

Director's Note

What a busy and productive year it's been across the AusSeabed community! We've published an impressive 226,500 m² of data this calendar year - and it's not slowing down.

The independent review of AusSeabed is underway and presents an invaluable opportunity to shape the future of our work. I thank everyone who has contributed their thoughts through interviews or the online survey on how to consolidate and strengthen AusSeabed for the years ahead. The Executive Board looks forward to learning the results of that review in the new year.



We've also begun the annual engagement campaign to update the Survey Coordination Tool (SCT), (<http://communication.ga.gov.au/link/id/zzzz691abcc3a7c32452Pzzzz5d1c4b674a91f236/page.html>). In the run-up to the Christmas break, please start thinking about your Survey Plans, HIPP Requests, and Areas of Interest and take the opportunity when the office is quiet in the new year to share them with us. The more you share, the more opportunities your colleagues across Australia will be able to help you.

Our working groups continue to thrive: the new Multibeam Guidelines Review Working Group is now active, the LiDAR Guidelines Working Group is seeking volunteers, and the Indigenous Engagement Working Group has been especially busy—thank you to everyone involved for your support and commitment throughout 2025.

I'd like to extend a warm welcome to Ryan de Wet, our new Seabed Engagement Lead. Ryan brings a wealth of experience and enthusiasm to the role, and I'm sure you'll all enjoy working with him in the months and years ahead.

Looking ahead, we're excited to keep the momentum going—growing our community, broadening our reach, and expanding collaboration.

Thank you all for your contributions throughout 2025.

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pip Bricher". The script is fluid and cursive.

Director, National Seabed Mapping at Geoscience Australia

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● (https://communication.ga.gov.au/pub/pubType/EO/pubID/zzzz68f9c52b0cd0c373/interface.html?aid=251ff0473c247cbcûff0473c247cbc)	Working Group Updates (https://communication.ga.gov.au/pub/pubTyaid=251ff0473c247cbcûff0473c247cbc)
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Introducing our Seabed Engagement Lead

We are excited to welcome Ryan to the team as the new Seabed Engagement Lead.

Ryan has extensive experience as a geospatial professional, most recently leading a team of hydrographers and geospatial specialists to implement, manage and deliver coastal and inland waterway survey programs.

Ryan holds an Honours Degree in Spatial Science from the University of Southern Queensland and a Diploma in Civil/Structural Engineering. Ryan has worked throughout Australia on major infrastructure projects, coastal monitoring and sand nourishment projects, remote indigenous infrastructure programs, and large-scale terrestrial and bathymetric mapping projects. Ryan is passionate about innovation and champions emerging technologies and data-driven solutions. His experience in building partnerships, advancing survey standards, and supporting sustainable seabed mapping initiatives will be an asset to AusSeabed and the National Seabed Mapping team.

Welcome aboard Ryan!



Changing of The Guard

Welcome to the end of year and probably a much needed wind down for most. Unfortunately, during the lead up to the end of year, the geospatial community has lost a national representative body - the Geospatial Council of Australia. This has required the hydrographic surveying community to work through some tough decisions on how to regain national representation. Rest assured, the community is pulling together and will have a new representative body and continuation of hydrographic surveying certification processes in the New Year.

On the theme of 'changing of the guard', 15 December will mark the passing of Hydrographer of Australia from Commodore Robyn Phillips to Commodore Darryn Mullins. Darryn holds professional qualifications in both hydrographic surveying and law. There is a close partnership between Geoscience Australia, AusSeabed and the Australian Hydrographic Office and with this I welcome Darryn into the role and look forward to the AusSeabed community engaging with him in the promotion of the AusSeabed principles and efforts.

In the New Year, please don't be a stranger in the community. We'll be needing all of the expert input possible to run and participate in working groups, on committees, creating or editing community guidelines and much more. AusSeabed has had great success in publishing to Ocean Best Practice and helping to mentor our future scientists through the complexities of data.

Turn your voice into action in 2026!

Warm regards,

*Richard Cullen
Chair, AusSeabed Steering Committee*

The New Survey Coordination Tool is Live!

The new Survey Coordination Tool (SCT) has launched and we need your input!

'All users are required to re-register
(<http://communication.ga.gov.au/link/id/zzzz691abcc3a7c32452Pzzzz5d1c4b674a91f236/page.html>).
for the new tool using your organisation's email'.

The new platform continues making collaboration easy and provides a sustainable platform into the future. Features such as Areas of Interest, HIPP Requests and Survey Plans have all been retained on the new platform, further facilitating community collaboration and reducing survey duplication.

Register now (<http://communication.ga.gov.au/link/id/zzzz691abcc3a7c32452Pzzzz5d1c4b674a91f236/page.html>) and experience the new platform!

If you require assistance or would like to provide feedback on the new SCT, please reach out to ausseabed@ga.gov.au (<mailto:ausseabed@ga.gov.au>).



(<http://communication.ga.gov.au/link/id/zzzz691abcc3a7c32452Pzzzz5d1c4b674a91f236/page.html>)



Pip Bricher Appointed Deputy Chair of GEBCO

We are pleased to announce that our very own Pip Bricher - Director National Seabed Mapping at Geoscience Australia - has been appointed Deputy Chair of the GEBCO Guiding Committee. GEBCO (General Bathymetric Chart of the Oceans) is a global initiative dedicated to mapping the world's oceans and advancing bathymetric knowledge to support science, safety, and sustainability.

Congratulations Pip!

This appointment highlights Pip's leadership in ocean data coordination and her commitment to improving seabed mapping standards and accessibility. Through initiatives such as AusSeabed, Pip has championed efforts to make marine data more discoverable and usable for the community. This gives us an opportunity for closer collaboration between Australia's seabed mapping community and its global counterpart.



In order of appearance (Left to Right): Luigi Sinapi (International Hydrographic Organization); Khaira Ismail (Malaysia, new GGC member); Nana Poku (Ghana, new GGC member); Evert Flier (GGC Chair); Pip Bricher (GA, new GGC Vice Chair); Julian Barbieri (Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission).

Ocean Floor Explore – Map the Gaps Symposium

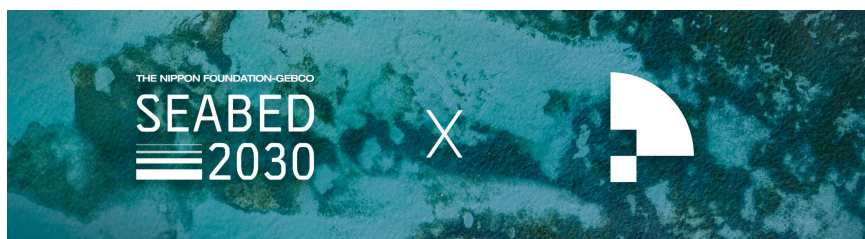
Pip recently presented on the successes and lessons of AusSeabed at the *Ocean Floor Explore – A Map the Gaps Symposium* held in Victoria, Canada. This international event was designed to accelerate progress toward the *Seabed 2030* (<https://seabed2030.org/>) initiative, which aims to map the entire ocean floor by 2030. There was particular interest from the audience in our Survey Coordination Tool and the ways that AusSeabed has helped align the activities of seabed mapping agencies.

Participation in these events is vital for connecting with global leaders, aligning strategies, and ensuring that Australia's seabed mapping efforts contribute to national and international goals. Additionally, Seabed mapping is critical in improving our understanding of marine ecosystems, supporting safe navigation at sea, and enabling informed decisions on resource management.

To learn more about GEBCO and the GEBCO-Nippon Foundation Seabed 2030 project, please visit the websites below:

[GEBCO | General Bathymetric Chart of the Oceans \(https://www.gebco.net/\)](https://www.gebco.net/)

[Seabed 2030 \(https://seabed2030.org/\)](https://seabed2030.org/)



[\(https://www.gebco.net/\)](https://www.gebco.net/)

A Journey from the Desert to the Deep Sea

Dr Yakup Niyazi didn't see the ocean until he was 27. Now he's leading deep-sea dives into unexplored ocean realms. His story is one of curiosity and a remarkable journey from the dry landscapes of Central Asia to the mysterious depths of the Atlantic Ocean

Read more about Dr Niyazi's adventures in the article: [The deep-sea scientist who didn't see the ocean until he was 27](https://stories.theconversation.com/the-deep-sea-scientist-who-didnt-see-the-ocean-until-he-was-27/) (<https://stories.theconversation.com/the-deep-sea-scientist-who-didnt-see-the-ocean-until-he-was-27/>).

In addition to his work with Minderoo-UWA Deep-Sea Research Centre, Dr Niyazi will be chairing and coordinating the Multibeam Guidelines Review Working Group.



Publications

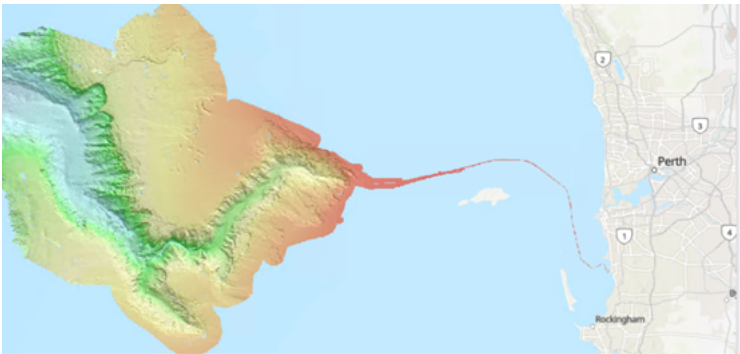
New starter Kate Purdon - a Marine Geoscientist from Sydney – has joined the National Seabed Mapping Team at Geoscience Australia and is already kicking goals.

With a background in geomorphology and having recently completed a systematic mapping effort of paleo-coastlines in the Southern Great Barrier Reef at the University of Sydney, Kate has applied her knowledge and experience to tackling legacy marine geospatial data for AusSeabed.



To date, Kate has published two Perth Canyon grids, a 1995 expedition from Fremantle to Hobart tracking along the southeast Indian Ridge, a return trip from Fremantle to Antarctica, and a voyage on the NSW coast in Forster – all in less than two months!

These newly processed datasets will be utilised for the next AusBathyTopo grid, which will be released in the new year. Great work Kate!



Name	Resolution	Metadata link	Portal link
Northern Great Barrier Reef Bathymetry, 10m -100m (CSIRO) in2022_v07	10-100m	Link (https://data.csiro.au/collection/csiro%3A58347v2)	Link (https://portal.ga.gov.au/restore/f12f02e6-3e2b-4b97-8628-6f2f776241f0)
Tasman Sea Margin Bathymetry, 10m - 210m (CSIRO) in2022_v05	10-210m	Link (https://data.csiro.au/collection/csiro%3A57321v2)	Link (https://portal.ga.gov.au/restore/6264e7c4-95de-4bbb-b87f-e1155f00ee39)
Helens Rock, 2m (2013)	2m	Link (https://pid.geoscience.gov.au/dataset/ga/150623)	Link (https://portal.ga.gov.au/restore/00d4c62f-094c-4386-9bbc-ab2f2f20951c)
Popes Eye, 2m (2018)	2m	Link (https://pid.geoscience.gov.au/dataset/ga/150694)	Link (https://portal.ga.gov.au/restore/3a9bddc5-1297-49ff-a483-f5da19bd980d)
Port Fairy Wave Energy 1m (2015)	1m	Link (https://doi.org/10.26186/150708)	Link (https://portal.ga.gov.au/restore/3787e38a-f3c1-4438-8632-923c42c8bbd2)
Port Fairy Wave Energy Site, 0.5m (2021)	0.5m	Link (https://doi.org/10.26186/150705)	Link (https://portal.ga.gov.au/restore/8b125dd0-42a7-4b9f-a376-32f99461bf90)
Port Phillip Bay Tielines: Sandringham - St Leonards, 0.5m (2021)	0.5m	Link (https://pid.geoscience.gov.au/dataset/ga/150706)	Link (https://portal.ga.gov.au/restore/bdf5a394-f744-489f-bb48-14b0642514c2)
Portsea Hole, Port Phillip Bay, 2m (2018)	2m	Link (https://pid.geoscience.gov.au/dataset/ga/150703)	Link (https://portal.ga.gov.au/restore/f9fd3860-1130-450b-8c34-1e1e2aff2db6)
SI1037 – Dampier Marine Park, 30m (2024)	30m	Link (https://pid.geoscience.gov.au/dataset/ga/150693)	Link (https://portal.ga.gov.au/restore/f2607b03-9c8c-443a-91b7-564717ab82a9)

SI1049 – Cape Fourcroy (North-West), 30m (2024)	30m	Link (https://pid.geoscience.gov.au/dataset/ga/150692)	Link (https://portal.ga.gov.au/restore/033a8689-ace1-4c9f-a2eb-09612cc6bb01)
Apollo Marine Park - Shallow Waters Bathymetry, 5m (2024)	5m	Link (https://pid.geoscience.gov.au/dataset/ga/150687)	Link (https://portal.ga.gov.au/restore/b224b2f6-9493-45cc-acd0-2fa03a061ae1)
Beagle Marine Park - Shallow Waters Bathymetry, 5m (2024)	5m	Link (https://pid.geoscience.gov.au/dataset/ga/150679)	Link (https://portal.ga.gov.au/restore/29a61fe1-d3d9-4aaf-b3a1-3fb94b65b682)

Working Group Updates

Indigenous Engagement

The Indigenous Engagement Working Group are breaking ground, gathering case studies and user stories that showcase successful partnerships in seabed mapping projects on Sea Country.

If you have a story to contribute, please reach out to [Emily Twiggs](mailto:twiggs@eomap.com) (<mailto:twiggs@eomap.com>) or email AusSeabed.

LiDAR Guidelines

The LiDAR Guidelines Working Group are seeking support from the community for a chair and advocates to lead and liaise with the ICSM. Work remains paused with this group until the ICSM specification is published, however a body of work will be required from industry experts.

If you can contribute to the LiDAR Guidelines, please reach out to AusSeabed via email.

Multibeam Guidelines Review

The Multibeam Guidelines Working Group have begun in earnest with the first meeting held earlier this week. Chaired by Dr Yakup Niyazi, the group is comprised of industry experts who will review and update the guidelines as part of the 5-yearly review.

If you would like to be involved and contribute to the guidelines, please contact Yakup directly or email AusSeabed.

If you would like to contribute to an AusSeabed Working Group, we'd love to hear from you!

Please reach out to us at ausseabed@ga.gov.au (<mailto:ausseabed@ga.gov.au>).

Reading Corner



[Solitary Islands Marine Park Mapping and Seabed features report](https://australianmarineparks.gov.au/science/scientific-publications/solitary-islands-marine-park-mapping-and-seabed-features-report/)
[\(https://australianmarineparks.gov.au/science/scientific-publications/solitary-islands-marine-park-mapping-and-seabed-features-report/\)](https://australianmarineparks.gov.au/science/scientific-publications/solitary-islands-marine-park-mapping-and-seabed-features-report/)

[Shipwreck Hunters Australia and the WA Maritime Museum](https://museum.wa.gov.au/shipwreck-hunters-australia)
<https://museum.wa.gov.au/shipwreck-hunters-australia>

Training opportunities

Multibeam Training Course | MBC87

The 87th Multibeam Sonar Training Course, hosted by CSIRO and Acoustic Imaging will be held in Australia for the first time since 2018.

This six-day course includes 36 lectures and provides theoretical and practical instruction on marine swath survey technology and techniques. Topics include hydrographic surveys, continental shelf boundary delimitation, offshore engineering, harbour dredging, fisheries habitat mapping, route surveys, and scientific research.

Course date and location:

Hobart: 25 - 30 May 2026

For more information, and to register for the course, visit the [MBCourse website](https://mbcourse.com/event/mbc87-hobart-australia/) (<https://mbcourse.com/event/mbc87-hobart-australia/>).

Multibeam Crash Course | HydroOctave

HydroOctave, in collaboration with the Australasian Hydrographic Society, will deliver the Multibeam Crash Course in November 2026.

The course provides practical instruction aimed at supporting operational decision-making in the field. Theoretical content is included only where necessary to provide context for practical applications.

Course dates and locations:

Brisbane: 9 - 13 November 2026

Perth: 23 - 27 November 2026

For more information, and to register for the course, visit the [HydroOctave website](https://www.hydrooctave.com/) (<https://www.hydrooctave.com/>).



HydroOctave
CONSULTING



IHO Cat A Hydrographic Survey Program | AMCS

ACMS is running a 48-week intensive program designed for senior professionals seeking advanced expertise in hydrographic data acquisition, processing, and analysis in accordance with IHO S-5A standards.

Participants will engage in practical exercises using industry-specific survey equipment and software, applying theoretical knowledge and critical thinking across all aspects of contemporary hydrographic survey practice.

For more information visit the [website](https://www.amcsearch.com.au/course/cat-a-hydrographic-survey-program) (<https://www.amcsearch.com.au/course/cat-a-hydrographic-survey-program>) or read the [brochure](https://www.amcsearch.com.au/source-assets/images/Category-A-Programme-Brochure_v3.pdf) (https://www.amcsearch.com.au/source-assets/images/Category-A-Programme-Brochure_v3.pdf).

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