

EDITORIAL

Hello Readers, Welcome to the Spring Edition of the FunGISNews. This will be our last for the 2004 Calender year with the Summer Edition expected sometime during the Wet Season. So here's Merry Xmass to you.

Before I get ahead of myself lets get back to Spring. Having my office amongst the Flora of Mareeba means I get to experience the changing guard of the seasonal birds. Apart from often having the office window open this heightened avian activity is documented by a larger than normal amount of guano on the chairs under our smoko tree.

Being part of a Local Govt GIS gives me the opportunity to work with a whole lot of different community, industry and government organisations. And lately, as with our avian friends, I have noticed an increased amount of documents across my desk from all areas of the spatial world. After several years on the job I am beginning to see a regular "Spring Spike" with this activity. Is it the culmination of our yearly efforts since last Christmas or is it just poor timing? Maybe this just happens to me and many of you experience it all of the time.

Anyway, like the wide variety of issues we Gissers deal with, the Spring Edition of FunGISNews has a variety of topics we hope are of interest to you. Lastly and by far not the least, Sharlene Blakeney, our colleague and friend leaves us with a Bon Voyage message. I have no doubt that as with our Far North the Central Qld GIS community will benefit greatly from Sharlene's skills, heart and effort. Good on you Sharlene and thanks for all your help.

Reuben Sinclair
Editor

Mark, pls insert me mushy man here.

GISNIPPETS

STOP PRESS: State Digital Road Network coverage improvement through refinement project. The next phase of the project will involve 10 Local Governments in the far north of the State – Atherton, Cairns City, Cook, Croydon, Douglas, Eacham, Etheridge, Herberton, Johnstone and Mareeba.
More on this in Postcard from QSIIS.

STOP PRESS: Qld Health begins GIS project.

The aim of the new project "**Evaluation of the utility of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) within Public Health Services (PHS)**" is to "investigate the utility of GIS to improve service delivery within PHS around the areas of vector control and other Communicable Disease Control issues, environmental health legislative responses and the population targeting of non communicable disease intervention programmes"

This 9 month position will be filled by Alistair Hart and he will no doubt be in touch with a few data custodians around Far North Qld in an attempt to identify desirable geocodable datasets that may assist the above project.

STOP PRESS: SSI Northern Group Conference will be held in Townsville from the 29th-31st October at the Mercure Inn. The program consists of both local and national speakers and exhibitors presenting a wide variety of topics and products within the spatial information industry. There are a number of social activities planned including the popular Sunday BBQ.

More info and registration at <http://www.iemsg.org>

STOP PRESS: Revised metadata standard

Public Works has recently published the revised Queensland Government Information Standard - IS 34 Metadata -

<http://www.iie.qld.gov.au/site/informationstandards/standards/IS34%20v2.asp>.

IS34 requires 'Queensland Government agencies to apply consistent descriptions and classification of information resources through the implementation of metadata' including to whole-of-Govt metadata repositories such as the Register of Strategic Information.

Briefing sessions on the new standard will be provided by Public Works later in the year.

STOP PRESS: GPS Workshop 25 October

ADD TEXT HERE

Mark, I am expecting Allan to finalise this.

CHAIR REPORT

There's something for everyone in the upcoming FUNGIS events. Let's make sure we reap the benefits.

My wife Davida and I joined another 40 odd year old couple for a meal and drinks last Saturday. We enjoyed ourselves immensely as we did the previous time we visited, which unfortunately was over a year ago. As the wine continued and our collective wisdom grew accordingly, we wondered how we let ourselves be too busy to miss out on such enjoyable times.

The new [FUNGIS executive](#) are up and running. We have a mixture of experience and new blood. I welcome everyone to the exec, and thank you for the work you've already put in.

Some fellow FUNGIS members together with the Exec have prepared a variety of events coming up over the run in to Christmas. Let's not be too busy, make sure you spoil yourself and get along to at least one. Check out the [FUNGIS website](#) regularly for the latest details.

Terry Webb

TNQIT - TAFE

Continues its success in

Spatial Education

Tropical North Queensland Institute of TAFE Atherton Campus, has continued its success in the delivery of the Accredited Certificate III in Spatial Information Services and Diploma of Spatial Information Services through RPL (Recognition of Prior Learning).

Recently TNQIT have reaffirmed its support to the development of this industry and its quality training options, through the appointment of Spatial Project Development Officer, Justine De Boom. It is Justine's role to identify new opportunities for training delivery in the Spatial and GIS fields. Justine will also be involved in the ongoing development of resources for training delivery to ensure that they are best practice within the industry and make strategic linkages with industry stakeholders for future developments.

The key aim for 2005 for TNQIT is to have the resources in place to offer the Diploma in Spatial Information Services. Industry stakeholders identified this as a key aim to ensure that industry is embracing a continuous learning culture.

Most recently in September the second group of spatial students commenced their residential workshop at Atherton TAFE campus. The workshop is critical for the students to gain hands on experience using GPS, software applications and the further fine tuning of their mapping and digitising skills. The remainder of the course is covered by blended delivery such as on-line learning.

Due to industry demand, TNQIT in partnership with @GIS are looking to further develop their short course range in GIS and Spatial areas. The focus on training will incorporate several types of customised training, hands-on workshops and seminars to help you get the most out of GIS and Spatial Information. Our training sessions range from introductory programs for new users to detailed multi-day workshops for professionals.

To help ensure that educational pathways meet industry needs TNQIT are developing a forum for industry input into the relevance and structure of programs offered at all educational levels.

It is intended for the "Spatial Information Systems Industry Liaison Group" to meet quarterly with the first meeting to be held before the end of the 2004 calendar year. An overview of this liaison group is also included in this edition of FunGISNews.

If you wish to lodge your expression of interest for future training sessions or the SIS Industry Liaison Group please contact Justine De Boom, (07) 4091 4267 or email: justine.deboom@det.qld.gov.au.

Overview – Spatial Information Systems Industry Liaison Group

OBJECTIVES:

1. To provide focussed and effective direct contribution into matters related to education and training provision for the spatial industry opportunities, by spatial education providers and industry stakeholders.
2. Identify and establish educational pathways that support industry needs.
3. To provide a forum for industry input into the relevance and structure of programs offered at all educational levels.

Members of the group will be encouraged to raise industry issues regularly at the quarterly forums. It is intended also that the Agenda would have three (3) Standing Items, these being:

1. Qualifications
2. Training Package Phase II
3. Industry Input

CONFIGURATION

Convenor

Justine De Boom
Spatial Development Officer
Tropical North Queensland TAFE Qld

Size

Ideally between 8-10 for manageability, to a maximum of 20 participants

Membership

It is expected that the reference group would seek to have selected industry representatives from a diverse group to ensure that fair and equitable representation is achieved. These areas would include but not limit it to;

- Tropical North Qld TAFE Representatives
- FUNGIS
- James Cook Representative (JCU)
- @GIS Representatives
- Federal/State/Local Government Representatives.
- Professional Bodies ie. SSI
- Industry representatives (non-government)

PROCESS

- Initially, the Convenor will establish a dedicated “addressee” email group to commence operation of the group. Incorporating other methods of communication ie. Post for those that do not have access to email facilities.
- Facilitate meetings in a constructive format, ensuring that they are kept within set time frames and all correspondence is communicated in a timely fashion.
- The Convenor will develop and circulate short regular current and emerging “issues” agendas and collate responses for on forwarding into the project development process.
- Prior to the meeting confirm with the Industry ITAB representative of any issues that need addressing and/or feedback from the group.
- There is also a recognition that the initial Group will overlap in some areas of industry however the intention is to compliment each other to achieve industry excellence.

STANDING AGENDA ITEMS

1. Qualifications:

- Identify what training is currently available across the region.
- Establishing links between training opportunities and institutions.

2. Training Package Phase II

- Facilitating access to current information on the proposed changes to the training package PRD01
- Facilitating feedback from industry to reviewing body

3. Industry Input

- Appropriateness of current courses including delivery, resources used and assessment methods
- Identify employment trends within the spatial industry
- In liaison with SSI, explore correlation between achieving Spatial Information qualifications and industry awards.

FUNGIS ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2004

“Coast & Culture”, a theme that some would say could lead to various interpretations, especially after [viewing the pictorial data](#) collected during the Annual Conference of the Far North Qld GIS Users Group-FUNGIS.

After several months of non-postcard weather we were gifted with perfect conditions presenting challenges to delegates in explaining to their colleagues back at the office of the importance of such gatherings. Let’s face it, we Northerners live in paradise. Paradise aside this year’s Fungis Annual broke records in attendance and members’ commitment to upcoming projects and initiatives. APPLAUSE.

The conference theme coupled with a dedicated group of people came together in the Horizon Resort Panorama Room at the truly tropical Mission Beach.

Whilst overlooking the Family Islands and sparkling Rockingham Bay speakers and delegates discussed a range of topics covering issues and advancements from a global to local scale.

Keynote Speakers Brett Bundock (ESRI Australia) and Peter Woodgate (CRC-Spatial Info) focused on developments and innovative new projects in the national and international spatial industry. Technical Speakers covered the latest solutions and applications in software, mobileGIS and artificial intelligence.

The local Djuru people gave delegates a traditional welcome followed by some interesting history and language information while a number of Far Northern GIS Users presented talks on a variety of local projects. From Local Govt projects to mapping Beach Stone Curlew distribution and making GIS a household word it was emphasized how rapidly the spatial industry is growing and benefiting Tropical North Queensland.

Click [here](#) to see details of the presentations from this excellent gathering and we look forward to seeing you at the 2005 conference on the scenic tablelands.

FUNGIS Executive profile

Alan Stafford

FUNGIS Executive Member

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.

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)

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 phone call from Brett Bundock telling me he wanted his boatie back before bath night.



FUNGIS Executive profile

Alistair Hart

FUNGIS Executive Member

"Hi, despite my Scottish name, I'm vernacularly known as 'Stretch'. There's no tall story here, just a 6'8" bloke! I am employed as part of the Dengue Action Response Team (DART) by Queensland Health and have been using GIS on and off for 10 years! For the last five I have co-ordinated GIS efforts for dengue fever control and recently sampled the excellent educational wares of Tablelands TAFE by completing the Certificate III in Spatial Information Services. I'm looking forward to working for the FUNGIS membership and gaining an even greater understanding of FNQ regional geospatial activities."

FUNGIS Executive profile

Lisa Newton

FUNGIS Executive Member

Born in Victoria, I have slowly migrated north. Now a settled Tablelander, I grab every opportunity to brag about my gorgeous home at Speewah and famous GIS Unit in Mareeba!

From senior high school I was interested in Geography. This led to a Bachelor of Arts at University of Queensland majoring in what was then called 'spatial technologies' and 'physical geography'. As this was the most geography intensive tertiary course I could find!

Since then (1994) I have worked in the GIS industry. Started in Brisbane, then Cairns and now to Mareeba.

I enjoy working in GIS as I find the profession interesting, enjoyable and challenging. I believe in the value of GIS as a tool for any discipline. This versatility makes our work always interesting and very adaptable. The technical nature of our work means there are always new challenges to explore and conquer.

I believe in FUNGIS. Our non-pretentious approach, our wholehearted pride in our Region, our hardworking members...this all makes promotion pay off!

REUBEN SINCLAIR

EXEC INTRO

Hi, who am I and what do I do? I ask myself this question often! I started serving my time as the Local Authority representative during August 2003. Along with this I edit the FunGISNews and act in the role of Chairperson if Terry is otherwise occupied.

I consider myself fresh to the world of GIS. It seems like only yesterday but it was at the turn of the century when I started collecting Local Govt infrastructure data with GPS. I still get around data hunting several days a month but now my main role is as an organic peripheral in the Mareeba Shire GIS.

The Far North is my home and prior to discovering the empowering nature of GIS I was actively involved in the tourism industry and have devoted much of my “spare” time attempting to secure Local Community Equity in Natural Resource Management processes. Although currently ad hoc I am confident that the application of GIS will in the future play a big role in removing the data access disparity that currently exists between stakeholders. Information is power and power is good if managed wisely.

Each Member of the Fungis Exec are involved in a number of sub-committees and or working groups where the task is to bring directions from the membership to reality. We need as much help as you can give in achieving this. I am involved in the following committees and welcome any support from members who want to do more than just be a member:

- Communications
- Mobile Mapping workshops
- Annual Conference 2005
- Data Access

Bon Voyage Sharlene

For those of you not aware I am leaving the GIS unit in Mareeba for the not so greener pastures in Rockhampton (Emu Park). My partner has been offered a job down that way and we who obey (NOT) must follow. As of now I don't have a position to go to so don't forget me I might be calling in some favours if I have any left.

I really wanted to use the newsletter to thank a few people so here goes (apologies for anyone that I miss).

The FROTH AND BUBBLE team past and present.

Thank you to all for the amazing support that I have had through the last almost 12 years. Seonaid Philip and Georgie Pitt for believing in my abilities and supporting me in both by work and personal life through some exceptionally good times and some not so good. Their skills and knowledge in the Spatial and Natural Resource Information areas are of the highest standard; never let anyone tell you differently. Past supervisors, Peter Wilson and Terry Webb for believing in me and giving me the opportunity to be part of a wonderful team. Lisa Newton, thank you for your support and patience during a time of change in our department, not all of it good. I'm sure you will continue the work of past supervisors and take the FROTH AND BUBBLE team on to bigger and better things. Peter Bannink for having the patience to work in the same room with us day in day out and not lose the plot. Raymond Delai for answering all my dumb questions in the early days. Susie Kempson for her endless enthusiasm day in and day out whilst doing time in the unit and continuing into her FUNGIS involvement.

The FUNGIS group.

Little did I know that Mission Beach would be my last FUNGIS conference. If you are a newcomer to the Spatial Information industry I encourage you to take advantage of the network of people that make up the FUNGIS group. To all past and present members don't ever change the FUNGIS group vision "PARTY PARTY PARTY". Seriously though I think FUNGIS is unique in how it approaches the world of Spatial Information which can at times be quite heavy and dare I say it boring (many hours at the digitising table in my early years). Don't ever take the FUN out of FUNGIS it's what makes it work and keeps the membership growing. Conferences at locations like Mission Beach certainly help as well. I for one have found the group invaluable over the past 12 years and hope the FROTH AND BUBBLE team have the opportunity to continue their involvement with FUNGIS.

Once again thank you and I'm sure I will catch up with some of you in the years to come.

Cheers
Sharlene Blakeney
Troublemaker
FROTH AND BUBBLE UNIT
Mareeba

Editors Note: If you would like to personally catch up with Sharlene before she heads south come along to:

**Goodbye drinks and barbeque at
Peters Street (DPI Centre-Mareeba)
21 October from 4:30pm.**

RSVP to Lisa Newton on 4048 4723 by 18 October
Bring along \$5 for food,
Drinks bar available - pay as you go.

Young professionals given a voice through Spatial Sciences Institute

The vision for a Queensland network of SSI Young Professionals is fast becoming a reality....

So, what makes an SSI member a Young Professional?

Young Professionals are members of the Spatial Sciences Institute who are under 35 years of age

How does this group fit within the structure of SSI?

The SSI Young Professionals fits within the SSI structure. A representative of the Young Professionals group (in this case the Chair) is invited to attend SSI Board meetings to report on progress and emerging issues.

At a regional level, committees are being established to support regional events and growth in membership to the SSI. A member of the regional Young Professional committee is invited to attend the regional SSI committee meetings to ensure information sharing and collaboration.

Queensland committee members

A small group of enthusiastic young professionals have since come together to devote their time and energy to committee positions for the Queensland region of SSI Young Professionals. The committee structure has been established with the following people:

Chair	David Jaunay, RapidMap
Vice-Chair	Bruce Williams, Department of Natural Resources Mines & Energy
Secretariat	Hannah Pettitt, Department of Natural Resources Mines & Energy
Treasurer	Vimala Ferrari, Sinclair Knight Merz
Communications	Penny Dollin, Queensland Treasury
Events	Anthony Burke, Open Spatial
Committee Member	Damien Cassin, MapInfo Australia
Committee Member	Peter Wilmot, Terranean Geospatial

What has happened so far?

The Queensland SSI Young Professionals committee have been meeting on a monthly basis since being established in July. Many activities and issues have been explored by the committee to ensure that a range of services and events can be effectively delivered to Queensland SSI Young Professionals.

Committee members are currently working on a range of activities, which include:

- Ensuring that up-to-date information, including minute summaries from committee meetings are made available on the website for interested members to keep up to date
- Developing a membership kit to attract new members, which can be used by other SSI regions
- Developing a calendar of events for 2005 to provide a comprehensive range of exciting opportunities and professional development events for young professionals in Queensland
- Conducting a survey of members in Queensland to better understand needs and aspirations of young professionals.

Mark this date in your diary!

After hosting the first young professionals event in October, SSI Young Professionals in Queensland will work closely with the SSI Queensland Region to organise this year's Christmas function and professional development event, which will be held at the Greek Club on Friday 3 December. Young Professionals can look forward to an exciting event that will provide opportunities to meet other professionals in the industry, both young and old!

Further details of this event will be advised on the SSI Queensland Region website as more information becomes available http://www.spatialsciences.org.au/state_qld/events.asp.

A full calendar of events are currently being finalised by the committee and will be made available to Spatial Sciences Institute members via the website.

Want to know more?

Any Young Professionals in Queensland who are members of the SSI and are 35 years of age or under are invited to email penny.dollin@treasury.qld.gov.au to find out what's happening.

Penny Dollin
Communications Coordinator (National & Queensland Region)
SSI Young Professionals

Editors Note: The Fungis Executive is actively involved in setting up a group of contacts in the Far North to provide collaboration with the SSI YP's in assisting young professionals across the state. We will keep you informed on opportunities for Fungis Spomatophores (young fungi!) as they arise. If you want to be more involved or lend a hand don't hesitate to contact Alistair or Reuben.

POSTCARD FROM QSIIS

An update from the Qld Spatial Information Infrastructure Strategy (QSIIS) Information Office (QIO)

State Digital Road Network coverage improved through refinement project

The State Digital Road Network Refinement project was established by the Queensland Spatial Information Infrastructure Council to validate the existing SDRN road centrelines. These were originally established by various means, including the collapsing of road casements in the Digital Cadastral Dataset (DCS).

The QSIIC approved project is a collaborative effort between the QSIIS Information Office, the Department Of Main Roads and MapInfo. Through consultation with local governments, the project is removing unconstructed roads from the network, adding additional roads – including private roads where available, correcting realignment differences and validating naming of the SDRN road network.

Phase 1 of the project (now completed) involved working with Councils in the central Queensland region. The current phase involves seven Councils in the North West /Gulf region of the State – Burke, Carpentaria, Cloncurry, Flinders, McKinlay, Mount Isa and Richmond. Updates from these Councils are expected to be included in the December release of the SDRN.

The next phase of the project will involve 10 Councils in the far north of the State – Atherton, Cairns City, Cook, Croydon, Douglas, Eacham, Etheridge, Herberton, Johnstone and Mareeba.

The results to date indicate an average 20% improvement in the definition of the rural road network.

QSIIS expands service delivery to regional Queensland

Looking for information or advice on addressing standards, metadata policies, whole-of-government initiatives on spatial information, reviews and more? Then look no further than the Office of Economic and Statistical Research (OESR) regional liaison officers.

This new service arrangement was instigated between QIO and OESR to ensure QSIIS is able to deliver its services regionally. There are now offices in Cairns, Townsville, Rockhampton and Brisbane. So why not contact your nearest regional liaison officer and explore how the services being offered can add to your business.

The QIO would like to extend its sincere thanks to Geoff Hunter who was the Cairns Regional Liaison Officer for his invaluable contributions to QSIIS over the past 3 years. Geoff is now working in the Queensland Department of Natural Resources and Mines.

The QIO also welcomes Liesl Harrold to the Regional Liaison role in the Cairns office. Liesl has worked with OESR for over four years in the same role based in Rockhampton and brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to the Cairns office.

Review develops strategy to address spatial imagery coordination

Following a recent review by QSIIS of spatial imagery use and management in Queensland a series of recommendations have been made to QSIIC, in particular the need for whole-of-government coordination of spatial imagery acquisition and licensing.

The review was conducted in partnership with GeolImage Pty Ltd and Spatial 3i Pty Ltd. The QSIIC endorsed report of Spatial Imagery Use & Management in Queensland Government is available from the QSIIS website under the Publications > Reports section.

Following the review, the Queensland Department of Natural Resources and Mines has been appointed the lead agency for spatial imagery management in Queensland. As part of their role as spatial image coordinator, NR&M will be responsible for developing a five year Acquisition Plan.

New OESR website provides smarter access to information about Queensland

The Office of Economic and Statistical Research has recently launched a new website featuring an exciting range of new functions to provide smarter access to information about Queensland and areas of the state.

The new site provides a fresh look and feel, with a user friendly focus to accessing a wide range of demographic, economic and social data relating to Queensland. All data from the previous OESR website has been incorporated in the new site, with all tables reviewed and updated.

Unique to the Queensland Government, the new OESR website has a geographic searching facility in addition to the traditional textual search found on most websites.

The online Thematic Mapping tool has been improved to provide a new-look, scalable, easy to use interface. This tool allows users to map data from selected collections to provide a unique and informative representation of Queensland's economy, people and regions.

In addition to these features, the site provides easy access to Data Smart, allowing interested clients to receive regular updates on events, news and networking information managed by OESR.

Visit the new OESR website at www.oesr.qld.gov.au.

Smart Business Solutions seminars prove a success

The dynamic range of seminars in the 2004-05 Smart Business Solutions seminar series have proved successful in raising awareness of the potential of spatial information, attracting a broad range of professionals from across various industries.

The September smart business solutions seminar on Urban Management featured presentations from Michael Kerry, Executive Director, Office of Urban Management and Dr Martin Bell, Director, Queensland Centre for Population Research (University of Queensland). This seminar was a resounding success, attracting over 150 people to learn about 'managing growth in an urban environment.'

The next Smart Business Solutions seminar is focused on *Healthy Communities* and is scheduled for Tuesday 16 November 2004 from 2-4pm. This seminar will be held at 80 George St, Brisbane.

The QSIIS Information Office has been working closely with the Spatial Sciences Institute (SSI) Queensland Region to develop a complementary suite of events for industry professionals in Queensland. As a result, some changes may be made to the Smart Business Solutions seminar schedule that was recently advertised in QSIIS Update No. 17 (August edition). Visit the Data Smart website regularly for updates on seminar details (<http://datasmart.oesr.qld.gov.au>).

The seminar series is proudly brought to you by QSIIS, OESR and SSI. We look forward to seeing you at a Smart Business Solutions Seminar in the near future.

Other Queensland events hosted by SSI will be advertised on the Queensland region of the Spatial Sciences Institute website at www.spatialsciences.org.au.

For more information

QSIIS Information Office

[Liesl Harrold](#)

Phone: 4039 8804

Email: liesl.harrold@treasury.qld.gov.au