

Map Collection Users' Group

www.lib.unimelb.edu.au/collection/maps/

Minutes of meeting on Tuesday 11 November 2003

1. Attendance

Brendan Whyte (acting chair), Priscilla Stott, John Maidment, Bernie Joyce, Chandra Jayasuriya, Brian Finlayson, Leanne Howard, John Cain.

2. Apologies

Tim Meredith, Peta Humphreys, Tony Sagona, Richard Pennell.

3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes were accepted.

4. Business Arising

- Photocopier tender: John reported that a new large format photocopier has still not been supplied by the new contractor, Unicard, although it was supposed to have been installed within a few months after July. Unicard have now promised to install a new large format photocopier in time for semester 1, 2004. In the meantime, the old copier continues to limp along. Members expressed their concern at lack of action and the failure of the Information Division to hold Unicard to its contract. It was agreed that **Brian Finlayson** would write on behalf of MCUG to the contract manager (Tim Meredith) to express MCUG's concern at the delay.
- Membership review: some suggestions were made at the last meeting and John is in the process of implementing these.

5. Report from the Map Curator

John Cain reported a range of issues

- Services: The Map Collection has been extremely busy during throughout 2003, with approximately a 50% increase in information enquiries (4993 information enquiries in 2003, ca. 7500 in 2002). Demand for "GIS ready" digital map data has more than doubled (321 requests in 2002, ca. 900 requests in 2003). Providing GIS ready data is a time-consuming activity and Maps is looking at ways to increase the efficiency of this activity in 2004.
- Equipment: The Map Collection has been provided with 2 new map cabinets, a new colour laser printer and a new label printer. These have improved storage, customer services and staff efficiency respectively. A question was asked as to whether new public access computers are being provided? John responded that no new computers have been provided in 2003, and due to a policy change it does not seem any will be provided in 2004 either. At present the newest computer is 2.5 years old and the oldest over 4 years old; this age will cause increasing problems running newer software and data products. Members expressed their concern at this situation, and it was agreed that the Acting Chair, **Brendan Whyte**, would write to the Information Division Client Services Department (Tim Meredith) to query the situation.
- Operational Plan: The 2004 operational plan is currently being devised and members are invited to contact John Cain with suggestions or requests. Major projects completed in the 2003 plan:
 - Respacing of the ES (elephant series) map sequence
 - Respacing and relocation of the MX (rare) map sequence
 - A map digitization (scanning) pilot
 - Implementation of the monthly *New Maps* list as requested by MCUG
 - Upgrade of website, including revision of content and addition of new content
 - Successful installation and roll-out of CDATA 2001 (ABS 2001 census)
 - Security improvements particularly for software and rare maps

- **New Materials:** As mentioned, a monthly *New Maps* list is now being emailed to MCUG members and other interested parties. This includes details of new GIS data, new maps, and new books received in the Map Collection. Selected noteworthy recent acquisitions include:
 - Update of Geoscientific CDROMs (GIS data, Geological Survey of Victoria)
 - Update of Statewide Planning Scheme (GIS data, DSE)
 - CDATA 2001 final release (2001 census data, GIS format, ABS)
 - “Basin-in-a-box” (GIS data, Murray Darling Basin Commission)
 - New editions of Australia 1:250 000 topographic maps (500 maps)
 - New editions of Australia 1:100 000 topographic maps (400 maps)
 - *NATMAP RASTER 250K 20003 Release* in both mapsheet and mosaic form, covering the whole of Australia (GIS data)

6. Departmental Map Needs (standing item).

Any requests for maps or GIS data can be emailed to John Cain at any time. John emphasized that it is the Map Collection’s policy to purchase data and maps on request if we do not have materials on hand to meet teaching or research requirements. Many information consultations result in new materials being purchased. It was agreed John should re-circulate the form email early next year.

7. Scheduling of Meetings for 2004.

It was agreed to schedule meetings in advance for the entire year rather than their being called on an ad hoc basis. Dates agreed were:

- Tuesday 9 March, 2:15 pm
- Tuesday 22 June, 2:15 pm
- Tuesday 19 October, 2:15 pm

All meetings are held in the Map Collection, Level 4, ERC Library. Please enter these dates in your diary if appropriate.

8. Other Business

None was raised.

9. Close of Meeting.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 9 March, 2:15pm, in the Map Collection.

10. Post-meeting data demonstration.

The **DSE Metro Mosaic** and the **NATMAP Raster 250K 2003 Release** were shown.