

REGIONAL CONFERENCE SERIES

VIC Conference and Awards Dinner Recap

On Friday 9th August, we kicked off our annual geospatial conference series in Victoria! What a fantastic day we had with insightful sessions and panel discussions, followed by our Geospatial Excellence Awards Dinner.

We are pleased to announce the 2024 Geospatial Excellence Award Winners for Victoria:

Industry Awards

- **Environment & Sustainability Award:** Nova Systems Australia and New Zealand and the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action for their Native Vegetation Regulation Map
- **Community Impact Award:** The Department of Transport and Planning and Esri for their School Crossing Risk Assessment Framework
- **Innovation Award (Medium to Large Businesses):** FrontierSI, RMIT University, the Department of Transport and Planning, and SmartSat CRC for Dynamic Vicmap
- **Innovation Award (Small Business):** Esper Satellite Imagery for 'Over The Rainbow' - Australia's First Commercial EO Sat
- **International Partnership Award:** Spatial Vision for their Pacific Islands Geospatial Skills Development Program

- **Technical Excellence Award:** The Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action, 1Spatial, Spatial Partners Pty Ltd, Jirotech, CSIRO, Spatial Vision, GeoCat bv, Datacom, and AWS for DEECA's Enterprise Spatial Data Platform Transformation
- **Workforce Development and Inclusion Award:** Australian Spatial Analytics for Acciona: Employment Transition Program for geospatial and digital engineering.



Individual Awards

- **Postgraduate Student Award:** Foad Brakhasi
- **Undergraduate Student Award:** Rebecca Thomas
- **Future Leader of the Year Award:** Ben Vordermaier
- **Professional of the Year Award:** Bruce Baker
- **Educational Development Award:** Qian (Chayn) Sun

The following special awards were also presented:

Vicmap Custodian Award: Alpine Resorts Victoria



Excellence in Geographic Place Naming Award:

Bass Coast Shire Council and Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation for their excellence in the naming process of Berninnet Community Centre, and Mildura Rural City Council and Mildura Historical Society for their excellence in the process of naming several roads after pioneering Mildura women.

Sustained Excellence in Cadastral Surveying Award:

Neville Brayley



Spatial Information Day and Awards Dinner Recap

On Friday 16th August, we hosted our annual Spatial Information Day (SID) in Adelaide. The program featured a range of insightful sessions, including a keynote from the Honourable Nick Champion MP on how spatial data can assist with the housing crisis, as well as talks on keeping GIS data accurate, tackling climate change vulnerability, and the latest in GNSS tech. A big thank you to Graham Walker, our SA Chair, for bringing it all together. SID was followed by our South Australian Geospatial Excellence Awards Dinner.

We are pleased to announce the 2024 Geospatial Excellence Award Winners for South Australia:

Industry Awards

- **Environment & Sustainability Award:** Green Adelaide and Department for Environment and Water, in partnership with other state government agencies and 18 councils across Adelaide, for its Urban Heat and Tree Canopy Mapping Project



- **Community Impact Award:** The City of Adelaide for City Plan 2036
- **Technical Excellence Award:** Office of the Surveyor-General – SA, Department for Housing & Urban Development – Planning & Land Use Services, for PlanSA

- Innovation Award (Medium to Large Businesses):** Department of Treasury & Finance, Office for Data Analytics, SA State Emergency Services, South Australian Country Fire Service, South Australian Metropolitan Fire Service, South Australia Police, SA Ambulance Service, Department of the Premier and Cabinet, Government of South Australia, South Australian Fire and Emergency Services Commission (SAFECOM), SA Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water, SA Department of Infrastructure and Transport, SA Attorney Generals Department, Department for Education, South Australia, and SA Department for Health and Wellbeing for The Situational Awareness for Emergencies Data Platform
- Workforce Development and Inclusion Award:** The Surveyors Board of South Australia for Surveying SA

Individual Awards

- Diversity and Inclusion Award:** Felicity Dennis
- Undergraduate Student Award:** Natarsha McPherson
- Future Leader of the Year Award:** Claire Fisk
- Professional of the Year Award:** Joe D'Aloia
- Educational Development Award:** Scott Allen

Congratulations to all our winners!

It was also fantastic to have the the Women in Geospatial Science (WGS) network attend SID. WGS advocates for greater participation and recognition of women in the South Australian geospatial industry and encourages women in geospatial science to realise their potential.

To find out more, or to get involved, click [HERE](#).



We are looking forward to bringing the rest of the 2024 Geospatial Regional Conference series to you over the next three months. These Conferences offer a dynamic platform to dive deep into the latest technologies, trends, and best practices shaping our industry. Take a look over the next couple of pages to find out what's happening in your state!



Queensland – Thursday, 5 September

Registrations close today, 30th August! Last chance for sponsorship!

The program for our upcoming QLD Conference is officially LIVE! Get ready to dive into the latest in GenAI, surveying, hydrography, construction, mapping, spatial, and GIS. Whether you're an industry veteran or just starting, there's something for everyone. Registration includes access to the 2024 QLD Geospatial Excellence Awards Cocktail Function.

Make sure you book your place [HERE!](#)

If you would like to be an event sponsor, please contact Claire Gerber.



Tasmania – Friday, 20 September

Registrations open today!

From experts in surveying, GIS, remote sensing, hydrography, geospatial analysis, or cartography, this conference is your opportunity to gain invaluable insights, forge strategic partnerships, and unlock new avenues for growth and innovation. Whether you're seeking to expand your skill set, explore new technologies, or simply connect with like-minded professionals, our conference is your gateway to success in the ever-evolving world of geospatial technology.

Register [HERE](#)



North Queensland – Friday, 11 October

Call for abstracts closing today!

The call for presentations for our annual North Queensland Conference in Cairns is currently open. Make sure you submit your abstract by Friday, 30th August! Don't miss the chance to connect and share your stories with fellow geospatial experts and enthusiasts alike.

Upload your abstract [HERE](#)





Western Australia, Friday 8 November

Call for abstracts!

The call for abstracts for the WA Geospatial Conference is currently open until Friday, 13th September. The WA Conference will take place at one of Perth's newest and most unique venues - The Maali at Perth Zoo. This year's event will be a unique experience in a venue designed to encourage discussion, networking and to showcase the latest in innovation and technology.

Submit your abstract [HERE](#).



ACT – Thursday, 21 November

Save the date!

The last of our regional conferences for 2024 is the ACT Geospatial Conference & Excellence Awards, which will be held at the Mercure Belconnen on Thursday 21 November. Registration and call for abstracts will open soon.

Make sure you save the date!

Enhance Your Brand Presence

Get in front of the decision makers and make an impact at our Conferences. The Regional Conference Series provides an opportunity to enhance brand visibility across event marketing channels and access to this highly sought after face-to-face business networking space.



Why take part?

- Position yourself as a market leader
- Benefit from brand exposure before, during, and after the event
- Networking opportunities
- Elevate your company's profile with a presentation in the conference program (Major Partners only)

For information on opportunities at any of our conferences, please contact our National Partnerships Manager, [Claire Gerber](#).

GCA Membership

Join GCA and Save: Get 10% off your Membership when you attend a Regional Conference.

Have you considered becoming an Individual Member of GCA? By joining, you will become part of a community of forward-thinking professionals dedicated to raising awareness of the value of the geospatial sector for the benefit of all Australians. We have a variety of memberships on offer including free student memberships, discounted graduate memberships, and full professional memberships. And right now, **new members can enjoy a 10% discount on membership when attending one of our regional conferences.** In the coming weeks, you will receive an email with a discount code to join, so please keep an eye out!

To view a full list of our membership benefits, click [HERE](#).



A message from the GCA GDARS Committee

GCA's GDARS committee members have reflected on the deaths of two international scientists and academics who had contributed greatly to the science and application of remote sensing and photogrammetry, and their Asian and International professional societies: Dr Lal Samrakoon and Professor Gottfried Konecny.



Dr Lal Samarakoon passed away after a short illness on Friday the 12th of July 2024 at the age of 69. He was a major contributor to the success of the Asian Association on Remote Sensing and their annual conferences both for his role as Secretary and council member, and most recently for his contribution to this year's conference being held in his home country, Sri Lanka. Dr Samrakoon was the first Director of the Geoinformatics Centre at the Asian Institute of Technology Bangkok, a former Co-chair of the Sentinel Asia Steering Committee, and a Visiting Scientist with JAXA the Japanese Aerospace Exploration Agency.



Professor Gottfried Konecny, ISPRS Honorary Member and Past President, and the former head of the Institute of Photogrammetry and GeoInformation in Hanover, Germany, passed away peacefully on Thursday 25 July 2024 at the age of 94. In the second half of the 20th century, Prof Konecny played a key role worldwide in shaping his field, and is regarded as the European father of remote sensing. From the beginning of his work in Hanover in 1971 until his retirement in 1998, he inspired generations of students for photogrammetry, remote sensing and GIS, and continued to actively shape the field until shortly before his death. (ISPRS, 2024)

Our thoughts are with Lal and Gottfried's family and friends at this very sad time.



Position Magazine.

The latest edition of Position magazine will have reached GCA full-financial members' desks by now – but if you're working remotely and can't access it, you can access the digital issue via the member portal.

For instant updates on what's happening in the industry, be sure to follow Position Magazine and Spatial Source online:

 [Position magazine & SpatialSource.com.au](https://www.linkedin.com/company/position-magazine-spatialsource)

 www.spatialsource.com.au

Design... Engineer... Construct! Winner

From the first steam-powered locomotives to today's high-speed trains, railways have always been at the forefront of innovation and are a marvel of engineering – connecting continents, powering economies and transforming societies throughout history. Today's design, engineering and construction professionals are creating more sustainable ways of travelling worldwide – pushing the boundaries of eco-friendly design and technology to reduce the carbon footprint of travel and preserve natural resources and biodiversity.

Caring for our planet has never been more important, so Class of Your Own (COYO) challenged secondary school teams (age 11-16) to design a NET ZERO rail station; a community hub that stands out as a beacon of sustainability, inclusivity and cutting-edge innovation, and a route that connects to a mainline station.

There were some extraordinary entries and the judges, Ian Watkins of Mott MacDonald, Elaine Lewis of Cadventure and Iain Miskimmin and Stefan Mordue of Bentley Systems, had the toughest of jobs choosing a winner on 14th August. BUT THEY COULD ONLY CHOOSE ONE TEAM, and that team delivered an entry that, in the words of the judges, *"read like a professional standard, comprehensive stage 2 report. Congratulations to our worthy winner."*

The Winner of the COYO Challenge 2024 is: Uptown International School, Dubai, United Arab Emirates.



We would like to congratulate Uptown International School as well as three Australian schools who made it into the finals: Kilvington Grammar School, St Joseph's Primary School, and Wavell State High School.

A huge WELL DONE to all the teams around the world who took part and worked so hard to deliver their amazing schemes!

FIG Working Week 2025 and Locate25: Save the date!

This year, Locate25 is being held as part of the FIG Working Week 2025, taking place at the Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre, from Sunday 6 – Thursday 10 April.

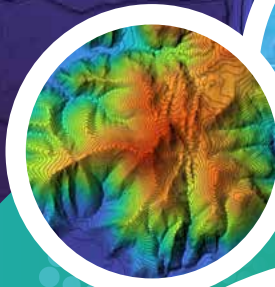
Join us to gain unparalleled access to the international surveying and geospatial community. This event offers a platform to exchange experiences and stay at the forefront of the industry, covering topics such as innovation, resilience, and sustainability.

The call for papers and registration will be opening shortly.

Locate25 
THE NATIONAL GEOSPATIAL CONFERENCE



**WORKING
WEEK 2025**



Destination Partner

Queensland
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HYDROGRAPHY

Elections 2024: Australian hydrographic surveyors certification panel

This week the GCA appointed three successful nominees to seats on the internationally recognised Australasian Hydrographic Surveyors Certification Panel (AHSCP).

Effective from September 2024 for a period of two years, Rhys Davies (S+SNZ) will be the new Nautical Charting Hydrography representative, Neville Benson (GCA) the new Education representative and Katherine Butcher (GCA) has been re-elected to the seat of Industrial Offshore Surveying. They will join the existing Panel members Barry Smith (Hydrography for Coastal Zone Management), Neil Hewitt (Private Practice), and Chair Commodore Robyn Phillips (Hydrographer of Australia).

"The importance of the AHSCP only continues to grow," GCA CEO Tony Wheeler said. "It is a vital element for the professionalisation of the hydrographic workforce."

Key to the ongoing success of the AHSCP is the dynamic membership of the Panel, and the five members represent all segments of the hydrographic survey industry.

The AHSCP is comprised of six members – Chair and ex-officio member, the Hydrographer of Australia, currently

CDRE Robyn Phillips, and five elected members who serve a two-year term. In order to maintain continuity, AHSCP elections run annually and alternate between two members elected one year and three the following. Nominations will be held in 2025 for the positions of Private Practice and Hydrography for Coastal Zone Management.

"GCA wishes to thank CAPT Dean Battilana RAN, Katherine Butcher and Ian Phillips, the AHSCP Panellists in the positions that have just completed a term of service – or in Dean's case, two terms," Wheeler said.

The GCA and Survey and Spatial New Zealand (S+SNZ) Professional Certification in Hydrographic Surveying is formal recognition that the AHSCP has rigorously assessed a person's hydrographic surveying competence, based on their experience and education. The FIG / IHO / ICA International Board on Standards of Competence for Hydrographic Surveyors and Nautical Cartographers (IBSC) has recognised the AHSCP Scheme since 2012 and is widely recognised globally as the industry-leading scheme for assessing a hydrographic surveyor's competency.

GeoMessage caught up with the three AHSCP Panellists who served 2022-2024 – or in Dean's case, from 2020-2024! In next month's GeoMessage we will learn a little more about the three newly-elected AHSCP Panel members for 2024-2026



**CAPT Dean Battilana
RAN, Outgoing AHSCP
'Hydrography for Education'
Representative, 2020-2024**

Why did you choose to nominate to be on the AHSCP Panel?

"I nominated in 2020 and have served for the past four years on the Panel. I nominated because I have a passion for education and I wanted to 'give back' to the hydrography community, and I am only moving on now as my current professional role has moved to a different area within Navy."

What have you learned from your time on the AHSCP Panel?

"Having gone through the Navy training process and undergone Cat B and Cat A courses, I have now gained a greater understanding and appreciation of how difficult it is for people in our industry to gain appropriate qualifications.

It has been richly rewarding to dive into the intricacies of the education piece, and seeing the sheer breadth of achievement and dedication that so many in our industry have.

Capt Dean Battilana



**Katherine Butcher,
Re-elected AHSCP Industrial
Offshore Surveying
representative, 2022-2026**

Why did you choose to nominate to be on the AHSCP Panel?

"The opportunity to nominate came about just after I have gained my Level 1 certification - on the second attempt. I was interested to know how the certification process worked and to gain more understanding of how it relates to surveyors from an offshore/industrial survey background."

What have you learned from your time on the AHSCP Panel?

"I have enjoyed working with the panellists and with the other dedicated people from AHO and GCA who contribute a huge amount of time and effort to the longest running, continuously recognised professional certification scheme for hydrographic surveyors worldwide.

Being on the panel has shown me how much time and thought goes into reviewing each and every application. Once each panellist has completed their own reviews, we then get together online, and discuss each applicant until an agreement is reached.

Katherine Butcher



**Ian Phillips, Outgoing
AHSCP 'Nautical Charting
Hydrography' representative,
2022-2024**

Why did you choose to nominate to be on the AHSCP Panel?

"Being nominated provided me with the opportunity to expand my professional knowledge and network while contributing to the advancement of the profession. I encourage anyone considering this opportunity to take the leap."

What have you learned from your time on the AHSCP Panel?

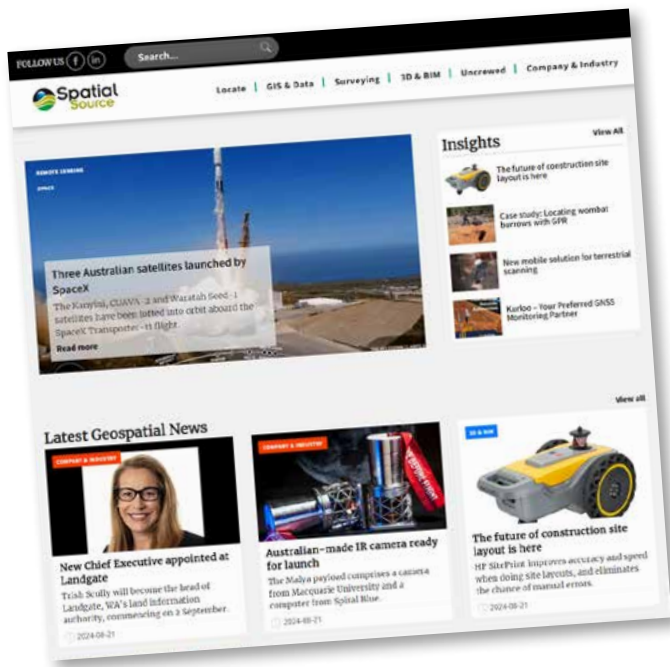
"Serving on the Panel has been an excellent learning experience. The diversity of certification applications, each reflecting an individual's unique journey toward professional excellence has broadened my perspective and deepened my appreciation for the nuances of planning and conducting high-quality surveys.

I am grateful for the opportunity to collaborate with the Panel members—dedicated and passionate individuals who generously volunteer their time for the profession they clearly love.

Although the role can be demanding, the rewards make it well worth the effort.

Ian Phillips

Business News



Stay current with daily geospatial news

Spatial Source, the online presence of Position magazine, has been keeping the Australasian geospatial sector up to date for more than a decade. Featuring news, interviews, product releases and event announcements, it's your daily source for all that's happening in your professional sector.

Check it out at www.SpatialSource.com.au, and make sure you **subscribe to the free weekly newsletter.**

Three Australian satellites launched by SpaceX

In a major milestone for the Australian space sector, three homegrown satellites were lofted into orbit on Saturday, 17 August, aboard the SpaceX Transporter-11 flight.

The three satellites are:

- The South Australian-government-funded Kanyini, a collaboration between SmartSat CRC, Inovor and Myriota;
- CUAVA-2, the second satellite launched under the aegis of the ARC Training Centre for CubeSats, UAVs, and their Applications (CUAVA); and

- Waratah Seed-1, a NSW Government-part-funded pilot project to space qualify and launch NSW-developed technologies.

Tony Wheeler, CEO of GCA said:

The success of the design, build and launch of these three spacecraft are important steps to building Australia's own capability, expertise and sovereign space-based imaging assets - controlled by Australia.

Tony Wheeler

You can read the full article [HERE](#)



Trish Scully appointed as Landgate Chief Executive

Trish Scully has been appointed as Chief Executive of Landgate, Western Australia's land information authority. Trish will commence her role as of 2 September 2024. According to the WA Government, the appointment came following an extensive search and a comprehensive recruitment process, which included selection panel representation from both the property sector and public sector. She comes to the role with nearly 30 years of experience in auditing, finance, strategy, project and general management under her belt. Trish led the Landgate project team that helped deliver \$1.4 billion in value from the partial commercialisation of the agency's automated land titling functions, and was responsible for securing a \$140 million, 10-year commitment from the WA Government for Spatial WA, a project to deliver an Advanced Spatial Digital Twin for the State.



To find out more, click [HERE](#).

Industry Events



ISNSW/AIMS Central Western Regional Group Seminar

The program will feature content tailored to both mining and cadastral surveyors!

When: Friday, 6 September 2024

Time: 9:00am - 5:00pm

**Where: Dubbo RSL - 178 Brisbane St,
Dubbo NSW 2830**

CPD Points: 5.25 CAD, 1.5 SP

Register [HERE](#)

ISNSW/ACT Seminar

Join ISNSW for a fun and informative evening featuring presentations by industry leaders on digital plans, regulatory changes, and the latest updates from ISNSW and the ACT Office of the Surveyor-General.



When: Tuesday, 10 September
Time: 2:30pm - 7:00pm
**Where: Office of the Surveyor-General
 ACT - 480 Northbourne Ave,
 Dickson ACT**

Register [HERE](#)



GeoRabble – Perth!

Date: 11 September
Venue: The Shoe, Yagan Square
**Time: Doors open 5:30pm,
 'rabbling starts at 6:00pm**

Free tickets [HERE](#)



The C.R Kennedy Survey Cup

WAIS, in collaboration with GCA WA is thrilled to host this year's Survey Cup on Friday, 1 November 2024, at Maylands Peninsula Public Golf Course. This event is a fantastic opportunity to network, enjoy an afternoon of golf, and compete for glory!

Register [HERE](#)

FOSS4G SotM Oceania 2024

Register [HERE](#)

When: 5-8 November

Where: Hobart



ISNSW 57th Annual Golf Day

Gather your friends, colleagues, or fellow golf enthusiasts and mark your calendars for a day of friendly competition, and camaraderie.

[Register now to secure your spot!!](#)



FIG2025 / Locate25

SAVE THE DATE!

When: 6-10 April 2025

Where: Brisbane

Venue: Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre

Geospatial Council of Australia Upcoming Events

QLD Geospatial Conference and Excellence Awards

Date: 5 September
Time: 8:30am – 7:30pm
Venue: Brisbane Convention
& Exhibition Centre

Register [HERE](#)

This event is proudly supported by:

MAJOR PARTNERS:

APAC Geospatial | UniSQ | THE SURVEYORS' TRUST

C.R. Kennedy | GPOne

sphere drones | spatial

CONFERENCE EXHIBITORS: UPG | kurloo

EVENT SUPPORTER: MapGear

Utilising Geospatial Technology for Emergency Services

Date: 19 September
Time: 5:00pm to 8:00pm
Venue: Stock Exchange Hotel,
Brisbane

Register [HERE](#)

Proudly organised by the GCA Queensland
Young and Emerging Professional



**YOUNG AND EMERGING
PROFESSIONALS**



TAS Geospatial Conference and Excellence Awards

Date: 20 September
Time: 8:30am – 6:00pm
Venue: Hotel Grand Chancellor

Register [HERE](#)

This event is proudly supported by:

MAJOR PARTNERS:

APAC Geospatial
Remote sensing of the real world

C.R.Kennedy
GEOSPATIAL SOLUTIONS

PelicanCorp

CONFERENCE EXHIBITORS:

UPG

EVENT SUPPORTER:

MapGear

Geospatial Site Visit: Airborne Research Australia (SA)

Date: 26 September
Time: 2:00pm - 4:00pm
Venue: Airborne Research Australia

Register [HERE](#)



MEET THE MEMBERS



Chayn Sun (also known as Qian Sun), Associate Professor of Geospatial Science, RMIT University

How and why did you join the GCA?

I originally joined SSSI many years ago as a student but lost track of my membership over time. Recently, I

rejoined GCA because I believe it's essential to stay active within our professional network. I take pride in being a member and consistently encourage my students to join as well.

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

I was introduced to the GIS postgraduate program at the University of Auckland, New Zealand, by Joy Chen, who later became a close friend and mentor. Initially, I enrolled in two GIS courses to explore the field, and I quickly found it fascinating. Shortly afterward, I secured a position at the Auckland City Council, where I worked on digitizing parking restrictions, creating what I believe was the first spatial dataset for this purpose. I also mapped council-level incidents, which, while simple by today's standards, received high praise from the environmental management team. My first GIS job at the Auckland City Council gave me a profound sense of satisfaction.

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

Throughout my career, I've worked as a GIS analyst in both government and consultancy roles in New Zealand and Australia, which provided a strong foundation in practical GIS skills and applications. After completing my PhD, I transitioned into research, focusing on urban vegetation change and its impact on urban heat, further deepening my passion for using geospatial technologies to address real-world challenges. As a lecturer and supervisor, I take great pride in encouraging my students to stay current with the latest technologies and advocating for the integration of geospatial technologies in their work and research. This commitment to innovation is reflected in my projects, which include the use of GeoAI, spatial digital twins, and the spatial

metaverse. Collaborating with international researchers and experts from various fields has also given me numerous opportunities to showcase the transformative power of geospatial technologies.

I have also been active in promoting geospatial applications through public channels, such as talking on ABC broadcast, writing blogs, journal articles, and contributing to non-academic news outlets. One thing I would like to mention is that I introduce the Hoddle Grid background to illustrate the critical role of surveying in urban planning. By discussing how Robert Hoddle's grid system helped shape Melbourne's development, I aim to highlight the profound impact of geospatial technologies on the growth and organisation of modern cities, and to foster a greater appreciation for the field's contributions to urban development. This helps all my visitors and friends gain an understanding of the Hoddle Grid and the crucial role of surveying in shaping Melbourne, as well as its broader impact on urban planning across Australia.



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

Using my own research background and ongoing projects, I can say that Geospatial technologies offer significant benefits to Australian business and society by enhancing our ability to address complex challenges and improve overall quality of life. Here are some key benefits:

- **Climate Change Intervention and Mitigation:** Geospatial technologies play a critical role in monitoring and managing climate change impacts. For example, my research into urban vegetation change and its effects on urban heat uses geospatial data to develop strategies for climate adaptation and mitigation. This helps businesses and governments make informed decisions to reduce carbon footprints and enhance resilience to climate-related events.
- **Addressing Environmental and Social Inequity:** By analysing spatial data, we can identify and address environmental and social inequities. Geospatial technologies enable us to map and understand disparities in access to resources, services, and environmental quality. This insight supports targeted interventions and policies aimed at promoting fairness and improving conditions in underprivileged areas.
- **Enhancing Liveability:** Geospatial technologies contribute to every aspect of liveability, from urban planning and infrastructure development to public health and safety. They provide valuable information for optimising city layouts, improving transportation systems, and managing natural resources, all of which enhance the quality of life for residents.
- **Achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):** Geospatial technologies are instrumental in tracking progress toward the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. They support goals such as sustainable cities and communities, climate action, and responsible consumption by providing data-driven insights that guide effective policies and actions.

Overall, geospatial technologies are essential for advancing sustainability, equity, and resilience in Australian society and beyond, offering powerful tools to tackle a wide range of contemporary challenges.

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

I think the GCA is a great platform and professional network that supports members across various career stages. It facilitates valuable connections and mentorship opportunities, which are crucial for personal and professional growth. The seminars organised by the GCA are particularly beneficial, as they introduce cutting-edge technologies and emerging trends in the geospatial field. Additionally, the events hosted by the GCA foster social interaction and collaboration, sparking new ideas and innovations. Overall, the GCA provides a supportive environment where members can stay informed, share knowledge, and advance their careers in the geospatial industry. I always encourage my students to join, so they too can benefit from these resources and opportunities.

What does the future of geospatial hold?

Wow, this is a big question, but I always feel optimistic about the future of geospatial technologies and their contributions to technology, science, and society. Geospatial technology is rapidly evolving, with advancements such as GeoAI, spatial digital twins, and the spatial metaverse offering exciting possibilities. These innovations promise to revolutionise how we understand and interact with our world, providing deeper insights and more precise solutions to complex problems.

In the future, we can expect geospatial technologies to play an even more integral role in addressing global challenges, such as climate change, urban planning, and



resource management. The ability to integrate and analyse vast amounts of spatial data will enhance our capacity for informed decision-making and predictive modeling. Moreover, as these technologies become more accessible and sophisticated, they will continue to drive innovation across various sectors, improving our quality of life and supporting sustainable development goals. Overall, the future of geospatial is incredibly promising, with the potential to significantly impact and advance multiple facets of society.

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

I have achieved some notable awards and milestones in my career related to geospatial technologies, such as receiving a paper award at a spatial journal, received grants and being recognised as an established researcher. However, nowadays, I find that my students’ achievements are the most meaningful milestones for my career. I take great pride in their success, whether it’s celebrating their qualifications, witnessing their research papers being published, or seeing them advance in their careers. Their accomplishments reflect the impact of my work and are a true testament to the value of investing in the next generation of geospatial professionals. One recent achievement that I consider significant is the development of two innovative digital twins by my master’s students. One student created a responsive flood digital twin, while

“Geospatial is an incredibly underrated field—it’s time we work together to advocate for it and inspire the next generation.”

Chayn Sun

another developed a virtual flood digital twin that allows us to replay the 2022 flood event in the Maribyrnong catchment area and interact using VR equipment. These projects not only demonstrate advanced geospatial technology but also provide valuable tools for understanding and managing flood events.

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

Outside of my work in the industry, I live in a mountainous area where I enjoy hiking and birdwatching. The natural surroundings provide a great escape and allow me to connect with nature, which is both relaxing and inspiring. But haha, I still find ways to link these activities to research opportunities. For instance, I have a new PhD student interested in biodiversity, and I’m eager to take some field trips to capture biodiversity footprints—possibly through soundscapes or smellscapes. These experiences not only enrich my personal life but also inspire and inform my professional research



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