

ICSM NEWS - November 2002

ICSM held its second meeting for the year 2002 in South Australia on 22 to 23 November 2002.

ICSM's Biennial Report (for period 2000-2002) Out Now!

ICSM is a key coordinating body in Australia and New Zealand for surveying, mapping and charting issues. Since its inception in 1988 it has provided and continues to provide a mechanism for establishing standard protocols and technical standards to spatial databases and infrastructure on a national basis. It also provides a forum that enables the exchange of information and ideas, as means to benchmark and identify best practice, and influence the implementation of modern approaches to surveying, mapping and charting. ICSM has therefore had a long and successful history of contributing to the spatial information community, of Australia and New Zealand, on matters relating to spatial information disciplines mentioned above.

In keeping with this role, ICSM continues to be very active. For instance, during the past two years ICSM has made significant contributions in areas of spatial information management, establishing spatial standards, defining Australasia's geodetic infrastructure, promoting the importance of the geographic place naming process, cadastral reform, the development of the Harmonised Data Framework to highlight just a few! For further information on ICSM's contributions and achievements during July 2000 to June 2002 download ICSM's new Biennial Report from www.icsm.gov.au under *Latest News*, or contact the Executive Officer (icsm@auslig.gov.au) for your copy of the publication.

ICSM's Strategic Plan for 2002-2007

ICSM's new strategic plan defines *who we are, our vision, our role*, identification of our *key stakeholders* and the *four goals* we have set ourselves for the next five years. These goals include the following:

1. establish an effective framework that facilitates data integration;
2. facilitate the development of the Australian Spatial Data Infrastructure (ASDI);
3. set best practice surveying, mapping, hydrography and toponomy; and
4. enable effective participation of stakeholders in ICSM processes.

To find out how ICSM plans to achieve these goals download our new Strategic Plan from www.icsm.gov.au or contact the Executive Officer (icsm@auslig.gov.au) for your copy of the publication.

Geographic Domain Names Preserved for Community Use!

ICSM's Committee of Geographical Names Australasia (CGNA) along with the NSW community group One City One Site (OCOS) have been successful in lobbying .au Domain Administration Ltd (auDA) to adopt a community-based geographic naming system that will help protect and promote Australian geographic areas and their communities on the Internet.

The auDA Board is responsible for operating and managing .au domain names on the Internet. In order to address the concerns of OCOS and CGNA, auDA have announced that they will introduce a second level domain (2LD's) structure for all Australian States and territories. This will help preserve Australian geographic names for use by the relevant community.

The proposed domain structure is as follows: *placename.state/territory.au*, for example, Bathurst.nsw.au, Ballarat.vic.au, Whyalla.sa.au, Hobart.tas.au, Albany.wa.au, Canberra.act.au, Katherine.nt.au and Townsville.qld.au.

This has been a great outcome for all Australians as we can now be confident that our community names will not be misused in cyberspace. For more information see: <http://www.auda.org.au/about/news/2002111402.html>

ICSM presents at UNGEGN

Three members of CGNA attended the Eighth United Nations Conference on the Standardisation of Geographical Names (UNCSGN) and UNGEGN (which stands for United Nations Groups of Experts on Geographical Names) held in Berlin in August 2002.

In total eleven Australian papers were presented at the Conference. These covered an array of issues that included the production of the Australian Gazetteer; State Gazetteer in a GIS Environment; guidelines for the consistent use of place names in Australia and the recording and use of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander place names, the proposal to auDA and so on. There was even an opportunity to launch the *What's in a Name?* video/CD-ROM, which promotes and educates the community on how geographic place names are determined; their history and heritage; and how they have shaped and continue to shape the Australian culture as we know it. This international launch was well received with many Conference delegates eager to get a copy.

From the reports received from the Conference there are strong indications that:

- Australian expertise in geographical names is highly regarded by the response to the Australian input and the election of Brian Goodchild as Rapporteur for the Conference and UNGEGN;
- Australia is at the forefront of the development of procedures and initiatives associated with place naming; and
- The work of CGNA and the Australian Names Authorities is in harmony with (and in some instances leading) other nations and programs.
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ICSM Workshops!

In the last three months ICSM, in collaboration with a number of its stakeholders, have run three successful workshops. These included:

1. A Special Interest Group (SIG) Workshop on the topic of *Object Oriented Database Environment for Topographic Data*, run in Canberra (September 2002).

The objectives of this workshop were to compare jurisdictional topographic data models with ICSM's Harmonised Data Model; establish whether there is a need for standards for object oriented database environments; and to develop a forward strategy. For outcomes of this workshop go to <http://www.icsm.gov.au/icsm/topo/index.html>. A follow up workshop is planned for March 2003.

2. An inaugural Australasian Tidal Workshop run by ICSM's Permanent Committee on Tides and Mean Sea Level (PCTMSL) and the National Tidal Facility Australia (NTFA), held in Adelaide (22-25 October 2002).

Topics covered during the course of the workshop included tidal theory, harmonic analysis, data analysis, instrumentation, bench mark levelling and datums, satellite altimetry, real-time displays, tide gauge calibration and tests, tsunamis and extreme events, mean sea level and climate variability. Another Tidal Workshop is planned for 2003.

3. A Land Tenure Workshop run in collaboration with Geoscience Australia, PSMA and ICSM held in Canberra (7 November 2002).

The workshop was designed to develop a long term vision for a National Public Lands (NPL) tenure dataset with an immediate objective of defining a data model which could support a first version of a NPL tenure dataset within a short to medium-term timeframe. Further work in developing this dataset is currently being undertaken by PSMA.

New GDA94 CD Out Now!

A new version of *Going Geocentric* CD-ROM is now available. It contains the latest versions of transformation tools and technical information required to support GDA implementation.

Members of the GDA Implementation Group will be responsible for distributing to organisations within their respective jurisdictions.

Contact your local GDA member (<http://www.icsm.gov.au/icsm/gda/gdacont.htm>) for your free copy of the CD.

ICSM's New Web Site

ICSM web site has moved from www.anzlic.org.au/icsm to www.icsm.gov.au, so please change your bookmarks/favourites.

We have also re-vamped our web site for easier navigation and have included a keyword search and e-mail subscription service for users who want to be informed on all the latest ICSM news, events and updates!

Future Events

- ICSM will be reporting and participating in the upcoming ANZLIC meeting on the 12-13 December 2002, in Perth.
- CGNA's next face-to-face meeting will be held in Townsville in March 2003.
- ICSM's next meeting will be held late May 2003, in Darwin. The next *ICSM News* will therefore be published early April 2003.