEAM SPATIAL  &  FIG



① Mr Koala with some local fans at the *Australia – Team Spatial* stand    ② centre, Paul Harcombe (FIG Sydney 2010 Director) and, left to right, Young Ambassadors Venessa O'Connell (ISNSW), Chris McAlister (ISAQ), Lauren Mills (PSMA) and Barbara Howlett (SCVB); ③ the *Australia – Team Spatial* stand    ④ Mr Koala with FIG President Holger Magel and his wife Ansi

In October 2006, FIG (the International Federation of Surveyors) held its XXIII Congress and XXIX General Assembly in Munich, Germany.  Associated with this was the INTERGEO.  This massive Trade Fair is the world's largest forum for showcasing the global spatial industry.

A group of Australian spatial industry companies and associations, together with government agencies agreed to sponsor a promotional stand which was badged as *Australia – Team Spatial*.  ICSM and ANZLIC participated in the stand which showcased Australian expertise, products and services.

A feature of the stand was the enthusiastic support of eleven 'Young Ambassadors' from all over Australia and from all facets of the Australian spatial industry.  The stand was exceedingly well attended (it is estimated that over 2,500 information packages were distributed) and the profile of the Australian spatial industry significantly enhanced.

As part of their participation ICSM/ANZLIC was keen to promote the next FIG International Congress which is to be held in Sydney in 2010.  The awarding of this Congress to Australia is a major achievement by the Institution of Surveyors Australia and ICSM/ANZLIC are proud to support their efforts.



## CHANGING THE GUARD



Ian                     Garry

In June Ian O'Donnell's two year chairmanship of ICSM came to an end and Garry West, the Northern Territory's Surveyor General, commenced his two year chairmanship (2006-2008).

2004-2006 was a period of intense activity for ICSM and its Working Groups.  This includes:

➢ The bedding down of the new national standard on street addressing.
➢ Publication on the ICSM web site of:
   • Australian Tides Manual
   • Tidal Interface Compendium of Terms
   • Geographic Names teaching package
   • An interactive topographic map index for the whole of Australia
➢ The development of a national system for the digital capture and transfer of survey information

➢ Creation of a new permanent committee to promote a coordinated national approach to topographic mapping.  This resulted in the establishment of:
   • a National Topographic Information Coordination Initiative which has resulted in major new mapping projects over the whole of Australia.
   • a Roads Working Group looking at national issues relating to the creation of digital data.
   • work to create a national hazards symbol set for Emergency Management.



Brian                     Bill

In September Brian Goodchild, from WA, stood down as chairman of CGNA and Bill Watt, from SA, has accepted the chairmanship.

Brian had been an enthusiastic member of CGNA since its inception in 1984.  In that time, the Geographic Names fraternity has benefited from his enthusiasm and dedication.  It has also seen its international and community profile significantly raised.  ICSM thanks Brian for all his efforts and wishes him well in his future endeavours.

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## PLACE NAMES

CGNA has up-dated its ground breaking WEB based geographic names teaching package in time for the new school year.

http://www.icsm.gov.au/icsm/cgna/lesson/index.html

It has been expanded to provide more assistance and information to teachers while providing interesting and fun learning activities for students.  The uptake of the original package had exceeded all expectations and it is anticipated that this too will prove very popular.

## ROADS

In October 2006 the ICSM Roads Working Group (RWG) issued a comprehensive discussion paper, which contained recommendations towards developing a nationally consistent Road Classification System for use in mapping data.

The report was endorsed by ICSM at their November meeting in Hobart.  The next RWG meeting is scheduled for early 2007 to action the recommendations from this report and to develop strategies to further engage stakeholders.

## ALL-HAZARDS SYMBOLOGY

ICSM is acting as the project manager for a consultancy that the All-Hazards Symbology Working Group has let to Spatial Vision (a Victorian based GIS company).  They have consulted widely within the Australian and New Zealand Emergency Services community in a process that is aimed at:

- ➢ conducting an audit of symbols used by emergency agencies, and
- ➢ recommending a catalogue, or framework for IMS (Incident Management Systems) and an initial set of symbols to largely satisfy Emergency Management requirements.

The draft report has been considered by EMSINA (Emergency Management Spatial Information Network Australia).  The final report will be delivered by Spatial Vision to the All-Hazards Symbology Working Group at their next meeting on 22 February 2007.

The Working Group will also consider the education and outreach aspects of the core symbology, plus determine additional phases of activity that need to be undertaken to make available a comprehensive Australasian all-hazards symbology set.

## SPATIAL SKILLS SHORTAGES

It is well accepted that there is a looming skills shortage in the Australian / New Zealand spatial industry.

As part of a national strategy to address this shortage ICSM and ANZLIC have formed a strategic alliance with peak bodies representing the industry and educational sectors to undertake a skills audit and skills needs analysis of the spatial industry.  The work will be undertaken by the Spatial Education Advisory Committee (SEAC), with administrative and management support from the Spatial Sciences Institute (SSI).

The initial project will be undertaken by a well qualified consultant and will bring together existing information about the size of the industry, qualification profiles and needs of practitioners and will attempt to quantify current and future skills shortages.  This initial project will report to SEAC in March 2007 and will feed into other elements of the national strategy, namely:

- ➢ a work force plan
- ➢ developing a single, cohesive identity for the spatial industry for marketing to its workers, potential workers, customers and the community
- ➢ comprehensive and pervasive careers advice for students of the spatial sciences at all levels, school, TAFE, university and post graduate;
- ➢ seeking out sustainable funding for education and skills formation (E&SF) in the spatial sciences
- ➢ cloning best practice E&SF initiatives across disciplines and across regional boundaries

## ASDI

ICSM is working towards redefining the vision for the Australian Spatial Data Infrastructure (ASDI) to ensure it continues to play a significant role in the provision of spatial services in the future.

Since its inception in the 1990's the spatial environment has changed significantly with such things as on-line systems (eg Google Earth), autonomous devices that know, think and communicate (eg car navigation systems) and progressive institutions (eg OGC).

In August ICSM sponsored a focus group meeting with representatives from academia and industry.

The new vision for the ASDI is likely to be Spatially Enabling Australia.  This sees the spatial dimension playing a ubiquitous role in a digital world that is Virtual Australia.  It was also recognised that in many cases the users would not know or care that there is a spatial dimension; they will just have their question answered or service provided.

No one group or sector will own this virtual environment; it will be a collective effort with each sector playing a key and indispensable role.  Similarly no one group or organisation will own it.

The work will continue in 2007.

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## Next ICSM Meeting
ICSM's next meeting is scheduled for 6 & 7 June, 2007, in Brisbane