

ICSM NEWS – October 2012

Bill Watt appointed Chairman of UNGEGN



Bill Watt

Australia and New Zealand's involvement over the last 20 years in the United National Group of Experts in Geographical Names (UNGEGN) has led to recognition of the considerable degree of expertise available in relation to place naming processes, standards and policies. Many high quality papers have been presented at the conferences, and given the nature of our approach to this work, have been of a very practical and focussed nature that have often provided solutions into issues that are common throughout the world. For the last 10 years, Australia has been the UNGEGN rapporteur and undertook the convening role for one of the UNGEGN working groups.

At the recent UNGEGN session and conference, held in New York between 30 July to 10 August, Australia and New Zealand were represented by 4 delegates of the 281 attendees, being Mr Bill Watt, Mr Paul Box, Dr Laura Kostanski and Ms Wendy Shaw. Over the two weeks of the meetings, all were involved in preparing and/or presenting 3 reports, 7 papers, 4 special presentations and workshops and acting as a technical sessions chair and rapporteurs for two of the technical sessions. The degree of esteem that our countries are held in at this forum would have contributed greatly to the unopposed election of Mr Bill Watt as the chair of UNGEGN for a five year term.

ICSM Elects a New Chair

Dr Don Grant, Surveyor-General, Land Information New Zealand (LINZ), has completed his term as ICSM Chair for 2010-2012 and Mr Paul Harcombe, Chief Surveyor, Land & Property Information (LPI) of NSW has been unanimously elected as the ICSM Chair for 2012-2014.

ICSM would like to thank Don for his dedication and hard work for ICSM over the last 2 years.



Paul Harcombe congratulates Don Grant

Fundamentals of Land Boundaries

A new pdf is available on the ICSM website which provides a simple explanation of land ownership, ownership boundaries and what a land surveyor does. [Fundamentals of Land Ownership, Land Boundaries and Surveying.pdf](#)

International Hydrographic Conference and Election of an Australian as President

The XVIIIth International Hydrographic Conference was held in Monaco from 23 to 27 April 2012. It was attended by 300 delegates from 73 Member States and 27 Observers from non IHO Member States and 20 representatives of national and international organizations. The Conference considered the reports on the work carried out by the International Hydrographic Organization (IHO) during the past five-year period, and approved Work Programme and Budget of the Organization for the next five-year period.

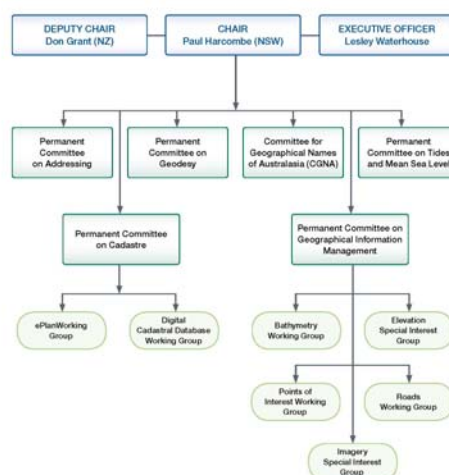


On the final day of the conference the new 3 person Directing Committee was elected to lead the IHO for the next 5 years. Captain Robert Ward, RANR, (a previous Deputy Hydrographer of Australia) was elected President. Rear Admiral Mustafa Iptes (Turkey) and Vice Admiral Gilles Bessero (France) were elected as Directors. This is the first time that an Australian has held the position of President and reflects well on both Australia and Robert's personal achievements as a Director since 2007.

ICSM Committee Structure

At its May-June 2012 meeting, ICSM resolved the new structure of the Permanent Committees, Working Groups and Special Interest Groups. There are now six Permanent Committees, with the various Working and Special Interest Groups to now come under their parent Permanent Committee. The new structure is:

1. Permanent Committee on Addressing
2. Permanent Committee on Tides and Mean Sea Level
3. Committee for Geographical Names of Australasia (CGNA)
4. Permanent Committee on Geodesy (formerly GTSC)
5. Permanent Committee on Cadastre:
 - ePlan Working Group
 - DCDB Special Interest Group
6. Permanent Committee on Geographical Information Management:
 - Bathymetry Working Group
 - Elevation Special Interest Group
 - Imagery Special Interest Group
 - Points of Interest Working Group
 - Roads Working Group



Next ICSM Meeting

ICSM's next meeting is scheduled for 26 -27 November 2012 in Bendigo, Victoria

PCC meeting to be held morning 28 November 2012 in Bendigo.

International Recognition of the AHSCP Certification Scheme

On 24 May 2012, at its annual meeting held in Buenos Aires, Argentina, the FIG/IHO/ICA International Board for Standards of Competence for Hydrographic Surveyors and Nautical Cartographers (IBSC) awarded recognition to the Australasian Hydrographic Surveyors Certification Panel (AHSCP) Certification Scheme. This was indeed a historic event for the AHSCP – being the first and currently the only hydrographic surveyor competency certification scheme to gain recognition from the IBSC.

Established in 1994 under the auspices of the erstwhile Institution of Surveyors Australia, the AHSCP has since 2001 been operating under the combined stewardship of the national surveying bodies in Australia and New Zealand – Surveying & Spatial Sciences Institute (SSSI) and New Zealand Institute of Surveyors (NZIS). The aim of the AHSCP is to ensure that hydrographic surveys, critical to navigation safety, supporting the maritime industry and protection of the marine environment are carried out to international standards by competent professionals.

The certification scheme is designed to ensure that those employed as hydrographic surveyors have the appropriate skills, education and experience to undertake their tasks. It is especially useful for potential employers or contractors to know that prospective employees have been assessed to a common international standard. There are two levels of specialist certification – Level 1 is the highest attainable, where the Hydrographic Surveyor is assessed as competent to undertake and manage hydrographic surveying projects; Level 2 certification recognizes a practical comprehension of hydrographic surveying.

'The Guidelines for Specialist Certification in Hydrographic Surveying' provide details of the certification programme including the procedure for submission of applications. A copy of the latest version of the Guidelines and relevant documentation is available at the following web sites:

SSSI: <http://www.sssi.org.au/details/commission/4/cat/238/sub/379.html>

NZIS: <http://www.surveyors.org.nz/node/76087>

ICSM at their Alice Springs meeting in May 2008 endorsed the principle of adopting international standards for hydrographic surveyors in Australia and New Zealand. AHSCP certification was also discussed at the Council of Reciprocating Surveyors Boards of Australia and New Zealand (CRSBANZ) meeting held in Alice Springs in May 2008.

The AHSCP certification scheme is now widely recognised by government and industry in Australia and New Zealand. Most of the maritime authorities and Surveyors-General of the Australian States and Territories have adopted AHSCP certification as the competency standard for hydrographic surveyors undertaking safety of navigation surveys.

The AHSCP has assessed a total of 200 applicants to June 2012, of which 126 have been certified at Level 1 and 50 at Level 2. 18 applicants are still in the process of assessment, with most required to submit additional information, mainly in respect of their hydrographic surveying experience. The remaining 6 applicants have been assessed as not meeting the criteria for certification. Interestingly, 20% of the certification applications received have been from applicants living outside the Australasian region and include applicants from Finland, South Africa, USA, India and the UK.