

Geo Message

News and events for the geospatial community

September 2024

REGIONAL CONFERENCE SERIES

NSW Awards Dinner Recap

On Friday, 30th August, we hosted the NSW Awards Dinner at L'Aqua in Darling Harbour. Thank you to our NSW Chair, Brittany Baker, for being a fantastic MC for the evening.

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



Industry Awards

- **Environment & Sustainability Award:** Arup for its Digital Environmental Impact Statement for the Sydney Terminal Building Revitalisation Project (STBRP)
- **Community Impact Award:** Disaster Relief Australia – GIS Team for “Big Map”
- **Innovation Award (Medium to Large Business):** FrontierSI, UNSW, MapAI, ID Consulting, Geelong Council, and Tamworth Council for MapAI

- **Innovation Award (Small Business):** Anditi and Main Roads Western Australia for its Main Roads Western Australia Network LiDAR Project
- **Technical Excellence Award:** UNSW City Futures Research Centre and FrontierSI for MapAI
- **Workforce Development and Inclusion Award:** FrontierSI for its Launching Leaders Inclusive Internship Program

Individual Awards

- **Postgraduate Student Award:** Chang Liu
- **Professional of the Year Award:** D'Arcy Roche
- **Educational Development Award:** Craig Roberts



QLD Geospatial Conference and Awards Reception Recap

On Thursday, 5th September, we hosted our QLD Geospatial Conference in Brisbane, featuring an exciting program packed with insights and innovations. Key highlights included a deep dive into MapAI – a cutting-edge generative AI tool for the geospatial industry that combines the intelligence of ChatGPT with the power of location data. We also explored Inland Rail, Australia’s largest freight rail project and one of the most significant rail infrastructure projects globally. The conference featured dedicated streams on construction and monitoring, spatial resources, mapping, spatial technologies, and the evolving spatial workforce.

The Conference was followed by an Awards Reception for the QLD Geospatial Excellence Awards.

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

Industry Awards

- **Environment & Sustainability Award:** The Wilderness Society for Watch on Nature
- **Community Impact Award:** Jacobs for the Arts Queensland Cultural Centre
- **Innovation Award (Medium to Large Business):** Australian Spatial Analytics for its Talent Services (Employment Transition Program)
- **Innovation Award (Small Business):** Locatrix, NSW Police, Queensland Fire and Emergency Services, and Queensland Police Service for its Emergency Services Platform



- **Technical Excellence Award:** Cancer Council Queensland and the Queensland University of Technology for its Australian Cancer Atlas 2.0
- **Workforce Development and Inclusion Award:** Australian Spatial Analytics and the Department of Resources (Queensland) for the Department of Resources: Employment Transition Program for geospatial data analysts

Individual Awards

- **Diversity and Inclusion Award:** Geoffrey Smith
- **Postgraduate Student Award:** Sijan Bhandari
- **Future Leader of the Year Award:** Ben Gan



TAS Geospatial Conference and Awards Reception Recap

On Friday, 20th September, we hosted our TAS Geospatial Conference in Launceston. Highlights from the program included hearing about a digital twin for coastal zone and mangrove management in the Torres Strait Islands, an innovation showcase from the University of Tasmania, and collaboration opportunities for small jurisdictions.

The Conference was followed by an Awards Reception for the TAS Geospatial Excellence Awards.

- **Technical Excellence Award:** Tasmania State Emergency Service, Mineral Resources Tasmania, and the Department of Premier and Cabinet for its Tasmanian Strategic Flood Map - Baseline Risk Assessment

Individual Awards

Professional of the Year Award: Alex Leith

Congratulations to all our winners!

We are looking forward to bringing the remaining 2024 Geospatial Regional Conference series to you over the next couple of 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!



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

Industry Awards

- **Innovation Award (Medium to Large Business):** Veris for its Hellyer Gold Mine Tailings Monitoring
- **Innovation Award (Small Business):** Auspicious, FrontierSI and the CEOS Systems Engineering Office for The Cloud Native Geospatial for Earth Observation Workshop



North Queensland – Friday, 11 October

Registration closes 4 October

The program is now live for our annual North Queensland Conference in Cairns. Don't forget to register by Friday, 4th October!

Register [HERE](#)



Western Australia – Friday, 8 November

Call for abstracts

The call for abstracts for the WA Geospatial Conference is open until the end of the month. Taking 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 designed to encourage discussion, networking, showcasing of the latest in innovation and technology.

Submit your abstract [HERE!](#)



ACT - Thursday 21, November

Call for abstracts

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. Call for abstracts is now open. We are seeking abstracts on various aspects of geospatial innovation, including open collaboration practices, simplifying workflow process, AI & geospatial integration, and blending technology and resources. Share your expertise and contribute to a richer dialogue on how to harness geospatial technology for impactful results.

Submit your abstract [HERE!](#)



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

For information on opportunities at any of our conferences please contact our National Partnerships Manager, Claire Gerber.



GCA seeking up to two new Board Directors

As we continue our mission to advance the geospatial and space sectors nationally, we are excited to announce an opportunity for two GCA Members to join the GCA Board and contribute to the organisation's leadership. Our aim is to attract high-calibre candidates who have a proven track record of good governance and are highly respected in the circles in which they are known, and whose views will be respected by the most senior levels of government.

Nominations are open to both individual voting members and employees of organisational members. If you are an employee of an organisational member, please ensure that you have received your employer's agreement to join the GCA Board if your nomination is successful.

Ideal candidates should demonstrate governance expertise, hold formal director or governance qualifications, and have relevant director experience. A passion for the geospatial and space sectors, compliance and risk management skills, and Australian residency are also key criteria.

Nominations close on Monday, 30th September, at 12 pm AEDT.

You can complete the nomination form [HERE](#).

Organisational Members

A reminder for all our Organisational Members: please ensure you nominate one member for voting purposes at the Annual AGM. Please contact our Memberships Officer with the details: membership@geospatialcouncil.org.au



Take the Inclusive Employer Index '24 and WIN a ticket to Locate25/FIG Working Week

GCA is proud to support the 2024 Space, Spatial and Surveying Inclusive Employer Index '24, and we encourage everyone in our sector to participate. This survey is a crucial tool for understanding the state of diversity and inclusion across the Space, Spatial, and Surveying Industry.

The anonymous survey is running from 1 - 30 September, and takes just 10-15 minutes to complete. We are seeking responses from everyone whose workplace is in the Space, Spatial, or Surveying sectors, regardless of job title or background. Sharing your experience will help us monitor progress since the initial baseline in 2021, and guide our priority actions moving forward. Results will be released in November, with recommended actions for the Industry following in January 2025.

Participants can also enter to win a ticket to Locate25 and FIG Working Week 2025 (worth \$1,500) - all you need to do is take a screenshot of the final survey page, and upload it [HERE](#).



The Trans-Tasman initiative is a joint effort between peak-organisations and business leaders to work together on a common challenge. Survey Partners and Sponsors include: 1Spatial, ANZLIC, Aptella, Australian Space Diversity Alliance, Australian Spatial Analytics, Earth Observation Australia Inc., FrontierSI, Fugro, Geoscience Australia, Geospatial Council of Australia, IIC Technologies, Institution of Surveyors NSW (ISNSW), Land Solution Australia Pty Ltd, LOCUS, Ocean Infinity, Snowy Hydro Limited, SSSDLN: Space, Spatial & Surveying Diversity Leadership Network, Space Industry Association of Australia, Spatial Vision.

To complete the survey and find out more, click [HERE](#).

Call for Contributions – GCA Response to Proposed Cadastral Survey Requirements (v8.02)

GCA has been invited to submit a response to the Department of Resources regarding the proposed new version of the Cadastral Survey Requirements (v8.02). This draft, released on 10 September 2024, can be accessed via Surveying Alert 64, where you'll also find an overview of the proposed key changes.

We are currently putting together our response and would value the input of our members to ensure that the submission reflects a broad spectrum of professional insights. If you are interested in contributing, please send your feedback to us before the 30th September. This will allow us time to compile and submit the final response to the Department. If you wish to participate or have any questions, please contact us at info@geospatialcouncil.org.au



STUDENT NEWS

Applications now open for Clem Jones and Geoff Wright Scholarship

We are pleased to announce that applications are open for the 2025 Clem Jones and Geoff Wright Scholarship, awarded by the ISAQ Bicentennial Education Foundation. This scholarship offers up to \$12,000 over three years to support students pursuing a career in surveying.

Eligibility Criteria:

- Applicants must be domestic students currently residing in Australia.

To apply, click [HERE](#).

- Must be commencing studies and intending to enrol full-time at UniSQ in the Bachelor of Surveying Technology or Bachelor of Surveying (Honours) in Trimester 1, 2025.

Established in 2022, through the Clem Jones Foundation, Springfield City Group, and ISAQ, the scholarship celebrates the surveying legacies of Clem Jones AO and Geoff Wright, and supports the next generation of professionals.

Applications close Monday, 18 November 2024.

We recently spoke to **Nicholas Bond: 2023 Winner of the Clem Jones and Geoff Wright Scholarship**, and **Caleb Sondergeld: 2024 Winner of the Clem Jones and Geoff Wright Scholarship**, to find out what impact it has had on their careers.



Nicholas Bond: 2023 Winner of the Clem Jones and Geoff Wright Scholarship

What motivated you to apply for the Clem Jones and Geoff Wright Scholarship?

Throughout high school, students were encouraged to apply for scholarships because there is no harm in applying and there were many out there for all different categories of study.

How did you find out about the scholarship, and what was the application process like?

I found out about the Clem Jones and Geoff Wright scholarship on the UniSQ scholarships page. The application process was straight forward.

What advice would you give to someone considering applying for this scholarship?

I would say go for it! There is no harm in applying and it will certainly help you out and make life more flexible when studying.

Why did you choose to pursue a degree in Spatial Science Technology/Surveying?

I started studying surveying because I enjoyed the fieldwork that I was doing as an assistant.

What has been the most rewarding or challenging aspect of your studies so far?

The most interesting aspect of my studies so far has been learning about least squares adjustments and the math behind how it works. It has so many applications and finding out how something works is always fascinating.

How has receiving the scholarship impacted your studies or career aspirations?

At the moment I do my studies through online university and it times it can become tiresome. The scholarship has kept me motivated throughout my studies as it is easy to lose motivation.

In what ways has the scholarship relieved financial pressures, allowing you to focus more on your education?

Without the scholarship I would have needed to work more, which would likely drag my degree out an extra year or two. The scholarship has given me the freedom to focus on my studies.



**Caleb Sondergeld: 2024
Winner of the Clem Jones and
Geoff Wright Scholarship**

**What motivated you to apply for
the Clem Jones and Geoff Wright
Scholarship?**

I was motivated to apply for the Clem Jones and Geoff Wright Scholarship after attending the UniSQ Open Day, where a lecturer strongly encouraged me to apply. Their support, combined with my aspiration to excel in my chosen field, inspired me to take this opportunity.

What was the application process like?

I received emails about the scholarship from UniSQ which helped me find the scholarship page and explore my options further. The application process was simple and helpful in articulating my desire to become a qualified Surveyor.

**What advice would you give to someone considering
applying for this scholarship?**

My advice to anyone considering applying for a scholarship is to go for it. You never know the outcome, and it's better to try your best than to be left wondering "what if?" A scholarship is not only financially beneficial but also opens doors to opportunities you might not have otherwise. Just a few weeks ago, thanks to my scholarship, I was able to attend GCA's Queensland Geospatial Conference.

**Why did you choose to pursue a degree in Spatial
Science Technology/Surveying?**

I chose to pursue a career in Spatial Science/Surveying because of my previous work experience in Grade 12. I

went to a surveying firm and enjoyed it thoroughly, which prompted me to pursue this passion further into university studies.

**What has been the most rewarding or challenging
aspect of your studies so far?**

The most rewarding aspect of my studies so far has been seeing how the theoretical knowledge I've gained can be practically applied in the fields of Spatial Science and Surveying. The most challenging part is staying motivated when the practical application isn't immediately clear, but I know it will pay off in the future when this knowledge is put to use in the industry.

**How has receiving the scholarship impacted your
studies or career aspirations?**

Receiving this scholarship has positively impacted my studies by being an incentive and a practical way to help me prioritise my university work.

**In what ways has the scholarship relieved financial
pressures, allowing you to focus more on your
education?**

The scholarship has helped me place less priority on working to gain an income to support myself, allowing me to focus more on studying and investing in my future. It has provided me with new experiences and knowledge that can be practically applied in my field down the line.

ISPRS Technical Commission IV Symposium:

Register **NOW!**

Get ready for the ISPRS Technical Commission IV Symposium, happening 22-25 October 2024 in Fremantle, Western Australia! GCA is proud to be a joint-organiser of this international event that will bring together experts and professionals from the fields of photogrammetry, remote sensing, and spatial information science.

Taking place at the Esplanade Hotel, the symposium offers a fantastic opportunity to engage with cutting-edge research, exchange ideas, and explore the latest developments in spatial information science. With a program featuring technical sessions, panel discussions, and networking opportunities, the event is the perfect place to connect with industry leaders, government officials, and academics.

Running in conjunction with the Symposium will be the FOSS4G Perth one day event on Wednesday 23rd October, and the UPINLBS 2024 two-day event on Thursday 24th

and Friday 25th October, making it a must-attend event for anyone working in geospatial sciences.

For more details and to secure your place, click [HERE](#).



FIG Working Week 2025 and Locate25: Call for Volunteers

GCA will be hosting FIG Working Week 2025 alongside our national conference, Locate25, from 6-10 April 2025 at the Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre. This combined event, known as LocatePLUS, is set to deliver far more than what you've come to expect from our annual Locate event. By teaming up with the International Federation of Surveyors (FIG), we're bringing the world to Brisbane, creating a unique platform for geospatial professionals to connect, learn, and collaborate on a global scale. This international event will feature over 70 technical sessions, interactive workshops, and a comprehensive exhibition, showcasing the latest advancements in geospatial technology.

Why Attend?

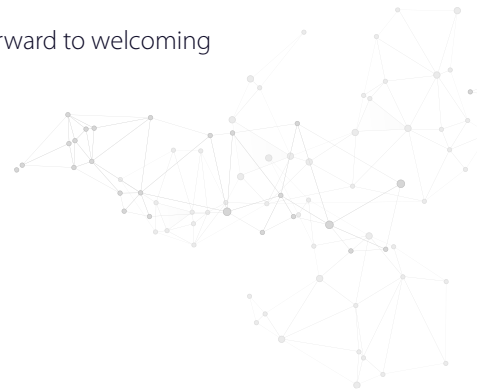
FIG Working Week 2025 combined with Locate25 is more than an educational experience—it's a rare opportunity to engage with top experts from over 100 countries, explore new business opportunities, and immerse yourself in the future of geospatial innovation.

Get Involved!

We are calling on our local geospatial community to get involved. Whether you want to help plan technical sessions, or coordinate social events, we are currently seeking volunteers for our sub-committees. Volunteering is an excellent way to connect with industry leaders, build your network, and contribute to the success of this prestigious event.

If you're interested, please [CLICK HERE](#) to fill out the volunteer expression of interest form.

Save the date, and we look forward to welcoming you in Brisbane next April!



Brisbane, Australia 6-10 April



WORKING WEEK 2025

Collaboration, Innovation and Resilience

Championing a Digital Generation

Join us in Australia for FIG Working Week 2025, where you'll 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.

Why attend?

- Learn and share globally
- Network across related professions
- Make an impact on your career
- Enjoy undisturbed face-to-face time





Find out more here

www.fig.net/fig2025/

Organised by:

Destination Partner



Event Partner



INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF SURVEYORS



Geospatial Council of Australia



HYDROGRAPHY

Australian Hydrographic Surveyors Certification Panel (AHSCP) new panel members

As promised, this month's GeoMessage spoke with the three newly-elected AHSCP Panel members on the internationally recognised Australasian Hydrographic Surveyors Certification Panel (AHSCP) for 2024-2026 to learn more about them and why they chose to nominate

for this rigorous role. They join existing Panel members GCA members Barry Smith (Hydrography for Coastal Zone Management) and Neil Hewitt (Private Practice), and Chair Commodore Robyn Phillips (Hydrographer of Australia).



NEVILLE BENSON (GCA)
AHSCP Education
representative, 2024-2026

What are your qualifications and current role?

I hold a Bachelor of Surveying from Curtin University, and became an AHSCP Certified Level 1 Hydrographic Surveyor in 2020. I am the General Manager at BlueSpatial Australia.

Why is Professional Hydrographic Surveying Certification important?

We are at a crucial point where the number of surveyors can't keep up with the demand for our expertise, and whilst the demand is great for growth of our industry, we need to ensure that going forward we continue to hold a high standard to the professionals getting certified.

These standards are critical in continuing to provide confidence to the clients who use hydrographic survey services for a multitude of reasons, from safety of navigation down to quality of data for engineering design and environmental purposes.

Why did you choose to nominate for the AHSCP Panel?

I wanted to give back to the industry and be involved in helping the next generation achieve their goals, and allow them greater opportunities which come with certification.

My volunteer role with Curtin University (Western Australia) allows me to get a perspective of the students of today and a better understanding of the issues faced with regards to the education in surveying here in Australia.

I'm looking forward to working alongside well regarded industry figures and promoting the importance of hydrographic certification to continue the great work done by the Panel over the last 30 years.

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Neville Benson (GCA)



KATHERINE BUTCHER (GCA)
Re-elected AHSCP Industrial
Offshore Surveying
Representative, 2022-2026

What are your qualifications and current role?

I hold a Category A (PG Diploma Hydrographic Surveying from the University of Plymouth, UK) and a BSc Double Honours (Physical Geography and Geology) from the University of Durham, UK. In 2021, I gained Level 1 AHSCP Certification as a Hydrographic Surveyor, and am a freelance Survey Consultant and Acoustic Imaging QPS Sales and Marketing.

Why is hydrographic certification important?

The requirement for surveys to be certified by a Level 1 Surveyor is increasing in the region, and we also see it starting to extend out of the traditional nearshore/ports and harbours environments.

What are you looking forward to by being on the Panel again?

It was a complete pleasure to serve with [outgoing Panel members] Ian Phillips and Dean Battilana over the past few years and I am sad that they are unable to continue, but I do

look forward to Rhys and Neville coming on board. I think it is great that the Panel comprises people with diverse survey backgrounds and a variety of years' experience, both in the industry and on the Panel.

I am also looking forward to the completion of the current IBSC review of the S5 suite of Competency Standards for Hydrographic Surveyors. Once the AHSCP Guidelines have been updated, including the definition of Recognition of Prior Learning and how it can be applied, this should ultimately bring improved clarity to those applying for certification.

I think it is great that the Panel comprises people with diverse survey backgrounds and a variety of years' experience, both in the industry and on the Panel.

Katherine Butcher (GCA)



RHYS DAVIES (S+SNZ)
AHSCP Nautical Charting
Hydrography representative,
2024-2026

What are your qualifications and current role?

I hold a Post Graduate Diploma (Distinction) from the University of Plymouth, UK and a Category B Hydrographic Surveying, which I obtained during my service with the Royal New Zealand Navy. I became an AHSCP Level 1 Certified Hydrographic Surveyor in 2020. My current role is Technology and Transition Manager for Ocean Infinity (Australia).

Why is hydrographic certification important?

Certification is significant to me since it combines education and experience in our sector to achieve a globally recognized level of competence. On another level, it creates a sense of obligation to continually reach or surpass high standards, which I believe is the reason we now have such a rich pool of talent.

Why did you choose to nominate for the AHSCP Panel?

To gain a better understanding the complete process to be more able to provide help to industry professionals seeking certification in the future, especially to those in NZ. On a personal level, it's also a great way of giving back to the profession, especially to those who have taken the time to mentor me through my career. I am excited to be a part of the process, learn new things, and meet new people (even if it is through their portfolios rather than in person). Being a part of the process, I am also excited to watch and engage with the larger hydro community about the certification process.

I am excited to be a part of the process, learn new things, and meet new people (even if it is through their portfolios rather than in person).

Katherine Butcher (GCA)

Anyone considering representing the highly varied and technologically advanced realm of hydrographic surveying on the AHSCP Panel in the future - and would like to find out more of what it entails - is encouraged to get in touch with the Panel (ahs.cp@defence.gov.au).

Business News



New Report: Australian Earth Observation Data Quality: Exploring the need for a coordinated calval network to support the commercial EO Sector

FrontierSI has released a new report highlighting the need for a coordinated calibration and validation (cal/val) network to strengthen Australia's expanding commercial Earth observation (EO) sector. Titled 'Australian Earth Observation Data Quality: Exploring the Need for a Coordinated Cal/Val Network to Support the Commercial EO Sector', the report was prepared by FrontierSI for CSIRO as a way of evaluating the current state of commercial EO cal/val activities in Australia.

Its objectives were to assess the status, maturity, and development of commercial EO activities, explore the need for a coordinated cal/val network, and identify the specific requirements such a network could address.

Find out more [HERE](#).

UniSQ Senior Research Fellow Dr Chelsea Huang awarded an ARC Future Fellowship Grant

A University of Southern Queensland (UniSQ) researcher has been awarded an ARC Future Fellowship grant to investigate the formation of some of the biggest planets orbiting other stars – otherwise known as “Jovian planets”. Dr Chelsea Huang will receive \$871,587 towards her research, *Probing the formation and migration pathways of Jovian planets*, a project she hopes will put our solar system into the cosmic context.

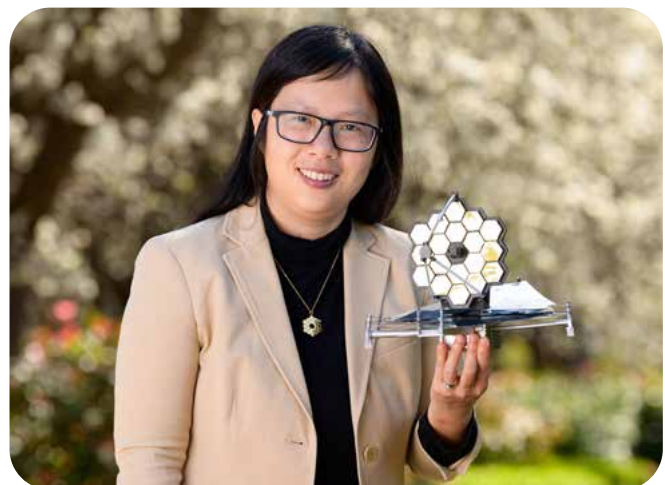
“We’re trying to understand where Jupiter-like planets around other stars have been formed and how they moved to their current orbits,” Dr Huang said. “One unique feature of our solar system is that we have planets of all sorts of sizes; we have two giant planets – Jupiter and Saturn – and then we have four rocky planets interior to their orbits. We are also investigating why most of the planets around other stars stayed smaller than Neptune instead of forming Jovian planets.”

Dr Huang will lead a team of researchers from UniSQ and will utilise flagship international facilities, including NASA's James Webb Space Telescope (JWST) and the Very Large Telescope at the European Southern Observatory.

The research project *Probing the formation and migration pathways of Jovian planets* is a collaboration between the

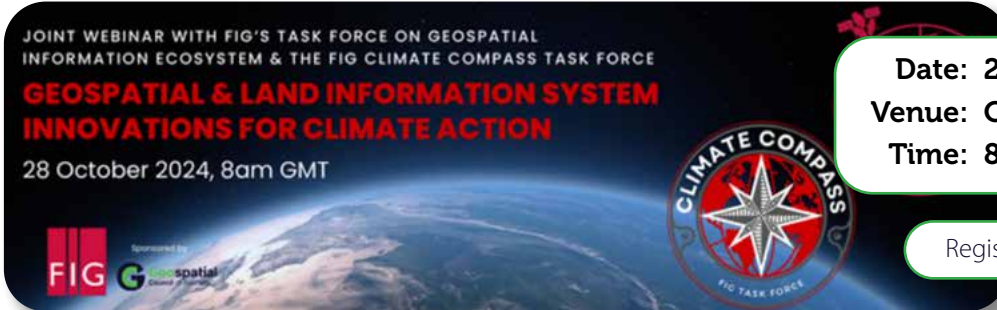
UniSQ Centre for Astrophysics, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), the University of Warwick, United Kingdom and NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL).

Dr Huang said the funding from the ARC Future Fellowship would allow her to expand the expertise of her research group by hiring new HDR students and a postdoctoral researcher experienced in studying planetary atmospheres.



Industry Events

Webinar: Geospatial & Land Information System Innovations for Climate Action



Date: 28 October
Venue: Online
Time: 8:00am GMT

Register [HERE](#)



The C.R Kennedy Survey Cup

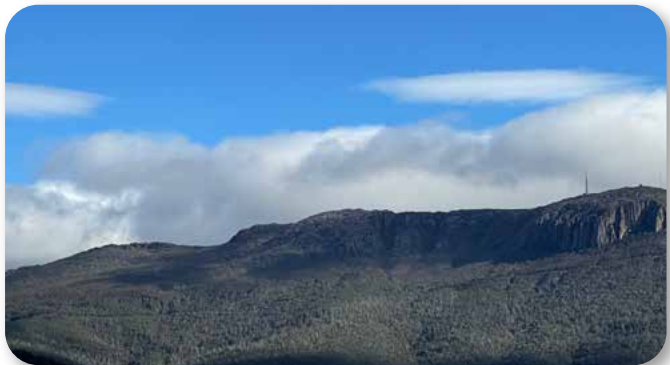
Date: 1 November
Venue: Maylands Peninsula Public Golf Course, WA
Time: 12:00pm

Register [HERE](#)

FOSS4G SotM Oceania 2024

Register [HERE](#)

When: 5-8 November
Where: Hobart



ISNSW 57th Annual Golf Day

Date: 19 November
Venue: Pennant Hills Golf Course

Register now to secure your spot!

Brisbane, Australia 6-10 April

WORKING WEEK 2025

Collaboration, Innovation and Resilience
Championing a Digital Generation

Join us in Australia for FIG Working Week 2025, where you'll 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.

Why attend?

- Learn and share globally
- Network across related professions
- Make an impact on your career
- Enjoy undisturbed face-to-face time

Find out more here
www.fig.net/fig2025/

Cooperation Partner: Queensland AUSTRALIA
Event Partner: brisbane australia
Organised by: FIG Geospatial Council of Australia

FIG2025 / Locate25

SAVE THE DATE!

When: 6-10 April 2025

Where: Brisbane

Venue: Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre

Geospatial Council of Australia Upcoming Events

SA Speed Networking

Date: 1 October
Time: 5:30pm - 8:00pm
Venue: Flinders Uni City Campus, Festival Plaza, L1

Register [HERE](#)



North QLD Geospatial Conference

Date: 11 October
Time: 8:30am - 6:00pm
Venue: Rydges Esplanade Cairns

Register [HERE](#)

CONFERENCE EXHIBITORS:

APAC Geospatial
Remote sensing of the real world

C.R. Kennedy
GEOSPATIAL SOLUTIONS

UPG

kurloo

MapGear

THE SURVEYORS' TRUST

WEBINAR: Delivering the Future (Neurodiverse) Geospatial Workforce

Date: 17 October
Time: 10:30am - 11:30am AEST
Venue: Online

Register [HERE](#)



ISPRS-TCIV Symposium

Date: 22 - 25 October
Venue: Esplanade Hotel Fremantle by Rydges

Register [HERE](#)



WEBINAR: Hydrospatial Relationships and Opportunities in the SWP Region

Date: 23 October
Time: 2:00pm - 3:00pm AEST
Venue: Online

Register [HERE](#)



Cadastral Workshop Dinner

Date: 28 October
Time: 5:30pm - 9:00pm ACST
Venue: Adelaide Pavillion

Register [HERE](#)



Q&A

MEET THE MEMBERS



Michael Krome, Chief Operations Officer, Australian Spatial Analytics

How and why did you join the GCA?

I've always had a strong sense of community through both my personal and professional life and have been a long-term promoter of our profession to allied industries needing our skills to deliver

their projects. Throughout my career I have been a long-term member of GCA's previous incarnations – Institute of Engineering and Mining Surveyors (IEMSA), Spatial Science Institute (SSI) and the Surveying, Spatial Science Institute (SSSI), as well as the Spatial Information Business Association (SIBA). When GCA was launched I was excited to see a united industry body supporting both individual professionals and industry organisations with a national approach.

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

Growing up in a rural farming community, location and place was always important to me – whether it was knowing where the irrigation valves were, through to calculating the quickest route to ride my pushbike to my mates' places. This inherent sense of place and location launched me into my Surveying career which then expanded into positioning technologies (GNSS), and my love of helping solve people's problems with GIS and Asset Management professional services.

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

My Surveying and Geospatial career has led me to running several "for-profit" and "for-purpose" businesses, most recently growing and operating a charitable social enterprise called Australian Spatial Analytics (ASA). Throughout my working career I've worked with some amazing technical people who upon reflection were likely autistic but did not have a formal neurodiversity diagnosis. Tapping into these amazing cognitive abilities is at the heart of ASA's mission by removing barriers to employment for young Autistic Australians, and allowing them to thrive in technical industry careers.

We offer the opportunity to learn through on-the-job training, delivering real projects for real clients over 18-24 months of

employment with ASA. This opens technical career pathways into Surveying, Geospatial and Engineering professional roles with our clients and industry peers.



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

Every organisation is experiencing workforce skills shortages, which is having an adverse impact on the Australian economy. By thinking differently about recruitment and opening the doors to employment for an under-represented group of Australian's, ASA has made huge economic and social impact within the geospatial profession and the broader Australian economy.

In the last 12 months (FY24) ASA has generated significant benefits to Australian business' and society:

- Employed 154 Australians, >80% being neurodivergent
- Invested \$1.03million in on-the-job-training
- Delivered over 80 projects to 28x clients
- Providing 166,000 hours of employment
- Which allowed us to pay \$6.9Million in wages to a group in society who face 34% unemployment rates.

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

GCA is a connector of ideas, technologies and innovators, on a local, regional, national and international stage. GCA provides a pathway to share knowledge about diversity and inclusion, to explore different ways to solve our workforce skills shortages, and support the next generation of geospatial professionals.

What does the future of geospatial hold?

Over the past 20 years since Google Earth was released to the public, and with the widespread use of GNSS and satellite/drone technology for field data capture, 'geospatial' has evolved into the mainstream and is now accessible to non-survey and non-geospatial professionals. The profession has had to, and will continue to evolve with these changes, transforming our professional skills from cartography and map production to digital data managers and specialist ICT professionals. I see this exponential evolution continuing in most geospatial roles except for cadastral surveying, which will evolve at a slower pace due to the legislative drivers of state and territory governments.

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

My first notable award was jointly winning the SSI Young Professional (QLD) Award in 2007, alongside a long-term industry peer and friend Lisa Dykes. Since then, I've been blessed with many highlights in my career, surrounded by amazing peers and colleagues all making a difference solving our client's problems.

To date my most significant career milestone has been joining the executive team at ASA, where we are making a huge social impact in the lives of young autistic Australians. With a lived experience of neurodiversity in our family, it's an honour to be able to bring my personal and professional passions together under the one roof!

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

With two teenagers and a puppy (Rosie) in our home and being heavily involved in community sporting clubs (thank goodness netball season has just finished), we are a busy family. If I'm not on "Uber-Dad" duties, delivering one of the kids to a sporting event, shops or their friends house, we love getting away travelling and exploring. Some people may also know me as a MAMIL (Middle Aged Man In Lycra), as I love getting out on the road bike exploring new routes and path.





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