

Geo Message

News and events for the geospatial community

May 2024

Locate24 recap



Earlier this month we hosted **Locate24** at the ICC in Sydney. For the first time in the events' 10-year history, we welcomed over 1,000 delegates from all over Australia.

It was an absolute full house for the workshops, concurrent sessions and YEP Forum; and the speakers were all fantastic in the plenary sessions. Thank you to all our speakers, sponsors, delegates, Narelle Underwood, our Locate24 Convenor, conference partners, and our amazing members and broader geospatial community. Locate is only possible through your participation.

Save the date for **Locate25**, which will be taking place as part of the **FIG Working Week in Brisbane**, from 6 - 10 April 2025!

All the photos from Locate24 can be accessed [HERE](#).



2023/2024 Oceanic Geospatial Excellence Award Winners

Congratulations to the 2023/2024 Oceanic Geospatial Excellence Award Winners. Winners were announced at the Locate Awards Dinner on 8th May.

Individual Awards:

- **Professional of the Year Award:** Neil Hewitt
- **Future Leader of the Year Award:** Ben Dawes and Lavender (Qingxiang) Liu (Joint Winners)
- **Diversity and Inclusion Award:** Georgie Cassar
- **Educational Development Award:** Davood Shojaei
- **Postgraduate Student Award:** Thi Mai Nguyen
- **Undergraduate Student Award:** Kyran Cook

Industry Awards:

- **Community Impact Award:** Transport for NSW and FloodMapp for their Transport Emergency and Crisis Co-ordination Hub (TECCH) project.
- **Environment and Sustainability Award:** Spatial Vision, ThinkPlace, and Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water for their Environmental-Economic Accounts Dashboard project.
- **Innovation for Small Business Award:** Revelare Systems for its Spatial Enterprise Cloud Architecture project.
- **Innovation for Medium to Large Business Award:** Victoria's Department of Transport and Planning, and Archistar for their eComply: Digital Twin for Building Compliance project.
- **International Partnership Award:** CSIRO, Geoscience Australia, FrontierSI and Symbios Communications for their Earth Observation for Climate Smart Innovation project.

- **Geospatial Enablement Award:** Geoscience Australia for its National Positioning Infrastructure Capability project.
- **Technical Excellence Award:** Victoria's Department of Transport and Planning for its Pioneering operational Geo-machine learning at scale: Automated waste tyre detection across Victorian Agricultural Land project.
- **Workforce Development and Inclusion Award:** Winyama for its Indigenous Mapping Workshop Narm project.

Special Awards:

- **Bruce Thompson Innovation Award:** Nathan Eaton
- **Peter Woodgate Award:** Glenn Cockerton
- **Hydrographic Excellence Award:** Jasbir Singh Randhawa
- **J.K. Barrie Award for Highest Achievement:** Winyama

Fellowships:

Paul Digney, Technical Director Data Capture for ANZ with Jacobs, former President of the SSSI, and former interim Chair of the GCA, was conferred as an Honorary Fellow.



Geospatial in Schools Awards

The She Maps Geospatial in Schools Awards were also handed out at the Locate24 Awards Dinner. The Geospatial in Schools Awards recognise outstanding achievements of Australian students and teachers in geospatial learning and teaching. They shine a light on those individuals that are considered a driving force in the transfer of geospatial knowledge through curiosity, creativity, and innovation. The Awards are proudly presented by She Maps, and are supported and endorsed by GCA and The Surveyor's Trust.

Congratulations to the 2024 Geospatial in Schools Awards Winners:

- **Innovative Geospatial Teacher 2024:** Simon Miller (Pembroke School, SA)

- **Outstanding Geospatial Student 2024:** Ava Hetherington (Toolooa State High School, QLD)

- **Emerging Geospatial Teacher 2024:** Lauren Dixon (Bray Park State High School, QLD)

The recipients stood out with their passion and enthusiasm with which they integrated geospatial technologies and concepts into their learning and teaching, and the knowledge they share with their peers. We are hopeful that individuals like these will raise awareness of and curiosity for the opportunities within the geospatial industry among our youth.



FIG Working Week 2024 Recap



From 19 – 24 May, more than 1,000 delegates from 90 countries converged in Accra, Ghana, for a highly memorable conference, FIG Working Week 2024. The conference themed “Your World, Our World: Resilient Environment and Sustainable Resource Management for All” included plenary sessions over three mornings where the most challenging topics were tackled. This was supported by a strong technical program from each of the 10 FIG Commissions:

- Commission 1 – Professional Standards and Practice
- Commission 2 – Professional Education
- Commission 3 – Spatial Information Management
- Commission 4 – Hydrography
- Commission 5 – Positioning and Measurement
- Commission 6 – Engineering Surveys
- Commission 7 – Cadastre and Land Management
- Commission 8 – Spatial Planning and Development
- Commission 9 – Valuation and the Management of Real Estate
- Commission 10 - Construction Economics and Management

The opening Ceremony on Sunday 19 May was led by the President of the Republic of Ghana, Nana Akufo-Addo, who spoke passionately about the work of surveyors and allied geospatial professionals. He touched on the topics being addressed at the conference that week, and their importance to many of the issues Ghana faces as a developing nation. He was supported by two of his ministers.

The week was filled with exceptional Ghanaian hospitality, music, drums, and dancing, making it a week to remember for those lucky enough to attend. The GCA Australian Delegation was 22 strong, led by Paul Digney (immediate past president of GCA, representing the Hon Kate Lundy); Peter James, Chair of the Brisbane Local Organising Committee; Tony Wheeler, GCA CEO; Bec Pascoe, GCA National Events Manager, and many other key players. These included, Ryan Keenan, Chair of FIG Commission 5; Rohan Bennett, Chair of FIG Commission 7; Roshni Sharma GCA Director and Co-Chair FIG Climate Compass Taskforce; Narelle Underwood, Executive Director Spatial Services NSW and Surveyor General; Kate Fairlie who stood in for Rob Sarib as spokesperson for the FIG Asia Pacific Capacity Development Network; Ian Harper (Commission 7) and numerous others.





Our Commission Chairs, along with other Commission Chairs, led strong technical programs over three days. Roshni delivered one of the plenary sessions in conjunction with David Elegbede, titled: "Mapping the World a Better Place: The Impact of Young Surveyors on Land Administration and Climate through the VCSP." The VCSP (FIG Young Surveyors Volunteer Community Surveyor Programme) encourages FIG Young Surveyors to volunteer their time and skills to humanitarian and environmental causes to "Map the World

a Better Place." Young Surveyors from across the globe come together, bringing the energy of young blood into the fight for two of the most important issues our generation and world face today: the climate crisis and the lack of equal access to land rights, thereby establishing sustainable development through humanitarian surveying. This session highlighted the considerable achievements of the VCSP to date. Tony Wheeler also chaired a session with the Presidents of the FIG Member Associations from around the world, focusing on developing better ways to collaborate and enabling individual members of each association to benefit from being part of the FIG network.

As part of the closing ceremony, the FIG2025 team, led by Paul Digney and Peter James and supported by team mascot Kenny the Kangaroo, along with the entire Australian delegation in matching polo shirts, provided an entertaining conclusion to entice delegates to Brisbane next year. This was followed by Australian-sponsored drinks at the Ghana Village Bar overlooking the beach.

FIG Working Week 2024 also had mainstream media coverage in Ghana, with the importance of the event and the topics being addressed acknowledged. Brisbane was also mentioned as the location for next year's Working Week. You can view the coverage [HERE](#). There was also a legacy project launched at a local school to excite Ghanaian school students about careers in geospatial. Find out more [HERE](#). All in all it was a fantastic week and we are looking forward to working with FIG to host 2025's event next April!



FIG Working Week 2025 and Locate25 – Get set for Brisbane!

The International Federation of Surveyors (FIG) and GCA are pleased to be hosting the FIG Working Week 2025 from 6-10 April 2025 in Brisbane. Locate2025 will form part of the Working Week which will take place at the Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre.

The overall theme for the Working Week 2025 is 'Collaboration, Innovation and Resilience: Championing a Digital Generation.' It will feature an exciting and insightful technical programme



with local and international practitioners, allied professionals and academics speaking on their field of expertise.

What to expect:

- 1,000 – 1,500 international and national attendees
- 3-day conference
- Pre- and post-events
- 70+ sessions
- 80+ countries represented
- Dedicated networking opportunities
- Comprehensive exhibition

The call for papers and registration will be opening shortly. Please visit: www.fig.net/fig2025/ for more information.

2024 Geospatial Excellence Awards - Nominations are now open!

We are pleased to announce that nominations for the 2024 Geospatial Excellence Awards are now open!

The Geospatial Excellence Awards are the industry's premier platform to celebrate the achievements of top geospatial organisations and individuals, showcasing the finest projects and most significant performance of professionals the industry has to offer. Those attaining recognition through this program are deemed to be truly outstanding achievers in their field.

Categories include:

Industry Awards

- Award for Environment and Sustainability
- Award for Community Impact
- Award for Innovation (Small Business and Medium to Large Business)
- Award for International Partnership
- Award for Technical Excellence
- Award for Workforce Development & Inclusion

Individual Awards

- Professional of the Year Award
- Future Leader of the Year Award
- Diversity & Inclusion Award
- Undergraduate Student Award

- Postgraduate Student Award
- Educational Development Award

CLICK [HERE](#) to download the 2024 Nomination Guide.

All entries must be completed via the online awards portal. CLICK [HERE](#) to commence your submission.



Closing date:

Submissions must be completed, including all supporting documents and images, by **Friday 12 July**.

ESP-AP Certification

Why apply?

Certification in Engineering Surveying officially recognises a person has the necessary knowledge, skills and experience to competently perform engineering surveys and associated activities. It benefits an employee by providing recognition and improved career opportunities, and an employer by increasing client confidence and credibility to customers. We currently have 156 accredited Engineering Surveyors on our Public Register. You can view the full list [HERE](#).

Next Intake Dates: 12 July 2024 and 15 November 2024

To find out more about the application process, or to apply, click [HERE](#)

Value and Benefits of ESP-AP Certification

Elevating careers and setting industry standards, the ESP-AP Certification brings immense value to both individuals and organisations.

For Individuals it can:

- Highlight differentiation in the job market
- Showcase expertise
- Boost professional credibility
- Expand employability opportunities

- Instil client confidence
- Highlight specialist skills essential for complex projects
- Garner industry recognition from both peers and leaders
- Propel careers forward with the prestige of certification

The ESP-AP Certification sets a national standard for competence. Therefore, for Third-Party Organisations, Contractors, Users, and Government Agencies it helps them:

- Access professionals with the right skills
- Ensure high standards in engineering surveying practices
- Instil trust in clients and the public
- Acknowledge and promote excellence in engineering surveying
- Choose certified professionals for enhanced project success
- Distinguish between general core skills and specialist skills (coming later this year)

The ESP-AP is an important industry certification for Engineering Surveyors. It is a way to demonstrate the acquired skills and experience beyond the initial education provided by academic organisations. The accreditation provides a benchmark for employers to assess the skills and experience levels achieved by engineering surveyors against an industry standard. Additionally, the program provides the ability to highlight specialist skills in the engineering surveying areas of expertise.

Craig Sandy LS GAICD, Surveyor-General of Victoria



Open Consultation

Earlier this month at Locate24, we held an open consultation to help us refine and enhance the ESP-AP Certification. Thank you to everyone who attended – your insights are truly invaluable. Furthermore, we are continuing our consultations with industry both nationally and abroad, including related sectors, to ensure the Certification is more widely adopted and continues to meet the needs of our stakeholders.



Certification and CPD Points

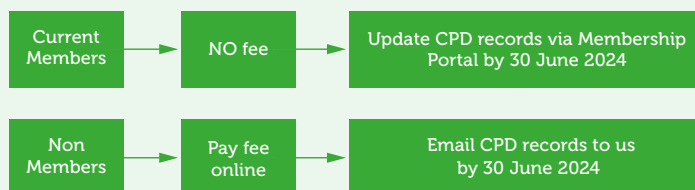
A reminder to all those holding ESP-AP and Hydrographic Certifications: to retain your Certification status, you must meet the minimum 15 CPD points by the end of the financial year.

- ESP-AP Certification: Five out of the 15 CPD points must be Engineering Surveying related.

Important information:

Current Members: No fee is required, however you must update your CPD records via the Membership Portal by 30th June 2024.

Non-Members: Please pay your fee via the online Shop on our website and email your CPD records to: certification@geospatialcouncil.org.au by 30th June 2024



GISP Certification: Keep an eye out for announcements about the potential re-establishment of the GISP certification.

State Library Victoria: Maps that made Melbourne financial appeal

The State Library Victoria's collection of Melbourne survey maps is a missing piece in the story of Melbourne's development. They give an account of streetscapes, civic spaces and social development from a pivotal time in the city's history. However, the thousands of pages of tissue-thin paper with handmade drawings that make up these survey maps are deteriorating, and we risk losing the history forever if they are not preserved and digitised soon. The Library needs to raise \$160,000 before June 30 so that work can start on conserving the oldest and most fragile volumes.

If you are able to provide a donation, please click [HERE](#). Help save a vital collection of survey maps that tell the story of Melbourne's development!





Claire Warren awarded GCA Prize for Academic Excellence

Congratulations to Claire Warren for being awarded the Geospatial Council of Australia Prize at the UNSW School of Civil and Environmental Engineering Prize Giving. This prize was awarded to Claire for 'Academic Excellence.'

Business News

New Report: Economic impact of geospatial services in Australia



Earlier this month at Locate24, the Honourable Kate Lundy, Chair of GCA, launched the preliminary findings of our 'Economic impact of geospatial services in Australia' Report. The Report estimates that by 2033-34, the economic impact of geospatial services in Australia could contribute an additional \$81 billion in GDP. We commissioned the study (with the support of key partner organisations) which was carried out by a team from ACIL Allen.

Key findings:

- The sector in 2023-24 will contribute an additional \$39 billion to Australian GDP and over 12,000 jobs.
- By 2033-34, it is projected that the contribution could be an additional \$81 billion in GDP, and an additional 22,000 jobs, assuming a favourable operating scenario. This is a cumulative gain of around \$650 billion over the next ten years!

These forward-looking projections can be considered conservative as the analysis has yet to include actual impacts from digital twins which are potentially significant. Furthermore, the report breaks down the impact by state and territory. Some other impacts of geospatial can be difficult to quantify and monetize. These are therefore articulated in a series of sector-based case studies that showcase how geospatial services add value across the Australian economy.

The Report can be downloaded [HERE](#).

Nominate a geospatial leader for the Australian of the Year Awards

Nominations for the 65th annual Australian of the Year Awards are now open! The Australian of the Year Awards recognise people who have made a significant contribution to the Australian community. They are likely to be considered an inspirational role model and often someone changing lives and Australian society for the better.

We have a unique opportunity to highlight the outstanding contributions of geospatial professionals. These prestigious awards celebrate individuals who make a positive difference in the lives of others, and it only takes one nomination to elevate the voice of someone truly deserving in our field. By nominating someone, you ensure their efforts do not go unnoticed and help them gain the recognition and support they deserve.

Nominations for the 2025 Awards close at midnight AEST on 31 July 2024.

For more information on the Awards process click [HERE](#).

To nominate a deserving geospatial professional, click [HERE](#).



Spatial Vision appoints Cameron Selkrig as new CEO

Spatial Vision has appointed Cameron Selkrig as its new Chief Executive Officer, with Glenn Cockerton

continuing as the Chairman of Spatial Vision's Board. Cameron brings a wealth of experience and a proven track record of success in the IT, technology commercialisation and consulting fields. With a distinguished career spanning over 20 years, Cameron has held various leadership positions

at prominent companies servicing government and enterprise, and has consistently demonstrated exceptional vision, strategic acumen, and a passion for driving innovation. Commenting on his appointment, Cameron said: "I am honored to be chosen as the CEO of Spatial Vision, a company with a remarkable history of delivering excellence to its customers and making a positive impact across many sectors. Together, we will build on this strong foundation, capitalise on new opportunities, and chart a path of sustained success."

Regulated and Significant Tree Legislation Changes in SA

The South Australian Government is taking immediate action to better protect Adelaide's urban tree canopy and safeguard large, mature trees from destruction. New planning regulations have been introduced to protect a greater number of trees, delivering on the government's commitment to implement Australia's best practice tree protections. Taking immediate effect, the new regulations will protect trees with a smaller trunk circumference. The trunk size for regulated trees will be reduced from two

metres to one metre, while significant trees will go from three metres to two. Exemptions for trees based on distance from homes and pools have also been reduced. Now only trees within three metres from a home or pool will be able to be removed without approval, whereas the old regulations allowed the removal of trees within 10 metres.

A table summary of the changes can be viewed [HERE](#).

Geospatial Council of Australia Upcoming Events

State of GIS (TAS)

Date: 6 June
Time: 12:00pm – 6:00pm
Venue: RACV Hobart Hotel



This event is supported by:



Register [HERE](#).

State of GIS (VIC)

Date: 13 June
Time: 12:00pm – 6:00pm
Venue: Hotel Grand Chancellor



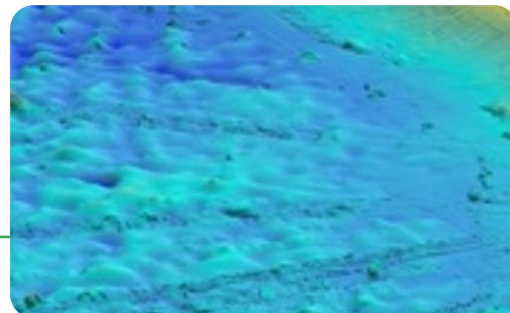
This event is supported by:



Register [HERE](#).

World Hydrography Day

Date: 6 June
Time: 8:30pm – 6:00pm
Venue: Novotel Wollongong Northbeach



This event is supported by:



Register [HERE](#).

Tides Workshop



Date: 24 June
Time: 9:00pm – 5:00pm
Venue: Ecoscience Precinct, QLD

SAVE THE DATE!

2024 VIC Geospatial Conference & Excellence Awards



Date: 9 August
Time: 8:30pm – 6:00pm
Venue: Melbourne Convention & Exhibition Centre

SAVE THE DATE!

Spatial Information Day



Date: 16 August
Time: 9:00pm – 5:00pm
Venue: Adelaide Convention Centre

Register [HERE](#).

This event is supported by:



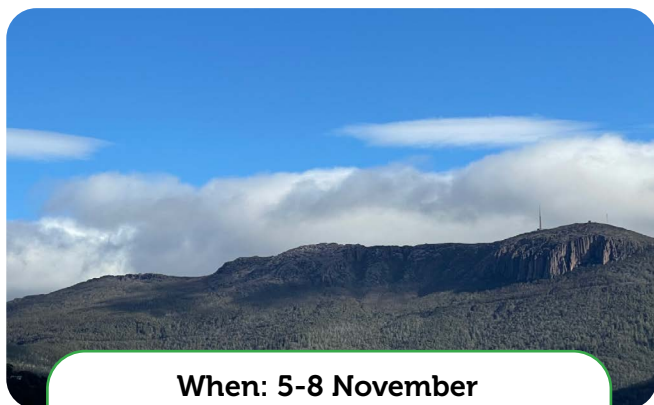
Industry Events

FOSS4G SotM Oceania 2024

Register [HERE](#)

FIG2025 / Locate25

SAVE THE DATE!



When: 5-8 November
Where: Hobart



When: 6-10 April 2025
Where: Brisbane
Venue: Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre

MEET THE MEMBERS



Ben Dawes

General Manager SiteDE

How and why did you join the GCA?

I joined the GCA because I usually end up talking to my friends about what I do, and they get very bored. The GCA community is a great place to meet like-minded people, and learn what they are doing, as well as how they approach problems within the industry.

Where did your interest in surveying/ geospatial technologies come from?

I guess my interest in the industry stems from my love of being outdoors and my dislike for sitting still for longer than 30 minutes. Over time, this initial interest has evolved into a passion for tackling complex and intriguing geospatial problems. I like challenges where I have no idea how to solve them at first. It's also enjoyable to be involved in projects and deliver really complex solutions in a way that looks seamless and 'easy'.

What role do surveying/ geospatial technologies play in your working life?

My surveying background has helped me understand risk and manage what really matters on projects. Although my role and business are far removed from a traditional surveying role, this background has made me meticulous in understanding the root of a problem, not just the surface-level issues.

Our business is heavily involved in the 'latest' technologies, but I firmly believe that technology is a tool for solving problems, not the solution itself. Our industry has changed rapidly year on year, and SiteDE has positioned itself to be technology-agnostic and adaptable based on market needs and requirements.

What are the key benefits that you believe geospatial technologies bring to Australian business and society?

Bringing together complex situations, I feel there is a 'land grab' at the moment for both data and software. There are so many different technologies and solutions to present information. This is a great thing because not long ago, there was nothing in this landscape. Now we have numerous options to connect disparate information and present it in a meaningful way to an extremely varied set of decision-makers.

How does the GCA help its members to innovate and succeed?

Exposure to new approaches and interactions with different and diverse individuals and companies is great. Diversity in thought and understanding is key to being successful, and GCA is as a conduit for this.

What does the future of geospatial hold?

The further we go, the more geospatial will 'disappear'. It is already commonplace in so many realms, but the average person has no idea they are creating geospatial data. Everything has a position, and there are great opportunities around mixing disciplines and datasets and bringing it all together to inform major decisions. Our industry is extremely well-placed to be a conduit and manager of these data streams. I am always excited when someone not in the industry realises the potential applications of what we do.

What are some notable awards or significant milestones in your career related to geospatial technologies?

One of the coolest jobs I've had was building a remote-control cart from scratch and taking it 15 meters underground and up a 300-meter-long sewer pipe. The goal was to ensure the sewer pipe didn't intersect with a major underground tunnel being built. We faced numerous technical challenges, but we relied heavily on process and first principles from surveying to achieve a rock-solid outcome for the client.



What do you do outside of your work in the industry (family, hobbies, interests, sports, pets etc)

Currently we have a second child on the way, so the majority of my time is spent making sure our first child is happy. We are also trying to re-build a 1940s cottage; so making sure

my toddler uses her tools and not mine is a very high priority! I love my garden and spend most of my time pretending I am Costa without a beard. I also love being near trees. I have an Instagram account with just pictures of trees with no followers.



The Geospatial Council of Australia is very keen to gather feedback on GeoMessage and the value it delivers to our Members. Please let us know what you would like to see in our next edition by emailing any feedback or comments to comms@geospatialcouncil.org.au