

Fungis

Newsletter of the Far North Qld
GIS Users Group



→ David

October 12, 1998

SEMINAR 98

I would like to thank all who helped and attended the "GIS – Information is an Asset" seminar held on the 26th and 27th July 1998.

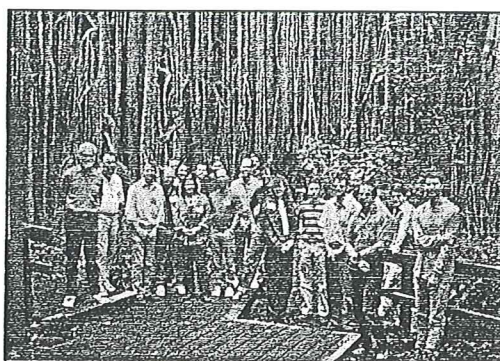
Sunday saw the day begin with the AGM and another dedicated executive committee elected for the year 98/99. Then it was time for the Mystery Bus Tour. First stop the Fig Tree and

then onto the Barron Valley Hotel, Atherton for lunch and Open Forum



chaired by Ken Granger. On the bus again for a tour the bus driver probably didn't expect. I was unable to take the tour with the group and left it in the capable hands of he who shall remain nameless. From all reports it was quite an adventure, bogged bus, plenty of backseat drivers and a patient bus driver. Those aboard will forever hear the beep, beep, beep as the bus reversed back down the road.

Sunday night and from what I heard the fun begins. Plenty of orders from the host of the Lake Eacham Hotel (nicknamed 'The Matron'). Copious quantities of Scotch consumed by a select



Seminar Attendees get down amongst the Fig Tree

few revellers, some until the wee hours of the morning.

Monday morning saw the coffee flowing freely before the serious part of the seminar commences. All speakers relaxed and at ease in the informal setting of the Lake Eacham Hotel. I really enjoyed all the speakers and heard favourable comments from all who attended.

Sharlene Blakeney (secretariat)

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Special points of interest:

- Alan Stafford to be honoured with the Far North Qld GIS Users Group Life Membership.

- MetaData – what is it and how can it help you and your business.

CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

The Management Committee of the Far North Queensland G.I.S. User Group has not avoided the Restructure Revolutions. With the intention of changing the role of the Committee, each member now has agreed to take on specific responsibilities that will enable the combination of professional resources to exert a wider influence

on what is an ever changing process of Information Management.

Issues such as (a) the Development of a Spatial Information Infrastructure for this Region, (b) the need to increase the Role of Private Industry, (c) more effective commu-

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SHADY RECOLLECTIONS

My recollections of Sunday were pretty poor but here goes....

A highlight of the seminar this year was the interest and input to the discussion forums. The value of good information and systems to use it is widely recognized throughout the community. FUNGIS should feel challenged to develop mechanisms to identify and channel the keenness and interest available.

FUNGIS is receiving recognition. Mapping Sciences Institute Australia sent representatives to promote co-operations between the two organisations. This offers FUNGIS the opportunity to have a significant voice on Australia-wide issues. Other speakers from outside the regions also voiced approval of FUNGIS. The co-operative spirit and variety of people involved is an asset that

shouldn't be underestimated.

Perhaps my biggest revelation is that if a FUNGIS seminar is ever to start on a Sunday again, it must not be immediately after I celebrate my birthday!!!

Terry Webb

Wet Tropics Management Authority

Cairns

My recollections of Sunday were pretty poor!

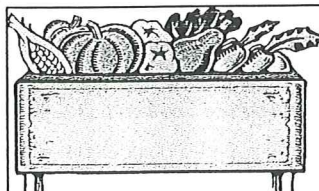


FOOD GLORIOUS FOOD

I'll be honest. I actually look forward to conferences and seminars. The main reason is the food. Forget the networking, swapping ideas, and developing stronger relations with work colleagues, I go for the food!

Notable conferences include the 1996 tropical forest conference held at the Cairns convention centre (lots of freshly made biscuits and cakes) and the recent FNQGIS seminar in Yungaburra.

It all started at the Barron Valley Hotel in Atherton. I will not describe the magical, mysterious reversing bus tour because my neck still goes into cramps just thinking about. However lunch included half a cow and enough vegetables to fill several market gardens. The forum following lunch was very interesting however I suffered from the post lunch languids and my recollection of the discussions is a bit patchy. I think the Guinness may have been a strong player in this.



Lunch included half a cow and enough vegies to fill a market garden

Afternoon tea included sandwiches and scones (or scones depending on where you were brought up). Fortunately the bus driver was sympathetic and didn't race around corners when the bus tour resumed. We did have a minor problem near the Gillies lookout where we all thought we were never going to get out alive however I promise not to mention it ever again Mr Wilson.

Dinner at the Lake Eacham hotel is always interesting and if you ever get a chance to have a winter weekend there I would strongly recommend it. I particularly remember Marie's slow

baked ham and roast beef and vegies. These are followed by bread and butter pudding, self saucing chocolate pudding and fresh custard. All perfect for a cold night.

Ken Grainger spoke after dinner but I certainly had no problems staying awake. He is an enthusiastic speaker who developed his topic very well.

Monday saw more scones (scones) with great gobs of fresh cream and jam. The fire had been lit earlier and it was doing its best to warm up the cavernous lounge. I stood close to it with a scone in one hand and a coffee in the other.

I tried to find room for lunch but the scones had taken their toll. There was no more room at the inn. Although disappointing it was probably all for the best given we were yet to drive to Cairns via the Gillies.

They are my recollections of the seminar. Oh and the speakers were excellent and I learned a lot too. See you next year. I'll be somewhere between the coffee percolator and the trough.

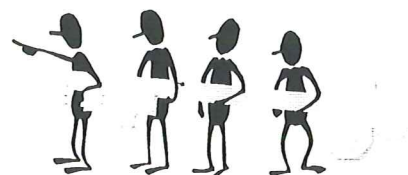
Warwick Sayers
Dept of Environment
Cairns

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nication with common interest user groups, (d) Promotion and Profile of the User Group, (e) our involvement with QSIIC have caused a change of Focus for the Management Committee, and as it is always the intention to address what is hopefully the best interest of all members, the subsequent Restructure should accommodate what is required. All members should note their nominated Executive member and are encouraged to make contact. Please forward any issues through these members for consideration by the FNQ GIS executive. (See back page for member details)

Looking forward to the next Social function of the User Group, the mystery bus tour and the performance of our tour guide will be a hard act to follow, but by the way the Dogs are barking, an opportunity just may present itself, that will cause one of the best Irish bus trips I have ever been on to pale in significance.

Peter Swain



COMMITTEE **RESTRUCTURE**

Chairman
Peter Swain

Education
Tony Dawson

Tertiary
Secondary
Primary
TAFE

FNQ GIS
Les Searle

Data Dir
Network
Beyond FNQ issues

Private
Robert Crossley

GIS Consult
Sugar
Survey Industry
CSIRO

**Communication/
Promotion**
Warwick Sayers
Peter Wilson

Newsletter
Web Page
Related Groups (MSIA, RAPI)
GIS Users Groups

Functions
Terry Webb

Exec meetings
½ day seminars
2 day seminar


Government
Bob Peever

Local
State
Commonwealth

Admin
Secretariat

Secretarial
Treasurer
Membership

WEB WATCH



A few web pages for you to check out next time you hang ten on your malibu.

Had trouble explaining what GIS is? Always thought a voxel was a car? Check out ERIN's GIS and Metadata Glossary.

http://www.erin.gov.au/gis/gis_gloss.html

Worried about the GDA? Concerned that there is no effective treatment? Calm yourself and read all about it at AUSLIGs GDA pages.

<http://www.auslig.gov.au/geodesy/gda.htm>.

Get blue, get funky at Environment Australia's Blue pages. Search for marine related spatial data and contact the custodian.

<http://www.environment.gov.au/marine/mcdd/index.html>.

Having trouble finding just the right colour for your web pages? In a colour quandry? Visit the color centre.

<http://www.hidaho.com/colorcenter/cc.html>


We are not alone! The North Coast Spatial Information Group has similar objectives to FUNGIS.

<http://www.scu.edu.au/sponsored/ncsig/home.html>

Finally, one for the Hammond organ lovers. I know, we are everywhere!

<http://www.webcom.com/groove/hg/welcome.html>

Do you have a favourite GIS or RS related web page?
Send it to warwick.sayers@env.qld.gov.au.



Get funky at Environment Australia's Blue pages!!

QSID

QSID Data Entry

The Queensland Spatial Information Infrastructure Council (QSIIC) provides a Metadata entry tool to facilitate data entry into the Queensland Spatial Information Directory (QSID). The data entry tool is available through the QSIIC secrete-

tariat in the Department of Natural Resources.

This tool implements the Australian and New Zealand Land Information Council (ANZLIC) Metadata standard.

Data custodians are becoming aware of the importance of Metadata (data

about the data). They are beginning to realise that they need to create their own data dictionary and data directory for the efficient management of their data. The Herbert Resource Information Centers (HRIC) is using the QSID data entry tool to create their own data dictionary and directory.

Typically, an organisation will require
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Metadata at a more detailed level than that required by QSID. Customisation of the tool can accommodate this. The only condition on customisation of the tool is that the exporting of information to QSID is unaffected.

The data entry tool is free on request and is an ideal method of recording your Metadata in the ANZLIC standard format. Use of this tool will

promote the exchange of Metadata between organisations at a local level as well as the state level through QSID.

For more information contact

Les. Searle

Ph: 07 40528717

Email: Les.Searle@dnr.qld.gov.au

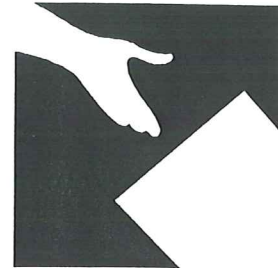


IMAGE ANALYSIS

New Arcview Extension

Image Analysis is designed primarily for natural resources applications such as forestry and agriculture; environmental assessments of all types; engineering and infrastructure management projects; and the general scenario of GIS map database update and maintenance.

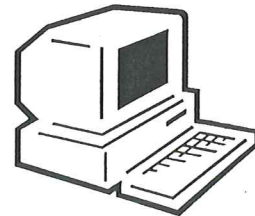
Some of the Key features include:

Image-to-map registration, Image analysis tools, Spatial enhancement filters, Customization with Avenue, Access to industry standard image data types and formats and more.

Functions included:

Automated analysis tools, Spectral categorisation, Between thematic image maps and others.

This extension is positioned as an entry-level imaging/remote sensing capability for the ArcView GIS user whom may not have extensive imaging experience. The interface is designed specifically with "ease of use" in mind. Product coming to Australia in October.



AGD TO GDA

Geographic Datum of Australia (GDA) was established as a co-ordinate system by the Intergovernmental Committee on Surveying and Mapping and will be implemented by the year 2000.

The Geocentric Datum of Australia is an earth-centred coordinates system that is compatible with GPS, and differs by up to 200 metres from the current Australian Geodetic Datum (AGD).



ERSIS Australia has announced it will support the conversion of data to the GDA by developing software to assist in the translation of data from the AGD.

For more information contact:

Ruth Sleeman

ERSIS

Phone: +61738447744

Email: ruths@ersis.com.au

LIFE MEMBERSHIP

I recently had the pleasure of informing Alan Stafford of his nomination for Life Membership in the Far North Queensland GIS Users Group. For those of us who know Alan know that he is never lost for words. Well we did it, what we thought was unachievable, he was truly lost for words and overwhelmed.

Alan has been involved with the group since its conception and has worked tirelessly to build up the profile of the group and some of the credit for where the group is today should go to Alan. According to my spies he instigated the logo for the group and I was also told his lovely wife Sue was the artist responsible for the outstanding logo design.

We will be having a social function (as we should) on the 20th November. A venue hasn't been decided as yet but I will keep you informed.

I asked Alan to supply me with a bit of background info about himself for this newsletter not realising he was going to send me a novel.

He gave me permission to do with it what I liked. After reading it I decided that he took the mickey out of himself more than I could so have left it the way he sent it to me.

Alan Marshall Stafford.

I was born in Belfast, Northern Ireland: 15th January 1944. Amidst the bombs, though then they came from Germany, not as later from my neighbours.

My secondary education to Senior Certificate was completed at

Coleraine Academical Institution. An establishment for young conformers who were encour-



aged to achieve. A rugby football school, I was champion mile athlete of all Ireland in 1960 but, as running was a sissy sport did not get a Guernsey.

I was a merchant Navy Deck Officer Cadetship with Elder Demster Lines of Liverpool, England from July 1962 to February 1966. A glorious episode in my life, saw the Beatles before they became famous, lived the life of freedom, sex and rock and roll, no bloody drugs then, what a bummer, missed out on that bit.

I then studied for my Certificates of Competency at Queens University, Technical division, more hi life, this time Guinness and folk music with lots of chasing good sorts. I finally caught one, an Aussie; and as lots of people who come here and bring a stuffed koala back home as a souvenir she

A glorious episode in my life, saw the Beatles before they became famous, lived the life of freedom, sex and rock and roll, no bloody drugs then, what a bummer, missed out on that bit.

brought me back to Oz Northern Ireland. My certificates are: -

Chief Officer Home Trade - 1966
Second Officer Foreign Trade - 1967

In 1969 the British authorities changed the qualification, Certificate of Competency to Bachelor of Nautical Science.

I served mainly as Navigator in European and American waters from 1966 to 1968, migrating to Australia I continued my nautical profession for several years. One of my memorable moments in my nautical career was when I molested a buoy. (Not a misspelling.) It was during a dark and stormy night, my ship was bound from Copenhagen (it is all true about that City) for London. There was a fearful North Easterly Gale blowing it's ears off. I was attempting to navigate our way past the Tershelling Islands, just a wee tad east of Bremen, coming up to a marker Buoy, I gave the

helmsman the course correction, unfortunately it was a bit premature and we donged the bloody thing with our port bow. Fortunately for me the helmsman was so seasick he didn't see and it was so early

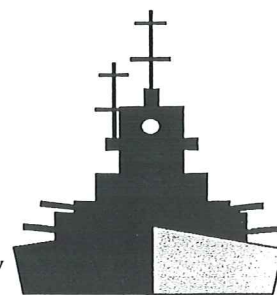
everyone else was asleep. So back there is a German Buoy with a bloody big dent in it. My Corporate highlight in the Merchant Navy was in 1967 when I was elevated to command a ship, sadly she was in dry-dock at the time so I did not get to flaunt my brief authority.

Anyway after several years I lost my way and found myself in the sugar industry.

I have been with Mossman Central Milling

Co. Ltd. Within the Field department since 1980, and the Growers Advisory Centre since 1996, serving as Cane Inspector for most of this time. In 1988 I was responsible for implementing the GIS program at the Mill. Initially its only function was to produce farm maps; this project was administered entirely by myself. The Mossman Mill area GIS, which is a product of data generated by myself and my colleague Allan Rudd, also of the Growers Advisory Centre has attracted interest from many areas within the Sugar Industry. This bloody GIS has gotten a grip on me, I have been obsessed with making moving maps, manipulating data and presenting it in graphical forms.

In 1993 I undertook external part-time studies with James Cook University, This sleaso Pauline Catt conned me into doing it. She said, "if you do an external degree at JCU the Uni will help you with all your work problems". Sucker sucker in I went, just like Bob Peever, Raymond DeLai and



One of my memorable moments in my nautical career was when I molested a buoy. (Not a misspelling.)

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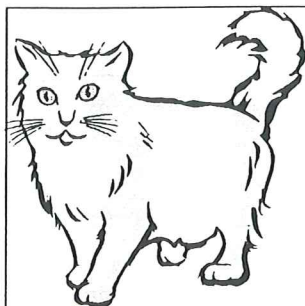
goodness knows whom else, culminating in 1996 with a Post Grad Dip. Science.

I have participated in several short courses over the past 10 years in subjects pertaining to GIS, GPS, land use and management. I administer the GPS base station and survey equipment at Mossman. That also means I get to drive like a hoon around the Douglas Shire with a GPS antenna on a shaft on my bulbar and the Police even give way to me when I am logging a section of road, my wife often is embarrassed by my doings, but now that I am old I don't care anymore.

I have delivered several papers, at workshops usually impromptu ones at FUNGIS workshops when an invited speaker fails to front. And Seminars conducted by the local GIS users group and am party to the program for the introduction of GIS to schools in the Cairns and nearby regions.

I have the honour of being a member of the Systems Analysis and Modeling Consultative Group within the Cooperative Research Centre for Sustainable

Sugar Production. I am further involved with that organisation having a research Masters Scholarship with it. Thanks to the research project I now have little time for anything else. Our cats make appointments to be petted and our lawn now looks like a Canadian wheatfield, thanks be; my wife still loves me.



Our cats make appointments to be petted and our lawn now looks like a Canadian wheatfield.

I had a great time being associated with the User Group, from the times before it was structured, a youthful, unwrinkled Peter Swain of Mulgrave Shire was another spatial visionary, Bob (not so vague) Peever was another. I had the onerous task of being the inaugural newsletter Editor, it was real cut and paste, plagiarism was rife and I really got into bullshit, do our older members remember the Recipes I inserted? Yes I

did test them all before publishing.

Anyway I have lived on the edge for so many years, loved associating with some really great people, in the words of our Aussie pug Jeff Fennick I loves you all, I have just stepped aside, I can't be gotten rid of so easily, if there is a bit of space, well lets get stuck into it.

Professional Affiliations.

I am a founding member of the Far North Geographic Information Systems User Group Inc. and a long term member of its Management Group and former Editor of the in house Newsletter "Fungis".

I hold an associate membership with the Australian Mapping Sciences Institute and have similar affiliations with the Royal Australian Planning Institute.

I have the honour of being a member of the Systems Analysis and Modeling Consultative Group within the Cooperative Research Center for Sustainable Sugar Production.

Alan Stafford

PEST MANANGMENT

I am the Pest Management Extension Officer for the Mitchell River Watershed Management Group. I am working on a year long National Heritage Trust project in the Mitchell Catchment. My priorities are extension with landholders and mapping weeds. I am using a Sokkia differential GPS (too many cables, batteries and too long to set up), a Magellan GPS (not enough accuracy to overlay) and landholder information. I have the assistance of Bob Peever from Mareeba Shire Council, who has some great toys and doesn't mind sharing them. I also take a lot of photo's of weeds and intend to have them put onto a Kodak CD so I can use



them in my final report and provide visual overlays using Arc-view. My concept, I am told, is related to 'Hot Links' which would allow me to place a weed symbol over a map (Raster 250 000 : 1) and select it bringing up both visual and management information. I can see a huge amount of uses for information in the GIS format and think it could be an excellent tool for extension officers.

I think the whole range of information held by various bodies such as AUSLIG, DNR etc. could be used to produce concise computer packages for specific groups and be particularly useful for ICM/Landcare groups as well as anyone involved in natural resource management. The only problem is there is always a new toy to play with and not enough time to do it.

Michael Rodgerson

Organization

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Look out for our new web
site in the near future

SUPER PRINT

ZENAGRAPHICS

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Bob Peever	Phone: 07 40303900 Email: bob.peever@msc.qld.gov.au
Tony Dawson	Phone: 07 40362955 Email: dawson@internethnorth.com.au

Date Claimer

NARGIS 99

The next NARGIS conference will take place in Darwin from 28 – 30 June 1999. NARGIS Conferences focus on the application of GIS and remote sensing technology in the north Australian region.

Email your expression of interest to nargis@ntu.edu.au and you will be put on the mailing list for further information.

POETRY

Ten public servants standing in a line,
One of them was downsized – then there were nine.

Nine public servants who must negotiate,
One joined the union – then there were eight.

Eight public servants thought they were in heaven,
'til one of them was redeployed – then there were seven.

Seven public servants, their jobs as safe as bricks,
But one was reclassified – then there were six.

Six public servants trying to survive,
One of them was privatised – then there were five.

Four public servants full of loyalty,
Their jobs were all advertised – then there were three.

Three public servants under review,
One left on secondment – then there were two.

Two public servants coping on the run,
One went on stress leave – then there was one.

The last public servant agreed to relocate,
Replaced by 10 consultants at twice the hourly rate.



A sign of
the times?