ICSM NEWS - November 2001

As part of ICSM's commitment to keeping Industry informed about ICSM activities, ICSM will publish two newsletters per year. Each will contain a brief summary of the major issues which Industry may find of interest and hi-light opportunities where Industry can contribute to ICSM's activities.

ICSM held its second meeting for the year in Perth on 14 to 16 November 2001. The Committee reviewed the achievements of the past year and endorsed initiatives for the future some of which are highlighted below.

ICSM ACHIEVEMENTS!!

The final version of the GDA 94 CD Rom for the National Transfer Grid file is expected to be available in January 2002. ICSM has also updated the GDA Technical Manual to link to the AGD66/84 -GDA94 National Transformation grids and jurisdiction interpolation software. The manual has been refined to make it more readable both on screen and when printed. An Excel spreadsheet of test data for both AGD66 and AGD84 transformations has been included to enable users to validate their processes.

ICSM recognises and appreciates the hard work done by the Geodesy Technical Subcommittee on the gathering of the data, and in particular Peter Todd in Queensland who is producing the CD Rom**.**

The GDA Promotions group who have been responsible for the promotion of the transformation grid file have been wound up. **Congratulations to the GDA Working Group for successfully championing this significant ICSM initiative**.

A GDA Implementation Working Group has been established to encourage all users to adopt and use the new datum. Further information is available on www.anzlic.org.au/icsm/gda/.

As mentioned in the last issue of ICSM News the Cadastral and Topographic working groups have delivered their data models and have now been disbanded.

The Harmonisation working group has brought the two data models together and also incorporated street address and place names data into the model. The documentation for the harmonised model as mentioned in the last issue of ICSM News is now complete and will be available on the ICSM web site shortly.

ICSM has endorsed Terms of Reference for, and established, a new working group to maintain and implement the data model. The Harmonised Data Maintenance and Implementation Working Group will among other things, monitor developments in national and international standards and recommend revisions as necessary and promote the availability of the harmonised data model to the wider geo-spatial community.

ICSM appreciates the commitment and hard work done by the working groups to get this initiative up and running and the support provided by their jurisdictions. A significant effort and major achievement.

CGNA Brochure published in 6 languages

The Committee for Geographical Names in Australasia (CGNA), a permanent Committee of ICSM, has been represented on various working groups of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEGN). UNGEGN promotes consistent use worldwide of accurate place names. Place names can identify and reflect culture, heritage and landscape. National programs to standardise names of cities, villages, land and water features offer many benefits. .

ICSM through its representatives from NSW and Victoria developed a promotional brochure for UNGEGN highlighting the benefits of consistent use of accurate place names. This brochure has now been translated into the six official languages of the United Nations, English, Arabic, Chinese, French, Spanish and Russian by UNGEGN.

National Gazetteer

Work is continuing on the compilation of Version 4 of the CGNA National Gazetteer. and this work is scheduled for completion by December 2001. The CGNA Working Group have also developed Protocols for quickly correcting any errors found in the gazetteer by users. These Protocols will assist

in communications between the jurisdictions for correction of errors, thereby ensuring the placenames data used in the ICSM web site is freed of known and recorded errors, this will result in a better service for users. The Protocols were endorsed by the ICSM at its recent meeting. The National Gazetteer can be viewed on www.anzlic.org.au/icsm/cgna.

CGNA is continuing to work on the contentious issue of trade marking of geographic names. Current trade marking arrangements have the potential to deny community access to the use of a trade marked place name.

Update Street Address Standard

ICSM has been working with Standards Australia and Industry in developing a more comprehensive Street Address Standard for Australia and New Zealand. Public comment on the draft Standard has now closed and Standards Australia is currently processing the comments.

The draft Standard is expected to be certified in June 2002. The Standard can be viewed on the web site at www.anzlic.org.au/icsm/street/.

ICSM's Street Address Working Group is now focusing on the promotion of the new standard, and will work to ensure all appropriate authorities are aware of the existence of the Standard. The approach will be based on the successful GDA 94 technique of ICSM developing promotional materials to support jurisdictions and others in promoting the use of the new standard.

Update on Intertidal Interface

Since the ICSM meeting in May 2001 a Working Group on Tidal Interface has been established. Terms of Reference and membership for the Working Group were endorsed by the ICSM at its meeting in November 2001.

ICSM will now explore the options for a range of definitions for future use by the wider user community. Initially the group will investigate the feasibility of limiting coastline definitions to three or four.

For more information please contact Mr Bill Hirst at BillHirst@auslig.gov.au.

New Working Groups Established

ICSM has established new Working Groups for **Land Tenure** and **Native Title**.

The Land Tenure Working Group is being sponsored by the Commonwealth which has a strong interest in this dataset. The Group is expected to meet soon to chart a way forward.

Native Title is an important feature of land administration within Australia and the approaches taken by each jurisdiction regarding native title differs markedly. ICSM has established a Native Title Working Group which includes a representative of the National Native Title Tribunal to look at developing consistent processes across jurisdictions in defining and recording native title rights and interests.

Benchmarking

ICSM has refined the model that was used in the geodetic benchmark study and has now developed a benchmark questionnaire for aerial photography. Results of this study will be published in the next issue of ICSM News.

Future Issues

At its last ICSM meeting (May 2001) members agreed that there was a need to increase focus on mapping, and in particular, topographic mapping. The meeting identified some key drivers for this increased focus and include:

- the implications of the Commonwealth Policy on Pricing and Access – in particular the fundamental data sets.
- Greater communication on current and future mapping programs and initiatives in each jurisdiction.
- Survey of users and value added to the community – sharing of knowledge.
- Theme based maintenance of data -identifying potential and
- policy implications of maintenance of theme-base data.