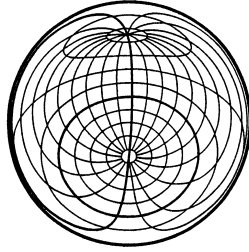


Datum



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THE STATE OF THE NEW ZEALAND MAP SOCIETY

State of affairs - August 2007.

In mid-2007, the situation of the New Zealand Map Society is not healthy and the prospects for the future are no better.

Membership is now sitting at 60 of whom 22 are corporate or institutional members (and of these 9 are from overseas). While some corporate members finance employees to attend Map Society meetings and support them in other ways, most corporate members are totally passive and only pay membership fees in order to receive the society's journal.

The remaining 38 members are individuals of whom the majority are again what will be termed as passive members rarely attending meetings or contributing to the Society. All individual members reside in New Zealand. Their passiveness comes about for various reasons: location in New Zealand presenting difficulties in getting to venues of meetings; age – some members are elderly and travel is difficult; cost – often linked with the first two factors; and finally it must be recognised that some people are happy to belong to a society without necessarily feeling the need to be active.

The upshot of the above is that the numbers of persons turning up for meetings and being prepared to take on roles as officers or on the committee has fallen considerably. At the AGM held on 17 August 2007, only seven people attended, one short of a quorum. The position of Treasurer was not filled, nor was the position of Editor of the *Journal*, this for the second consecutive year. The lack of

a *Journal* Editor has been mitigated somewhat by the lack of articles or other content for inclusion in the last eighteen months. The Editor of the Society's newsletter, *Datum*, has a battle every time rounding up information to include.

Alternatives for the future.

1. Do nothing.

We can sit back and see what happens. In truth, we have been doing this for a couple of years. As things have not improved in that time and have even deteriorated, this is not a good long term option.

2. Wind up the Society.

One possibility is to wind up the Society for good. Given the low membership numbers this is an option to be considered. Advice would be needed on the mechanisms and how we would dispose of the financial assets.

3. Active promotion of the Society.

This would require effort from all existing members in order to promote the Society at meetings of similarly inclined groups. It may attract new membership, possibly even young and active people. The joint Conference to be held in February 2008 might provide a good opportunity to test this option.

None of the first three options have much appeal and are felt to have little chance of success. As such a fourth option is being considered.

4. Amalgamation with a similar society.

Some consideration has been given to some possible associations and societies:

a. **NZ Cartographic Society.** The feeling is this society is too technical to suit our members. It has no formal membership structure and its own future is not certain.

b. **Library and Information Association of New Zealand Aotearoa (LIANZA).** While a few of our members are librarians the feeling is we would be swamped in such a body which has high membership and is too library orientated (most of our existing membership not working in a library). It also has exorbitant membership fees.

c. **Archives & Records Association of New Zealand (ARANZ).** Checks with this association suggest maps do not play a significant role in their activities.

d. **New Zealand Geographical Society.** Similar position to LIANZA. A large society where we could get lost and maps do not seem to have much of a place for geographers these days.

e. **The Australian Map Circle** is the New Zealand Map Society's equivalent in Australia and it seems to offer the best option for amalgamation should we decide to follow that course.

The Australian Map Circle

It may be possible to amalgamate with them. This option was discussed at the AGM and was generally received favourably. However, it was recognised that several matters would need to be considered before such a move could be approved. A small working group is being convened to consider matters including:

- That New Zealand would not be submerged in such a move
- Changing the name of a future society to reflect both the countries involved (preference to retain New Zealand or NZ and not use Australasian).
- Representation on the committee – at least two persons from New Zealand.
- The future of the NZMS finances.
- The opportunity for New Zealand to operate one or two branches able to host meetings, etc.
- New Zealand hosting a conference on a regular cycle e.g. once every three or four years.
- A let out clause. Should the move be deemed to be not working, future New Zealand members would have the right to withdraw and recover any financial assets.

The higher population base of Australia allows more chance of survival. While we would lose our Journal we would have the opportunity to submit articles to a new joint Journal and it would fall to us to make sure we do contribute. Similarly, it beholds us to organise regular branch meetings here in New Zealand to involve local members and provide something that rewards membership.

The President of the Australian Map Circle is approaching his committee to discuss initial reactions from them. It is hoped that both societies will have had time and opportunity to hear the viewpoints of all members by the time of 2008 AGMs, which will be held concurrently in Wellington in February. It may be possible, therefore, to resolve the situation at that time.

Please let us have your comments on what is being considered. Or let us have any other comments or suggestions that you may wish to make to either John Robson, University of Waikato Library, Private Bag 3105, Hamilton 3240. jrobson@waikato.ac.nz or Brian Marshall, University of Auckland Library, Private Bag 92019, Auckland Mail Centre, Auckland 1142. bw.marshall@auckland.ac.nz

John Robson

President NZMS, 21 August 2007

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at the National Library, Wellington, on Friday 17th August 2007.

The meeting opened at 11 am.

1. Those present:

Karen Craw, Annette Fairweather, Brian Marshall, Barbara Moorhouse, John Robson, Michael Ross, Dave Small.

2. Apologies:

Trevor Cobeldick, Hugh Kidd, Derek Leask, Elva Leaming, Ian Snowden, Lyn Williams, Robin Watt.

3. Minutes of the 2006 AGM.

The members read the minutes. The motion that they be accepted was moved by John Robson and seconded by Michael Ross. Carried.

4. Matters arising from the 2006 AGM minutes.

Phil Barton is in a home for dementia. Brad Patterson has power of attorney for his affairs.

Brian Marshall and John Robson are to be cheque book signatories. Karen Churton has verbally resigned from the Society but no official notice received yet. Life membership has been rescinded. John Robson moved that the resignation be accepted and seconded by Michael Ross. Carried.

The National Library will not now be mounting the main exhibition for the forthcoming conference.

5. Summary of Correspondence.

A letter received from Hans D. Kok, IMCOS, confirming support for the combined IMCOS, AMC, NZMS symposium in 2008.

Received "Te Taki o Autahi – Under the Southern Cross" progress report, November, 2006.

Received from Igor Drecki, New Zealand Cartographic Society, an invitation to contribute to GeoCart 2006.

Received New Zealand Cartographic Society National report to the 14th General Assembly of ICA, "Cartographic Activities in New Zealand 2003 – 2007."

Invitation to attend the 35th Australian Map Circle conference, Canberra, February, 2007.

Received from Richard Murcott, Nov 2006, some comments on "From sextants to satellites: a cartographic timeline for New Zealand"

6. Matters arising from the Correspondence.

None

7. Statement of accounts.

The accounts as at December 2006 composed by Karen Churton and presented by Brian Marshall.

Some items such as website hosting costs and EBSCO seem to be missing.

The deposit account has lapsed and is now in the cheque account because the signature has not been changed. \$6400 is now in the cheque account.

Datum cost \$110 so far this year with \$50 back from advertising.

We have approximately 60 financial members with about 40% of these being institutions.

The motion that it be accepted was moved by Dave Small and seconded by Barbara Moorhouse. Carried.

Michael Ross moved a vote of thanks to Brian for taking over temporarily as treasurer and seconded by Barbara Moorhouse. Carried.

8. Matters arising from the Statement of Accounts.

None

9. Future of the journal.

Brian thought there would be no journal this year. We need to consider who publishes what at the next combined conference. The AMC Globe would be publishing the Australian papers.

10. Membership drive.

Item deferred to other business.

11. Management of the N. Z. Map Society website.

John Robson congratulated Barbara Moorhouse on management of the website. There has been good feedback and we all need to contribute. We only have 10 Mb storage so not much available for archiving. Michael Ross offered to host some items on his website and link this to the Map Society website. Thanks to Paul Bealing from CU for his ongoing updating of the website now on My Host's server.

The committee discussed the idea of not putting the latest Datum on the website as it encouraged members to not pay subs. It was decided to put the latest issue on the website and face the consequences.

12. Report on the 2008 joint conference Te Taki o Autahi – Under the Southern Cross.

A company has been formed to safeguard participating societies from financial liability. Michael Ross is dealing with the IMCoS. The website has been updated

with on-line registration and draft programme available. There is strong interest from overseas. A professional conference management company is to handle enquiries.

Major focus is on Polynesian navigation, Antarctica and under the Southern Cross. There will be keynote speakers in the morning with individual papers in the afternoons. Keynote speakers include Dame Anne Salmond, Jack Thatcher, Robert Clancy, John Manning, Bill Richardson and Kirsten Seaver. Tours and evening social activities are being organised. The Prime Minister has been invited to open the conference and there will be a welcome at Parliament.

A brochure will be available soon in PDF to print and circulate.

Michael Ross will be speaking about the conference at the History of Mapping meeting in Chicago in November. We are expecting about 200 from IMCoS and about 30 from AMC.

John Robson thanked Michael Ross for taking charge.

13. Election of officers.

President: John Robson proposed by Michael Ross and seconded by Brian Marshall.

Secretary: Karen Craw proposed by John Robson and seconded by Dave Small.

Treasurer: Brian Marshall took over from Karen Churton, but does not wish to continue. John Robson to contact Lyn Williams who indicated she might be willing to help. Michel Ross moved that the meeting agree to vote on the election of Treasurer by e-mail once candidates have been nominated. Seconded by John Robson. Carried.

John to handle the finances in the meantime.

Editor of the journal: currently vacant. Michael moved that the meeting agree to vote on the election of editor by e-mail once candidates have been nominated. Brian seconded. Carried.

The following other members of the committee were elected unopposed:

Committee: Dave Small proposed by John Robson and seconded by Michael Ross.

Committee: Ian Snowden proposed by Dave Small and seconded by Karen Craw.

Committee: Barbara Moorhouse proposed by Michael Ross and seconded by Brian Marshall.

Committee: Brian Marshall proposed by Dave Small and seconded by Karen Craw.

14. Next meeting.

The next meeting will be on the 13 February which is the last day of the conference in Wellington. It is not necessary for members to register to attend the AGM.

15. Any other business.

John Robson previewed his paper to be presented at the LIANZA conference in September. He hoped it would stimulate interest in the society and recruit new members. Canterbury and Victoria are not currently represented.

The meeting broke for lunch between 12 and 1 pm reconvening at 1.45 pm after a talk at 1pm by Craig Innes on maps used by the Maori Land Court for treaty claims.

15. cont.

Michael Ross gave a rundown on the restructuring of AMC after recent retirements. Local branches are being set up for local activities. The organisation was heavily dependant on Melbourne. John Cain is now the business manager. The committee discussed the possibility of the NZ Map Society and the AMC combining with the NZ Map Society being a local branch of an Australasian society.

The Australian Map Keepers Circle was considering a change of name to Australian Map Society. If we to amalgamate the preference would be for the title Australia and New Zealand Map Society rather than the Australasian Map Society. Each branch should be represented on the committee and a joint journal published. Geographical distances were not so important now with speedy contact via e-mail and skype.

Dave Small said this was all well and good but we still had to work at increasing our membership and the 2008 conference would be a good opportunity to promote the society.

Michael Ross would discuss the idea of a merger informally with the AMC committee at their next meeting.

It was agreed to form a small working party to investigate a merger and to canvas and inform society members. John Robson is to write an article for *Datum*.

We hope to get some movement on this before the February conference.

Brian suggested a 2 hour session on maps aimed at librarians be included in the 2008 LIANZA conference in Auckland next year.

The meeting closed at 2.30 pm

Karen Crow

Secretary. Dunedin, 6th September 2006

NEWS & NOTES

ANOTHER FRENCHAY TUCKETT SOCIETY PUBLICATION

Earlier Frenchay Tuckett Society publications were reviewed in the August 2007 issue of *Datum*. In June 2007 a new publication appeared. This one is *Frederick Tuckett's Travels & Adventures: His early life, travels in America & Europe, his training as a civil engineer & work on the GWR with Brunel, his part in the settlement of New Zealand*. It has been written by Richard Fox, a great, great, great nephew of Frederick Tuckett. The book is based partly on a talk given by Fox to celebrate the centenary of the birth of Tuckett, and partly on the research efforts of Gerald Franklin, who has visited New Zealand to gather information. Most of this sixty page monograph concentrates on Tuckett's time in New Zealand.

Whereas the earlier Frenchay Tuckett Society publications were based on the writings of Tuckett, this is an account of the man himself, and the events he lived through. The volume is similar in appearance to the other volumes, making for an attractive set of small A5 volumes.

SIR FRANCIS CHICHESTER EXHIBITION

Readers will remember an article in the July 2006 issue of *Datum* by Kathryn Mercer about Sir Francis Chichester. An exhibition relating to Sir Francis is being staged at Super Yacht Technologies, Masthead Way, Sanctuary Cove on the Gold Coast in Queensland for about six months starting in mid-November. The exhibition includes items that were salvaged from the Gipsy Moth V when it ran aground at Gabo Island. They include yacht name banner, life jacket, lifebuoy, flare container, sail bag, safety lights, water container and a series of photos from when the alarm was raised of the grounding, the salvaging and the sinking of the Gipsy Moth V. Melinda Mooney (bree_melinda@hotmail.com) is interested in hearing from anyone who has further information about Sir Francis.

Kathryn's article in *Datum* is one of the items on display.

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