

Australian Map Circle/ Mapping Sciences Institute Australia National Conference

16th to 18th March, 2009, Royal on the Park, Brisbane

REPORT

The joint AMC / MSIA national conference was attended by over sixty delegates representing map curators, map producers, map collectors and those just plain passionate about maps and mapping. The title of the conference was “*300 Years of Mapping: The past 150 years & next 150 years*”. The presentations on the first day focussed on the past 150 years while those on the second day focussed on the next 150 years. There was a beautiful blend of heritage and contemporary approaches. The keynote speaker was Professor William Cartwright who led us through the last two decades of interactive multimedia cartography, providing delegates with his reflections on the past and directions for the future.

Mr Ted Graham (AM), leader of the team who discovered the resting place of the HMAS Sydney, gave a very moving presentation exactly 12 months after the discovery. Mr Damien Demaj displayed, and spoke about the production of, Earth, the largest atlas in the world. Mr Greg Eccleston presented his design for a southern hemisphere “nocturnal” used to calculate time at night using the Southern Cross. Mr Greg Scott provided delegates with an insight to mapping at Geosciences Australia. Trevor Menzies reflected on mapping used in the defence of Australia’s north in the Second World War.

Dr Brendan Whyte presented his fascinating paper “A beginner's guide to mapping a third World City: Ubon Ratchathani, Thailand”, and was awarded the Estelle Canning Memorial prize for the best AMC paper at the conference..

Mr Bill Kitson was the speaker for the dinner and gave a very entertaining talk on the surveying and mapping of Queensland.

The final day of the conference was a field trip to the Heritage Collection, State Library of Queensland, State Archives, Landcentre and QUT.

The Australian Map Circle held it’s AGM at the conference and resolved to merge with the New Zealand Map Society to form The Australian and New Zealand Map Society Inc. (ANZMapS) as a group of map producers, users and curators, acting as a medium of communication for all those interested in maps. The President of the new Society, elected at the AGM, is Dr Martin Woods. Martin is the Curator of Maps at the National Library of Australia.

The Mapping Sciences Institute, Australia held the federal Council meeting on the day before the conference. At its annual general meeting David Fraser was endorsed as the President for the coming year.

Delegates were informed that the next conference of The Australian and New Zealand Map Society Inc will be held in Adelaide from the 7th-9th April, 2010 and that the next conference of the Mapping Sciences Institute, Australia will be held in 2011.

The conference was a resounding success. The organisers, led by Adam Ladhams, are to be congratulated for the time and effort they put into making this conference so enjoyable, and informative, for all who attended.