



# CARTOgram

Newsletter of the New Zealand Cartographic Society Inc.

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## The International Cartographic Association's 23<sup>rd</sup> International Cartographic Conference Moskva, Russia. 4-10 August 2007

### ....a personal memoir

After flying "direct" from Auckland, arrival in Moskva was "interesting". The passport control and customs at the (quite small) Sheremetyevo airport were quite straight forward but there was no one to meet me as I expected. The young lady at the Intourist office worked hard to find out what had gone wrong (I wasn't on any of their lists, but my Intourist sponsored visa was in order) and in the end she organised a taxi from the many drivers pestering people for a job. The driver was nervous and drove erratically and too fast in the tropical downpours and the heavy traffic.... but we got to the Hotel Tourist in one piece. The hotel was a series of oldish, five-story blocks surrounding a small park with pleasant trees, within a walled compound.

After checking-in to the hotel I walked through the All-Russia Exhibition Centre Park to the posh, French-built Cosmos Hotel, where the conference was being held, for registration and to join Igor Drecki in the General Assembly of National Delegates.

It felt quite safe in the park. As it was Saturday afternoon there were many, many families walking about and visiting the exhibition "pavilions". There were also sideshows, elephants, restaurants, picnics, fun in the sun, and other entertainment.

I saw at least four couples getting married. Wedding photographs with war memorial backgrounds were evidently very culturally desirable. It is a big park... perhaps 3km x 3km. We later found a shorter route between our hotel and the conference. This tree-lined route was very pleasant, especially in the mornings. There are also trolley busses outside the park which only cost \$1.25 for what a taxi would charge \$50. The Muscovites were extremely helpful, though few spoke any English.

The Hotel Tourist is about two-star, I think, and comparatively cheap. I shared with Igor Drecki, our other national delegate from Auckland. Our room was small, but the bathroom was OK. We slept with the window wide open. One night there was fireworks and "heroic" music echoing around the hotel buildings - possibly from one of the weddings? It was warm and summery - about 28° during the day and 22° at night, and 100% humidity all the time. Casual clothes were worn by all but the most obstinate (or proud)...

It was really good to be at an International Cartographic Association conference. The last one I attended was in Bournemouth in 1991. In total there were 983

participants from 62 countries, including 44 official delegations from ICA member countries at the conference.

The presentations varied in a discouraging continuum. For a group with a graphic focus some of the presentations were abysmal. Others really used their graphic communication opportunities fully. Younger presenters seemed especially gifted in their graphics. It seemed that many presenters used the opportunity of being in Moskva for sightseeing instead of presenting their papers to contemporaries who had travelled far to hear them. This was disappointing.

There were about 520 oral and 120 poster presentations classified into 26 themes - more than enough to interest anybody with a vague penchant for cartography or geography. Usually there were eight technical sessions being run concurrently. It was always hard to make a choice. Most presentations were in English, a few in French or Russian.

I had expected the presentations to be dominated by computer-oriented research topics but, although this was undoubtedly true overall, there were a very large number of papers on cartography for atlases and multimedia, the history of cartography, and the cartographic challenges posed by the internet and hand-held devices such as those used in the developing field of "ubiquitous" mapping. Outstanding among the poster presentations were cartography for sustainable development and, surprisingly, theoretical cartography.

I was delighted to attend the meeting of the ICA Commission on Mountain Cartography and the sessions on Applications and Special Issues. My kind of people: my kind of issues.

It seemed to me that little progress had been made on the standardisation of names and toponymy, other than to further describe and detail the difficulties, and to perpetuate the use of exonyms. Of more interest were papers describing the small but well focussed efforts being made to record the nomenclature of minority groups. Excellent forward-looking presentations by executive members provided context for the detail of the plenary sessions and challenges for the near future.

I was pleased to be at a session describing the automatic placement of place names by ArcGIS. To improve legibility, 90% of "flat text" place names had to be moved and 96% of curved river names had to be moved. This paralleled my own experience with



LorikCartographer, and confirmed the difficulty of writing automatic placement scripts for topographic situations. It had a “feel-good” factor for me.

The national map exhibitions were displayed in one of the large exhibition centres in the park. There were also associated displays for hydrographic charting, Russian historical mapping, and the children’s map competition where our two entries were also displayed. We were very pleased to receive the top prize for topographic mapping on behalf of Graeme Jupp (then of Terralink, now of LINZ) for a map of Mount Cook. Additionally there was a relatively small commercial exhibition. ESRI seemed well supported.

One evening we went for a short stroll and an outdoor meal with the Norwegian delegation, in the All-Russia Exhibition Centre Park. The meal, skewers of barbecued pork, small baked potatoes and unknown sauces cost as much as a restaurant meal in New Zealand. It was a very pleasant evening even so.

That evening Igor and I found ourselves locked in the park in the fast-gathering darkness and had to squeeze out under the gate.

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## Interim Committee Projects

The Interim Committee is Sarah Williams, Rob Phillips, Tim Nolan, Lesley Murphy, Antoni Moore, David Mole, Chris McDowall, Pip Forer, Igor Drecki, and Geoff Aitken. Assisted by support from Lex Chalmers, Richard Yates, Barry Bradley, and Gareth Evans. A number of projects are “under action” by members of the Interim Committee:

**Incorporation.** The Constitution and Rules have been re-drafted by Geoff Aitken and David Mole and submitted to the Interim Committee members for a last look before adopting them and formally applying for Incorporation. There are sufficient potential members for the incorporation process, and after that there will be a call for general membership, elections and a new Committee under the new constitution.

**Finance.** Thanks to the success of the last two GeoCart conferences, and the customised cartography course supplied to NZDF, there are sufficient funds to cover expected commitments in the short term. Gareth Evans has agreed to remain as Treasurer until replaced by the elections for a new committee.

**Cartographic course for NZDF.** A customised introductory cartographic course was prepared and delivered to staff of the Joint Geospatial Services Facility of NZDF in Devonport by Igor Drecki and Barry Bradley. Feedback is very good. This material could be adapted to a variety of audiences for future clients.

**School wall map.** The Society has contracted Barry Bradley to produce a Physical Wall Map of New Zealand. The right generalisation level for the topographic features and population centres has been established. This is progressing well. Barry is working closely with GeographX to develop a relief image with sufficient generalisation and boldness for the map.

The election of the new Executive Committee and selection of the venue for the conference on the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of ICA in 2011, both provided insights into the competitive personal and national activities behind the scenes. The new President is Bill Cartwright (Australia) with David Fairbairn (UK) as Secretary-General.

The next ICA conference will be held in Santiago de Chile in November 2009, followed by Paris, France in July 2011.

The Society gratefully acknowledges the financial support for Igor’s attendance from the University of Auckland’s Professional Development Fund and the School of Geography and Environmental Science, and the National Topographic / Hydrographic Authority of Land information New Zealand.

The Society’s country report to ICA can be read at [www.cartography.org.nz](http://www.cartography.org.nz)

Geoff Aitken

**Map Fair.** A large number of maps have come in to the possession of the Society. A proposal to sell them at a “Map Fair” is being developed – probably at an Auckland venue.

**Society History.** Robin Phillips has expressed his interest in writing and coordinating contributions to record the history of NZCS. This important initiative will require financial resources and a solid timeframe to ensure completion and publication – in whatever form. Anyone who wishes to contribute should contact Rob. [rob.phillips@xtra.co.nz](mailto:rob.phillips@xtra.co.nz)

**Seminars.** Dr. Karel Kriz of the University of Vienna, currently a visiting fellow at the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology in Melbourne, Australia, will be holidaying in New Zealand over Christmas and has agreed with the New Zealand Cartographic Society to make a short academic presentation at the University of Auckland and a more government-oriented one in Wellington. Dr Kriz is the Chairman of the International Cartographic Association’s Mountain Cartography Commission. He is working on a number of national and international projects dealing with cartographic communication embedded in web-based applications.

On Monday 17 December 2007 in Auckland, Dr Kriz will give presentations on: **the ICA-Commission on Mountain Cartography - Research and Educational Issues and Geo-Communication, Cartography and Design.** If you wish to attend contact Igor Drecki. [i.drecki@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:i.drecki@auckland.ac.nz)

On Friday 21 December 2007 in Wellington, Dr Kriz will give presentations on: **Mountain Cartography and Topographic Mapping from a Central European Perspective and Decision Support Tools for Avalanche Risk Management at the Avalanche Warning Centre Tyrol – Austria.** If you wish to attend contact Dave Mole. [dmole@linz.govt.nz](mailto:dmole@linz.govt.nz)

A Workshop on the representation of relief on maps and how to combine it with other data (topographic as well as thematic) is being developed in conjunction with the GeoCart'2008 conference. We hope to involve Professor Lorenz Hurni (ETH, Switzerland and Co-chair of the ICA Commission on Mountain Cartography) as facilitator or adviser for the Workshop.

**GeoCart'2008.** Preliminary organisation has started for this conference. The venue and dates are yet to be

finalised, but it is expected to be in September. Two keynote speakers have been confirmed. Proposals will be put to the Interim Committee shortly.

**GeoCart'2006.** The proceedings of this conference have now been published on CD and distributed to attendees. Additional copies may be made available for a fee. Contact: [info@cartography.org.nz](mailto:info@cartography.org.nz)

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## Topo50 Map Series

Land Information New Zealand (LINZ) has successfully produced a prototype of the 1:50 000 Topo50 Map series.

British based company 1Spatial (formerly Laser-Scan) was contracted to enhance the New Zealand Topographic Database and to provide tools to enable text placement to be carried out within the database. This was an integral step in the development of the Topo50 Map prototype.

Over the next 18 months, a team of six people, using these new tools, will carefully position the text in readiness for producing the new maps. The LINZ "pre-press process" will dramatically reduce the time required for future map editions.

The new maps will be in portrait format 24x36km (72% of the area of the old series) and will be the first topographic maps published by LINZ using New Zealand Transverse Mercator Projection and the New Zealand Geodetic Datum 2000.

The entire map series of 452 maps is expected to be launched in September 2009.

## Proud of Achievement: Fanny Lariviere

Terralink International is very proud to accept the award for top honours in the Topographic Map category for its Aoraki - Mt Cook Recreational Map at the 2007 International Cartographic Exhibition held in Russia last August. This map was revised in 2005 when new information was included and colours were enhanced to increase readability and enhance relief contrasts. Terralink is well-known for producing very high quality maps and this achievement is a great example of that.

This map covers the popular alpine area centred on Aoraki/Mt Cook, at 3,754 metres New Zealand's highest peak. The map includes detailed coverage of the Tasman, Fox, Mueller and Hooker glaciers, together with the many alpine plateaus and other popular skiing and climbing regions. A prominent feature is the detailed contouring, accentuating some of New Zealand's steepest terrain. Major routes, tramping tracks, shorts walks and other recreational activities are symbolised. The map provides greater topographic and recreational information than any existing product.

*(We, too, take pride in Terralink's achievement... Geoff Aitken)*

## Astronomers' colossal cartographic creation

The biggest map ever drawn not only plots the location of 15,500 galaxies, it also says something important about space - it's lumpy.

A team of astronomers from several British universities has created the map using an Infra-Red Astronomical Satellite (IRAS) and observatories in Chile, the Canary Islands and Coonabarabran in New South Wales. The map is three dimensional with the Earth at the centre of a sphere 700 million light years in radius.

"It's by far the biggest map of anything. There is nothing like it in its scale" claimed Professor Carlos Frenk from Durham University in Britain.

The map took ten years to compile and shows clumps of galaxies in clusters and superclusters separated by vast areas of void. The ratio of the size of the superclusters to the size of the voids provides some clue to the eventual fate of the universe - and it looks like the universe will keep on expanding indefinitely.

"It's an historic map," said Professor Frenk. "Some day it will hang from every kid's wall."

From: <http://www.abc.net.au/science/news/stories/s18604.htm> (2 February 1999)