

Newsletter

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Issue 125, Autumn 2021

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President's message

Given the events of the past year our AGM perhaps seems a distant memory, but as this is the first Newsletter in a while and there was a significant changeover, its worth marking the appointment of the new committee. The committee was appointed following our online conference, "Mapping Pacific Places," on Thursday September 10, 2020.

President - Martin Woods, Director Curatorial and Collection Research, National Library of Australia; Vice President - Michael Pearson, historical archaeologist and heritage planner, involved in polar research; Business Manager - Andrew Eliason; Secretary - Greg Lauer, Business Development Manager for East View Inc; Editor of The Globe - Brendan Whyte, author and cartographer; Ex-officio: Sarah Ryan, Senior Librarian Victorian and Australian Collections, State Library of Victoria and Riaz Dean, author of Mapping the Great Game. Maggie Patton, though stepping down from the committee, has agreed to maintain the Society's website and we thank her for that.

Contacts for the current committee are on the website if you need to or would like to get in touch: <https://www.anzmaps.org/about/>

Mapping Pacific Places was our first attempt to bring our program online, as we like many other organisations, found new ways to engage our members, share experiences and knowledge, and generally keep the flag flying. Its no substitute, and we trust this year we'll be able to get together, at the State Library in Sydney for the conference August 25-27.

In the meantime, the committee has designed a webinar program, the first of which was held lunchtime on March 3, with a report elsewhere in the Newsletter. Thanks to the organisers, participants from the National Library, Public Records Office Victoria and the Queensland Museum of Lands, and to Greg Lauer for his work in supporting the event. We're looking forward to seeing more webinars through the year.

Also, please note below, a reminder that subscriptions are due for 2021 as of March 31. It was clear from the survey that Sarah Ryan organised that The Globe is highly valued by most of the membership, so please subscribe early and avoid the rush! Costs of publishing The Globe are a significant burden on the Society, and our new committee is exploring sponsorship options to help reduce this.

As always, we appreciate your loyalty, and all new and renewed interest.

Martin Woods, President ANZMapS

Membership



Would readers please note that memberships should be renewed by 31 March. If you have not already renewed please use the facilities on our web page <https://www.anzmaps.org/membership/>. Membership of the ANZMapS is open to everyone who has an interest in maps. Membership is for a calendar year and includes delivery of the Globe and the ANZMapS Newsletter. The costs are \$60 for individuals and organisations, and \$30 for students.

State Library Victoria Update

Building redevelopment

Soon after we completed our building redevelopment in December 2019, the seeds of a global pandemic were being sown. Since that time the Library has closed and opened its doors three times due to lockdowns in Melbourne. As we return to a relative normality, the public are able to once again enjoy the beautiful new spaces in the Library, albeit in smaller numbers.

Major exhibition

Our major exhibition next year will take place in Victoria Gallery, one of our newly opened spaces and is inspired by an extraordinary new donation to the Maps collection.

Stargazing (pictured) is a giant knitted star map by local artist and software engineer Sarah Spencer. She hacked a domestic knitting machine and developed a new computer algorithm to produce the work. Measuring over 15 square metres, the map features an interactive light component designed to illuminate constellations and encourage audience participation.

Centred on the themes of coding, astronomy, navigation and craft, the exhibition explores how we navigate the world – from digital pixels to maps of our universe – through the lenses of science, technology and art. It profiles lesser known achievements, particularly those of women and connects the Victoria of the past with the fabric of modern life, prompting discoveries of the future.

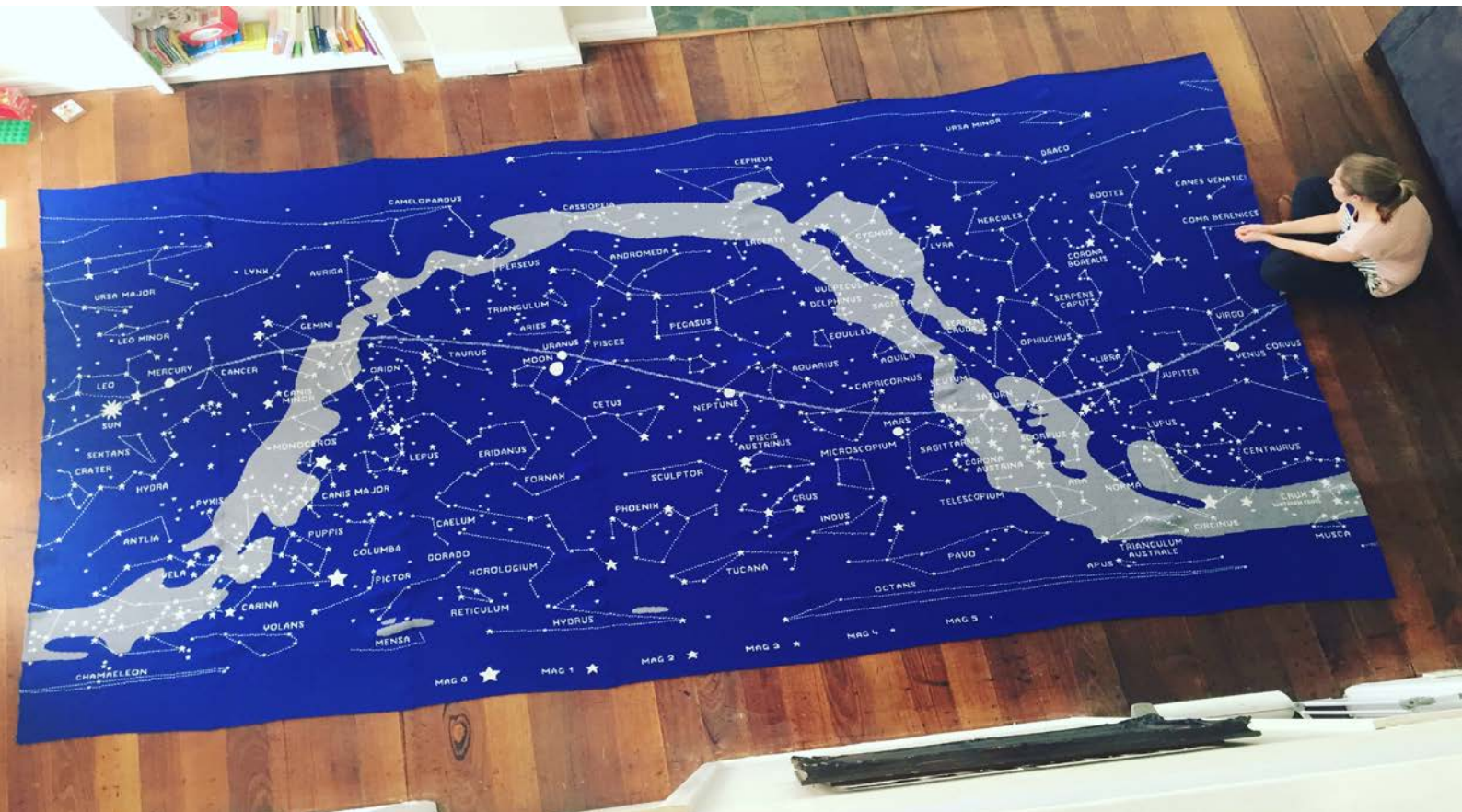


Image: Stargazing, courtesy Sarah Spencer

Online engagement

The creation of online content to engage audiences has flourished during the pandemic. Our [Ask a Librarian](#) video series, direct from the reference desk, shares stories, resources and research tips, as well as some of our favour-

ite queries. In [Access All Areas](#), CEO Kate Torney offers insights into her most cherished collection items, spaces, legends and legacies and [From the Vault](#) delves into the surprising, poignant and sometimes funny stories behind our unique archival images.



Image: [The Public Library, Melbourne](#), 1854, courtesy State Library Victoria

Birthday celebrations

We celebrated our 165th birthday on February 11 this year. When the Library opened in 1856, it was one of the first free libraries in the world, founded on the principle that free access to knowledge is a universal right and critical to a thriving community. This philosophy prevails today with State Library Victoria the busiest public library in Australia and one of the most visited libraries in the world.

The pandemic highlights the importance of our role in supporting the community and the need to adapt quickly to meet their changing needs. This is what we have always done and why the Library remains relevant and much loved by Victorians.

Sarah Ryan

Senior Librarian, SLV

Maps in the news

In the middle of February, astrophysicists at Princeton University announced the invention of a new map projection that supposedly improves on all others to date:

<https://www.princeton.edu/news/2021/02/15/princeton-astrophysicists-re-imagine-world-map-designing-less-distorted-radically>



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The New York Times picked up the story, asking the opinion of Hungarian cartographer Dr. Krisztián Kerkovits. “Can This New Map Fix Our Distorted Views of the World? You’re going to need some double-sided tape.”

<https://www.nytimes.com/2021/02/24/science/new-world-map.html?smid=em-share>

But not before Matthew Edney, Professor of the History of Cartography at the University of Southern Maine, had written a fact-checking rebuttal that uses some surprisingly strong language.

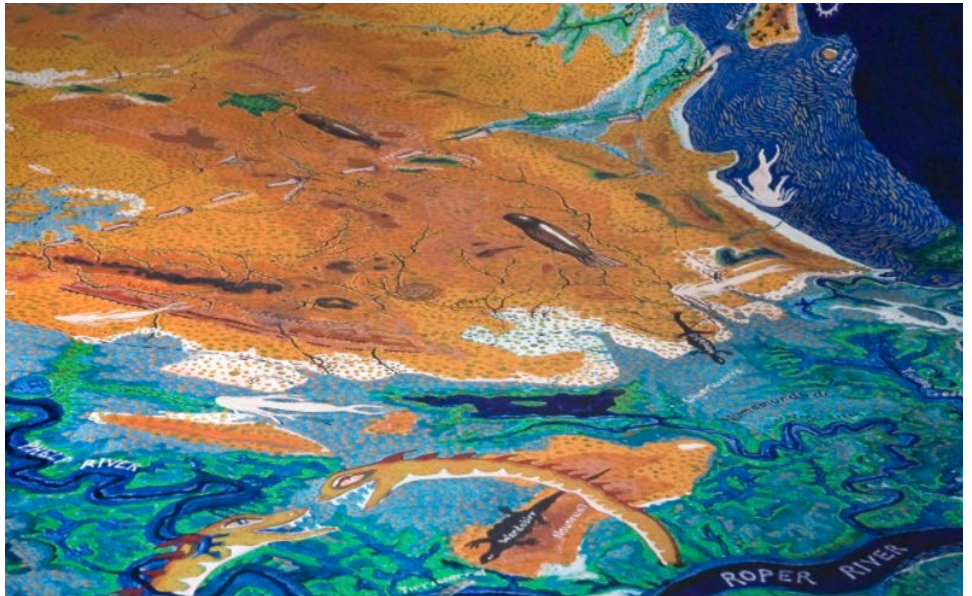
<https://www.mappingasprocess.net/blog/2021/2/17/a-radically-different-world-map>

National Library of Australia News

In November 2020 the National Library launched Map Search, with the involvement of ANZMapS committee and input of the members - <https://mapsearch.nla.gov.au/>

Map Search is the National Library's latest user interface and has been launched using recently digitized maps from its Australian collections. It allows the user to rectify and view historical topographic, cadastral, road and other maps over modern basemaps, and to view and annotate map features. Many of the maps have been rectified by map enthusiasts, over 8,000 to date.

The Library has been relatively quiet on the acquisition front as it restructures. As mentioned in the last Newsletter the Maps section (along with other specialist teams) was integrated into a Curatorial and Collection Research Section. Map acquisition and involvement is now the responsibility of this section.



Among the more interesting material acquired, a series of maps by sculptor, printmaker, painter, photographer, author and environmentalist Simon Normand. Simon has lived and worked with elders in southern Arnhem Land for over 25 years and has worked with Marra, Yanyuwa, Warndarrang, Nunggbuyu, Waagilak and other Elders to paint maps which show local cultural knowledge and stories for Country. The maps were displayed as part of the Carpentaria Mapping Project at the Northern Territory Library, Parliament House in Darwin for United Nation's International Year of Indigenous Languages.

Martin Woods, Director Curatorial and Collection Research, NLA

Globe back issues available now!

ENSURE YOUR RUN OF THE GLOBE IS COMPLETE BY FILLING ANY GAPS IN YOUR OWN COLLECTION TODAY!

- You hardworking editor has now updated the information on available back issues of The Globe on the ANZ-MapS website.
- The following back issues are still available: nos. 1-2, 13, 15-16, 18, 22, 24-25, 28-46, 48-49, 51-53, 55-56, 60-61, 64-66, 68-76, 78-80, and 82 onwards.
- Prices for each issue including worldwide postage are:
 - \$7.50* for issues 1 - 66, \$15 for issues 67-82,
 - \$25 for issues 83 & 84, \$35 for issues 85 onwards.
- * due to the low, low price, additional postage may be required for individual pre-2011 issues.
- Ask about further discounts for bulk purchases.

NOT SURE WHAT ISSUES TO BUY?

- We have a full contents listing online for #41 (1995) to #88 (2020).
- And issue #60 (2008) was special issue, giving a complete index to #1-50.
- You can buy a copy of issue 60 for a mere \$7.50 , or search/download it directly.

- Order back issues via our website:

<https://www.anzmaps.org/product-category/the-globe/>

- Or contact the editor:

Brendan Whyte

bwhyte@nla.gov.au

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- Pre-payment is required.

State Library of New South Wales

Recent acquisition

The Library has recently acquired a hand-coloured chart, *Nova Tabula Insularum Iavae, Sumatrae, Borneonis et Aliarum Mallaccam usque delineata in insula Iava...*, 1598 by Theodor de Bry. This map focuses on the islands of Java, Sumatra, Borneo, and southern Malaysia, and is de Bry's version of Willem Lodewijksz's 'forbidden map.'

Lodewijksz was a member of the first Dutch expedition to Indonesia led by Cornelius de Houtman from 1595 to 1597. Lodewijksz's chart was intended for inclusion in

the published account of the voyage. However, the map was withdrawn from the publication prior to distribution in 1598 as the Dutch authorities wanted to restrict access to information which could be used by rival trading companies. A separate sheet map was produced later that year. This sheet map was used by Theodor de Bry to produce his own edition, published in Part II of *Petits Voyages*, produced in Frankfurt in 1598.

This acquisition completes the trifecta as the Library holds a copy of the 1598 published account of the voyage, acquired by David Scott Mitchell, and in 2015 purchased a copy of the 1598 excluded separate chart by Lodewijksz.



Nova Tabula Insularum Iavae, Sumatrae, Borneonis et Aliarum Mallaccam usque delineata in insula Iava, 1598 by Theodor de Bry

Opening of the Map Rooms

Our new Map Rooms are scheduled to open in April and to celebrate these new facilities we will be hosting a series of six lectures - Scholar Talks at Six - to be held once a month. The first lecture on April 15 will feature Dr Rebecca Hamilton on Mapping Sydney's Colonial Swamp-

scapes. At this stage, the lectures will be onsite only. We will be sure to circulate information of future lectures to members living or visiting Sydney.

Maggie Patton, Manager, Research and Discovery
State Library, NSW

ANZMapS Webinar Series

Warping historical maps and plans: challenges and opportunities for crowdsourcing, rectifying maps and plans onto contemporary maps

The first of ANZMapS 2021 webinar series was held on Wednesday March 3, 1:00 pm - 2:10 pm (Eastern Daylight Time).

The webinar had 71 participants (from 94 who registered), and featured presentations from three Australian government agencies who have each developed map warping systems - the National Library of Australia, Public Record Office of Victoria, and the Queensland Museum of Lands. Links to each system:

· NLA Map Search

<https://mapsearch.nla.gov.au/>

· PROV Map Warper

<https://mapwarper.prov.vic.gov.au/>

· Queensland Museum of Lands, Mapping and Survey

<https://www.qld.gov.au/recreation/arts/heritage/museum-of-lands/maps-plans/georeferencing>
Martin Woods and Susie Russell,

from the National Library's Curatorial and Collection Research team provided a demonstration of the georectification, searching and map annotating functions of Map Search. They explained that Map Search project commenced in 2018, and went into production in March 2020. Map Search includes a wide variety of Australian mapping, including topographic, tourist, cadastral and other thematic maps from the National Library's collection. It is based on the Java-based software server GeoServer, and maps are overlaid on a choice of three layers, OpenStreetMap, OpenTopoMap and Geoscience Australia's topo layer. Map Search also includes a map editing feature, which can be used to pinpoint and writeup places of interest on the historical maps. The platform contains 13,200 historical maps of which 8,000 have been rectified by the public.

Asa Letourneau, Online Engagement Officer with the Public Records Office Victoria, gave the background to PROV Map Warper. Asa collaborates

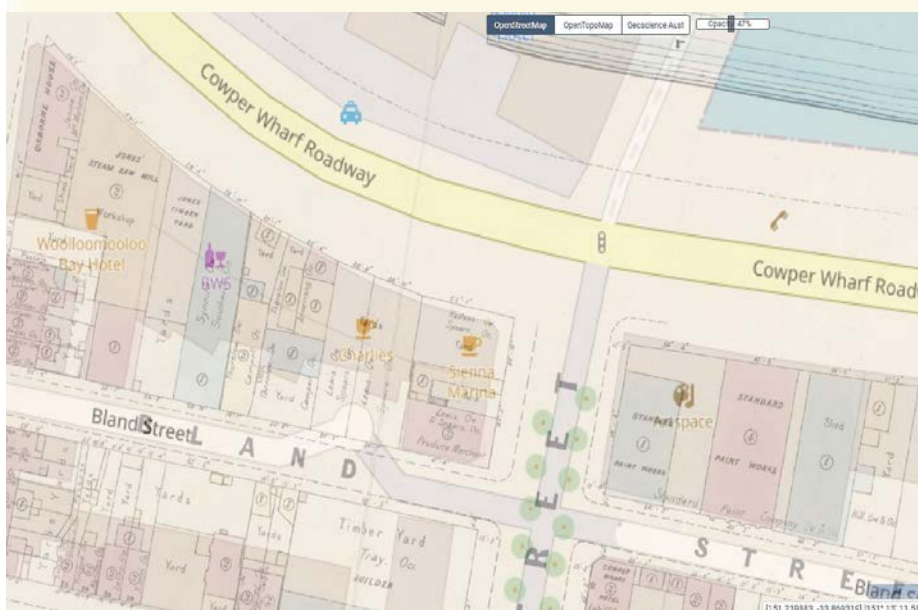
with UK based geospatial developer, Tim Waters, who originally built mapwarper.net to build a version for PROV in 2019. The platform was opened to the public in June of that year to help crowdsource the rectification of historic maps and plans. The PROV Map Warper currently contains 12080 historic maps and plans of which 5533 have been rectified by staff, volunteers and the public. There was a problem linking to the short PROV video on the day, which is accessible on YouTube from this link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q_FtKwXeaOw&t=30s

Cecilia Tram, Kaye Nardella and Peter Gersekowski gave a presentation on the Museum of Lands Mapping and Surveying Georeferencing Program. The Program started in 2019 as a pilot project, 'Old Maps News Tricks'. With thousands of historical maps dating back to 1841 in the collection, the result is that historical maps can be viewed alongside their modern-day counterparts. The process of georeferencing involves assigning geographical points in common between the old and new maps and then linking the historical map to its spatial location. The maps will be accessed through the Queensland Globe to assist in historic land research. Once live, anyone can get involved in this georeferencing program.

There was a steady flow of questions posed by participants. The Zoom recording and videos are available on YouTube - https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLdk94nx-w1s1AXdXwkJ-F_c285b_bd27p4

Martin Woods, President,

Greg Lauer, Secretary



NLA Map Search: "Street map of part of the suburb of Woolloomooloo bounded by Cowper Wharf, 1888"

Member Profile

Michael Pearson

How & why did you get interested in maps?

I first started using maps in the Tweed Valley as a Boy Scout in my early teens, and fell in love with geography and maps. At University I was doing archaeological field work from the age of 18, and hand-drawing my own archaeological survey maps soon after, in an age before accessible electronic aids — picture a PhD in six typewriter fonts and hand-drawn maps.

What has been your career path, and how have maps fitted in?

I worked as an historian and archaeologist for NSW National Parks for a decade, and again maps were central to that work — historical, topographic, cadastral, geological and vegetation maps, and my own maps combining that information for a particular historic site or landscape. I went on to the Australian Heritage Commission in Canberra, heading the historic environment section, then becoming Deputy Executive Director. Maps again were essential tools, especially when the Commission was developing approaches to wilderness definition and then working out its inputs to the Regional Forest Agreements. Since 1993 I have been a consultant in heritage planning and archaeology, which has included a lot of work in World Heritage internationally, and in archaeological work in Antarctica, that I have had the pleasure of visiting on field expeditions ten times (so far!). I have had published a number of articles on sealers charting the Antarctic islands and coast, and a book on the exploration and charting of the Australian coast.

What changes have helped in your use of maps?

When I started my university work in 1970 the best maps in areas I was working in were 1:250,000! The development of better topographic maps, the use of GPS to locate archaeological sites accurately (a bit better than a 1:250,000 map reference!), access to Google Earth and other satellite imagery, drone technology and LIDAR, and an ever-growing access to digitised maps has revolutionised the maps environment for archaeologists during the course of my career. One feels like a pig in cartographic mud.



In this time of isolation where are you vicariously travelling to?

Covid 19 has put a hopefully temporary stop to my frequent trips to Japan for World Heritage work, to Antarctic field work, to annual trips to see granddaughters in Canada, and to holidays to SE Asian rivers. My mind has been travelling to Central Asia, via books such as Riaz Dean's recent *Mapping the Great Game*, and to the South Shetland Islands while writing up articles on our work there. Each morning I check the wonderful app Marine Traffic to check the shipping movements in Punta Arenas, the Tierra del Fuego channels and the South Shetlands, just to check what I am missing.

THE
GLOBE

Call for Content

The Society's journal "The Globe" appears twice a year, with expected publication in the April-June and Oct-Dec quarters. Content submissions are accepted at any time, but cut-off dates for material not requiring peer review are March and Sept.

There is still time to get me content for the first issue of 2021!

Please also let me know of any new books on map, exploration and cartographic topics, so I can arrange to have them reviewed.

Brendan Whyte,

Editor, "The Globe"

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