

"Fore-Sight"



"Fore-Sight" - Quarterly Newsletter of the Association of Surveyors of P.N.G.

ASPNG Council Initiatives A Real Benefit for Members

This 13th issue of "Fore-Sight" is significant as it brings news to ASPNG members of important events and issues being addressed by Council. Successful outcomes from these new initiatives will be of great benefit to all members of our surveying association both now and in the future.

The ASPNG has a proud and long tradition and is mounting up some impressive figures - we have had some 238 Council Meetings, 43 Annual General Meetings, and are approaching our 38th PNG Survey Congress. By way of comparison it would be hard to find another professional association in PNG that could top this venerable history.

But the historical past is not where the ASPNG resides, it is in the vision for the future that is being developed by a key corps of surveying professionals that will realize benefits for our members in times to come.

The work of your Council is not only reflected in the contents of this newsletter (that is steadily growing in size with a number of new contributions), but also in the additional information handouts that are enclosed. Recommendations and draft proposals cover a numbers of topics including :

- Revised Code of Ethics 2004
- Code of Professional Conduct 2004
- Continuing Professional Development Policy
- ASPNG Contribution to Customary Land Registration

Of further relevance are the detailed *Letters to the Editor* with some important points of view and comments on the following subjects :

- Bringing Back Australian Surveyors and Others to PNG (Francis Posenau)
- Issues for Consideration by ASPNG as a Professional Body (ENB Surveyors & Cartographers Club). A broad range of proposals are put forward for consideration covering Education, Regionalization, Student Representation, etc.

ASPNG's *International Outlook* is broadening as well, with the renewed association with FIG - together with the increasing number of overseas members. Ian Truscott (Qld) and Richard Stanaway (ACT) are welcomed as the latest to join our association. The total number of overseas members is now 22 including surveyors from Australia, New Zealand, Fiji and the United Kingdom.

The *international outlook* is reinforced this month with the inclusion of the *GEOBrasil* logo (right) and the list of *Coming Events*.

It is interesting to note that a number of ASPNG members resident in Papua New Guinea are members of overseas surveying and spatial science organizations. This also reflects a broader *international outlook* by individual members of our association.



Surveying ... all possibilities

The good work being done by Council can be rewarded by ASPNG members responding to the various enclosures with this newsletter. Your input, as individual members, will be a most valuable contribution to the future of surveying in Papua New Guinea.

Members are asked to start planning now for the upcoming PNG Survey Congress in Lae. The are discount airfares on offer and reasonably priced accommodation at the Congress venue. Luther and his friends in Lae run a damn good Congress. With Lae being the 'home' for surveying education there is a great opportunity to promote our profession with the up and coming graduates.

Next issue of the newsletter will be in June.

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COMING EVENTS :

Conference : Inaugural Qld SSI Conference, Brisbane, 23rd & 24th April

FIG Working Week : Athens, Greece - 22 to 27 May

38th PNG Survey Congress
Lae, July 8th - 10th

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Managing Megadata with Metadata

Article by Michelle Legault, GIS Technician, BHP Minerals Asia Pacific (ex GIS Asia Pacific magazine)

If you think compiling, processing and analyzing accurate data for GIS applications is a headache, keeping track of data available on your hard drive and in your company, plus that of public and private institutions, will make you want to tear your hair out in a frenzy. Well, now there is a relatively painless way to deal with your data. Enter 'metadata', a current buzzword that is used not only in GIS, but most information management disciplines. With metadata, your headaches - and hair pulling - may be a thing of the past.

What are Metadata ?

Simply put, they are data about data. Metadata are not a replica of a dataset, but a 'summary sheet' of salient points pertaining to a dataset. Metadata allow users to establish the existence of a dataset and facilitate a data access. And, just as importantly, metadata also allow users to quickly determine the contents of a dataset. With the current rate of data acquisition and their availability, metadata are now becoming more of an important issue, and one which can help guard against the loss of data.

International Recognition

Metadata are gaining more attention in the international community, with conferences, committees and task forces devoted solely to the topic. Of particular note is the National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI) (<http://fgdc.er.usgs.gov/nsdi2.html>) in the U.S., which facilitates interaction among various geospatial data-orientated disciplines. The NSDI provides a forum from which methods involving data use and data transfer policies evolve.

Other metadata projects include the Australia New Zealand Land Information Council (ANZLIC) (<http://www.auslig.gov.au/pipc/anzlic/metaelem.htm>); the Dublin Core (http://purl.org/metadata/dublin_core); the Nordic Metadata Project (<http://linnea.helsinki.fi/meta/index.html>); and the UK Office for Library and Information Networking (UKOLN) (<http://ac.uk>).

These government sponsored taskforces focus on a number of issues, such as determining terminology for geospatial metadata, creating adequate directory structures, duplicating and distributing datasets, minimizing data redundancy, storing data, and calculating the cost of making accurate information available

Creating Metadata

On a more specific level, how can one create metadata ? There are a number of ways to approach the issue. The first step is to determine the key types of information contained in the dataset. This information will vary from one dataset to another. For example, GIS data require a different set of metadata criteria than Landsat raster images.

Let's use a GIS coverage as an example. Information that you may wish to keep track of with reference to a GIS coverage could include the following :

File name; file location; file creation date; file creator; origin of the data; project name; project description; method by which the data were converted to digital data; software information (software program used to display the data, software used to create the data, software version no., etc); spatial extent of the data; data type (raster, vector, etc); projection information; key words; comments; associated files (text, spreadsheet, images, etc); and data status (active, archived, etc).

Previously, the above information could be kept in a number of formats, such as an ASCII text file, a spreadsheet, a database, or even as a native GIS software file. Fortunately, a number of GIS software companies are realizing the importance of metadata and are responding by creating their own metadata programs. The best of these programs are those that automatically record most of the information, requiring little user input.

Adding metadata should be as painless as possible to encourage users to record their datasets attributes, but without sacrificing data comprehensiveness or accuracy.

Why Should I Bother ?

Sure, it takes quite a bit of time to add metadata to all of one's datasets. Trying to sift through other people's files, looking for that forever 'missing' file, attempting to determine the contents of a dataset without having to load it into its native software program; all of these things take time, not to mention the frustration it causes. However, time spent now can mean a substantial savings in time later, both for yourself and for your colleagues. And datasets are far too costly to create and maintain, only to ultimately lose them.

Metadata Resources

If you're interested in learning more about metadata, there are a number of good web sites available. The 'Metadata and WWW mapping Home Page' contains a variety of information, ranging from examples and reference sites to metadata tools : (http://www.blm.gov/gis/nsdi.html#key_metadata_information).

And 'Metadata Tools' (<http://badger.state.wi.us/agencies/wlib/sco/metatool/mtools.htm>) makes a number of metadata logging tools available.

In short, metadata can solve a lot of data management headaches. Now I need to find a new excuse to call in sick on Monday mornings.

- Michelle Legault



Foot Note : This article was originally published in the October / November 1997 issue of GIS Asia Pacific magazine - and while that's nearly seven years ago, the essence of the article continues to be valid today - perhaps even more so.

Metadata for the various datasets available in Papua New Guinea originated and were maintained at the National Planning Office. The GIS User Group identified the need for upgrading the metadata files for PNG as a matter of urgency. To this date it is not known if this has occurred. Private datasets generally have a metadata summary available (this can run to over 40 pages of hard-copy printout for a PNG nation-wide dataset).

Subsequent to this original article, MapInfo has produced a 'Metadata Module' to accompany the MapInfo GIS program.

There is a need for a legislative approach to ensure that metadata is maintained for all datasets produced in, or pertaining to Papua New Guinea. There was some suggestion that this could be incorporated as part of the revised Survey Co-Ordination Act.

- Ed.

Report from the Secretary / Treasurer

By Masang T. Bangindo

Belated Happy New Year to you all members and your friends. This year 2004 brings to us another year of challenges, commitments and responsibilities. ASPNG is taking on these challenges, responsibilities, and is committed to fulfill its objectives with a major in-house clean up.

The ASPNG Council have started with the 238th Council Meeting held on the 6th of February 2004. A lot of issues were discussed including a draft copy of ASPNG reply to Voluntary Customary Land Registration, CPD policy, Code of Professional Conduct for Surveyors, and Surveyors Code of Ethics. All these draft copies are included in the February / March issue of the foresight newsletter.

The Council has agreed to re-address the agendas for the AGM. This year it is suggested that all agendas, minutes and copies of drafts policies and general business topics will be sent out in the foresight issue before the AGM. This is to give members enough time to go through them and have some inputs and suggestions for discussion during the AGM. It is also for us to achieve some conclusive points and pass them through the AGM.

The main ones before you are the draft copy of the reply to Voluntary Customary land Registration, CPD policy, Code of Professional Conduct for Surveyors and Surveyors Code of Ethics. These are not new as we have had them for a long time, but needs rewording to accommodate the changes taking place.

We the council would very much need your inputs, suggestions and comments on the above mention before you.

New Membership

The Council at its 238th meeting approved the following membership application and we are pleased to announce the new members and their membership category.

Corporate Members Overseas:

Ian Lewis Truscott,
Richard Frank Stanaway

Resident Members :

Richard Yawimberi Nawara,
Yakobus Kusapa
Sylvester Tiki
Hui Hauka
Stephen Kwalimu Konena

Technical Associate Member
Samuel Tabua

The new members' certificates will be presented during the 2004 38th Survey Congress in Lae.

To date there is a total of 44 financial members who have so far paid their membership fee for 2003. Please give ASPNG your support by paying your due membership fee so that we can build up our membership capacity to have a strong voice in representing our Association.

From the updated mailing list, there is a total of 137 members including the above eight. Six have their mails returned, as they are no longer at their current address. To keep in contact, it is your personnel responsibility to let us know of your whereabouts or change in your mailing address.

Papua New Guinea Surveyors Board

Surveyors Board meeting was held on the 5th of March 2004. The Registrar will provide a report on the outcome of the board meeting to be publish in the next Foresight, but has provided the list of Surveyors Board members with the Registrar as gazetted. They are;

Stephen Lummis - Registrar of the Surveyors Board

Papua New Guinea Surveyors Board members :-

Registered Surveyors from the Department of Lands and Physical Planning - Samuel Basil Kodawara, Vaki Vailala and Luther Pinoko Sipison

Registered Surveyors from the panel of names submitted by ASPNG - Stephen Patrick Low, Michael Sirabis and Joseph Cholai Polume.

They will serve the Board for a period of two years commencing on and from 29th May 2003.

University Prizes to be awarded at the 2004 March Graduation.

ASPNG, with its continuous support in encouraging students to achieve academic excellence in their studies has donated K1,000.00 to the academic board award

of prizes of the PNG University of Technology. This is to be awarded to the (4) best students with the highest overall academic result throughout the various stage of their academic year. Once again, ASPNG is proud to be associated with the Department of Surveying and Land Studies in encouraging students to achieve high academic results.

ASPNG 2004 38th Survey Congress Update

The theme for our 2004 38th Survey Congress is :

"PLANNING, SURVEYING and ADMINISTRATION OF PERI-URBAN CUSTOMARY LAND IN Papua New Guinea FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT"

Dates for the Congress will be 8th, 9th, & 10th of July 2004 and the venue will be at the Lae International Hotel.

The Congress fee is K430.00 per person.

Accommodation K189.00 (Vat inclusive) per ROOM at Lae International Hotel.

AIR FARES : Air Niugini is giving us a 20% discount off the full economy class airfare to all participants traveling to our congress from various domestic ports.

The Congress Manager's Contact details :

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FIG Membership

ASPNG has renewed its 2004 membership with the International Federation of Surveyors. Our various ASPNG FIG commission representatives have indicated receiving some feedback from the FIG Commission Chairman. Most of you might think, why are we renewing our membership and what is in it for us? Let me assure you, there is a lot to learn from FIG by being a member.

Now that we are going through reforms

and trying to accommodate the ever growing changes around us, we need to tap into their vast resources of data to help us formulate policies, guidelines, standards and upgrade our training institution to meet the changes. This is exactly what we are trying to do with the current reform in the Department of Lands and Physical Planning and the office of the Surveyors General. The reform process looks at restructuring the department's existing manpower capacity, reviewing our existing surveyors act, survey regulations, survey coordination act and the survey direction. As mentioned at the survey congress, ASPNG will play a major and active role as an association to serve the surveying profession.

The ASPNG FIG coordinator, the Editor and myself have agreed to send two to three copies of our "Fore-Sight" newsletter to the Director of FIG office. It will be good to let them know about our part of the world and what our association is going through.

Various Committee Meetings

The ASPNG Council had a meeting with the Surveyor General, mainly for him to brief the council on the latest development with the reform. One thing came up was the name change in the office of the Surveyor General and the review of the various surveyor's act, regulations and directions.

He further elaborated that the 3% of all the alienated land through out PNG has been used up and we need to look at acquiring customary land ready for future development. As we understand at this present time, it is a lengthy process in acquiring customary land for any development. It is important that we prepare ourselves to take on this complex issue.

A survey review committee meeting was held after the ASPNG Council meeting.

Present were; - Stephen Lummis, Robert Rosa, Masang Bangindo and Francis Posanau

The purpose was to deliberate on the various policies and then formulate strategies on how to implement them to show our genuine commitment or involvement in their implementation to bring greater benefits to many of our members and the general public.

Council member, Mr Francis Posanau has taken the initiative and introduces the Draft copy of ASPNG reply to Voluntary

Customary Land Registration, CPD policy, Code of Professional Conduct for Surveyors, and Surveyors Code of Ethics. Letters and copies of the policy papers were sent to relevant government department secretaries. However he has only received a good response from the Managing Director of IPA. He is still awaiting a response from the Secretary for Lands, the Secretary for Agriculture, the Secretary for National Planning and Development, and the Chief Secretary - Prime Minister's Department. He acknowledges direct contribution from the acting Surveyor-General, Mr. Sam Kodawara, and IPA Managing Director and Mr. Ivan Po-maleu.

There is still no response from the various committees formed during the survey congress and I would personally encourage members to put pen to paper and tell us your views about the draft paper before you.

Thank you and please send us your views and comments

Masang T. Bangindo
Hon. Secretary / Treasurer.

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"MASTMAK"

The Land Surveyors of Papua New Guinea



"MastaMak - The Land Surveyors of Papua New Guinea" is a magnificent book written by James Sinclair and researched by Fred Pratt.

DeLuxe Edition K 430.00
Standard Edition K 155.00

Available from Arman Larmer Surveys

VALE : DES HUSBAND, SURVEYOR

Desmond Mylne HUSBAND passed away on the 4th September 2003, aged 83 years.

Des was born in Charters Towers and traced his ancestry to George Bernard Shaw. He grew up in Mackay and had his secondary education at All saints College, Charters Towers, where he was followed in due course, by four of his five sons, during the time he was a government surveyor in PNG.

After leaving school, Des first worked as a draftsman for Main Roads and commenced studying engineering. In the 1939 - 45 War he served with the 2nd AIF Survey Corps.

After the war, Des persisted with a career as a Surveyor, rather than an engineer. In reality he was probably better suited to surveying, because he had an extraordinary command of Mathematics. He worked as a surveyor in Brisbane and Maryborough before taking up a position with the Australian Administration in Goroka in 1958.

The initial flight to Port Moresby in a Qantas DC4 was memorable, the five hour trip turned into a seven hour trip due to bad weather. Des had a varied and interesting life in New Guinea career-wise and provided his family with an interesting and somewhat unique environment in which to grow up in.

He was subsequently stationed at Minj (2 years), Wau (3 years) and Lae (3 years), before being transferred to Rabaul for eight years where he was in charge of the Lands Department in the New Guinea Islands Region.

In 1974 he moved back to Australia and settled at Lawnton, Qld. In retirement he devoted a lot of time to golf and bridge and traveled widely in Australia with his wife, Fran, keeping in touch with his far-flung family of five sons, their wives and eleven grand children.



Our thanks to surveyor Bill McKibben for bringing this news item to our attention, and to an Obituary printed in the Oct 2003 Spatial Science Qld News Journal

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



The Editor
Fore-Sight Newsletter

Dear Sir,

RE: COMMENTS ON BRINGING BACK AUSTRALIAN SURVEYORS AND OTHERS TO PNG

This week it was reported that PNG Public Service had received the first group of Australians to work in the PNG Public Service. I believe many Papua New Guineans support this move and/or arrangement by the PNG and Australian Governments. Basically the objective is to bring back into the public service efficiency, accountability and transparency. Many people see that the level of service has gone down and corruption and bribery has tarnished our public service. It is still to be seen whether we see improvements but many of us who have been there before believe this is indeed a good idea.

The ASPNG Council at its last meeting appointed the establishment of a review committee to look at the existing Survey Laws and Regulations, and our general survey practices and recommend changes in the light of current draft legislation on Voluntary Customary Land Registration and the government's push for an export driven economic programmes. Naturally this pressure will create many challenges to our profession and many of us believe that we must take stock of ourselves, analyse the country's needs and consider some strategies to address the demand for our services now and in the future. We should not sit back and pretend that we have no problem out there nor sit back and allow other people to come in and do the work for us. No, we must now pool our expertise or experiences together and for this reason the Review Committee is inviting all our surveyors to contribute in this exercise.

What are the current situations we have?

1. Our current registration or licensing of our graduate surveyors through the PNG Surveyors Board is very low indeed.
2. Currently we have well over 700 Unitech graduates either living in the villages or walking our streets, they are unemployed.
3. The current survey firms have no ca-

capacity to employ graduates due to the down-turn in our economy over the last 10 years or so.

4. To set-up new survey practice and the process of company registration is difficult and requires large capital.

5. Up till now we have basically been involved in the cadastral survey of 3 percent of our state land and to consider involvement in the remaining 97 percent of our customary land will present many challenges and opportunities.

6. Should we allow Unitech to continue to just send out survey graduates or should we consider a review.

7. Have we, as a profession ever consider seriously our Government's economic policy statements such as export driven & economic policy, establishment of economic impact projects, resource development such as mining, forestry, agriculture, customary land registration and so on.

A submission was put to ASPNG Council and many of these issues were highlighted. Included in the submission I proposed some areas of improvements to address the current difficulties or weaknesses so that our profession could be in a better position to meet the challenges our country will go through in the next couple of years and in the future. The first meeting of the Review Committee also supported the proposal to bring in Australian surveyors or others surveyors into PNG to assist us. The areas we suggest we should consider improving :-

A. To provide supervision of our graduates to increase the number of licensed surveyors in PNG.

B. We should hold workshops and seminars for our surveyors to improve efficiency or standards.

C. We should consider establishing an institute similar to the Legal Training Institute for lawyers where our graduates to get their license or registration.

D. Since we have an over supply of graduate surveyors (700 or so), we should now consider a review of Unitech Surveying Course so that a survey graduate also receives his license on graduation (I believe Queensland (Australia) has these

types of courses).

E. In registration of customary land, we should consider using compass and chain (100m tape), GPS, total station to allow surveyors to set up small businesses in rural villages, patrol posts, districts and all the provinces. A surveyor should be allowed to get loans of up to K10,000 from the Rural Development Bank for compass and chain, GPS equipment, field books, etc.

Australian and other overseas surveyors could be brought in to assist us in all the above areas. We have also written to some government departments for their comments and thanks to those who have sent in their ideas including, Managing Director of IPA, and the Secretary for Trade and Industry.

We have discussed customary land registration in our past Survey Congresses; however, we have not gone far enough to propose changes and implemented them. What are your views? You are all invited to send in your comments to the Review Committee. The Review Committee should be able to consider short or long term strategies to meet the challenges or survey needs now and in the future. To implement any survey programmes would require consultation also with the Surveyor-General and other government agencies, and most importantly with donor agencies for funding such as Ausaid and so on. Here our contact with the Australian Survey Institute is essential to get their support. The members of the Review Committee are :-

1. Jones Taugaloidi
2. Masang Bangindo
3. Stephen Lummis
4. Robert Rosa
5. Luther Sipison
6. Francis Posanau

Best wishes,

Francis Posanau
Council Member



The Editor
Fore-Sight Newsletter

Dear Sir,

ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION BY ASPNG AS A PROFESSIONAL BODY.

A combined surveyors and cartographers meeting was convened on Thursday 24th July 2003.

This meeting was in response to your open invitation at the Congress to all members of ASPNG to be proactive in the affairs of the association by way of giving ideas or suggestions to improve the image of the body.

Attendees of the meeting came forward with the following suggestions, which they believe ASPNG as a professional body considers pursuing if the surveying profession is to be competitive with other professions.

General consensus at the meeting was that ASPNG as body should have more input in the issues, listed below:

• Cadets Pre-registration Courses

A vital element of a graduate's advancement in the surveying profession, re-visitation of pre-registration courses for cadets will enable them to speed up registration of these cadets to practice as surveyors. This program previously spear-headed by the Lands Department is no longer in existence and ASPNG should initiate its reintroduction.

• Regionalisation of Council Membership to ASPNG

The concept of regionalising council membership to the association is so that the regional representatives will be vested the responsibility of mobilizing resident members in their respective regions. These representatives will plan and organize get-togethers to deliberate on issues of prime importance to the profession, which are then taken up at the national level of the association by the regional council members.

• Regionalisation of Membership to the Surveyors Board

Regional membership to the Surveyors Board be pushed through by the ASPNG in order that regional concerns by resident

surveyors be channeled through them. Regional board members in turn will raise the issue at the board meetings to ease burden, at the same time speed up cases. ASPNG to pursue the issue with the Surveyor-General's office.

• ASPNG to allow Student Representative to the Council

The intention here is that whilst students are encouraged to become student members of the association, much has not been achieved. It is viewed that lack of promotion of the association at the university as being the reason. By admitting student representative to the council, more awareness of the functions of the association by the representative will see more students become members of the association whilst as students or upon graduating.

• ASPNG to have more Input in the Appointment of Academic Staff for Surveying and Land Studies Department

Orchestrated by some master surveyors in the province voicing concerns on the graduates lacking cadastral boundary re-establishment, the meeting put forward this proposal. Some recent graduates present at the meeting were in support of the sentiments aired by the master surveyors. The meeting therefore proposed that ASPNG executive to liaise with the university authority to be more consultative with the association on issues regarding academic appointments to the Department of Surveying and Land Studies. ASPNG will be in a position to recommend experienced professionals in surveying, especially to groom the students not only to be effective but also efficient upon graduating. In this way ASPNG will not only be seen as a body for professionals but also a contributor to producing qualified students ready to continue in the surveying arena after leaving the academic arena.

• ASPNG to Offer Scholarship for Post-Graduate Studies

Post-Graduate scholarship to the best final year student in surveying or cartography should be seriously considered by the association. This concept is to encourage students to strive for academic excellence at the same time lure interest from students in surveying and cartography to become members of the association upon graduation.

• ASPNG to make Regular Visits to Unitech

To promote the association at Unitech, the executive of ASPNG to make regular visits to Unitech and talk to surveying and cartography students. The visits will promote the association at Unitech.

• Student (Surveying and Land Studies) Exchange Programs with Australian Universities

A proposal was also put forward to have ASPNG push the university administration for student exchange programs with Australian universities. This will assist the students to experience what the universities are offering elsewhere and vice-versa.

• ASPNG to Liaise with Consulting Survey Firms to have in place Registration Programs for their Cadets

Concerns were raised that many surveying firms employing cadets do not have registration programs in place. They are only concerned about the money. The association should push for all firms to have these programs in place for their cadets. The association should push for their cadets if the body is to be seen as being concerned about its members welfare be it cadets or otherwise. These will justify the association's push for members Career Path Development (CPD).

These are proposals put forward at the first meeting and I believe there will be many more to come when future meetings are convened by the East New Britain based ASPNG members.

**The Interim Chairman,
E.N.B. Surveyors & Cartographers
Club,
P.O.Box 535,
RABAUL, E.N.B.P.**



The Editor wishes to thank all members of the ASPNG who contribute to the articles and news items published in our newsletter.

Production of a PNG REFERENCE ATLAS on CD

A new product for 2004 has been released by GEO-Graphics Limited. The PNG REFERENCE ATLAS on CD is the first of its type to provide a wide selection of maps and associated data pages covering a broad range of topics.

"Fore Sight" caught up with Alan Dunley recently and obtained the following interview.

Q. When did you first come up with the idea of producing a PNG Reference Atlas?

A. A while back actually. Many people asked about us producing an upgraded form of the old *PNG Resource Atlas* that was published by Jacaranda Press some years ago.

Q. So what made you decide to do it now?

A. Needed the cash flow mate!

Q. Any other reason?

A. Yes. I believe the time was right to produce an up to date publication (on CD) that would give people a good idea about what PNG has to offer. Also after a lot of other mapping work we had a fair amount of material that could be used with this project.

Q. What sort of material are you referring to?

A. Many of the information layers that we have developed in conjunction with our nation-wide and provincial GIS databases slot straight into a publication of this type. We also have the added advantage of being able to include large scale town maps with lot and section numbers.

Q. I see you have a lot of thematic maps included on the CD?

A. Yes, We've tried to include as many as possible.

Q. What was the information source for these thematic maps?

A. Some were produced from in-house records, most were set up using the *PNGGIS Database* that was developed by *The School of Pacific and Asian Studies* at the *Australian National University in Canberra*. The development of *PNGGIS* was also supported by the Department of Agriculture here.

Q. I note that you have two versions of the CD available - a red label version and a blue label version. What's the difference?

A. Same as with the Scotch Whiskey - the red label doesn't cost much as the blue label. Although with this CD, you get entirely the same information and contents on both versions - however, the BASIC version (red label) is print-restricted.

Q. What do you mean by 'print-restricted'?

A. You can't print directly from within Acrobat Reader, but we do give you a program to print by 'screen-capture'. This gives you bitmaps and the quality and size control suffers a bit.

Q. Why would you do that?

A. A lot of people just want to look at the maps and don't want high quality print outs. They can save a fair amount of money if this is all they require.

Q. I see both CD's require registration for full access to the contents. Why is that?

A. Registration is free of course so that's not an issue. By registering your CD, you do get some real advantages - like having access to all the information on the CD, we know who to send the free upgrades to, and we also have a record of who is eligible for a discount when we release a 2nd edition.

Q. Are you really going to give away free upgrades?

A. Certainly. You see we wanted to get this CD on the market quickly and there is a lot more information we want to include. PNG has a lot to offer and by comparison we've only shown a bit of it. We're already working on additional information for the first upgrade.

Q. And about a second edition - in what way will that be different?

A. Electronic indexing.

Q. What's that?

A. You'll have the ability to click on an alphabetical list of places and have that place appear on your map.

Q. Sounds good - much work?

A. Yes and no - originally it was going to be a real pain hot-linking nearly 16,000 place names individually in Acrobat, but we've come up with another solution.

Q. What's that?

A. Sorry, but you'll have to wait and find out.

Q. How are sales going?

A. Pretty good.

Q. Had any feed-back?

A. Yes and interesting too. There's been a lot of enquiries about having specific layers - for example locations of schools - supplied as full size maps with associated data spreadsheets. We're already offering these as a spin-off product.

Q. Any other products in the pipe-line?

A. Sure. We'll have another CD available shortly with just provincial maps on it. We're coming up with new ideas and concepts all the time.

Q. Where do most of these ideas come from?

A. Between the 5th and 8th beers at the Car Club after work. Now can I ask a question?

'Sure, go ahead'

"It's your shout isn't it?"

... And thank you Mr. Dunley.

SURVEYORS' CPD QUIZ

In the United States, when levels are to be run with 2nd order accuracy, the permissible error of closure in a line that forms a closed circuit 50 miles long is

- A. 0.12 ft
- B. 0.25 ft
- C. 0.35 ft
- D. 1.75 ft

Answer "B" was the correct answer to the last question.

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to:
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Members & Other News ...

Everyone's been so good of late its difficult to come up with any tales to tell - Bugger !! So if surveyors can cook, how about some of those famous bush recipes (?) - here's a couple to start of with :

Tin Fish Rissoles : Take two tins of "777" and drain off the juice (save for later). Push the lids hard into the cans and get rid of all excess juice - rinse contents with water. Finely chop two onions and mix in with the tin fish. Chop-up any vegetables left over from before and mix in as well (use leftover rice if you want to). Crunch up two "hardman" biscuits in to crumbs and mix in with a little vinegar and a couple of eggs. Take a fist full of the mixture and form into balls - lightly cover in flour and fry in tinned margarine. Makes about 12 rissoles (depends on what you throw in with the tin fish) - tastes even better the next day when cold.

Spaghetti Marinara : Really simple - open a can of spaghetti and dump on a plate. Open a can of Black & Gold sardines in tomato sauce and pour on top of the spaghetti. Eat without cooking - pretend you're in Rome !!!

"Tetley" Tea : Take a packet of *Bushells* and a hip bottle of OP Rum. Brew a strong tea mix in the billy and half fill an enamel mug. Top up the mug with OP Rum. Try and drink without burning your lips (great at 8,500 feet if you can get the billy to boil).

Rum Bananas : Slice bananas in half and top with sugar - cook in the ashes until skin is burnt on the outside and sugar starts to caramelize. Serve on a plate with a generous topping of straight OP Rum. Eat with your fingers - yummy !!!

Anybody for some light refreshments ????

"Light Refreshments"



Thought for the day...



Life at work is like a tree full of monkeys, all on different limbs at different levels.

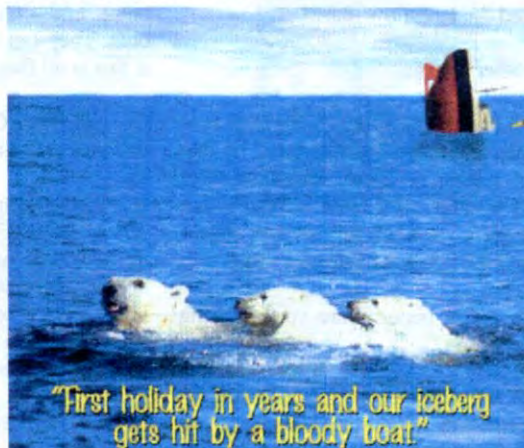
Some monkeys are climbing up, some down.

The monkeys on top look down and see a tree full of smiling faces.

The monkeys on the bottom look up and see nothing but assholes.



SS TITANIC REVISITED



Editorial Comment : Surveyors Can Cook As Well !!

Heading onto 2004 after a welcome break over Xmas and New Year, we can already look forward to the next PNG Survey Congress this coming July. One wonders how many of us will be doing the same thing come July, or even be in the surveying and mapping business.

Its hard times indeed when one of our esteemed surveying colleagues has to run a disco and become a short order cook in order to make ends meet due to the lack of work in surveying. Then again, he does a bloody great job with the disco, and I'm told he's a damn fine cook as well.

From the aerial surveying point of view, there hasn't been one project of any significance in the last 7 or 8 years - not much of an incentive to maintain an operational aircraft in the country. And no justification for a considerable capital outlay or ongoing investment. The same goes for mapping - with the small exception is that one worthwhile project may come along every eighteen months or so.

So what can we do to turn the situation around - especially for the smaller outfits who seem to suffer the most in these difficult situations. Hard to say really. Perhaps we have to be even more innovative than previously, to come up with new ideas, new products, and new marketing strategies. While this is easy to say, its not as easy to do when it comes to professional products and approaches. After all, there is a limit to what we can produce from our training and the equipment available.

With computers and the proliferation of software applications, it may be possible to turn our expertise to other areas. I know of one senior cartographer that is making his mark using computer graphics to produce advertising copy for marketing companies. He would rather be employed in his capacity as a senior cartographer - but with few mapping jobs available, he still needs to support a family.

Perhaps the most positive thing about this situation, is that surveying and mapping professionals are demonstrating the ability to provide versatility when its most required.

- Ed.