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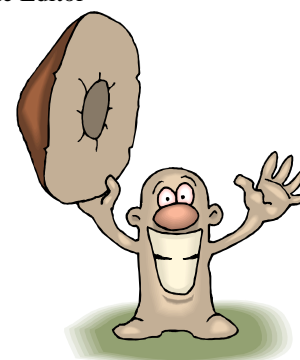
A message from the Editor

Gooday GISers,
Welcome to another entertaining and informative edition of FUNGIS NEWS. In this issue we introduce the first of our Executive Profiles in which Fungis Executive Alan Stafford takes us for a colourful tour into what makes this Fungis Lifer the Giser he is. Colleen Hallmond gives us the drum on Spatial Education, we hear from the team @GIS and Mark Hopp, our hardworking Chairperson sums up the executive activities.

We also have the info you need to know on the two big upcoming spatial gatherings in the Far North, a wrap up on the "Art in GIS" and Terry Webb brings us up to speed with the Mareeba Wetlands Project. We hope all this will leave you keen for the July edition of FUNGIS NEWS in which we introduce our "Workplace Profile" segment, investigate Dropbears on Hinchinbrook and expose the 2004 Fungis Annual Conference "Coast

& Culture". And remember-need I remind you? If you have any informative, entertaining or newsworthy happenings in your part of the GIS world hit the link and contact the crew at News@fungis.org and help keep your fellow Fungites out of the dark.

The Editor



Chairman's Report by Mark Hopp

Hello all. I want to use my two bob's worth in this edition to acknowledge the efforts of the FUNGIS Executive Committee. At the last AGM it was indicated that members benefited most from their association with FUNGIS by way of workshops and technical user forums. Since then the Exec has focussed it's efforts on providing those services for the group.

To date, these events have included the combined Geoimage workshop and 'Art in GIS' day in Atherton, an introduction to the National Land & Water Resources Audit & NRIM Toolkit by Peter Wilson and a workshop to discuss options for the collaborative purchase of imagery for our region, conducted by

Webmap. In addition to this a Memorandum of Understanding has been drafted between FUNGIS and the Mareeba Wetlands and an extensive Project Brief written to outline how members may get involved in work on the site.

The Executive has also contributed to the efforts of the organising committee for the SSI Northern Group Conference. Joe Rhodes in particular, has given a large portion of his own time to the Northern Group event AND is also on the subcommittee (of two) to prepare for our own Annual Conference, which will be in Mission Beach later this year.

Summed up, that's a significant amount of work

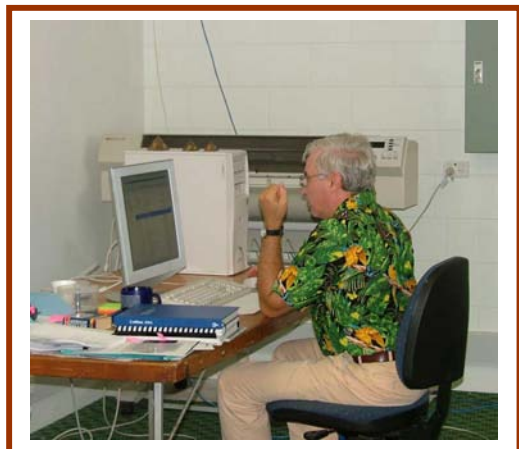
for a group of volunteers who balance these activities with their own busy professional careers. FUNGIS thrives and survives up here because of the efforts and dedication of the members who have an interest in supporting and nurturing our industry in the North.

So thank-you, to the Exec Committee and supporting members, for your continuing efforts in providing a peak forum for the network of friends and colleagues that live and work in our little neck of the woods. FUNGIS simply wouldn't exist without you.

Cheers, Mark.



The beginning of something BIG!!!!



Bob Peever: Hard at work as the @GIS office takes shape



"Thumbs up, from Chris"



Anne Stapledon: Self-described "Human Interface" of @GIS

Atherton Tablelands Geographic Information System or @GIS as it is more commonly known, is off to a great start with work already in progress. This is even before the office equipment was unpacked!! Commencing on January 5th this year, @GIS, is located in the Shire Council Chambers in Atherton and is a joint initiative of the three Atherton Tableland councils of Herberton, Atherton and Eacham.

Work already in progress includes not only routine mapping, but actual data collection. Road data is being collected for all three of the Shire Councils. Differential G.P.S. is being used to ensure greater accuracy in the data collected.

Discussions are also in progress with the highschool in Atherton, as @GIS staff explain how GIS can be utilized in the classroom. Development of these programs will provide benefits not only to the Atherton Highschool, but the @GIS project as a whole. Methodology, procedural and course work development will then be able to be disseminated to other schools in the region and beyond.

@GIS has a Strategic Partnership with Tropical North Queensland TAFE, which has a

campus located at the Atherton Highschool. The TAFE commenced GIS training last year, though just in a Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) setting. This year sees the inaugural Certificate III in Spatial Information Service course which already has eleven students enrolled. This one-year course is provided in a format that combines online/video conferencing and workshops and is actually taught by @GIS staff.

@GIS has already achieved the first international export of it's own collected data! Hayashi Nomura, a Japanese student on course at the Boston University's Field Station located on the Tablelands, obtained Spatial Data from @GIS which proved helpful to his research. Students at the University of Queensland in Brisbane also accessed Spatial Data for research projects as well.

Bob Peever, the @GIS coordinator, says that he is very pleased that the project is up and running and that initial interest indicates a successful future. The fact that he is still alive to see it is an added bonus!!!!

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Li Wei hard at work already

Maximising the Benefits of Aerial Mapping FunGIS Webmap Workshop:

Dunwoody's was the venue for a workshop that Lee Smith ran in Cairns for FUNGIS members. Thanks to all those who came along! It seems if everyone took something away of value. The challenge was to cover a lot of issues and to let spatial and mapping users know the background to maximising benefits, without an information overload! A challenge! The emphasis was on understanding the key factors and translating them into broad principles and ways to optimise mapping data acquisition. There was a good cross section of organisations and GIS users in attendance, included State & Local government, private surveyors & GIS to Natural resources and road infrastructure organisations. The workshop covered key issues and ways to optimise mapping projects. A summary of the workshop

content will be in the next edition of Fungis News. Below is an example of a collaborative aerial photography and mapping programme recently undertaken in the Maroochy Shire.

Collaborative Mapping: The Maroochy Project State Govt, Local Govt & Private Sector

Traditionally State government and Local government mapping programmes operated largely independently. The State government undertook its mapping to deliver medium resolution products and LGAs undertook mapping to deliver high resolution products for asset management, land planning and development. Private sector mapping organisations traditionally responded to client's requests and delivered mapping products

for specific projects. This resulted in the single project, single end user approach that has often constrained valuable mapping information within the client organisation. Other users that would benefit from the data were not able to easily access it. The reasons included liability, pricing, contractual, marketing and other issues that generally meant that it fell in the "too hard basket".

In the past there has been little emphasis on making the mapping data more widely available to other government agencies, the private sector and the wider community. Advances in information technology and private sector initiatives to build collaboration, data sharing and data warehousing have helped overcome this and led to a new approach for collaborative mapping. Results from successful collaborative projects, feedback from partner

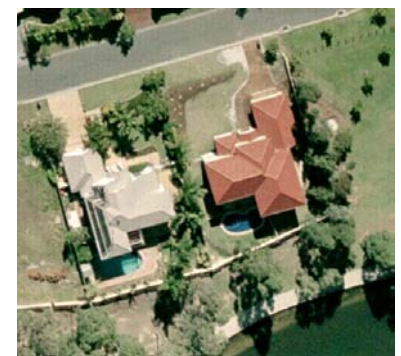


Scenes from Webmaps online Property View product

organisations as well as from other users has shown that this approach is delivering a wide range of benefits. The barriers to collaboration and multi use are being overcome. These include ownership, intellectual property rights, commercial rights, legal liability, contractual arrangements, pricing, copyright, project coordination, optimizing all the mapping components, maximising the benefits from advanced mapping technologies and data warehousing through to real time internet delivery. There are currently no internationally accepted technical standards for orthophoto resolution and quality. Similarly for digital terrain model (DTM) capture which is needed for orthophoto production. Advances in

mapping technologies have jumped ahead of mapping standards, leaving clients in a "technological jungle". On the positive side advances in technology are offering significant benefits in the areas of quality, accuracy, timeliness and cost (if the project specifications are optimised for the clients needs). The challenge is to optimise quality via advanced mapping technologies, get value for money via optimising photo and mapping specifications, maximise accessibility and distribution via data warehousing, and achieving revenue returns via multi selling. The Queensland Department of Natural resources & Mines (NR&M), Maroochy Shire Council and Webmap Pty Ltd have recently undertaken a

collaborative aerial photography and mapping programme. It offered benefits and savings to the three partners plus flow on benefits to the wider community and businesses. It resulted in new medium resolution digital aerial photography and orthophoto mapping suitable for the State Government's purposes. It delivered new high resolution digital aerial photography and orthophoto mapping suitable for Local Government's purposes and the Council's Geographic Information Systems (GIS). It has provided valuable information for asset management, planning, development, environmental management and infrastructure. Webmap contributions have included advanced data warehousing technology, commercial experience, multi-



cont..Maximising the Benefits of Aerial Mapping Fungis Webmap Workshop:

"The Maroochy project has shown what can be achieved from collaboration between State and Local government and the private sector"

selling and marketing expertise. The agreement also allows Webmap to display the ortho-photography on their website, to allow businesses and the wider community to have access to this information. It is a valuable community resource that can contribute to planning, development, land management, new infrastructure and environmental management. The project was based on using the latest in spatial information and mapping technologies. New computer internet technology allows users to zoom in and view individual properties and

features.

The Maroochy project has shown what can be achieved from collaboration between State and Local government and the private sector. It has worked exceptionally well and has produced key information that each organisation needs, with lower costs and other added benefits. It is a cost sharing joint venture for the production of the imagery and mapping with ability for public users to log-on and view, print, and order high resolution photographic prints and digital imagery, from Webmap's

website at

www.webmap.com.au

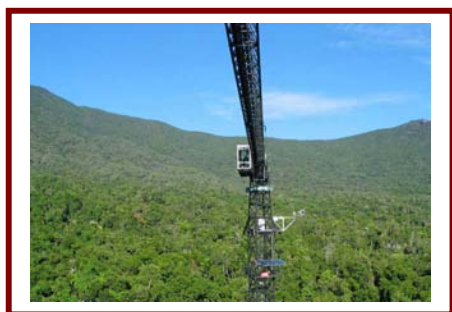
"Propertyview". There are trial sample views that users can use to see how the system works. The community is the winner through cost savings, better planning data and spatial information for managing the regions resources and infrastructure. Similar collaborative projects are being planned for North Queensland.

Lee Smith

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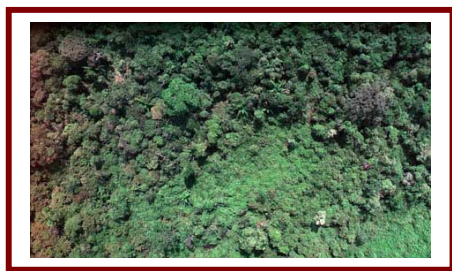
Life in the Canopy of a Wet Tropics Forest Full of Lianas.



View from the Daintree Canopy Crane



View of the Canopy



View of the Canopy with Lianas

Not all GIS is sitting in front of a computer pushing technology.

I had the opportunity to assist Dr. Earl Saxon (Chief Climate Change Scientist for The Nature Conservancy USA. www.nature.org) to the canopy crane at the CRC research station, Cape Tribulation. The Australian Canopy Crane spans over one hectare of lowland tropical rainforest in one of the most ecologically diverse areas of the Wet Tropics of north Queensland.

www.rainforest-crc.jcu.edu.au/canopyCrane.htm

Techo talk:

This field trip was to:

- Conduct a field data validation.
- To establish large-scale forest transects in areas delineated by the "spectral fingerprint" from a satellite image to quantify the extent of liana (vine) infestation in and below the canopy of a rainforest.
- To consequently perform various analyses to identify a correlation between survey data and field validated "spectral

fingerprints".

If the spectral signature of lianas can be detected in the hyper-spectral data imagery recently acquired from NASA's experimental satellite EO1, it may be possible to model the effect of liana presence in spectrally coarse remote sensing imagery from Landsat satellites. This would allow researchers to measure the extent and density of lianas across large areas at lower costs, with a historical temporality.

Back to normal talk:

Riding in the canopy crane over and through hectares of rainforest canopy enabled us to achieve this field data validation.

One rides in a gondola of the canopy crane. Traveling in 'xyz' directions, together with the amazing silence of the forests gives the sensation of 3D travel similar to that of underwater scuba diving. It has to be experienced to be believed. It's a whole new world.

One has to book this time in the canopy crane and compete for availability with many other

international scientists from all corners of the globe. Before us, a trio of Japanese scientists had ended their time with huge smiles all round. Ourselves had two hours in the canopy with a group of German scientists eagerly awaiting our completion for their turn to fly. Boy! What a ride.

P.S. By the way, I forgot to tell you about the face-to-face interaction with the lovely birds, butterflies, insects, tree kangaroos, scenic vistas, tree wasps, stinging trees, big black ants, mozzies, and more. Perhaps I should leave that for another day! Life's tough as a GISer!

Mike Stott

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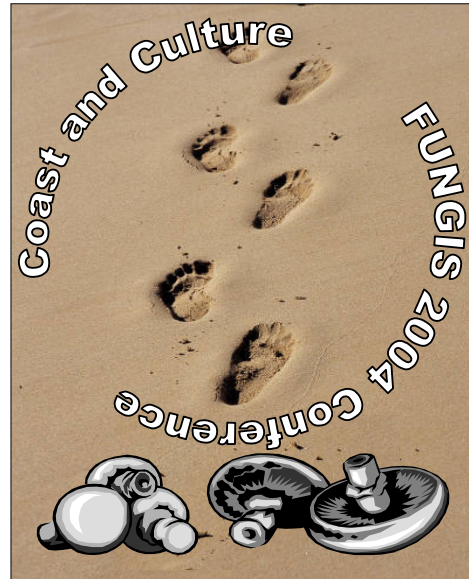
2004 Conference 'Coast & Culture'

Date

5-6 August 2004

Venue

Horizons Resort, Mission Beach



Call for Coast and Culture Presentations / Papers

This years Far North Queensland GIS Users Group (FUNGIS) Conference will highlight two important features of our region, our Coast and Culture.

Keynote speakers

This years keynote speakers include:

Brett Bundock (CEO-ESRI Australia) will provide some inspirational insights into the Spatial Information Industry at National and International level

Steve Jacoby (GM Information Policy-NRM&E) will provide first hand advice on the exciting developments of the latest \$6.3Million Smart Info Access web portal.

Registrations

Registrations will be mailed to FUNGIS members 21st June 2004.

Presenters

If you are interested in presenting at this year's FUNGIS Conference, please contact:

Lisa Newton (Conference organiser) on

Phone: 07 4048 4723 or E-mail: lisa.newton@nrm.qld.gov.au

“ART IN GIS” THE WRAP UP



Sharlene Blakeney receives her Cert III in Spatial Information

“The award ceremony included the presentation of certificates to students who recently completed their Certificate III in Spatial Information Services with Tropical North Qld TAFE, Queensland’s first GIS-specific vocational training program.”



Chad Lewis receives his Cert. III in Spatial Information

There I was, nibbling cheese, “tasting” tropical fruit wines and thinking to myself “how did we pull that off?” GIS Day 2003 was drawing to an end and the rain was bucketing down. Finally the long awaited rain had arrived with the GISers and guests at the FunGIS End of Year Event celebrating the deluge in style.

The Far North’s GIS Day 2003, was held on Friday 5 December and revolved around the Official Opening and Judging of the “Art in GIS” Exposition. The newly formed Atherton Tableland Geographical Information System (@GIS), the Far North Qld GIS Users Group (FunGIS), Tropical North Qld TAFE and the QSIIS Information Office (QIO) put together a range of activities to make GIS Day 2003 a successful event.

The day started with the QIO hosting a Spatial Imagery Economics Assessment Workshop which was well attended with existing and future users of spatial imagery from both the State and Local Govt’s having input into this much needed initiative. After a sumptuous lunch ESRI and Mapinfo held Technical Workshops which are always eagerly welcomed by FunGIS members.

While all of this was going on the Panel of Judges were having challenging times with 33 contributors displaying over 50 “Art in GIS” entries. The judging was based on ease of interpretation, cartographic/artistic quality and functionality with many thanks to Margy Timmermans-Arts Nexus, Adella Edwards-JCU and Bob Guy-ESRI for

accepting the challenge of determining the winning “Art” entries.

The award ceremony included the presentation of certificates to students who recently completed their Certificate III in Spatial Information Services with Tropical North Qld TAFE, Queensland’s first GIS-specific vocational training program.

The Art Prizes were awarded for 1st, 2nd & 3rd in 4 categories; General Maps, Analytical Maps, Maps Gone Wrong and Student Maps with the “Peoples Choice” being awarded to Caroline Bruce for her entry “The Wet Tropics from Space-View from Landsat 5”.

The Official Opening by Atherton Shire Deputy Mayor, Louise De Marzi was followed by the FUNGIS End of Year Event which was attended by Fungis members and invited guests celebrating the end of year with an array of cheese and fruit platters washed down with beer and a fine selection of locally produced Tropical Fruit Wines kindly donated by de Brueys Boutique Wines and Golden Pride Winery.

The success of this event was only possible due to the wonderful support from our Major Sponsors; TNQ TAFE, ESRI and MapInfo; the support staff at both the Atherton and Mareeba Shire Councils and last but not least the great prizes from the following Prize Sponsors; Tropical Paradise B&B, Dragonfly Gallery Café, Cape Tribulation Sea Kayaking

Tours, Herberton Heritage Cottage, Down Under Dive, Mareeba Wild Animal Park, North Qld Traveltrain, Big Cat Green Island Reef Cruises and Crystal Caves & The Fascinating Facets.

Some feedback from Industry Leaders, Politicians and Art Critics:

·“Sounds good, I’d support it purely on the originality”

·“Congratulations for making Spatial Info a Cultural Experience”

·“The art exposition and competition let everyone, including the broader GIS communities, know the Atherton Tableland region soon will be leaders in the field of GIS application”

·“I went to see Art in GIS and discovered some beautiful Tableland Wines”

Full details of the event, our sponsors and images of the winning “Art” entries can be viewed at www.fungis.org.

Reuben Sinclair
Local Govt Rep, FUNGIS
p: (07) 4030 3926
e: News@fungis.org



No Boundaries

This is the theme of the Spatial Sciences Institute conference in Cairns from 30 April to 2 May. The conference organising committee is comprised of FUNGIS representatives and representatives from the Cairns surveyors town group. The organising committee have done a great job of pulling together a conference that will appeal to a broad cross-section of the Spatial Information community.

Eleven technical papers will be presented on the Friday. They cover a diverse range of topics from “Information Access and pricing Policy”, “Relevance of Spatial Data in managing Coastal Development”, “Mapping Inside the Earth”, “Your Future Position – Developments in Global

Navigation Systems” and “Digital Road Network”.

Saturday is devoted to reports from various organisations within the Spatial Information Industry. There will be reports on the progress of the Spatial Sciences Institute at both the state and national level as well as reports from QSIIS and FIG.

The conference dinner will be an event not to be missed. The delegates will be transported to Hartley’s Creek Crocodile Farm for an evening of entertainment that will include crocodile feeding, crocodile spotting and a guided nocturnal animal walk. Dinner will be served overlooking

Hartley’s Lagoon.

I encourage you to come and meet fellow members of the Spatial Information community, keep up with current developments in our industry and have a great time doing it.

Contact Gary Pozzi on gtpozzi@bigpond.com or Les Fehlhaber on les.fehlhaber@nrm.qld.gov.au for more information and to register for this great weekend. For the registration form and detailed itinerary please visit <http://www.fungis.org/registration.pdf>
Les Searle

Who’s New!

Fungis welcomes Louise Hateley to the Tropical Tablelands.

Louise has joined the NRM&E Land & Water Science Team in Mareeba.

The team are currently examining nutrient transport under a range of crops, soil salinity and soil health and the impacts of these on water quality.

With a JCU Bachelor of Environmental Science, a Diploma in Conservation Ecology and 10 months as a Waterwatch Facilitator in the Philippines under her belt Louise is sure to be a welcome and valuable asset to the Far North.

Louise Hateley
Scientist
Land and Water Science Team
QLD Natural Resources, Mines and Energy
Centre for Tropical Agriculture
Mareeba
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F 07 40923593
E Louise.Hateley@nrm.qld.gov.au



Louise Hateley

Mareeba Wetlands Update

The Final Draft of the MoU is in circulation awaiting final agreement and the Project Brief is complete with the finer points near ready to be tackled. This means the bulk of the bureaucracy is just about behind us.

The Wetlands management have recently completed fencing off a major portion of the property with the next step being the implementation of a fire management process to correct recent woody thickening that

resulted from the previous grazing and the associated lack of fire. Once the MoU is signed off we will then start prioritising the Project Tasks which will be influenced by the resources available to do the job. We envisage that we will soon be discussing how to utilize the GIS tool during the development of a Fire Plan and afterwards the monitoring of burns. This means we are now closer to "hands on time" for interested FunGIS Members.

One of the main drivers of this project is to enable FunGIS members to develop practical and professional skills in a useful application so keep yours eyes open for invites to become involved in the various Project Tasks. One task you can involve yourself in right now is keeping your eyes open for any relevant data in particular past and present Aerial Imagery covering the area shown in the map found at this link

http://www.funGIS.org/wet_flight.pdf

Go For It!

Terry Webb

terrydavid@picknowl.com.au

Landuse Mapping Update

As part of the National Land Use Mapping Program being coordinated by the Bureau of Rural Sciences (Canberra), the Dept. of Natural Resources, Mines & Energy (Qld) has completed the Queensland coastal catchments from the NSW border to Cape Melville in the north.

Mapping for the rest of the state is now underway with the Burdekin catchment completed and the Murray-Darling Basin mapping close to completion. Catchments in the gulf region and the western arid region of Queensland are the next mapping priority, with work already in progress for Cooper's Creek and Flinders catchments and others to be commenced soon. One of the objectives of the Queensland land Use Mapping Program (QLUMP) is to produce a consistent land use base layer for

the entire state by the end of this year.

Land use data is mapped to 1999 Landsat TM imagery (25 metre resolution) as a consistent base layer for Queensland, with a data capture scale ranging from 1:50,000 to 1:100,000. Land use attributes are categorised in accordance with the ALUM (Australian Land Use and Management) version 5 classification and fall under the six primary headings of:

- Conservation and Natural Environments
- Production from Relatively Natural Environments
- Production from Dryland Agriculture and Plantations
- Production from Irrigated Agriculture and Plantations
- Intensive uses
- Water

The future direction of land use mapping in Queensland will be concerned with mapping land use change, refinement of validation procedures and the development of a national land management classification. Short reports and hardcopy maps for the Natural Resource Management Regions will also be produced and made available through the web.

Further information relating to land use mapping can be found at

<http://www.nrm.qld.gov.au/science/lump> & <http://www.affa.gov.au>

Data requests can be forwarded to: Data Coordinator

NRM&E, Indooroopilly

Telephone:07 3896 9745

Facsimile:07 3896 9898

Electronic Mail

Address:Stuart.Brothers@nrm.qld.gov.au

FUNGIS Membership Renewal for 2004

Your annual membership with the Far North Queensland GIS User's Group Inc is due for renewal. Membership renewal notices are presently being sent out.

Annual Membership fees are:

Corporate \$120

Individual \$40

Student or Unemployed \$20

To renew your membership, and help us keep our records up to date, it would be appreciated if you could check the details on the Invoice and change them where necessary. In particular, please provide us with your current email address for speedy delivery of the latest FUNGIS Newsletter, which is now published electronically. The renewal form should be returned with your payment; however you can update your contact details at any time via email to Admin@fungis.org

If you have any queries in this regard, please feel free to contact **Lesley Davis** on telephone (07) 40520525 or by email Admin@fungis.org. Your continued support is greatly valued.

**Disclaimer:**

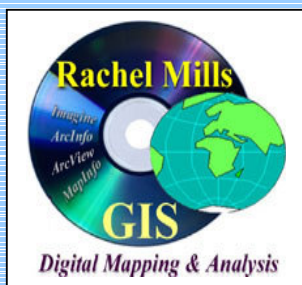
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Spatial Education Update

Certificate III in Spatial Information

A nine day workshop at the Atherton campus of TAFE, commencing 27 March 2004, will bring together 12 students from across the state to undertake training in the Certificate III Spatial Information Services. This group are the first to undertake training from the Spatial Information national training package and are to be congratulated for enrolling in this innovative program that offers the full Certificate III in a blend of delivery modes, incorporating video-conferencing, online resources and a face-to-face workshop, over twelve months. The students will be travelling from Cairns, Townsville, Innisfail, Elimbah (Sunshine coast), Mossman and Mareeba to join Atherton students for a range of in class and field work which meet the requirements of five of the nine competencies needed to complete the course. The remaining four competencies will be completed by students as self-paced learning, supported by video-conferencing sessions and workplace related projects. Within this group a broad range of industries are represented which include local government, the Department of Natural Resources and Mines, Queensland Health, Secondary Education, the sugar industry, the Department of Primary Industries, and individuals retraining to commence a new career. It is anticipated that this group of students will complete their training in November this year. Enrolments are still being taken for this semester's program and a second set of workshops are being planned for semester II, 2004 for anyone wishing to start study after July of this year.

Diploma in Spatial Information Services:

The completion of the registration of Tropical North Queensland TAFE for the delivery of the Diploma in Spatial Information Services is expected any day.

It is anticipated that this program will be available as a Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) option by May, 2004. The diploma program includes fifteen competencies, which cover subject areas such as:

- Determining spatial data requirements
- Planning data collection and validation
- Capturing new data using methodologies such as aerial, remote sensing, field, manual entry and conversion or translation from existing information.
- Collating and interpreting data
- Controlling and monitoring the spatial components of a project
- Plus, amongst others, the maintenance, storage and retrieval of data, and management of occupational health and safety in the workplace.

Expressions of interest for the Diploma as an RPL offering, can be given to Marianne Egan or Trish Nemani at the Atherton campus of TAFE, on (07) 40914267.

Spatial Education and Secondary schools:

In addition, Tropical North Queensland TAFE is involved in developing an educational pathway in spatial information services that will span secondary, vocational and tertiary education, opening up opportunities for Queensland high schools to participate in delivery of the Certificate III. Schools or teachers interested in how spatial education can be

incorporated into their schools program can contact Colleen Hallmond on (07) 4092 8800 to find out more.

Input into changes to the National Training Package

The current National Training package which includes the Certificate III, Diploma and Advanced Diploma in Spatial Information services is currently under national review by members of the spatial industry and education providers. The proposed new structure of the training package is to add a Certificate II level qualification and Certificate IV level qualifications to the package, with an option to branch out at Certificate IV level to a surveying specific qualification. This is yet to be endorsed by the Australian National Training Authority after which further industry input will be sought on the content of each level of qualification. An outline of the proposed courses and the content as it stands to date, is available on request. Please contact myself or another FUNGIS executive member to access this information.

Colleen Hallmond

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EXECUTIVE PROFILE

In our first of a series of Fungis Executive interviews we ask Life Member Alan Stafford some not so tough questions about his role in the GIS world and true to form Alan gave us the following colourful insight.

Name: Alan, is actually a Britbastardisation of my Gaelic name, **Airdsgainne**

My first name of **Airdsgainne** makes me a quick thinker, both philosophical and creative. I appreciate music, art, and drama and, if given training, could excel in those fields. Self-consciousness may prevent me from feeling at ease in positions of impromptu expression. Desiring to be free from detail and monotony, I find it difficult to finish what I start if it does not hold my interest. I enjoy reading and the beauties of nature, experiencing peace and relaxation in outdoor activities. A very individual, independent person, I live within my own thoughts.

Who do you work for?

Mossman Agricultural Services, well actually it is a front name for Machiavellian Arcane Shysters.

How did you get to here (this job)?

I caught the boss in a compromising situation with a Goat.

What do you do in a typical day at work?

I sort of facilitate things. I have detailed below one of my more successful jobs, well it wasn't a total disaster.

RELIGIOUS MERGER CREATES 900 MILLION HINJEWS

Attainment of Nirvana Still Goal, But Not So Important, said Airdsgainne Stafford,
That You Should Miss Cousin Vijay's Bar Mitzvah

New Delhi, India— Hinjew leaders today conceded the merger of Hinduism and Judaism has not worked out as planned, and are suing MAS for \$9,000,000 fee redemption, as instead of forming a super-religion to fight off the common Islamic enemy, they have instead created a race of 900 million people who, no matter how many times they are reincarnated, can never please their mothers. MAS CEO, Melvin Kuvnosky claims 98% success and has offered 500 Pizza supremes as adequate compensation.

"On paper, this was a textbook alliance — two smaller competitors join forces to take on a larger adversary," said New Delhi resident Chandra Gopan. (yes that's where Robert Crossley got to). "But the synergies are just not there. For instance, I still believe I must pursue my own dharmic path to ultimate happiness, but when I get there, I just know my mother will find something wrong with it."

Military officers, in particular, have found assimilation difficult. "We were all excited at first, especially about the Kama Sutra parts, but it's not going to work," Israeli Col. Benyamin Telluk said at a joint press conference with Indian officers. "I mean, just this morning, I was showing Col. Bhadrak here pictures of my family, and he said my wife was a cow."

"I said his wife *reminds* me of a cow," Bhadrak explained.

"Oh, you've said it again!" screamed Telluk.

"It's a compliment!" answered Bhadrak.



Hinjews across the world, meanwhile, said they also were too busy dealing with integration to worry about Pakistanis, Palestinians, or any other opponents. However joining SSI has been considered an advantageous move.

"Surprisingly, it's not the big issues, like is there one God or are there many? It's the little things," said Cairns City Hincew Nathan Feldman, otherwise known as Terry Webb. "Like my Hindu half acknowledges that this world is full of suffering, but my Jewish half just goes on and on about it."

SO, WHAT'S WRONG WITH A NICE HINJEW GIRL?

However, most agreed that even if other issues could be overcome, maternal obstacles to Hincewism would always exist.

"Yesterday, my former self was killed in a car accident," said the late Gori Bhupendra of Madras. "But I had good karma, so I was reincarnated this morning into the Vaisya caste. To me, this is a step up, right?"

But then Bhupendra's former Sudras mother tracked him down.

"She says, 'Oh, Vaisya now, is it? Very nice. Of course, your former brother is a Ksatriya, but he was always an overachiever.'"

Meanwhile, Muslim nations, citing the difficult Hincew merger, facilitated by Alan Stafford of MAS, said they have discontinued talks with the world's largest religion to form Chrislam.

"It wouldn't have worked anyway," said Imam Satra Mohammed of Damascus. "The first time we drank the communion wine, we would have all had to kill ourselves."

What do you enjoy doing outside of work? I practice the art of Phonology with particular reference to the below fine English ditty. I have attained a flawless rendition only once and that was after consuming 6 glasses of 18- year old Bushmills Irish Whiskey.

The Pheasant Plucker Song

(Sung in prestissimo, with a Cockney Accent)

*Me husband is a keeper, he's a very busy man,
I try to understand him and I help him all I can,
But sometimes of an evening I feel a trifle dim,
All alone and plucking pheasants when I'd rather pluck with him.
I'm not the pheasant plucker,
I'm the pheasant plucker's mate
And I'm only plucking pheasants
Cause the pheasant plucker's late.
I'm not good at plucking pheasants, pheasant plucking I get
stuck,
Though some peasants find it pleasant I'd much rather pluck a
duck,
Oh, but plucking geese is gorgeous, I can pluck a goose with
ease
But plucking pheasants is sheer torture, for they haven't any
grease.
I'm not the pheasant plucker,
He has gone out on the tiles,
He only plucked one pheasant
And I'm sitting here with piles.
You have to pluck them fresh, if they're fresh it's not unpleasant,
I knew a man in Dunstable, could pluck a frozen pheasant.
They say the village constable has pheasant plucking sessions
With the vicar of a Sunday 'tween the first and second lessons.
I'm not the pheasant plucker,
I'm the pheasant plucker's son,
And I'm only plucking pheasants
Till the pheasant pluckers come.
My good friend Godfrey's most adept, he's really got the knack,
He likes to have a pheasant plucked before he hits the sack.
I try and lend a helping hand, I gather up the feathers,
It's really all this pheasant plucking keeps us here together.
I'm not the pheasant plucker,
I'm the pheasant plucker's friend,*

*And I'm only plucking pheasants
As a means unto an end.
Me husband's in the woods all day, a-banging with his gun,
If he could hear me heartfelt cries, then surely he would run,
For I've fluff in all me crannies and there's feathers up me nose,
And I'm itchin' in the kitchen' from me head down to me toes.
I'm not the pheasant plucker,
I'm the pheasant plucker's wife,
And when we pluck together
It's a pheasant plucking life!*

While on the subject of plucking, I felt you would like to know a little of how gestures and or phraseology can develop over time. Or simply why one plucks pheasants at all.

At the Battle of Agincourt the French, who were overwhelmingly favored to win, threatened to cut a certain body part off of all captured English soldiers so that they could never fight again. The English won in a major upset and waved the body part in question at the French in defiance. The puzzler was: What was this body part?

The body part, which the French proposed to cut off of the English after defeating them was, of course, the middle finger, without which it is impossible to draw the renowned English longbow. This famous weapon was made of the native English yew tree, and so the act of drawing the longbow was known as *plucking yew*. Thus, when the victorious English waved their middle fingers at the defeated French, they said, "See, we can still pluck yew! PLUCK YEW!"

Over the years some "folk etymologies" have grown up around this symbolic gesture. Since *pluck yew* is rather difficult to say (like *pleasant mother pheasant plucker*, which is who you had to go to for the feathers used on the arrows), the difficult consonant cluster at the beginning has gradually changed to a labiodental fricative *f*, and thus the words often used in conjunction with the one-finger salute are mistakenly thought to have something to do with an intimate encounter. It is also because of the pheasant feathers on the arrows that the symbolic gesture is known as *giving the bird*.

If you could be a cartoon character which one would you choose and why?

I relate to Ginger Meggs possibly because he once said. “

Creative clutter is better than idle neatness”. Makes me think that:- perhaps it follows that minimalists are capable only of minimum thought patterns.

(thanks Ron Gray)

A pikkie of you hard at work would be great as well.

This is me on my sailing boat. It's hard work enjoying myself. I had it taken so I could enter the ESRI T shirt competition but all I got was an irate phonecall from Brett Bundock telling me he wanted his boatie back before bath night.



PIC: Alans Boat

Hooroo.
