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Calendar Events

ANZLIC February 2005 Metadata Workshops:

Perth 11 February -
new Perth Convention Centre
(after the WALIS Forum, see
<http://www.walis.wa.gov.au/forum/>)

Melbourne 16 February
Marland House, 570 Bourke St

Workshops will be 9:30-3:30.
Numbers will be limited to 40
at each workshop so please
email Jenny Bone at
jenny.bone@anzlic.org.au
about your attendance.

OSDM Website Updates Nov-04

-Resources of Interest

-Members Only*

- > WG Agendas
- > WG Minutes
- > ANZLIC Meetings
- > Spatial Data Licenses
- > Standards Information
- > Metadata including
Metadata Entry Tool info
- > Interoperability
- > OSDM Conference Series

* Access for all Australian
Government employees - email
info@osdm.gov.au

OSDM Network News - ONN

Bumper Christmas Issue

The Office of Spatial Data Management (OSDM) welcomes you to the second edition of *OSDM Network News* – ONN and congratulates you on the achievements made in the spatial sector this year. Some of these were acknowledged in the Asia Pacific Excellence Awards, others through initiatives commenced and projects coming to fruition, or through achieving improved interoperability of existing systems. These achievements mark challenges well met and stand us in stead for those facing us in the coming year. Standards are being developed and released at a remarkable speed, increasing our capability to serve maps, features, metadata and coverage to a widening audience but challenging us to understand, adopt and implement what is essential to enhance core business. Likewise grasping the intricacies of data ownership, custodianship, intellectual property and the need to licence data is a big step toward improving the volume and quality of the data available to share with the resources we each have available.

ONN wishes you the best of luck in these endeavours in 2005 and looks forward to accompanying you through the triumphs, meetings, product launches, workshops and other activities occurring across the spatial information industry.

Spatial Data Management Group

The Spatial Data Management Group convened for the second time in 2004 on 16 December with representatives from fifteen agencies in attendance. The meeting covered four key agenda areas - working groups, policy review, agency reports and spatial information developments - with items reporting on each, tabling recommendations and issues for discussion.

Reports were tabled by the Schedule, Licence and Metadata Working Groups, the activities of which are detailed a little more in ONN's regular working group column over the page. Bill Hirst, from Geoscience Australia, successfully presented a proposal to the SDMG for a Marine Boundaries Working Group in 2005, which generated significant interest among a number of member agencies.

Policy Review reports were unusually prominent at this meeting. A draft of the Spatial Data Policy Executive 2003-2004 Annual Report was tabled and discussed; a consultancy report on Interjurisdictional Coordination and Benchmarking of Spatial Data Infrastructure, conducted by Professor Ian Williamson, was tabled; and the *Review of the Implementation of the Spatial Information Industry Action Agenda and the Spatial Data Access and Pricing Policy* was presented by Dr Michael Green. All raised strategic issues for discussion and ongoing activities for follow-up in 2005.

Interoperability, the Victorian Spatial Council, Spatial Smart Tags and Geocoded National Address File (GNAF) licensing were spatial information developments keenly discussed and led to the close of an agenda-packed but directive meeting.

Interoperability – Responding to National Drivers

On 3 November 2004, OSDM, OGC-A, ASIBA and SIDP jointly hosted a conference at the National Museum of Australia on spatial data interoperability. The conference featured presentations from the Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC) and others, designed to set the context for a set of subsequent presentations on interoperability projects underway in or funded by Australian Government Agencies (conference presentations at: <http://www.osdm.gov.au/osdm/links.html>).

The conference was attended by 120 people, mainly from Australian Government agencies with significant representation from other government jurisdictions and from industry. Feedback received was strongly positive, with many calling for another event next year with greater involvement from other sectors. Read ONN...Page 3.



INDUSTRY NEWS

On 1 November ISO approved an International Standard developed by the Open Geospatial Consortium with input from ISO/TC211 Geographic Information/Geomatics - OGC's Web Map Service (WMS) Specification (now also ISO19128). WMS is not the first standard to receive joint approval. The two standards on Simple Feature Access (Common Architecture ISO19125-1 and SQL Option ISO19125-2) were published earlier this year. OGC's GML (Geography Markup Language) is also being processed as ISO19136. More Information at: <http://www.opengeospatial.org>

GUEST PROFILE

Asia Pacific Spatial Excellence Awards - the 2004 combined SSI & ASIBA international spatial excellence awards program. Hosted by ASIBA at the National Gallery on 25 November, attended by over 180 contestants, guests & sponsors. ASIBA managed the awards in the Corporate Category & SSI managed those in the Individual Category for spatial excellence:

SSI President's Award - Paul Kelly
Excellence & Eminence in Spatial Information - John Trinder
Spatial Professional of the Year - Tim Barker

Young Spatial Professional of the Year - Cathy Chipchase
Service to the Spatial Community - Tony Snow

Excellence in Education & Professional Development - Stuart Phinn

Emerging Industries AND Overall Excellence (J K Barrie Award) - LogicaCMG, Geometry, PSMA Australia

Safety & Security - SKM
Environment & Community - McMullen Nolan & Partners
Surveyor, Sinclair Knight Merz,
Social Change on Line & Local-e
Risk & Finance - Harper Somer
O'Sullivan

Export - Terranean Geospatial
Research & Innovation - Earth
Resource Mapping

Working Groups

Agenda and Minutes for all working group/ other meetings can be found at *Members Only* on www.osdm.gov.au - email OSDM for password and login details (Available to all Australian Government Employees).

Metadata Reconvened on 26 October, as well as holding a number of sub-group meetings, to deliberate the development of an Australian Government Profile for the ISO 19115 Metadata Standard. The Draft Profile was completed and endorsed by the MWG on December 1 and by the SDMG on 16 December.

Licence Met on the 26 November and concluded negotiations on an OSDM Licence designed for transfers of Australian Government spatial datasets listed on the Schedule and for use with the OSDM Licence Registration Service (OLRS), which will be launched early 2005. The OLRS has been built to allow registered users access to all datasets on the Schedule upon agreeing to the OSDM Licence. Registered users will be able to access Schedule datasets repeatedly without generating a new licence each time. This will facilitate public access to Australian Government spatial datasets and assist agencies manage their licences.

Schedule Convened on 27 September to improve the accuracy of listed dataset names, link URLs for those online and create a candidate list for new nominations. The revised Schedule has 283 datasets listed, 250% of the 114 listed in 2003-04. Of these, 77% provide URL links to where data can be found on custodian web sites. 254 dataset listings have undergone active updates in 2004. The WG has also established an Auxiliary list for datasets that cannot fully comply with the Spatial Data Access and Pricing Policy.

In 2005 many datasets will be available on the Schedule under the OSDM Licence, according to the Spatial Data Access and Pricing Policy and available Online for free. OSDM Licence Datasets will be listed on a Licence Schedule attached to and distributed with the Licence and will become one of the expanding areas of Schedule activity in 2005. Following the approval of the SDMG, the Schedules and Lists will be updated on the OSDM website for early January 2005.

OSDM COMMUNITY

Australian Ocean Data Centre Joint Facility (AODCJF)

The AODCJF is a whole-of-government approach to ocean data management anticipated to be operational by mid-2005. It will develop a national multi-agency data management system for the ocean data resources of partners - Australian Institute of Marine Science, Australian Antarctic Division, Bureau of Meteorology, CSIRO Marine Research, Geoscience Australia and RAN Directorate of Meteorology.

The AODCJF is managed through a representative Governing Board which is responsible for the governance and overall management of the Joint Facility. Governance processes are in place for the operation of the Board and Technical Committee. The Technical Committee will develop and implement technologies to create a distributed national data centre and establish data management and exchange standards. Technical working groups have been established to investigate metadata catalogues, OPeNDAP interoperability and web feature services. For more information contact Greg Reed: - greg@metoc.gov.au

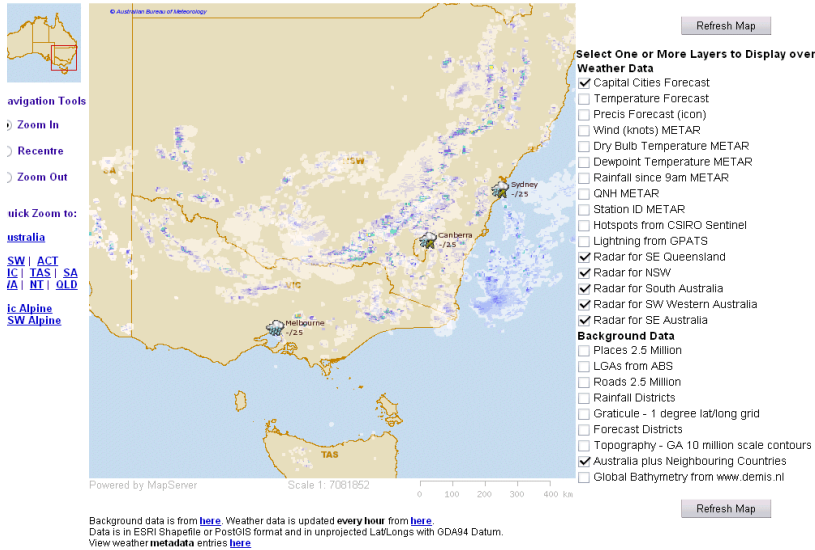
National Land & Water Resource Audit Data Trawl

The trawl of Australian Government data repositories, to identify national data relevant to natural resource monitoring and evaluation indicators, has also highlighted some significant gaps in required data. The Audit is cooperating with states and territories to undertake similar trawls so that a national picture of key data availability can be compiled. A searchable data base of the results of the trawl will be made available through the Australian Natural Resources Data Library - data.brs.gov.au/asdd/index.php. The reports of the Audit's trawl are available at: www.nlwra.gov.au/reports.htm.

OSDM COMMUNITY CONTINUED..

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OSDM COMMUNITY

Bureau of Meteorology MapServer Development

BOM have been developing a trial web map server to test some seemingly simple concepts that are very complex in reality (such as displaying radar data), as well as addressing technical issues such as how to provide web services to restricted audiences. The viewer is deliberately kept simple and focussed on testing interoperability. It does WFS and is actively serving the CRC-SI EMDP project. The web services feature is part of several collaborative trial data exchange programs including the AODC Joint Facility, NOO Portal, AWDIP, CommandMap and the EMDP. All MapServer user feedback is appreciated to help overcome some of the technical traps and learn from others' experiences. For further information contact Robert Dahni: r.dahni@bom.gov.au (Viewer pictured left)

Australian Bureau of Statistics' National Data Network (NDN)

is a Data Sharing Initiative that will provide a data catalogue and distribution network for a wide variety of Australia's administrative and survey collections. The NDN will be developed with a view to link to a variety of data providers and existing data networks to maximise the data sources available to network users. A demonstration NDN will be released in April 2005 to showcase the functionality of the Network. NDN overview available at: <http://www.nationaldatanetwork.org>

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Interoperability – Responding to National Drivers

One issue arising from the conference was the need to understand which of the current plethora of standards supporting 'interoperable' infrastructures and web features and services should be the focus of attention by Australian Government Agencies. Bodies such as the International Organisation for Standardisation (ISO), the Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC), the World Wide Web Consortium (W3C) and the Organization for the Advancement of Structured Information Standards (OASIS) are all actively developing standards that are relevant to Australian Government agencies. The challenge is to identify which of these are priorities and how agencies can most cost-effectively implement them.

The Spatial Interoperability Demonstrator Project (SIDP), funded by the AusIndustry Innovation Access Program, has released a five-volume 'Notional Architecture'. These documents are available on the OSDM web site (<http://www.osdm.gov.au/osdm/members/interoperability.html>). One of the impending issues for spatial data managers is how to assess the likely relevance of this architecture for the Australian Government.

ANZLIC - the Spatial Information Council NEWS

- At the *National Summit on Improving the Administration of Land and Property Rights and Restrictions* held in Brisbane on 16 November delegates agreed to a Communiqué that noted the issues with the current system of land and property administration and resolved to establish a framework for cooperation within and between jurisdictions, and between providers and users of land and property information. See Communiqué at: <http://www.anzlic.org.au/read/2407735901>
- The Chairman of ANZLIC Council, Mr Warwick Watkins, presented the results of the recent NCTC, AEMC, ANZLIC *national spatial counter-terrorism briefing series* to the 7 December meeting of the National Counter Terrorism Committee (NCTC) in Melbourne.
- Paul Kelly finished his term as the inaugural Executive Director of ANZLIC in mid September. Steve Blake, formerly the ANZLIC National Project Manager, has been appointed as his replacement – *Congratulations, Steve!*

MEMBER PROFILES

News, features, projects, visitors and events?

If you have something worth sharing with the Australian Government Spatial Data Management Community let us know and we'll happily feature it in our quarterly newsletters updating you on meetings, our web site and initiatives of interest. Just email us on info@osdm.gov.au

