

An occasional series of newsletters produced to keep Australian Map Circle members informed about matters of immediate interest and to supplement the *Globe*, journal of the AMC. Please send reviews, notices and other items of general interest for inclusion in future *Newsletters* and the *Globe* to:

**Australian Map Circle**  
**c/- Department of Geography and Environmental Planning**  
**The University of Melbourne, 3052**  
**AUSTRALIA**

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### **Australian Map Circle 25th Annual Conference**

The 1997 AMC Annual Conference will be held at the University of Melbourne, from Sunday 2 February to Wednesday 5 February. The theme of the conference is *Maps, Old and New*. The venue will be Ormond College, one of the University of Melbourne residential colleges. A brochure for the conference is included with this newsletter. Additional brochures and further information are available from:

John Cain  
phone: (03) 93448484  
fax: (03) 93470974  
email: cain@lib.unimelb.edu.au

or write to:  
AMC'97  
117 Claremont Ave  
Malvern, 3144, AUSTRALIA.

The latest conference information can be found on the World Wide Web at:  
<http://www.lib.unimelb.edu.au/collections/maps/amc-cnf.htm>

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### **Call for nominations for the AMC National Executive, 1997**

Nominations are invited for the Australian Map Circle National Executive for 1997, and a nomination form is included with this newsletter. The positions to be filled are President, Vice-President, Business Manager and Secretary. **Nominations must be submitted to the Returning Officer no later than 15 December 1996.** For the information of members, the current President (Victor Prescott) and the current Business Manager (Chandra Jayasuriya) have announced they do not intend standing for re-election.

Additional nomination forms and further information can be obtained from the Returning Officer:

Chandra Jayasuriya,  
Geography Dept.,  
University of Melbourne,  
Parkville, 3052, AUSTRALIA.

## Obituary: Gordon Scurfield

It is with regret that we record the death, on 24 September 1996, of Gordon Scurfield. Gordon was born in County Durham, England, and educated at Houghton Grammar School in Durham. He studied Science at the University of Sheffield, where he took his Doctorate of Philosophy with a thesis on the ash woods of Monk's Dale, Derbyshire.

He came to Australia in 1956, to a post in the CSIRO Division of Forest Products. Based initially in Canberra, he moved to Melbourne in the 1960's, where he bought a 30 acre block at Wonga Park. There his family of three daughters grew up, sharing his interest in land use and conservation. His career as a biologist, with expertise in botany and ecology, saw him engaged in a variety of projects in several divisions of CSIRO, and publishing papers in journals serving fields as diverse as chemistry, haematology and mineralogy. His first marriage ended in divorce in 1976.

His life-long interest in maps found expression in research, done privately, into the historical geography of northern England. Using documentary records, he tried to reconstruct samples of the landscape of the seventeenth century, portraying his results in topographic maps that were reminiscent of the early Ordnance Survey sheets. This led him to the Map Room in the State Library of Victoria, which has an outstanding collection of Ordnance Survey maps. The map librarian who helped him was Judith Wells, whom he married in 1982, and who introduced him to the Australian Map Circle.

After he took early retirement in 1985, Gordon switched his interest to the historical geography of Victoria, and collaborated with Judith in a number of publications. Together they wrote introductions to *A chapter on Port Phillip*, by Robert Hoddle, published by Garravembi Press in 1991, and *Plan of the township of HAMILTON situate on the GRANGE BURN*, published by Bellcourt in 1995. For the Institution of Surveyors of Australia, they wrote *The Hoddle years: surveying in Victoria, 1836-1853*, published in 1995. Early in 1996 his illness was diagnosed, and although he continued to write until a few weeks before his death, Gordon left several projects unfinished.

The Australian Map Circle was represented at Gordon's funeral service by its Vice-President, Greg Eccleston and several other members attended. They heard reminiscences from members of Gordon's family that revealed a warmly-remembered man, a lover of poetry and music, behind the reserve that was the defence of a very private person. The President had written to Gordon shortly before he died, and has since expressed the Circle's sympathy to Judith in her bereavement.

Stuart Duncan.

A note from Judith Scurfield:

Thank you to all my friends in the Australian Map Circle who have been supportive to me in the last few weeks, particularly to those who sent cards and letters, and those who attended Gordon's funeral. His memory will be honoured in our garden by a beautiful white waratah brought to me by Dorothy and Victor Prescott on behalf of the Circle.

Judith Scurfield.

# General News

## **Mapping Sciences '96**

The Mapping Sciences Institute, Australia (formerly the Australian Institute of Cartographers) held its biennial conference in Canberra on 23-26 September 1996, with the theme "Mapping for Management". The conference brought together people from the public and private sectors, as well as academics spanning a wide range of disciplines who are involved in the production and use of maps including social scientists, geologists, town planners, geographers, computer scientists, surveyors and cartographers. There was a strong international presence with participants from countries including Canada, China, Hong Kong, India, Lesotho, New Guinea, New Zealand and the United States.

The Australian Map Circle sponsored a special seminar at the conference, where Maura O'Connor presented a paper, co-authored with Colin Webb, on "Digital Spatial Data - accessible, but for how long?" Several other AMC members participated actively in the conference activities. Many of the leading software producers in the mapping area held exhibitions associated with the conference.

The conference was followed by a National Spatial Data Infrastructure Summit on 27 September 1996, convened jointly by the Mapping Sciences Institute, the Institution of Surveyors Australia and the Australian Surveying and Land Information Group. This summit set up a Working Group to develop policies to co-ordinate the collection, storage and use of spatial data on a national basis.

Chandra Jayasuriya (Melbourne University).

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## **International Conferences on the History of Cartography**

The directors of Imago Mundi Ltd have chosen the following venues for forthcoming conferences:

**2001 Nineteenth Conference - Madrid**, organised jointly by the Biblioteca Nacional (Carmen Lliter), the Museo Naval (M. Luisa Martin-Meras) and the Universidad Complutense (Mariano Cuesta).

**2003 Twentieth Conference - New England**, organised by Harvard University Map Collection (David Cobb) and University of Southern Maine Osher Map Library (Matthew Edney).

The 17th conference will be held in Lisbon next year, 6-10 July 1997, and the 18th in Athens, July 1999.

Tony Campbell,  
Map Librarian, British Library & Chairman Imago Mundi Ltd.  
<tony.campbell@bl.uk>

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## **Incorporation of the Australian Map Circle**

In line with the resolution of the 1996 AGM, the executive has proceeded towards incorporation of the Circle. Vice-President Greg Eccleston prepared the submission, and Dorothy Prescott was appointed the "Public Officer" to make formal application. Initial contact with the staff of the Registrar of Incorporated Associations (Victoria) revealed our constitution was lacking in certain areas. However, the Act empowers the applicant to make amendments to the Constitution in order to achieve incorporation. This was done by Dorothy and Greg and the paperwork resubmitted, with a successful outcome expected by the end of the year. Assuming a successful outcome, copies of the new Constitution will be available to members at the AGM in February. Of course the new constitution allows members to alter the Constitution, the proviso being such alterations need to be ratified by the Registrar.

The executive would like to thank Greg Eccleston and Dorothy Prescott for their efforts in this matter.

## **AMC Local News - Wollongong**

At the conclusion of a recent trip to Cape York I was able to stop in Brisbane to meet up with some AMC friends and contacts. A social stroll through the Mt. Cootha Botanic Gardens with 'local guides' Margaret Eva and Les Isedale gave the chance to hear about their own retirement activities. Les having now set himself up at home with a computer and become self-taught with 'Freehand' software acts as contract cartographer for the University of Queensland Geography Department, and anyone else who will give him work. I was surprised to hear that Margaret was not missing her map collection after all the conscientious effort and enthusiasm which she had put into her curating but the enthusiasm is still there, now being channelled into her home life. Some members may also remember Gail and Giles Brouwer from past conferences. With the reorganisation which took place at the Queensland Department of Lands in the early '90s, Gail moved out of mapping and after doing part-time study her days are now largely filled taking care of their two young boys. Giles remained with the Land Office but all the reorganisation has left a very different work environment from that which visitors to the Sunmap Centre saw during the AMC Brisbane conference in 1987.

Since members were in Wollongong for the AMC conference in 1989 there have been many changes. Roby Schweers whom many members will remember from '89 has long since left, initially to run her own photographic business and more recently to support her husband Kevin in setting up a successful electrical/air conditioning firm. Keith Gaymer in the main University Library has now moved from being non-book librarian with responsibility for the map collection to being the Education Faculty Librarian. Tanya Price has now taken over Keith's job, perhaps she'll make it to the Melbourne conference. Brian Rogers has now retired from the University. Jan Richards moved from her job as reference librarian at Wollongong City Council to the NSW Department of Agriculture at Orange.

A decision by the University to merge the Departments of Geography and Geology took a long time to come to fruition. With the setting up of a joint management committee the Geography Map Library the became the provider of services to Geology on a formal basis. At this time David Martin moved up to join myself as a two person cartographic unit / map library. Eventually a new joint head was appointed and a decision made to move the two departments into a new building as the School of Geosciences. In July the map library resources and facilities were moved across campus and despite the usual headaches from teething troubles at such a time we are now settling in and enjoying our new work environment. We have extra space for the map collection which no longer needs to be stacked four cabinets high, a larger cartographic office and a student work area. While we are busily settling into our new quarters the University is busy resizing, restructuring and reshaping us in a way that makes our new location next to the gym no longer necessary! The new work environment is very pleasant and it will now be possible to compile displays on table space instead of carpet squares. With Dave Martin due to retire shortly and the current university climate ensuring he will not be replaced I can certainly expect to be a busy map curator / cartographer in the months and years ahead unless I too am considered surplus to requirements.

Richard Miller (University of Wollongong)

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## **Hosts sought for AMC 1998 Annual Conference**

The AMC executive is now seeking offers to host the Australian Map Circle 1998 Annual Conference. We would be very happy to hear from any potential hosts. If you think you may be able to help, please contact Victor Prescott [phone: 03-93446337, email: <v.prescott@geography.unimelb.edu.au>] or John Cain [phone: 03-93448484, email: <cain@lib.unimelb.edu.au>]