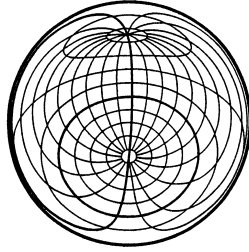


Datum



Newsletter
of the New Zealand Map Society

<http://www.mapsociety.org.nz>

Issue No.28

ISSN 1173-3551

September 2008

Following decisions by both the New Zealand Map Society and the Australian Map Circle to investigate amalgamation of the two bodies, a working party was set up comprising members from both societies. John Cain, representing the AMC, has done the bulk of the work, ably assisted by Martin Woods.

The NZMS members of the working party, Brian Marshall and John Robson, both feel this proposal will be a positive move for New Zealand and recommend that members accept it. This, of course, would lead to the disestablishment of the NZMS.

A voting paper is enclosed with this newsletter, asking you to either accept or not accept the proposals laid out below. Once the papers have been counted, a special meeting of the NZMS will be called to act upon the results of the voting. Details of this meeting will be posted on the Society's website: <http://www.mapsociety.org.nz/>

AMC – NZMS Merger Proposal

Authorised by: AMC – NZMS Merger Working Group

Prepared by: John Cain, with input from Martin Woods, John Robson and Brian Marshall

Version: 0.4 Draft, 25 August 2008.

0. Purpose

To document a proposal for a merger between the Australian Map Circle Inc. (AMC) and the New Zealand Map Society (NZMS). The proposal includes background, objectives, terms, milestones and draft resolutions for consideration and approval by members of both organisations.

1. Background

The **AMC** is “a national group of map producers, users and curators which acts as a medium of communication for all those interested in maps”; major activities are its peer-reviewed journal *The Globe*, a three-day annual conference, and online communication through its email list and its website¹. Membership is stable at around 200 and at 31 December 2008 members’ funds were \$33,641. Filling offices in the society has been challenging but all offices are currently filled. Consideration of updates to AMC objectives and structure are on hold pending merger discussions with NZMS.

The **NZMS** aims to bring together those who work with maps, map collectors, map users and people with an interest in New Zealand geography and history; major activities are publication of the NZMS Journal, Datum newsletter and an annual conference.² Membership is around 65 and at 30 June 2008 members’ funds were \$6,334. The society is unable to fill key offices including treasurer and journal editor and has decided to pursue a merger with the AMC the best option for its future.

Informal discussions started in early 2007 on a possible merger of the two societies. In early 2008 a working group comprising John Cain (AMC), Brian Marshall (NZMS), John Robson (NZMS) and Martin Woods (AMC) was tasked with developing a “merger proposal” to be put to members of AMC and NZMS. This Merger Proposal is based on the Merger Brief³ prepared by the Merger Working Group and approved by the AMC National Executive and the NZMS Committee.

2. Mandate

AMC 2008 AGM resolution – Wed 13 Feb 2008 *The membership agree that the Executive begin discussions with the NZ Map Society on the proposal, and prepare a proposal for consideration by the membership. A special postal/electronic vote may be held following the distribution of that report.*

NZMS 2008 AGM resolution – Wed 13 Feb 2008 *... the NZMS agrees in principle to a merger with the AMC. The NZMS Committee will be responsible for negotiating with the AMC the form of the new organisation and any conditions of the merger.*

3. Objectives

Scope

A merger of the AMC and NZMS to create a society with objectives covering both Australia and New Zealand and including members of both organizations; other organisations are out of scope.

Benefits

1. The societies have similar membership bases, similar objectives and face similar issues; more will be achieved in combination than alone
2. By combining Australian and New Zealand societies, a merger provides opportunities to develop a stronger regional presence
3. Larger membership base provides more people to be involved in the key activities of the combined organisation in support of its objectives
4. Larger membership base spreads flat costs across more members and helps contain membership fees.

Consequences of not proceeding

- For the AMC, a missed opportunity for additional members, expertise and resources from which to develop its operations and deliver its objectives
- For the NZMS, it is likely the society would be wound up due to declining membership and lack of people to take on key offices.

Timeframe

Final approval of the merger should be no later than the AMC 2009 AGM, preferably earlier.

4. Merger Implementation

The Merger Working Group reviewed a number of options for how the merger could actually be implemented. These are discussed in the merger brief and included not merging, creating a completely new (combined) society, adding the existing NZMS as a branch of the AMC, and a “practical merger”.

The Working Group recommends a **Practical Merger**.

The AMC would broaden its scope to include New Zealand, including changing its name, objectives and constitution to reflect this scope. NZMS members would be offered membership of the “new” AMC, possibly automatically enrolled for the first year at a reduced transitional rate. NZMS would adopt the AMC as its “successor” organization, pass on remaining assets, and be closed. New Zealand specific activities could be delivered by a New Zealand branch, similar to the existing AMC Victorian or Sydney branches, if an organizer can be found. This is the simplest merger option, requires the least work, and is the most practicable to implement.

Draft motions for both the AMC and the NZMS to implement this form of merger, including the merger terms recommended by the working group in section 5, are included in sections 7 and 8. The motions are designed to allow both organisations proceed separately with actions to achieve the merger. The

finalisation of the merger is conditional on both organisations having taken appropriate actions; this would be confirmed by exchange of emails between the presidents of the organisations.

5. Merger Terms

The Working Group recommends that the number of merger terms be minimized and that any necessary terms be kept as simple and flexible as possible, to avoid complications and constraints both during the merger and in the future.

The “merger terms” recommended by the Working Group are:

- **A – Name** The merged organisation should be named the **Australia and New Zealand Map Society (ANZMS)** to reflect the combined membership.
- **B – Management Committee** To ensure committee representation from both merging organisations, AMC members should approve as part of the motion approving the merger that: from 2009 to 2013, if there is not at least one elected officer of the merged society located in NZ, the committee will co-opt a suitable committee member from NZ if one is available.
- **C – Newsletters** The AMC newsletter is distributed online-only and will be the newsletter of the merged society. The merged society may fund the reasonable costs of a printed NZ newsletter in 2008/2009 if this is desired by NZ members and if an editor/publisher can be found. After this, such effort should be devoted to a combined online newsletter for the merged society including a strong section of NZ-specific content.
- **D - Journals** *The Globe* should be the journal of the merged society and will be the successor publication of the *NZMS Journal*, which should be discontinued.
- **E – Financial Assets** AMC assets will automatically belong to the merged organisation. NZMS should adopt the merged organisation as its successor organisation and – after NZMS makes any specific final provisions it desires – remaining NZMS assets should be passed on to merged organisation.

6. Milestones

- **Merger Proposal Open for Input – closes Fri 19 Sep.** AMC and NZMS members are invited to submit comments and questions regarding the Merger Proposal.
- **Finalize the Merger Proposal – Fri 26 Sep.** The Merger Proposal will be finalized and handed over from the working group to the AMC Exec and NZMS Committee for implementation.

- **Formal Approval by NZMS members – date TBA.** NZMS members may approve the proposal and changes necessary to implement it; a special general meeting is planned.
- **Formal Approval by AMC members – date TBA.** AMC members may approve the proposal and changes necessary to implement it; the AMC 2008 AGM authorised a postal ballot.
- **Finalize Merger – by AMC 2009 AGM – date TBA.** The target date for completion of the merger. Some follow-on implementation actions of a procedural nature may occur after this date.

7. AMC – Draft Motion Authorising the Merger

The Merger Working Group recommends the following motion for approval by AMC members:

It is proposed that the Australian Map Circle (hereafter “the Association”) should merge with the New Zealand Map Society (hereafter “NZMS”) to form a combined body with expanded geographic coverage including Australia and New Zealand. To achieve this merger, the following is proposed as a single motion for approval by members of the association:

1. *Implementation of items 2-4 below is not conditional on any actions by the NZMS.*
2. *The name of the Association is changed to Australia and New Zealand Map Society (ANZMS).*
3. *The Association’s constitution is amended as follows:*
 - *In section 1 the words “The Australian Map Circle Incorporated” are replaced by “Australia and New Zealand Map Society”*
 - *In section 2 the word “Australia” is replaced by “Australia and New Zealand”*
 - *In section 18 the word “Australian” is replaced by “Australian and New Zealand”*
 - *Throughout the Constitution the words “the Circle” are replaced by “the Society”*
 - *Throughout the Constitution the words “National Executive” are replaced by “Committee”.*
4. *Following the Association’s 2009 annual general meeting, the Association’s Committee will appoint a working group to review and update the Purposes of the Association. The working group will include at least one member located in New Zealand if one can be found. The revised Purposes will be voted on at the 2010 Annual General Meeting.*
5. *Implementation of items 6-8 below is conditional on the NSMZ passing a motion to: adopt the Association as its successor organisation, wind up the*

NZMS, and pass on the remaining assets of the NZMS to the Association, thus forming the merged association.

6. Subject to item 5, from 2009 to 2013 inclusive, if there is not at least one elected officer of the Association located in New Zealand, the Association's Committee will co-opt a suitable committee member from New Zealand if one is available.

7. Subject to item 5, until the end of 2009 the Association may fund the reasonable costs of a printed New Zealand newsletter, if members desire this and if an editor/publisher can be found.

8. Subject to item 5, members of NZMS in 2008 will be enrolled as members of the Association from 2009 onwards; as a transition measure at the discretion of the Association's Committee this may be at a discounted or free membership fee for 2009.

8. NZMS – Draft Motion Authorising the Merger

The Merger Working Group recommends the following motion for approval by NZMS members:

It is proposed that the New Zealand Map Society (hereafter "the Society") should merge with the Australian Map Circle (hereafter "AMC") to form a combined body (hereafter "the merged association") with expanded geographic coverage including Australia and New Zealand. To achieve this merger, the following is proposed as a single motion for approval by members of the society:

1. The NZMS committee will contact all NZMS members in writing, giving them 30 days in which to notify the committee in writing if they wish to "opt-out" of the merger.

2. A list of the names and addresses of NZMS members, except those who "opt-out" of the merger, will be supplied to the AMC so that they can be enrolled as members of the Merged Association.

3. Implementation of items 4-6 below is conditional on the AMC passing a motion approving a merger with the Society, including changing its name and constitution to reflect the expanded geographic coverage of the Merged Association.

4. Subject to item 3, the NZMS Journal will cease publication. The Globe will be its successor publication and will be the journal of the merged association.

5. Subject to item 3, the NZMS newsletter will cease publication. The online newsletter of the merged association will be its successor and will be the newsletter of the merged association.

6. Subject to item 3, the Society adopts the AMC as its successor organisation, the Society will be wound up, and the Society's remaining assets will pass to the AMC, thus forming the Merged Association.

9. References

¹ AMC website: <http://australianmapcircle.org.au>

² NZMS website: <http://www.mapsociety.org.nz/>

³ AMC-NZMS Merger Brief ver.1.0

Te Taki o Autahi – Under the Southern Cross

Report on the International Cartographic Conference Wellington, Aotearoa New Zealand, February 2008.

Hosted by the Australian Map Circle, New Zealand Map Society and IMCOS

Summary

The specific focus of this 3-day conference was the exploration and charting of the southern hemisphere, terrestrial and celestial knowledge relative to the Southern Cross constellation. The conference speakers addressed various related topics including Polynesian exploration and mapping; alternative views on the exploration of the Pacific; the exploration and mapping of Antarctica; Dutch, French, and English exploration of the southern hemisphere; the celestial mapping of the southern skies; and modern explorations of social and technical relationships *Under the Southern Cross*.

Monday 11th

Michael Ross, Chairperson, (NZMS) opened with an introductory address about the timescale of Polynesian exploration compared to the European 'discovery' of the Pacific. He stated that there is evidence of early Maori sailing so far south, they had encountered icebergs; and that the existence of Polynesian stick charts indicated the Pacific had been charted before the Europeans had rounded the Cape of Good Hope (1497). The presence of kumara in New Zealand, as well as DNA evidence indicating that Pacific peoples are descended from a common ancestor, confirms that the Pacific was traversed.

Te Taki o Autahi

Professor Anne Salmond (University of Auckland) then talked on the Polynesian navigational view of the world in terms of time, space and distance, and

encounters with Europeans. She highlighted the difference in navigational methods and philosophy between the two peoples: the Polynesian culture is largely oral, ancestor-based and used natural navigational aids (sun, stars, wind, migratory birds, etc.) whereas the Europeans were instrument-based (although pre-chronometer). She closed her presentation with a Maori proverb: 'One strange people, and another, looking at each other'.

Prof. Salmond was followed by Jack Thatcher, a practitioner of the ancestral methods of navigation. Jack has sailed his waka to various destinations in the Pacific Ocean by means of traditional wayfinding. He treated his audience to stories about his journeys, his training and methodology, as well as his doubts, fears and hardships. Needless to say all his journeys to date have been a success!

Alternative cartographic history

W.A.R. (Bill) Richardson (Associate Professor, rtd., Flinders University) gave an analysis of Peter Trickett's recent book on the theory that the north and east coasts of Australia were charted by the Portuguese a century before Tasman. Richardson was of the opinion that Trickett's research is at fault as he (Trickett) used only one source, the Vallard Atlas, as the basis for his theory. Richardson was followed by Robert J. King, a researcher on the exploration and charting of Jave La Grande (common to maps of the Dieppe School of Cartography). King asserted that Jave La Grande was not an early map of Australia, but a false land-mass created from misinterpretations of Marco Polo's writings and confusion with Sumatra, and that the Jagiellonian globe (1510) in Krakow provides the key to understanding this.

Lastly, Capt. Phil Rivers presented his rebuttal of Gavin Menzies' publication '1421: The year China discovered the world'. Rivers, as a master mariner, is familiar with the oceans, winds, currents and territory that Menzies writes of and was able to dispute the theory that a fleet of vast Chinese junks or 'treasure ships' circumnavigated the globe and charted hitherto unknown waters and land in the early 15th century, two centuries before Tasman.

These three presentations were facets of the same topic and inextricably linked by geography and cartography.

Tuesday 12th

America under the Southern Cross: videoconference.

Prof. Mauricio Nieto (Universidad de los Andes, Bogota) talked on his discovery of a cartographic archive by Francisco Jose de Caldas in Madrid. Specifically, the maps of New Granada (Columbia) are important historical documents, typically illustrating a colonising powers possession and domination of an area by eliminating the local toponymy and language. The map(s) shown were compared in style and execution to those by Alexander von Humboldt, with whom de Caldas met and was undoubtedly influenced by.

Prof. Carla Lois (University of Buenos Aires, Argentina) expounded a conceptual argument about the geographical status of America in the 16th century. She has studied the way in which the Americas were cartographically described firstly as an island, an isthmus, a peninsula, and finally as a continent, using various early maps of the world (Waldseemüller 1507, Apian 1548) to illustrate her point.

Prof. Iris Kantor (University de Sao Paulo, Brasil) similarly expounded on the mapping and naming of the territory of Portuguese America 1750-1825. Again it was shown that colonising powers took possession of 'their' territory by banning indigenous language and linguistic groups, removing communities and establishing new toponyms for the area. Scientific voyaging gave credence to the new names in a world context.

(NB: unfortunately the videoconference did have some technical difficulties, namely some disconnections and poor quality lines resulting in difficulty in hearing the presenters properly; however, it was very interesting to learn of these cartographic discoveries and theories).

Antarctica

Prof. Robert L. Clancy (AMC) gave an historically thorough presentation on his view of the links between Antarctica and the wider world, its evolution from an idea as an unknown land, to a 'global village'. His in-depth knowledge of Antarctic exploration and discovery came to the fore when he talked about the explorers, their equipment, planning, temperaments, failures and successes, putting the expeditions in a wider historical context. The presentation was illustrated with maps and photographs of Antarctica. A very entertaining 40 minutes.

John Manning (AMC) followed this with a talk from a map-makers' viewpoint with reference to Antarctic research. Antarctica is a frozen continent, ice with land beneath, not just frozen water as the Arctic is, and without an indigenous population as the Arctic has. This has left Antarctica open to exploitation, thus the scramble for 'ownership' of vast areas of Antarctica by various neighbouring countries over the last 17th century. It lacked a title page and had been mis-collated when the volume had been re-bound, probably in the 19th century. This was a very exciting find, one which needed consultation with other major libraries such as the British Library, to establish its provenance and confirm the value of the volume. It is thought this is one of the earliest instances of a map of Australia being included in an atlas. There are 7 copies of the entire atlas now known to the world, and 2 partial copies.

Nick Kansas (IMCoS) presented his studies of the night skies which echoed that of Jack Thatcher, celestial navigator. His talk covered many cultures, religions and belief systems, nations and centuries. He established that the celestial heavens have been and are of great importance to all peoples from the ancient Egyptians to the most modern observatory, and how the study of the stars and constellations has influenced human daily life from the mundane to the scientific.

Finally, Adella Edwards (AMC) brought us right up to date with a look at how the Internet, especially Google has influenced the development of modern mapping. She demonstrated that Google Earth is a different beast to Google Maps; the former being a compilation of satellite images of the Earth, updated periodically, and the latter is a multi-layered mapping tool (although with graphic limitations) available to any would-be cartographer or graphic artist. She introduced us to new terminology: “neogeography” = non-professional Google mapping; “paleogeographer” = traditional geographers. Unresolved questions arising from this presentation included, for example, copyright issues, especially with Ordnance Survey in Britain who rigorously pursue breaches of copyright; and the professional cartographer vs. the graphic artist. Also it was noted that there is a demise of government-produced data generally, and paper (i.e. published) maps are on the decline.

Conference dinner

The Conference dinner was held at Te Papa. It was a great opportunity to network with other delegates, especially non-New Zealand based people; also it was the final opportunity to meet the speakers and hear the closing remarks of IMCoS President, Hans Kok.

Conclusion

With over 100 delegates this conference was very well attended, and in a wonderful location at Te Papa. The speakers were of international standing and reputation, presenting well-informed, interesting and educative papers. All gave a great deal for future thought and assimilation, with much information from disparate sources relevant to Australian and New Zealand’s perspective; and indeed, quite revealing how the rest of the world saw, through the ages, Terra Australes under the Southern Cross.

Julie Senior

Auckland

NEW ZEALAND MAP SOCIETY

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at Te Papa, Wellington, on Wednesday 13th February, 2008.

The meeting opened at 3.30pm.

1. Those present.

Brian Marshall, John Robson, Hugh Kidd, Roy Montgomery, Dave Small, Karen Craw, Mike Geary, Barbara Moorhouse, Julie Senior, Ian Snowdon.

2. Apologies.

Sarah Padey, Kathryn Mercer, Derek Leask, Elva Leaming, Michael Ross, Lynn Williams

3. Minutes of the 2007 AGM.

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

4. Matters arising from the 2007 AGM minutes.

Brian is to make enquiries as to the whereabouts and condition of Phil Barton.

5. Summary of Correspondence.

Received from Dr Alexander Wearing, an offer to contribute to the journal. John is to follow up.

Received from Karen Churton, a letter regarding treasurers business. No further correspondence received.

6. Matters arising from the Correspondence.

Nothing to report.

7. Statement of accounts.

No statement of accounts was received. Brian was looking after finances temporarily, passing it on to John in October when Lynn Williams offered to take over. John has not had time to do a statement but in summary there is currently \$5938.13 in the Westpac account.

The motion that this be accepted moved by Dave Small and seconded by Hugh Kidd. Carried.

8. Matters arising from the Statement of Accounts.

No subs were charged for one year.

9. Future of the Society.

John briefly outlined the background to this issue. This has already been aired in Datum. John's talk at LIANZA was well received but did not result in increased membership.

Option 1) The Society ceases to exist. Members join another society as personal members.

Option 2) Merge with AMC. Make representations to AMC to change the title of the joint society, accept N.Z. members on the committee and entertain the idea of a conference in New Zealand occasionally.

It is proposed that the NZMS agrees in principle to a merger with the AMC. The NZMS Committee will be responsible for negotiating with the AMC the form of the new organisation and any conditions of the merger. Moved by Brian Marshall, seconded by Ian Snowdon. Carried.

It is proposed that the President of the NZMS, with back up from Brian Marshall, carry out the negotiations on behalf of the Committee and present a formal proposal and merger plan to a Special General Meeting in August 2008 for final approval. In this way the approval, if given, comes from the AMC in response to an approach from the NZMS. Moved by Dave Small, seconded by Karen Craw. Carried.

In the event of a merger we would need a name for the new organisation that reflects the membership. Moved by Ian Snowdon, seconded by Hugh Kidd. Carried.

10. Election of Officers.

In the light of the above it was decided to roll over the existing committee. Proposed that those existing committee members retain positions until the special meeting in August 2008. Moved by Hugh Kidd, seconded by Mike Geary. Carried.

John is to maintain the finances in the meantime.

11. Next Meeting.

A Special General Meeting is to be held in August 2008, subject to progress in merger negotiations.

12. Other business.

We need to notify members of what is happening with the Society. Barbara will put an item on the webpage.

Julie is to summarise the conference papers for publication.

It was agreed that Karen write a letter of appreciation to the 2008 conference committee for the conference organisation.

The meeting closed at 4.55 pm.

Karen Craw, Secretary
26th February 2008

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