

Australian and New Zealand Map Society President's Report 2015/16

My sincere thanks to the current ANZMapS committee, whose efforts in managing the Society's activities throughout 2015 and this year have been appreciated. My thanks specifically go to Maggie Patton, Andrew Eliason, Julie Senior, Brendan Whyte, Jennifer Sheehan, and Mark Bagnall.

Activities managed through the committee this year included the implementation of online banking for the Society, implementation of the redesign for the Society's website, changes to The Globe's publication cycle, planning for the present conference, and awarding of the Patricia Alonso and Dorothy Prescott prizes (Twice each due to the lateness of the present AGM).

In early 2016 too, a mail-out of financial and non-financial members was conducted. As the Business manager's report shows, membership has remained relatively stable in comparison with previous years, arresting something of a decline in recent years. Thanks once again to Andrew Eliason our Business Manager for his ongoing work in providing a reliable and workable relationship with the bank and members. Julie Senior, whose term expires this year has provided similarly effective leadership, with support from Mark, Jenny and the other members of the committee, keeping the show running and the Newsletter informative and entertaining. Brendan Whyte has continued to do herculean work getting The Globe to print, and he will report separately on progress.

Special thanks to Maggie Patton for her efforts both in playing a key role in organising the present conference, and her work on the website. All content from the old website has been successfully migrated, and the site considerably refreshed with features such as map of the Month. For those of you with a social media interest our ANZMapS twitter account, @ANZMapS, has a healthy group of followers and regularly provides links to interesting articles, exhibitions, and cartographic achievements. And we have recently implemented a news-linking facility from the website to members of the ANZMapS email list.

The 43rd annual conference of the Australian and New Zealand Map Society (ANZMapS) was held in 2015, in conjunction with the Mapping Sciences Institute, Australia (MSIA). The conference was hosted by the National Library of Australia, Canberra, Wednesday 29th April – Friday 1st May, and was well attended. Over the 2 days of the conference programme, 3 keynote speakers and 22 papers were delivered. Thanks to Jenny and to Kay Dancey for their incredible work in organising an intensive full tour of Canberra's cartographic highlights on the 3rd day.

The Dorothy Prescott Prize, given for the best paper presented at the ANZMapS conference, was awarded in 2015 to Stuart Braga, for his paper on the Anzac Panorama. The Patricia Alonso Memorial Prize is an annual prize of AU\$500, awarded to the student with the best third year results in the Bachelor of Science (Geospatial Sciences)" degree at RMIT University. This has been awarded twice since we last met. In 2015 the prize was awarded to Claire Knauth, and in 2016 to Daniel Guglielmo. Thanks to Greg Eccleston and Judy Scurfield for representing ANZMapS and awarding the prize.

From the branches, Maggie Patton continues to do a great job convening the Sydney May Group - an informal group which meets at the State Library in Sydney every few months to talk about maps. A range of speakers have presented at the Map Group meetings with related items from the collections on display. The meetings are open to all ANZMapS members, and advertised on the website.

Other news

There has been considerable change in the state library and university sector, of relevance to ANZMapS members. Earlier this year, the role of the CartoGIS unit at ANU was reviewed, along with a range of University structures, and your president provided a letter of support on behalf of the unit. Apart from the good work by Kay, Jenny and the other staff, the status of the CAP Map Collection was also at risk. Besides being a contemporary research tool for academics, it is also an historical record of ANU research in the Asia Pacific, and a valuable tool for educational use.

At the State Library of South Australia, long-standing curator Merridy Lawler has advised us that the role of Coordinator, Maps at the State Library has been abolished – along with nearly 20 other roles. On the other side of the ledger, following the retirement of Judith Scurfield as Maps Librarian at the State Library Victoria in late 2014, Sarah Ryan was appointed Coordinator Collection Development & Discovery, with oversight of the Maps collection and its management.

In November 2015, Glenys McIver sadly passed away. Among her achievements, Glenys served as Curator of Maps at the National Library in the 1980s, and there will be an obituary included in a forthcoming issue of The Globe.

The coming year

In addition to communications and recruitment, a major aim of the committee for 2016/17 will be coordination with other societies, to increase the effectiveness of maps and cartographic societies as a group. In 2016, your President approached Igor Drecki (President, New Zealand Cartographic Society) to suggest potential further coordination of conferences and events between the societies. A follow up meeting has recently been held, in Wellington, attended by Mark Bagnall on behalf of ANZMapS.

I commend this report to the Annual General Meeting of the Australia & New Zealand Map Society, 2016.

Martin Woods
September 6, 2016.