



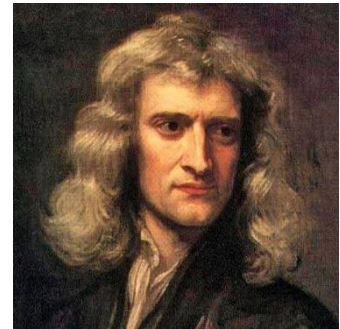
## AusSeabed Newsletter No. 13 April 2020

Hello all,

Welcome to the April newsletter. I hope that you are all keeping well during these unprecedented times. This month's inspirational quote:

"All knowledge and understanding of the Universe was no more than playing with stones and shells on the seashore of the vast imponderable ocean of truth." Sir Isaac Newton.

Remember we welcome contributions so if you have something you'd like to share, please send it in!



### ***Word from the chair***

Dear AusSeabed community,

I hope you had a good and safe Easter break. Since last month's newsletter, AusSeabed has undergone many changes, including those resulting from COVID-19.

First, the AusSeabed Steering Committee lost Nathan Quadros as vice-chair and welcomed Tara Martin from CSIRO in the role until our next election (July 2020; see *Upcoming election*).

Nathan left FrontierSI to explore new grounds and consequently, resigned from his committee role. On behalf of the Steering Committee, I would like to thank Nathan for his commitment to AusSeabed through his roles as vice-chair and program theme lead. Nathan secured FrontierSI's two-year commitment in developing and delivering the AusSeabed Coordination Tool and the AusSeabed QA tool. Good luck Nathan in your new role and we look forward to seeing you back in the community in due time.

On a similar note, I would like to thank Vanessa Lucieer and James Daniell for their contributions to the Steering Committee, as they will no longer be representing UTAS and JCU on the committee. With the upcoming re-election of five committee positions, the committee agreed to postpone their replacement until then.

Finally, due to the cancellation of the AMSA 2020 conference, we are now working on an alternative plan to host our AusSeabed AGM, workshop and seminar (see *Upcoming meetings*).

## ***Governance Updates***

### ***Upcoming Election Positions***

The staggered renewal process of the Steering Committee was established in the [Terms of Reference](#). Over the last two meetings (December '19 & March '20), the committee endorsed the following election process, which will see the five general member positions (out of the 9) listed below re-elected in July 2020.

- Academia: 1 (JCU) out of 2
- State Government: 2 (Victoria and NSW) out of the 3
- Private/Industry: 1(Guardian Geomatics) out of the 3
- Commonwealth Government: 1 (Australian Antarctic Division) out of 1

The nomination process will open on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> May, and will be announced on the AusSeabed website, newsletter and via the AusSeabed community mailing list.

The detailed election process timeline is as followed:

- Monday 11th May: Nominations open
- Monday 25th May: Nominations close
- Monday 1st June: Immediate appointments (if 1 nominee only) & voting opens (>1 nominees)
- Monday 15th June: Voting closes
- Monday 22nd June: Appointment
- Thursday 9th July: AGM

Please consider nominating for as a sector representative as every idea matters in making AusSeabed a valued community initiative.

### ***Executive Board Meeting***

The Executive Board meeting will take place on the 28<sup>th</sup> of April. The Board will discuss:

- 1) the value statement of the program to the community, which is based on the community responses to the questionnaire sent in March;
- 2) setting up an agreement between the five Board members to ensure AusSeabed is an enduring initiative; and
- 3) the work plan for FY20/21, which will be endorsed out of session.

### ***SC Meeting #5***

The 5<sup>th</sup> meeting of the AusSeabed Steering Committee (SC) occurred on 26<sup>th</sup> of March to progress the coordination of seabed mapping efforts in Australia. This meeting provided an update on the program themes development, defined next year work plan priorities, agreed on the election process and interim governance, and discussed AMSA 2020 contingency plan. Minutes will be made available on the website in early May.

## **Program Theme updates**

### ***Data Hub***

In January, Geoscience Australia established a 2-year partnership agreement with FrontierSI to progress the development of the AusSeabed Data Hub, in particular, the coordination and QA tools. CSIRO, through partnership with GA, will provide the multibeam expertise to lead the development of the latter.

### ***Tools, Guidelines and Standards***

The Tools, Guidelines and Standards Working Group is currently revising the Australian Multibeam guidelines, as well as a draft guideline for satellite-derived bathymetry and

bathymetric LiDAR. If you are interested in contributing, please contact [ausseabed@ga.gov.au](mailto:ausseabed@ga.gov.au).

In May 2019, the Intergovernmental Committee on Surveying and Mapping (ICSM) instigated the AusHydroid working group to develop a new separation model that will allow for the reduction of bathymetry data from the ellipsoid to the chart datum. The group meets regularly and if you require further information, please refer to the ICSM [website](#).

### ***Outreach, Education, and Training (OET)***

An online portal, The Index of Marine Surveys for Assessments (IMSA), was launched on 31 March 2020, to provide information about marine-based environmental surveys in Western Australia.

IMSA is a project by the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation for the systematic capture and sharing of marine data created as part of an environmental impact assessment (EIA). Work has begun regarding the creation of a Marine Information Office for WA to act as the Centre of Excellence for all things marine.

## **Upcoming Meetings**

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, most of the upcoming meetings and conferences have been postponed or cancelled. Please refer to the update below for information.

### ***EGU2020: Sharing Geoscience Online (Online. 4 to 8 May, 2020)***

'EGU2020: Sharing Geoscience Online' (#shareEGU20), which brings online part of the activities of the EGU General Assembly 2020 will replace the Vienna meeting this year. Authors and conveners will share their research, discuss with colleagues, and overall will make this event exciting and useful for the geoscience community.

In particular, check out the '[Submarine Geomorphology and Advances in Seabed Mapping and Classification](#)' that will take place on Wednesday 6th May, 14:00–18:00.

Cost: Free

Open to: Everyone

[Click here](#) for more information and the latest updates.

### ***AMSA (Sydney. 27 June - 2 July, 2021)***

The annual Australian Marine Science Association (AMSA) Conference in July 2020 was cancelled. Thank you to those NSW AusSeabed community members who had been busy organising a Symposium and the annual AusSeabed Workshop.

Good News! We are pleased to announce that we have secured new dates for AMSA 2021, 'Marine Science in the Anthropocene', which will be held at Macquarie University in Sydney.

The conference is to be held a week earlier than usual to avoid clashing with several other international conferences scheduled around that time. Unfortunately, our NZ 'marine-science' colleagues are unable to participate in a joint conference in 2021.

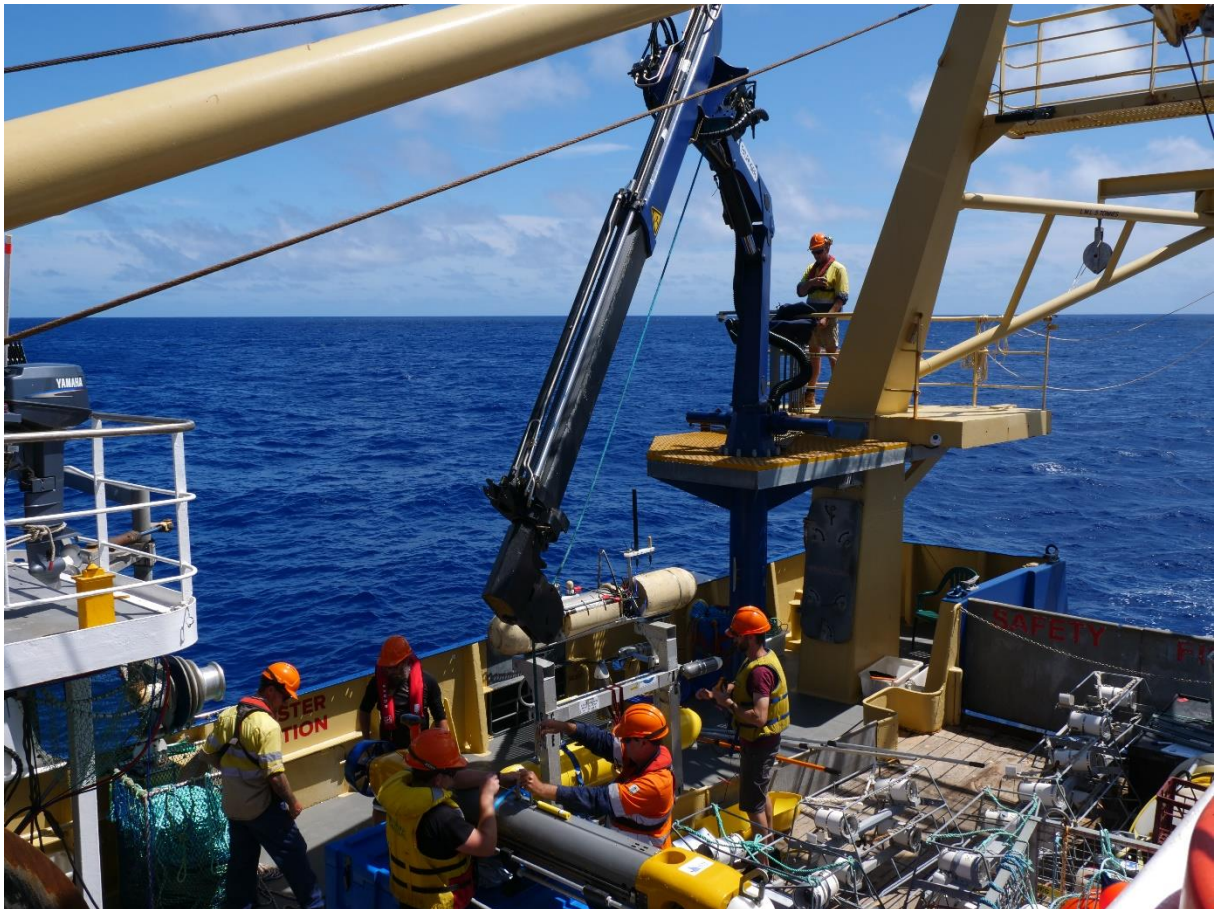
As for the annual AusSeabed 2020 Workshop - we are proposing a series of online AusSeabed mini-fora with presentations and workshop sessions so as to progress the AusSeabed work program. An invitation to the community will be forthcoming in the next month or so.

### ***GEOHAB 2020 (18-20 May, Venice, Italy)***

The event has been cancelled. The international scientific committee are discussing alternatives.

## **Other News**

### ***NESP Marine Biodiversity Hub Survey (Feb 2020)***



The recent NESP Marine Biodiversity Hub survey held in February was highly productive despite being cut short due to the stationary low that battered the East Coast and a cyclone that chased the survey team from the Lord Howe Rise. The voyage saw the complete mapping of Middleton Reef Shelf from 20-200 m and some opportunistic mapping at Elizabeth Reef, in total 2260 line km were mapped resulting in 86 km<sup>2</sup> of high resolution bathymetry. The survey also collected: ~15 km of AUV footage, 182 baited video stations, 11 sediment grabs, 7 Coral transects, and 4 black cod surveys (three at Middleton and one at Elizabeth). The survey will help set an important baseline for monitoring the condition of shallow and mesophotic reef habitats and responses to climate stressors within the Lord Howe Marine Park.

## **Share your work with the AusSeabed community**

Finally, a reminder as always that anyone with an interest in AusSeabed can sign up to the newsletter mailing list on our website, where you can also check out past issues. And please send any items for the next letter to [AusSeabedNews@ga.gov.au](mailto:AusSeabedNews@ga.gov.au).