

ICSM NEWS - June 2005

WHO ARE WE

ICSM is the Intergovernmental Committee on Survey and Mapping and is made up of government representatives from all the Australian States, Territories, the Commonwealth and New Zealand. The Committee is a Working Group of ANZLIC – the Spatial Information Council.

Presently ICSM consists of fifteen members and a permanent Secretariat. Further to this about 100 people make up the 10 ICSM sub-committees which have been formed to undertake specific activities. These number varies as new projects are identified and activities completed.

ICSM's role is to provide leadership, coordination and standards for surveying, mapping and charting, and assembling and maintaining national framework data sets. Framework data includes geodetic, topographic, cadastral, street addressing, tides and sea level, and geographical names.

Recent Membership Changes

Three new members have joined ICSM since December 2004:

Captain Rod Nairn	Hydrographer of Australia, Australian Hydrographic Office (replacing Bruce Kafer who has moved to other duties)
Frank Blanchfield	ACT Commissioner of Surveys, ACT Planning and Land Authority (replacing Dave Dobson who retired in late-2004)
Brian McLachlan	Director, Geospatial Analysis Centre, Defence Imagery and Geospatial Organisation

Internet Protection for Australia Place Names

Since 1997/98 ICSM and its Committee for Geographic Names in Australasia (CGNA) has actively participated in the debate regarding the use and release of Australian geographic names as internet domain names. In particular, it has been a strong advocate for the protection of these names for Community use.

As of July 1 2005, auDA (.au Domain Administration Limited) will be able to issue licenses for use of Australian geographic names in the commercial sphere of the internet (placename with .com.au & .net.au extensions).

For more information regarding this please see the auDA web page: <http://www.auda.org.au/>

And the good news is.....



As a result of this local communities will have a new non-commercial internet space created, with funding from sales of commercial names being made available to communities to develop their internet sites.

This internet space will utilise the format Australian_place_name with state_name.au extension – for example: sydney.nsw.au. In total eight new Internet domains for Australian states and territories will be created.

In addition, if communities wish there is an opportunity for local/community groups, such as Local Government Authorities, to apply to purchase their .com and .net names.

It is also important to note that this release by auDA is specifically about the geographic name as a 'stand alone' name, for example sydney.com.au. Geographic names will continue to be able to be used in conjunction with other names; for example sydneybakery.com.au.

ICSM 2002-2004 Biennial Report



The 2002-04 has been published.

This publication reports on the complete work and achievements of ICSM during the chairmanship of Paul Harcombe, the Chief Surveyor of NSW.

This can be viewed in .pdf format or a printed version can be ordered using the ICSM Publications WEB page:

<http://www.icsm.gov.au/icsm/publications/index.html>

Street Addressing

For the first time there is now a single, consistent and easily understood means of addressing a letter to anywhere in Australia and New Zealand.



ICSM's Street Address Working Group (SAWG) has played a critical role in this by developing the new Australian and New Zealand standard that encompasses all aspects of addressing. This includes urban, rural and complex addresses; and the geocoding of these addresses.

This standard was introduced in 2003. This standard has been incorporated in the ground breaking Geocoded National Address File (G-NAF) created by the Public Sector Mapping Agency (PSMA).

The biggest impact is in rural areas where all street numbers will be based on a distance from a key point – such as a road intersection. In urban areas most existing addresses will not change as a similar system is already in place based on block numbers.

For more information refer to the PSMA web site at <http://www.pdma.com.au>

This Working Group has now been disbanded. ICSM would like to thank all people who assisted with this project since SAWG's inception in 1999.

Australian Tides Manual

ICSM's Permanent Committee on Tides and Mean Sea Level (PCTMSL) has released the 2004 version of the Australian Tides Manual. This was originally published in 1984 as the *Special Publications 9 Handbook - The Australian Tides Manual*.

Unlike the 1984 version which was only published as a booklet, this up-dated version is published as a WEB enabled document, which can be viewed and used interactively – this is especially useful because of the large number of hyperlinks to other web sites and applications. If desired it can also be downloaded and printed

It can be found at <http://www.icsm.gov.au/icsm/tides/SP9/index.htm>

It is envisaged that this valuable tool will be regularly up-dated to keep pace with industry developments

WEB Based Place Names Teaching Package

ICSM's Committee for Geographic Names in Australasia (CGNA) has developed a WEB based teaching package for use by both teachers and students. It is particularly aimed at students in the late primary school / early high school age groups.

It is interactive and informative. A promotional strategy is being developed involving schools and teachers associations. This is can be found at <http://www.icsm.gov.au/icsm/cgna/index.html>



This teaching package is a further development of the CGNA's very popular Place Names Quiz (<http://www.icsm.gov.au/icsm/cgna/quiz.htm>) which, even after several years, remains one of the most popular of ICSM web pages.

Electronic Cadastral Records

ICSM's sub-committee on electronic lodgement and transfer of cadastral records (ePlan) recently held a workshop in Perth. This was well attended by Australian and New Zealand agencies involved in Cadastral Records.

The aim of the ePlan team is to establish a nationally consistent approach to reducing the use of paper copies of survey records. One aim is to enable all transactions (from survey, through registration and title transfer) to be done via the WEB.

A national data model has been established, and is being tested using Queensland data. This model was demonstrated at the workshop and it is expected that an operational prototype will be available in a few months.

The work of this sub-committee has considerable support within the surveying industry, where the need to build a nationally consistent approach to the electronic handling of cadastral information has long been recognised.

Next ICSM Meeting

ICSM's next meeting is scheduled for October 2005 in Sydney, New South Wales