



AMC President's Conference Address

Good Morning ladies and gentlemen and greetings to our Mapping Science Institute of Australia colleagues.

Today marks several historical milestones:

- It is the first joint conference of our two organisations
- It is technically the first conference of the Australia and New Zealand Map Society (ANZMapS). Yesterday the AMC voted unanimously to merge with the New Zealand Map Society and amended its constitution to enable that merger, including the name change.

We began our life as The Australian Map Curators Circle in 1973, changing its name to the Australian map Circle in 1982 to reflect its wider membership. Incorporation followed in 1996.

The New Zealand Map Society, founded in 1979, has already approved the merger.

The kiwi link has in fact been long-standing, with the late Dr. Stuart Duncan being the first Kiwi-born President from 1989 to 1992. Dr Brendan Whyte, Vice-President in 2000 and 2001, was the second kiwi on the Executive, and I was the third, serving as president from 2006 until now.

Interestingly the new Secretary of ANZMapS, Brian Marshall, was the instigator of the New Zealand Map Society.

This latest morphing into ANZMapS, and this joint conference, reflects a growing trend as changing membership and a technology driven blurring of the boundaries between our organisations force a rethink of our roles.

In fact this is our 5th joint conference, and our third joint conference in the last 6 years.



In the future I believe we need to actively consider more direct links between our organisations.

These links need not be the old bureaucracy links. Instead we should be taking advantage of modern technology not only to be more active and effective, but equally importantly, to adapt to the needs and behaviours of the younger generations where our future memberships will come from.

For the last three our Executive has been using internet-based conferencing technology for meetings.

Last year the joint Australian Map Circle (AMC), New Zealand Map Society (NZMS), and the International Map Collectors Society (IMCoS) International Cartographic Conference "Under the Southern Cross", held in Wellington New Zealand went globally electronic.

The conference included what is believed to be the world's first electronic participation in a cartographic conference by presenters and audiences. Live video links to Universities in Argentina, Columbia, and Brasil enabled audiences in those countries to participate in two sessions of the conference, and for speakers from each of those countries to present their papers.

This enabled more than 250 people to take part in the conference to varying degrees, instead of the 90 or so present in Wellington.

Yesterday I gave the ANZMapS AGM my glimpse of the potential of the future.

My crystal-ball gazing:

- Informal, and perhaps formal meetings will be held on social web sites.
- The concept of branches could then become interest focused rather than geographically focused



- Conferences will be totally web-based, with maps and video part of the equation
- Conferences will happen more frequently, and with specialist focuses.
- Members will chat with each other
- Notices will be texted
- Our website will be viewed primarily on cellphones
- Membership will take a new form, perhaps as a subscription-based service:
 - Peer-reviewed papers could be sold over the internet
 - Universities could link to conferences, as we did last year, and pay a subscription to do so.
 - Specialist services could be sold through web-portals
 - Cataloguing could be improved by using expert input through wikis.

Enjoy this first step in what may become a closer long-term relationship.