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Calendar

Events

ANZLIC National Spatial Coordinators Forum, Melbourne
12 September

To register send an email to info@anzlic.org.au.

2nd Biennial Spatial Sciences Conference, Melbourne
12–16 September

To view the program go to www.ssc2005.com

Meetings

Schedule Working Group
September (tbc)

Metadata Working Group
September (tbc)

Marine Boundaries Working Group
September (tbc)

Spatial Data Management Group
14 December

OSDM Network News – *ONN*

Winter Issue

SDMG Meeting

The Spatial Data Management Group met in Canberra on 14 July. The meeting varied from the usual format with series of presentations (listed below) from **Blair Wood**, **Mark Sjolander**, **Robyn Gallagher** and **John Busby**. This was followed by an open forum on operational policy and management issues relating to spatial information.

- Data Access and Licensing [Blair Wood, National Land & Water Resources Audit]
- National Service Improvement Framework [Mark Sjolander, AGIMO]
- a live demonstration of the DEH Metadata Explorer linking to the OSDM Licence Registration System [Robyn Gallagher, Department of Environment and Heritage]
- OSDM Work Plan for 05/06 [John Busby, Office of Spatial Data Management]

Minutes from the meeting and all presentations are available in the Members' Only section of the OSDM Web Site at www.osdm.gov.au/osdm/members/members.html.

Geospatial Standards Seminar

OSDM and ANZLIC co-hosted a geospatial standards workshop in Canberra on 7 June. The workshop was attended by 70 people from over 20 agencies. Similar workshops were held in Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane.

Doug Nebert, US Federal Geographic Data Committee provided the keynote address on the international geospatial and internet standards needed to implement spatial data infrastructures. Doug's presentation was complemented by the national perspective provided by **Steve Blake** (Executive Director, ANZLIC) and **Tim Mackey** (Web Development Manager, Geoscience Australia) who provided an Australian Government agency perspective on using standards in a web environment.

Presentations from all the workshops are available online from the ANZLIC Web Site at anzlic.org.au/events_standards_presentations_Jun05.html.

Spatial Sciences Conference, 12–16 September

Preparations for the biennial Spatial Sciences Conference in Melbourne are well underway. The program includes a number of workshops of interest to Australian Government agencies.

- Geospatial Support to the National "All Hazards" Counter-Terrorism, Emergency Management and Critical Infrastructure Protection Communities (facilitated by ANZLIC and the Emergency Management Spatial Information Network Australia – EMSINA)
- Mapping for Socio-Economic Outcomes (facilitated by ANZLIC and the ABS)
- Spatial Interoperability in Action (facilitated by ANZLIC)
- Mapping Geospatial Supply and Value Chains—Responding to Customers and the Role of Standards (inc. presentation by AGIMO)
- The Shuttle Radar DEM (convened by CSIRO)
- Safeguarding Australia's Water Resources—Roles for the Spatial Information Sciences (inc. overview of national and regional initiatives such as the National Water Initiative)

Dennis Trewin, the Australian Statistician, will be launching Mesh Blocks at the Welcome Reception. This event is being sponsored by the ABS, ANZLIC and PSMA Australia. ANZLIC is also holding a National Spatial Coordinators Forum in Melbourne during the Conference week.

For more information visit the official Conference web site at www.ssc2005.com.



INDUSTRY NEWS

A bird's eye view ...

The power of "where" is now accessible to anyone with access to the Internet with the recent release of Google Earth and Microsoft's Virtual Earth. Another product on offer is NASA's World Wind—with imagery of Earth and beyond.

These web services are free and combine satellite imagery, maps and search engines to deliver location-based services.

While there are limitations with the completeness and quality of data underpinning these applications, they provide a view of what lies ahead. A more spatially-enabled society is likely to demand more accessible and better quality information. Something to think about!

For a test run go to:

Google Earth earth.google.com
Virtual Earth virtualearth.msn.com
World Wind worldwind.arc.nasa.gov

But beware ... these work best with a fairly modern computer and access to broadband.

GUEST PROFILE ANZLIC Metadata Project Update

Metadata Profile

A framework for a new metadata profile for Australia and New Zealand will be finalised when the Profile Harmonisation Team meet in Canberra later this month.

It is anticipated that a draft discussion paper will be available for comment after this meeting.

When released, OSDM plans to host a technical workshop to review the discussion paper.

If you are interested in participating in this workshop please contact OSDM by email at info@osdm.gov.au.

Metadata Entry Tool

The tender for the Metadata Entry Tool (MET) development has now closed and the applications are being evaluated.



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OSDM Working Groups

Agendas and Minutes for the Metadata, Schedule and Marine Boundaries Working Group meetings held in May 2005 are available online from the [Members' Only](#) part of the OSDM Web Site at www.osdm.gov.au. For password and login details please [email OSDM](#). *Access is available to all Australian Government employees.*

Metadata Since drafting a Profile based on the international spatial metadata standard, ISO 19115, the Metadata Working Group is now focussing on improving the 'discoverability' of Australian Government datasets and assisting custodians convert to the new standard.

Schedule The Schedule Working Group continues its work to improve the range, quality and access to datasets listed on the Schedule.

To facilitate data access the Schedule and Auxiliary Lists are being consolidated into a relational database. As part of this process each dataset will be classified according to an ISO 19115 Category—a high level geographic data thematic classifications.

Three agencies—Geoscience Australia, National Native Title Tribunal and Department of Environment and Heritage—have subscribed to the OSDM Licence Registration Service (OLRS). OLRS was developed to facilitate public access to Schedule datasets and simplify licence management by agencies. Between February and June 23,000 datasets were downloaded by 3,000 unique users. This can only increase as more agencies sign up to OLRS.

Marine Boundaries The Marine Boundaries Working Group met for the first time in May and is addressing issues surrounding the varied, and at times imprecise, definitions of maritime boundaries. Communities of practice, including the security and resource management communities, are driving the need for greater certainty of boundary definition.

The Group is developing technical guidelines on the drafting of maritime boundary descriptions so that they are technically accurate, can be graphically visualised and reflect the intention of legislation or regulation.

ANZLIC News

Mary Walsh joined the ANZLIC team as the incoming Executive Officer on 6 July. Mary — previously working for the Cooperative Research Centre for Landscape Environments and Mineral Exploration (CRC LEME) — replaces Jenny Bone. After 3½ years with ANZLIC Jenny has joined the team at OSDM.

Welcome Mary!

OSDM COMMUNITY

National Service Improvement Framework

Australian Government Information
Management Office

As part of its commitment to deliver better services, the Government established the National Service Improvement Program in March 2002. This Program is funded by the Online Council of Ministers.

An output of this initiative is the National Service Information Framework (NSIF) which aims to facilitate collaborative projects between governments at all levels.

NSIF provides a cascading step-by-step approach to reaching agreement between jurisdictions starting with endorsement of principles at the highest level that can be negotiated into more specific arrangements. All tiers of NSIF take into consideration the Governance, Legal, Financial, Business Rules and Technical Issues associated with any collaborative agreement. NSIF could provide a suitable framework for negotiating cross-jurisdictional data access arrangements.

More information about NSIF, including a template of the Collaborative Head Agreement, is available online at www.nsif.gov.au.

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 at info@osdm.gov.au.

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