



AusSeabed Newsletter No. 11 February 2020

Hello all,

Hopefully you had a relaxing and pleasant break and haven't been too affected by fire or flood over this summer. After a break in January, we're pleased to present to you the February issue of AusSeabed News. Thanks to the magic of modern satellite communications, this issue is being written from the RV Investigator, over the Williams Ridge region of the Kerguelen Plateau, where seabed mapping, dredging, and seismic activities are underway. All's going well, save for an alarming lack of wine and French cheese. If you'd like to see the location of the Investigator and some of its underway data, you can find it at <https://www.cmar.csiro.au/data/underway/>.

Updates and other news

Update from the chair

Dear AusSeabed collaborators, the most pressing news for this month is AMSA 2020.



Our annual seabed mapping symposium: Applications of Seabed Mapping to Resource and Environmental Management during the Anthropocene, is awaiting your **ABSTRACT SUBMISSION BY FEBRUARY 14th** [here](#). The symposium will be held in conjunction with our annual workshop. Details of the day event, which will be co-hosted with our international colleagues of GEBCO – Nippon Foundation Seabed 2030, are being prepared and will be communicated in the March newsletter. Stay tuned!

Program themes

Data Hub

Over the past three months GA has developed a prototype automated, cloud-based processing pipeline for multibeam data. Focus is now on refining the system to enable the production of a suite of consistent AusSeabed bathymetry datasets.

The AusSeabed application for funding through the Australian Research Data Commons' Platforms Program was unfortunately unsuccessful. However, AusSeabed partners will continue to support the further development of the AusSeabed platform and pursue other funding opportunities.

Outreach, Education, and Training (OET)

The Outreach Team are planning for four upcoming conferences:

1. Ports Australia Brisbane 15-16 September
2. Locate Brisbane 28-30 April
3. PIANC Fremantle 16-19 June
4. AMSA 2020 Sydney 5-9- July
5. ACS (Australian Coastal Society) Cairns 29-30 July

There will also be an “Open Data” day in WA on the 9 March 2020 using AusSeabed as an example.

There has been a lot of interest in AusSeabed and particularly “Climate Change” and the effects of rising sea levels.

AMSA 2020 will host the 3rd AusSeabed symposium: Applications of seabed mapping to resource and environmental management during the Anthropocene, convened by Tim Ingleton (NSW OEH), Alan Jordan (NSW DPI), Kam Austine (EGS) and Scott Nichol (GA). We have also proposed to host a Seabed Mapping workshop, in partnership with the GEBCO-Nippon Foundation Seabed 2030 program.

GA (Kim Picard) will be presenting at the International Indian Ocean Conference 2020 on AusSeabed and Seabed2030 and participate in the International Indian Ocean Exploration (IIOE-2) steering committee meeting (March 17 to 25), which will focus on the 2nd phase, 2020-2025.

As a result of our November newsletter item, there was a big response by students to the work experience program for trainee Hydrographic Surveyors at the WA Department of Transport. AusSeabed is exploring other opportunities to support marine survey industry experience for students.

Contact: Kim Picard, kim.picard@ga.gov.au (02) 6249 9548

Tools, Guidelines and Standards

The survey planning tool is now in operation and anyone wishing to submit their upcoming mapping survey can do so by emailing us at Ausseabed@ga.gov.au and request a login. The tool's code is open access, and available via the [AusSeabed GitHub repository](#).

Representatives from GA, CSIRO, FrontierSI and AHO will be getting together on the 18 Feb to discuss forward plans for furthering the development of the AusSeabed QA/QC tools prototype delivered last December. This work is also in partnership with NOAA and CCOM.

Other updates

Survey Results on the future of hydrographic surveying in New Zealand

Last year a research team of staff and students at the University of Otago's School of Surveying sought the views of hydrographers to use in an investigation considering the development of the profession in New Zealand as part of a larger project titled: *Tuia: 250 years of navigation*,

map making and belonging. Tuia 250 commemorated the first meetings of Māori and European at the time of Captain Cook's first visit to New Zealand in 1769.

The final results of this work have now been published in the article 'Cook: Our Professional Ancestor' in the recent Special Edition of New Zealand Surveyor. We also have another publication in this edition discussing the evolution of hydrographic technology and charting:

1) Cook: Our Professional Ancestor [page 79]

2) Charting Our History [page 131]

To read these, New Zealand Surveyor Special Edition (Dec 2019, no. 305) can be downloaded at:

https://www.surveyspatialnz.org/members/Publications/Attachment?Action=Download&Attachment_id=5873 [direct to the Special Edition]

https://www.surveyspatialnz.org/members/Publications/nz_surveyor_journal [to all online versions of this journal].

The Falkor is in Australia

The RV Falkor, operated by the Schmidt Ocean Institute, will be travelling around Australia for most of 2020, with a wide variety of projects. You can read about these at: <https://schmidtocean.org/cruises/schmidt-ocean-institute-2020-expeditions/>.

Dr Robin Beaman, SOI and Parks Australia have been coordinating the research permits required for the RV Falkor to conduct multibeam seafloor mapping data collection through [Commonwealth marine parks](#) while in transit around Australia. You can read about this at the DeepReef Explorer blog, at <https://www.deepreef.org/biography/robs-blog/263-rv-falkor.html>.

Meeting reports

AusSeabed governance meetings

The inaugural meeting of the AusSeabed Executive Board took place at GA on 13 December. The initial members (GA, CSIRO, AIMS, the AAD and the AHO) agreed to form the board and elected GA as Chair. The Board's key roles are to:

1. Advise on the development of the AusSeabed strategic agenda
2. Review work programs put forward by the Steering Committee
3. Actively champion AusSeabed and help the Steering Committee demonstrate and communicate the value of the initiative.

AusSeabed Steering Committee meetings

The 4th AusSeabed Steering Committee meeting took place on the 17 December at FrontierSI, Melbourne, with representatives from Commonwealth and State Governments, academic and private sectors. Outcomes of the meeting included a review of the 2019-2020 work plan, a draft of the upcoming 2020-2021 work plan, a 10 year timeline to add to the

Strategic Plan and a proposed solution regarding which Steering Committee membership will be up for nomination in July 2020.

Meeting minutes will soon be available online [here](#)

The AusSeabed [Annual Report 2018-19](#) is now available online.

Upcoming meetings

Places free on a Caris training course, March 2020, Hobart.

The CSIRO Geophysical Survey & Mapping team have Caris HIPS/SIPS training in Hobart scheduled for the week commencing 30th March 2020. The training will cover multibeam data processing in HIPS/SIPS and focus on the new developments in version 11. We have 2 spare places and would like to offer them to the AusSeabed community at no cost. Participants would however need to cover travel and accommodation in Hobart between 30th March – 3rd April

If you are interested in joining the course, please contact Stuart Edwards at stuart.edwards@csiro.au. First come first served!

GeoHab 2020 (18-20 May, Venice, Italy)

Registrations open on February 10th for GeoHab, which will be held this year in Venice. Abstracts for the conference close on the 15th of March.

Paper submissions are already open for papers concerning the presentations for GEOHAB2020 for the special issue Marine Habitat Mapping: Selected Papers from GeoHab 2020: https://www.mdpi.com/journal/geosciences/special_issues/GeoHab_2020

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.