

## Special Interest Articles:

- Welcome to our first online newsletter!.
- New aerial photography service based in Cairns
- Mareeba Wetlands workshop a success!

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*Far North Queensland GIS User Group Inc.*

## Welcome to our first online Newsletter!

I hope you all enjoy your new Newsletter format! Now we are getting with the times and integrating all of our skills to get some great ideas happening. I hope you check out your FUNGIS Website while you are here and feel inspired to add some of your own contributions. Now we are truly on-line the options are limitless (well until we get kicked off the Server).

This year is shaping up to be great!

The groundwork to get major projects such as Spatial Angels and Wetlands Fieldwork is finally taking shape. We hope to get out to the Wetlands and get our hands dirty this dry season and the Spatial Angels Committee is looking into funding options available for their project. Any progress on both of these projects will be posted on the website, so keep checking back for updates.

Look forward to seeing you

all at 51<sup>st</sup> for our first Workshop for 2003.

Cheers,

Lisa Newton  
FUNGIS Chair



## Mareeba Wetlands Workshop this year.

At the 2002 Annual Directions workshop of the FUNGIS Annual General Meeting (AGM), members told their Executive Committee that the Mareeba Wetlands Workshop was one of their highest priorities.

Since then the Executive have been working to win the trust of the Wetlands Foundation Committee and to ensure that any work done by FUNGIS would be

worthwhile to the Wetlands Management.

After months of hard work, we have made a major breakthrough.

The FUNGIS Executive and Wetlands Foundation held a very successful meeting in Mareeba earlier this month to discuss potential project ideas and processes for implementing them.

**Potential project ideas for fieldwork in the Mareeba Wetlands include: -**

- Assessment of overgrazing and woody thickening
- Fine scale vegetation mapping and monitoring
- Mapping of infrastructure
- Fire Management
- Erosion gullies and Soils mapping
- Mapping of re-vegetation projects

## cont... Mareeba Wetlands Workshop this year.



*Aerial view of Wetlands*

At this stage, the Executive will begin by developing a Project Proposal for each idea. This proposal will need to be approved by both the FUNGIS Executive and the Wetlands Foundation before project work can begin.

The Wetlands Foundation

has identified the “assessment of overgrazing and woody thickening” project as the most important at this stage. Therefore the Executive will begin by developing this Project Proposal first. Keep an eye on the FUNGIS website for updates on each of the Wetlands Workshop Projects.

**The rate at which each project begins will be directly proportional to the interest shown by members. As a member, if you are interested in leading any of these projects, please contact the Executive to register your interest [LjmDavis@bigpond.com].**

*“The rate at which each project begins will be directly proportional to the interest shown by members..”*

## For further information click on a link!

- Wetlands Meeting Minutes

<http://www.fungis.org/meetings1.htm>

- Annual Directions Communication Objectives

<http://www.fungis.org/Docs/Communication%20Objectives.pdf>

- Annual Directions Wall sheets from AGM Workshop

<http://www.fungis.org/Docs/Wallsheet%20contents.pdf>

- Mareeba Wetlands Fieldwork Project Proposals  
<http://www.fungis.org/events1.htm> - note not there yet – but keep posted!

- Mareeba Wetlands Foundation

- (Note: FUNGIS are going to become Corporate Members of the Mareeba Wetlands)

<http://www.mareebawetlands.com/foun>



## Unification of AURISA, IEMSA, ISA, MSIA and RSPAA

For more than two years, the Spatial Sciences Coalition (SSC) has been working on a proposal for the unification of AURISA, IEMSA, ISA, MSIA and RSPAA into one national body to provide for the professional development of all practitioners in the spatial information industry.

In October 2002, the SSC brought all the material together in an exposure draft of the proposal that was then sent to all members of the five institutions for comment. The SSC met in Adelaide, during the AURISA/ISA Conference, on 27 November to discuss the responses received.

### What were the main issues raised by respondents to

#### the exposure draft?

**Fees.** For the members of some institutions, the proposed scale of fees for the SSI represents a substantial increase in annual fees. Most recognize that the proposed scale of fees is similar to the fees paid by members of other professional institutions and accept that they may have to accept an increase in fees to ensure that the SSI is viable. But they want assurance that the services received will represent value-for-money.

At the other end of the spectrum, for some members (e.g. members of the NSW Division of ISA) the proposed scale of fees

represents a significant reduction in fees and they are skeptical that there will be sufficient revenue for the SSI to provide the services they have been accustomed to.

**Business Model.** Some respondents observed that we have provided a lot of detail about how the SSI will operate at the national level but scant regard has been given to how it will operate at the regional level.

**Winding Up and Management of Existing Assets.** Some existing organizations have substantial physical and financial assets and the members are concerned that the new national body will

simply appropriate those assets.

the final proposal.

### Development of the Constitution.

A basic constitution has been adopted to enable the SSI to be registered as a Company Limited by Guarantee. When the membership has agreed to the business model proposed and a National Board has been established, steps will be taken to amend the Constitution and prepare Regulations to reflect the agreed governance and administrative model. Of course, any changes to the Constitution will be taken to a General Meeting of the new institution. This process will be explained better in

### Professionalism and Recognition.

There is a concern among some groups that the new institution will not be recognized as a "professional body". The problem arises from our objective of ensuring that the SSI should not present a barrier to any person interested in the spatial information sciences from becoming a member. At the same time we want to provide for the professional development and recognition of our members. It is an attempt to combine the best features of AURISA and RSPAA with the best features of MSIA, IEMSA

and ISA, hopefully without losing any of the desirable features.

**Timetable.** The revised timetable is as follows:

- During December and January, individual members of the SSC will revise components of the proposal, for finalizing in late January.
- The documentation will be distributed to members in February
- The vote will be conducted in March
- The result of poll will then be declared in late



## cont...Unification of AURISA, IEMSA, ISA, MSIA and RSPAA

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*"At the same time we want to provide for the professional development and recognition of our members..."*




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*"Actually it was quite an informal evening with Peter Wilson's son Samuel taking out the best-dressed award."*

March

### Conclusion

What does all this mean for FUNGIS? Does FUNGIS continue as a separate entity or become a local group of SSI? If FUNGIS remains a separate entity what relationship if any does it have with SSI? How are the interests of joint members of FUNGIS and SSI best served? Is there any benefit

to people being both members of FUNGIS and SSI? Will the formation of SSI adversely affect FUNGIS membership?

So many questions to think about. The FUNGIS executive is beginning to consider these and other ramifications of the formation of SSI with a view to discussing the issue at the mid-year seminar. The

executive would like to hear member's views on the issue. More information is available at

[http://www.spatialscience.org/Docs/Downloads/Spatial\\_Voice\\_No\\_7.pdf](http://www.spatialscience.org/Docs/Downloads/Spatial_Voice_No_7.pdf).

## Christmas Drinks @ Yokeys Knob Boat Club – 22-11-02

Well there we were, a sorry gang of mappers, just waiting around till someone rocked up with some cash for the bar, slowly sipping the drinks we actually paid for, and then it happened! Some more people arrived (from this point on, the details do get a little sketchy...). Actually it was quite an informal evening with Peter Wilson's son Samuel taking out the best-dressed award (see photo left) complete with tie and vest (although I reckon a cummerbund wouldn't go astray to hide the young-uns emerging beer gut, Pete). The next award (for courage beyond the call of duty) went to Lisa Newton, who, in the absence of a bar tab, bravely placed her Visa card behind the bar and told the bar staff to put the tab on that! Whilst we're on the subject

of awards, I believe a few formal awards were noted on the night (although I've only got Lisa's word on that – I went to a BBQ with Toby - more on that later...). Firstly, the hard work and commitment of the Executive membership received special mention, in particular that of our Secretariat, Lesley Davis. Outgoing Executive Members were recognised with certificates. Richie Bellerio was there to accept his on the night, Dave Gillieson and Warwick Sayers weren't. A call was put out to non-Executive members to consider whether they would take on a more active role within FUNGIS by joining the Executive. If you are interested, check out the minutes on the website or attend an executive meeting

(date for following meeting at the bottom of the previous meetings minutes). As for the BBQ that Toby and I left to attend, I'm told the description of those attending it may trigger heart (and possibly marriage) failure in the older members of FUNGIS. Nonetheless, the water at Trinity Beach that night cannot have been too cold given the bikini clad Swedish girls splashed away happily for hours. As a final note, I'd like to formally remind you of the release of the 2003 Geoscape CD's for FNQ, and to those who attended the xmas drinks and unanimously decided that I was wrong in saying they were coming, well....

(Alistair Hart)



### Media release

FUNGIS Newsletter: February 2003

## HRIC hosts resource information conference for GIS users

Once again the Herbert Resource Information Centre will host a GIS Users Group Conference which will enable GIS and related professionals to see fresh and interesting applications of GIS in particular on the theme of spatial solutions for sustainability.

The HRIC is a collaborative resource information centre that was set up in Ingham in 1996. Involving six partners from the community, industry and government, the HRIC provides access to a range of information to organisations and individuals to assist better resource planning and management in the Herbert River catchment.

Manager of the HRIC, Raymond De Lai said the program is a very fresh one with presentations on a range of new topics that attendees would not have seen before.

“Various speakers from all over Australia will be presenting the views and uses of GIS and spatial analysis from an organisation's perspective,” said Mr De Lai. “The conference is not limited to GIS as a technology but focuses on the application of GIS for a community or regional benefit.”

The first day of the conference is based on local presentations from the Herbert region. This will provide the opportunity to see how, ten years after its inception, the HRIC operates to bring benefits to the Herbert community.

Day two is an exciting line up of presentations from other groups and regions in Australia to demonstrate how they are using GIS for specific projects related to community or regional planning.

The final day of the conference is a cruise up the world famous Hinchinbrook channel, which will enable participants to see some of the local area and also speak informally with most of the presenters.

The conference, to be held in Ingham on 11-13 March 2003, is expected to be well attended – when the first HRIC users conference was held four years ago it attracted more than 120 people and since then there has been growing interest in the Centre and its achievements.

Prior to the conference is a community Open Day on 10 March for the people of the Herbert region to see how the HRIC technology is being used for their benefit.

If you want to attend please register before 3 March 2003. You can register on line at [www.hric.org.au](http://www.hric.org.au), or for further information contact Raymond De Lai (07) 4776 0007 or [hric@ozemail.com.au](mailto:hric@ozemail.com.au)





“Presentation by David Rivett on the Atherton Tourist touch screen maps for the Atherton Information Centre”

## FUNGIS ATHERTON WORKSHOP

**Venue:** The Art Gallery entrance of the Atherton Shire Council Chambers  
45 Mabel Street, Atherton  
**Date:** 7<sup>th</sup> March  
**Time:** 1:30 – 4:30pm

Due to the current security alert we are unable to hold our planned Workshop at 51st Army Base.  
Instead, for our next workshop we visit the cooler climate of our

Region and focus on the Atherton Tablelands.

The workshop will be held at:

The Art Gallery entrance of the Atherton Shire Council Chambers  
45 Mabel Street,

Atherton

Draft Agenda for the meeting is below; Agenda will be confirmed after the FUNGIS Executive Meeting 4th March and circulated to all members by Email.

### Workshop Agenda

- Presentation of the Tourist touch screen maps for the Atherton Information Centre  
*Presentation by David Rivett on the Atherton Tourist touch screen maps for the Atherton Information Centre*  
[http://www.athertonsc.qld.gov.au/information\\_centre.htm](http://www.athertonsc.qld.gov.au/information_centre.htm)
- ATGIS Proposal (Atherton Tablelands Geographic Information Systems)  
*Bob Peever will give a presentation on the ATGIS Proposal*
- Comments on the new Survey and Mapping Infrastructure Bill 2003

Following from the Seminar of the Cairns Surveyors Town Group Meeting on the 25<sup>th</sup> February, a speaker will look at the effects of this new Bill specifically as it relates to Local Government  
<http://www.fungis.org/events1.htm>



*Watch this space!!*

“Bob Peever will give a presentation on the ATGIS Proposal .”

Update from the new Director of the QSIIS Information Office  
*Presentation by Tim Barker - the new Director of the QSIIS Information Office*

<http://www.oesr.qld.gov.au/views/qio/home.htm>



# FUNGIS Recognition and Awards for 2002

## Life Members

- Support and willingness to stand up when FUNGIS needs a spokesperson
  - Alan Stafford
  - Bob Peever

between other groups, letters to lobby for our region etc. Spoke about at the AGM

- Lesley Davis – Secretariat (20 hours per month)

- Terry Webb
- Les Searle
- Shane Albertson
- Jan Carr

## Executive Membership

- Also endless amounts of hours spent pulling together reports, gaining agreements

- Lisa Newton – Chair
- Mark Hopp – Deputy
- Peter Wilson – Treasurer

- Rachel Mills
- Geoff Hunter
- Joe Rhodes

## Outgoing Executive Members

- This year have been recognised with certificates to formally acknowledge their commitment to the group

- Richie Bellero
- David Gillieson
- Warwick Sayers
- Richie is here to accept his certificate

## Executive Subcommittees

- There has also been a major revision of the website this year and I would like to acknowledge the efforts of those involved, specifically:
  - Geoff Mills
  - Damien Leibel

Thanks to all those who have contributed towards the success of FUNGIS throughout the year.

We also encourage any new members to the Executive, if you are interested to know more about if Executive role is for you, you can:-

- Look up the minutes on the website
- All are welcome to come along to executive meetings, the dates

are decided a month in advance and are always at the end of each of the minutes if they are not posted on the website.



*Richie Bellero*

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## **New service based in Cairns!**

### **High Resolution Digital Aerial Photography**

**Gone are the days of changing film in mid flight . . .** A new digital aerial photography service has landed in Cairns! Ecosystems Management (Aust.) Pty Ltd or EMA, offers a range of services in North QLD including 'high resolution digital aerial photography'. Rachel Mills,

our very own FunGIS Executive Committee Member is at the helm of the Northern Australian Division of EMA.

**“The beauty of digital is that as soon as we land, we can burn your imagery to CD and off you go . . .** the other great advantage is we are based in Cairns so we

can look straight out the window and know if it is a cloud free day - we'll be ready when they happen!”

Check out our new online brochure to obtain more details.

[http://www.ecosystems-  
management.com.au/brochure.html](http://www.ecosystems-management.com.au/brochure.html)

#### **We intend to identify organizations with overlapping geographical interests**

Traditional aerial photography is often purchased by one organisation for its needs only, bearing the full weight of the projects fixed costs. We intend to identify organisations with overlapping geographical interests.

Our focus is to establish

long term and joint venture projects in order to share fixed costs and save participants money.

This is why we have developed an *industry survey (see below to participate)* to help us to find out who requires Digital Aerial Photography, how often you require it and what you will use it for.

This will help us understand

where needs overlap.

Since moving to Cairns almost 3.5 years ago, Rachel Mills has worked in a variety of different government departments, placing her as the ideal coordinator for this joint venture approach to GIS. Help us to serve you better . . . please take the time to complete our industry survey.

***Please take the time to fill out our online industry survey***

**[www.ecosystems-management.com.au/survey.html](http://www.ecosystems-management.com.au/survey.html)**



#### ***Other Services that EMA offer are...***

- Strategic Planning for Natural Resource Management
- Biodiversity Conservation & Management
- Catchment Management & Planning
- Land Management Planning
- Environmental Impact Assessment
- Commercial Timber Plantation Establishment & Management
- Timber Inventory
- Fire Management Planning & Operational Implementation
- Native Vegetation Management (Assessment & Re-vegetation)
- Aerial Image Acquisition & Analysis (High Resolution Digital, Infra-red & Thermal)
- Spatial Information Management & Digital Cartography