

ICSM NEWS – June 2007

Peter Ramm Retires



Garry West

Peter Ramm

After ten years as an ICSM Member and many more years as a dedicated member of the Australian spatial industry, Peter Ramm is retiring as Manager of VicMap. Peter is a past Chairman of ICSM (2000-2002). He has always been an enthusiastic advocate of the innovation and application of standards in the Australian spatial industry. His energy, vision and tenacity will be missed.

ICSM thanks Peter for all his efforts and wishes him well in all his future endeavours.

NEW Gazetteer of Australia



The *Gazetteer of Australia 2006* has just been released. It has been fully up-dated and now provides information on the location and spelling of 322,328 geographical names.

This very popular product is created from individual State and Territory gazetteers which the members of ICSM's Committee for Geographical Names in Australasia (CGNA) maintain.

It can be viewed interactively at <http://www.ga.gov.au/map/names/> or a complete copy of the data can be obtained from Geoscience Australia <http://www.ga.gov.au/news/>.

Place Names & the United Nations

CGNA is sponsoring two delegates to the United Nations 5 yearly congress on standardisation of geographical names (UNGEGN). This two week congress is being held at the United Nations Headquarters in New York – 20-31 August 2007.

This is a major international forum and ICSM is proud to be assisting the Rapporteur for Australasia (Brian Goodchild) and the chairman of CGNA (Bill Watt).

Electronic Lodgement and Transfer of Survey Data

The Electronic Lodgement and Transfer of Survey Data Working Group (ePLAN) has developed an operational model which is now fully installed and operational in northern Queensland offices of the Department of Natural Resources and Water.

The system uses LandXML as a data transfer standard to capture, validate and visualise cadastral survey data. The model has been rigorously trialled; and in the words of one user:

“the model has proven to be very robust and user friendly”

It is envisaged that this model for the transfer of survey data will become a national standard for the management and storage of cadastral data.

New South Wales Land Title Office (Department of Lands) is now working on implementing the model.

As a result of these achievements, this Working Group has changed its status from a development phase to an implementation phase; although development and enhancement will be ongoing

Well deserved congratulations to Nevil Cumerford and the members of EARL – the project team which has developed and implemented the system in Queensland.

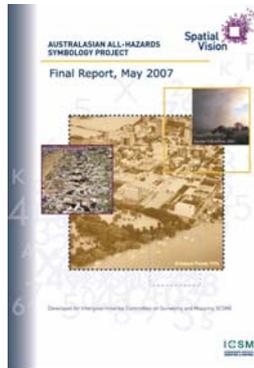
ICSM Biennial Report

The ICSM Biennial Report (2004-2006) is now available from the ICSM WEB http://www.icsm.gov.au/icsm/publications/2004-06_biennial_report.pdf or a hardcopy can be requested from the ICSM Executive Officer (email: icsm@ga.gov.au or phone: (02) 6249 9677). This report features a new section which supplies information about each ICSM Organisation and a brief biography of each ICSM Member.



All-Hazards Symbology

The final report of the ICSM All-Hazards Symbology Working Group has been published on the ICSM web site. <http://www.icsm.gov.au/icsm/all-hazards/index.html>



This work was sponsored by ANZLIC and EMSINA with the aim to develop an All-Hazards Symbol set for Australia and New Zealand. ICSM project managed this phase of the development.

Spatial Vision (a Victorian based GIS company) consulted widely within the Australian and New Zealand Emergency Services community and:

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

A draft report was considered by EMSINA and feedback has been incorporated into the final report.

Where to from here:

The following need to be established:

- long term governance framework
- education and outreach strategies
- maintenance and further develop frameworks

Unfortunately, an application for a WTtME (Working Together to Manage Emergencies) grant to fund the next stage of development has been unsuccessful. The work program is therefore on hold while alternative funding sources are found.

There is no question that this project has advanced the level of cooperation between EM agencies and is contributing to these agencies adopting a national standard for EM symbology. More recently, agencies involved in counter-terrorism response have signalled their intention to adopt the Australasian All Hazards Symbology framework as a platform for harmonisation of CT mapping symbols. The Working Group is therefore optimistic that the funding situation is only a temporary set-back and work will resume before the end of the year.

ICSM WEB

The ICSM continues to expand/up-grade its web site's content and as a result usage is growing. 2005-06 usage of the 3 main sections of the site were:

	page views	visitors
ICSM home:	400,000	45,000
Topographic Map Index	425,000	6,000
Gazetteer of Australia	1,300,000	60,000

ICSM home

<http://www.icsm.gov.au/>

This section contains reports and publications from ICSM Working Groups. It also contains numerous links to related web sites.

Topographic Map Index

http://www.geographynetwork.co.nz/website/icsm/topo_index.htm

This section provides publication information for Australian and New Zealand topographic maps.

Gazetteer of Australia

<http://www.ga.gov.au/map/names/>

(see page 1 for more information)

Farewell to TIWG

*the Tidal Interface Working Group (TIWG)
is finally hanging up its water wings*

In the eight years since its creation in 2000 the TIWG has a significant body of work to its credit – most notably the publication of the Compendium of Related Tidal Terms.

In compiling the Compendium; the TIWG members identified several hundred terms and definitions used within Commonwealth, State and Territory legislation to describe tidal boundaries. It highlights the fact that these terms frequently have varying definitions across the country and/or are not defined at all. For national consistency the TIWG concluded that seven key tidal datum terms be used for all future legislation. These key terms can be viewed at http://www.icsm.gov.au/icsm/tides/tidal_interface.htm

The full Compendium can be viewed at: http://www.icsm.gov.au/icsm/publications/tidal_interface/compendium_full_may03.pdf

and an abridged version can be viewed at: http://www.icsm.gov.au/icsm/publications/tidal_interface/compendium_summary_ma03.pdf

The TIWG also contributed to, and has endorsed, the Geosciences Australia publication – Guidelines for Describing Maritime Boundaries which can be accessed from <http://www.icsm.gov.au/icsm/tides/index.html>

ICSM whole heartedly thanks all those who have assisted TIWG over the years.

Next ICSM Meeting

ICSM's next meeting is scheduled for 28 & 29 October, 2007, in Christchurch New Zealand