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# location matters

A *point of reference* for Tasmanian land information



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Above: Detail of an 1859 plan - *Suburbs of Hobart* - from the new 2015 *Early Treasures* Calendar - available for purchase from Service Tasmania shops, TASMAR resellers and agents, and online at [www.tasmap.tas.gov.au](http://www.tasmap.tas.gov.au)

This newsletter is designed, written, edited and produced by the Information and Land Services Division of the Tasmanian Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment (DPIPWE).

**locationmatters** aims to keep clients and members of the community informed about new developments and progress with existing projects, as well as introduce you to staff and the work they do.

Please take a few minutes to provide feedback or ideas for future issues by completing the short questionnaire at [www.dpipwe.tas.gov.au/locationmatters](http://www.dpipwe.tas.gov.au/locationmatters).

An electronic version of this publication can be found at:

[www.dpipwe.tas.gov.au/locationmatters](http://www.dpipwe.tas.gov.au/locationmatters)

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### Cover image

Aerial photo of Bicheno from the 2015 Aerial Photography Calendar produced by ILS. See story on page 8.

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# Introducing Michael Varney



## As Acting General Manager

of the Information and Land Services Division (ILS) while Kate Kent is working in a different role, I am pleased to welcome you to the ninth edition of our newsletter. I have strong ties with ILS, having worked in the division in various roles since 1999, most recently as manager of the Land Titles Office and the recently completed ILS Strategic Planning Project.

This is an exciting time for ILS. We are passionate about what we do. Our business is to provide the Tasmanian community with services and authoritative information about land and property in Tasmania.

Over the years, our business model has changed to reflect a more outwardly-focused, client-centric approach. In line with that transformation, we have become much more focused on freeing up access to spatial information by providing better services, removing fees and onerous licensing arrangements, and developing

new products to meet the demands of the Tasmanian public.

I am gratified that the outcomes of our strategic planning process are very worthwhile. We are currently trialing the integration of key client service functions right across the division, aimed at delivering a more responsive, efficient service. We have undertaken an extensive review of internal systems and workflows to increase efficiency and reduce duplication. We are also introducing new digital transaction systems in the Land Titles Office and increasing the use of GIS technology to support valuation services.

In the new digital age, we understand the need to keep in touch with the evolving needs of our clients and keep up with technological change. The award-winning *Spatial Information Foundations Project* and new LIST are testament to that commitment.

I hope you enjoy reading this edition of *locationmatters*.

Michael Varney  
Acting General Manager  
Information and Land Services Division

# TASSIC meets the Minister

*using spatial tools to solve complex problems*

## At a recent meeting

with members of the Tasmanian Spatial Information Council (TASSIC), Minister for Primary Industries and Water Jeremy Rockliff said that linking information with location was a highly valued and powerful strategy to meet challenges, make decisions and solve complex problems.

In discussing the importance of spatial information with TASSIC in August, Minister Rockliff commended the work of the Council, endorsed its strategic direction, and noted considerable alignment with the Government's highest priority areas, specifically in the development of a modern economy, agricultural growth, skills and education.

"The use of spatial information is an integral part of a more streamlined and successful assessment and approval process," Minister Rockliff said.

TASSIC Chair Gary Nairn provided the Minister with an overview of

TASSIC's strategy to build and maintain community awareness of the value of spatial information, concentrating on the use of spatial information in evidence-based decision-making across the health, education and agricultural sectors.

**"Increasing spatial knowledge and skills throughout all government agencies and industry sectors is an important focus for TASSIC," Gary said.**

Gary emphasised the need for close engagement with schools to introduce and embed spatial skills and training at an early age, highlighting ILS' recent work with the Department of Education on the implementation of 'GPS in Schools'.

TASSIC was established in 2008 as a multi-sector forum to facilitate increased collaboration between public, private and community sectors in the collection, maintenance and use of spatial information

in Tasmania. The Council released its second three-year strategic plan in 2013. More information about TASSIC can be found at [www.tassic.org.au](http://www.tassic.org.au)

The powerful combination of statistical, spatial and core business information provides governments worldwide with the ability to analyse and predict location-based trends and population changes, strengthening the quality and effectiveness of strategic planning and decision-making processes. This can deliver significant advantages in the way we do business, build the economy and deliver improved government services.

*TASSIC Chair Gary Nairn (L) and Minister for Primary Industries and Water, Jeremy Rockliff*



*TASSIC members photographed at a recent meeting with Minister Rockliff:  
Back (L-R): Malcolm Lester, Jon Osborn, Mark Wise, Mitchell Knevett  
Front: Ashley Mahar, Kate Kent, Gary Nairn*



# the LIST

news and happenings

## Opening doors to data

By now, you may have heard about 'open data'.

In line with the Tasmanian Government's commitment to developing an open data policy, ILS is working towards the release of spatial data and services in keeping with open data principles wherever possible.

While the open data concept generally describes the idea that 'data' should be openly accessible to all, there are many different definitions of this in use worldwide.

For ILS, open data means that wherever possible we will endeavour to provide our clients with easy access to data, with limited legal constraints on the use of that data, and with no cost for the data itself.

As a result of redevelopment work undertaken through the *Spatial Information Foundations Project*, the LIST now provides government, industry and the general public with much better access to an improved range of spatial data and services. A combination of this new framework with the application of open data principles will encourage government and industry to embed the use of authoritative government data into core business, reduce the duplication of data and systems, and encourage better decision-making across the board.

ILS is currently planning a range of measures to allow open access to a number of foundation spatial datasets. Current charges for around 50 statewide datasets are targeted to be waived, including road centrelines, coastlines, rivers, addresses and contours.

For more information about ILS' move towards open data, please contact Todd Baker, Manager Client Services on **03 6165 4644** or email [todd.baker@dipwe.tas.gov.au](mailto:todd.baker@dipwe.tas.gov.au).

## Quite Interesting technical bits

Have you unearthed everything on *LISTmap*? With over 400 layers of publicly available information, there may be a few that you've missed.

*LiDAR* imagery is acquired through airborne or satellite sensors, which use laser beams to precisely map physical features on the earth's surface at very high resolution. *LiDAR* is extremely useful in disciplines including archaeology, geology and seismology. *LISTmap* hosts an **index layer** of publicly available *LiDAR* over Tasmania's coastline and Hobart environs to the summit of kunanyi / Mount Wellington. The actual data can also be freely downloaded through *LISTmap* for viewing and use in specialist GIS applications.

**Boundary Lines with Accuracy** is a useful dataset that indicates the origin and accuracy of the property boundaries depicted on *LISTmap*. To find this information, click the **Layers** tab, select **Add Layer**, search for *boundary lines*, open up the **Cadastre** tab, then add the **Boundary Lines with Accuracy** layer. Zoom to your area of interest. Property boundaries are shown in different colours, each indicating the source and accuracy of the underlying information. Click on a line and information about that boundary will be displayed. A boundary line **legend** is also included under the relevant data description in the **Add Layer** column.

Having trouble? Contact the *LIST* helpdesk on **03 6165 4444** or email [listhelp@dipwe.tas.gov.au](mailto:listhelp@dipwe.tas.gov.au) for assistance.

Todd Baker  
Manager Client Services

## Introducing 'Lethal' Leigh



Providing *LIST* clients with helpful advice and support calls for a well-trained and dedicated team. Client Services team member Leigh Fannon has been providing *LIST* support for almost as long as the *LIST* has been in existence, starting work on the helpdesk just after the original launch in 1998. Since then, Leigh has been involved in all facets of the *LIST*, including the recent, exciting redevelopment undertaken as part of the *Spatial Information Foundations Project*.

Over the years, almost every *LIST* client would have received professional and knowledgeable advice from Leigh, either through email or over the phone. Leigh also cheerfully provides fellow team members with ongoing training and support, especially to help resolve occasional 'out of left field' – "Leigh, I've never seen this before" – enquiries.

Leigh is now busily connecting with clients in a series of face-to-face, statewide demonstrations, bringing them up to speed with all the features and functions of the new *LIST*.

If you have a *LIST* enquiry or your organisation would like to host a group demonstration or training session, please contact the helpful ILS Client Services team on **03 6165 4444**.

Todd Baker  
Manager Client Services

# COP

Common  
Operating  
Platform

*support for bushfire exercise*

**In September,** Tasmania's State Emergency Management Committee (SEMC) held an exercise to practise the strategic decision-making processes that would be implemented in response to a bushfire scenario in the Hobart region. The new **Common Operating Platform (COP)**, developed as part of the *Spatial Information Foundations Project*, was used to support situational awareness and decision-making in the State Crisis Centre. The COP displayed the fire spread model produced by Tasmania Fire Service, as well as the location of vulnerable and critical infrastructure, evacuation centres and major road access in and out of the scenario's impacted areas.

*In attendance at the recent SEMC exercise (L-R): Tasmania Police Commissioner Darren Hine, Michael Stevens (Deputy Secretary, Department of Premier and Cabinet), Minister for Police and Emergency Management Rene Hidding, Premier Will Hodgman, Greg Johannes (Secretary, Department of Premier and Cabinet), Andrew Lea (Director, State Emergency Service) and Mandy Denby (Manager Strategic Communications and Marketing, Department of Premier and Cabinet).*



## Accolades for **Spatial** INFORMATION FOUNDATIONS

### **The Spatial Information Foundations Project**

and redevelopment of the LIST continue to attract widespread recognition and kudos across government, business and industry sectors. The project now boasts three major awards for excellence in public administration, technical excellence and innovation. The project team was awarded *Best Practice in the Public Sector* by the Institute of Public Administration Australia (Tasmania) late last year. This was followed by winning Tasmania's *Government Category iAward* for innovation and excellence in ICT, and the *Award for Technical Excellence* at the recent Tasmanian Spatial Excellence Awards.

*L to R: Surveyor-General Michael Giudici and award-winning project team members Todd Baker, Aaron Cashion and Stuart Fletcher, with General Manager Kate Kent and Tasmania's Minister for Information Technology and Innovation, Hon Michael Ferguson, at the recent Tasmanian iAwards.*



# New partnerships

*foster spatial skills in Tasmanian schools*

## Students at Tarooma High School

are the first to be exposed to a great new educational initiative that will provide students around Tasmania with the opportunity to learn about how positioning technology works and underpins important aspects of their everyday lives.

Through a collaborative project funded by national earth science research organisation, AuScope, in partnership with Geoscience Australia and ILS, the first of three permanent GPS satellite data receivers earmarked for Tasmania was recently installed at Tarooma High. The other two are expected to be in place at Devonport High School and Lilydale District School before the end of 2014.

While students are increasingly aware of the everyday use of GPS in determining their location anywhere in the world, the high precision Continuously Operating Reference System (CORS) receivers being installed at the schools are able to track and continuously log satellite information, enabling positions to be calculated down to millimetre accuracy. This information will be collected and transmitted directly to Geoscience Australia in Canberra, and then made freely available for educational use across all Tasmanian schools.

An interesting aspect of the Tarooma installation is that the school campus is entirely within the 'School Creek Landslide', one of only two active landslides being monitored by Mineral Resources Tasmania. The new CORS will play an integral role in this long-term monitoring process.

A total of \$83,500 was made available for the three Tasmanian installations as part of AuScope's Australian Geophysical Observing System (AGOS), funded through a Commonwealth infrastructure program: the Education Investment Fund (EIF). The new Tasmanian CORS form part of the Geophysical Education Observatory, which aims to promote geoscience education across the school sector by

combining a variety of sensors for real-time monitoring of the Australian continent.

To make the most of this unique opportunity, ILS has worked in partnership with Geoscience Australia, the University of Tasmania and the Department of Education to refine new educational resources, customise LISTmap and provide hand-held GPS units for use in Tasmanian Government high schools. This work was funded by AGOS.

ILS is also working independently on complementary activities that will encourage the development of spatial skills through LISTmap, with broader educational outcomes and maximum benefits for students across different aspects of the science, maths and geography curricula.

After installation, the Tasmanian Government will be responsible for

ongoing ownership and maintenance of the receivers, each having an estimated 20-year operational lifespan. As well as educational benefits, the three new receivers will enhance Tasmania's existing CORS infrastructure, with wide-ranging applications including earthquake monitoring, understanding and calculating sea level change, and atmospheric modelling. CORS are also essential in providing real-time, accurate guidance for precision agriculture and heavy engineering machinery.

*Scott Strong  
Program Manager Geodetic System*

*ILS' Geodetic Program Manager, Scott Strong (second from left), demonstrates the use of hand-held GPS units to Tarooma High students Michael Willshire and Emma Greenwood, and Tarooma High's Science and Mathematics teacher, Philip Sansom*



# Find what you need!

Land Information  
System Tasmania

the **List**...

Providing *all* the information  
about *your* property



[www.thelist.tas.gov.au](http://www.thelist.tas.gov.au)

## Client Services contact details

Normal operating hours for all client enquiries are

**9.00am – 5.00pm Monday to Friday**

### LIST Helpdesk

E-mail [listhelp@dpipwe.tas.gov.au](mailto:listhelp@dpipwe.tas.gov.au)  
Phone (03) 6165 4444  
Fax (03) 6233 6568  
Web via the client request form

### TASMAP

E-mail [tasmap@dpipwe.tas.gov.au](mailto:tasmap@dpipwe.tas.gov.au)  
Phone (03) 6165 4444  
Fax (03) 6233 6568  
Order online at [www.tasmap.tas.gov.au](http://www.tasmap.tas.gov.au)

### Spatial Data / Agreements / Copyright

Email [geodata.clientservices@dpipwe.tas.gov.au](mailto:geodata.clientservices@dpipwe.tas.gov.au)  
Phone (03) 6165 4444  
Fax (03) 6233 6568

# Innovative GIS

*in statutory valuations*

## Over the last four years,

Tasmania's Office of the Valuer-General (OVG) has progressively refined a suite of 'best practice', innovative GIS and database software tools that enable valuers to access, view and update property information both in the field and in the office.

Developed within the OVG under the guidance of Valuer-General, Warrick Coverdale, the VG software suite comprises VGMaps, VGSales, VGSupps, VGRents and VGReval.

Through an agile, flexible approach to software design and development, the OVG team of valuers and administrative staff was able to provide direct input into the ongoing development process, with high levels of 'ownership' in the resultant systems, work procedures and organisational approach.

VG software is an amalgamation of specialist GIS technology with everyday forms-based textual information, blended together and delivered as simple, portable tools that almost anyone can use. Originally designed as an out-of-office solution, the VG tools are now used right across the board – in the office and in the field.

According to Warrick Coverdale, VG software implementation has delivered enormous benefits, moving OVG to a much more efficient and responsive operational environment, where property data can be checked, verified and updated in the field.

Old valuation field-books, building plans and other property data have also been digitally scanned, providing field-based valuers with all the information they need at their fingertips.

**“The task of checking, updating and processing valuations in a mobile, electronic environment is far more efficient than the old paper-based system,”** Warrick said.

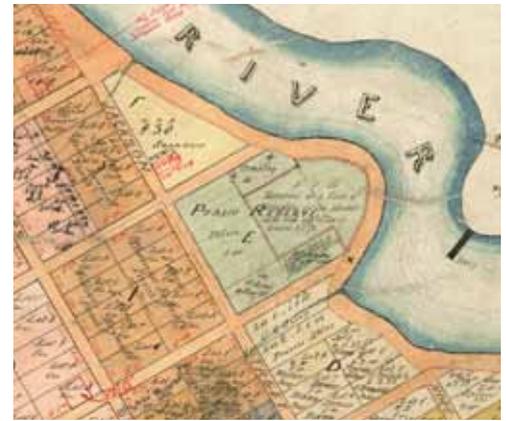
Warrick also partly attributes the trending decline in the number of public objections to statutory valuations over the last four years to the use of VG software. Other tangible benefits include increased stakeholder satisfaction with better valuation products, and the attainment of enhanced performance and financial efficiency targets.

Most valuation projects are now undertaken using innovative GIS linked with a textual database, with results provided to clients as part of a complete valuation package. A good example is the *Land Under Roads Project* undertaken annually for the Department of State Growth, which uses GIS to derive a consistent valuation methodology. This approach gained the approval of the Tasmanian Audit Office.

*Warrick Coverdale  
Valuer-General*



Valuer Andrew Horner using VG software out in the field



## Centenary of ANZAC maps

A valuable archive of 131 operational maps from World War I has been digitally recorded and preserved as part of a Centenary of ANZAC commemorative project, thanks to a cooperative partnership between the Australian Army Museum Tasmania (AAMT), Heritage Tasmania and ILS.

Project Manager and volunteer AAMT Librarian, Warwick Lee, said the project team worked hard to successfully scan, describe and index the war-time maps, many with hand-written details including the position of troops, trenches and training camps.

"Through the digital preservation of these fascinating ANZAC records, maps that were previously locked away in secure cabinets are now much more accessible", Mr Lee said.

Mr Lee said that the involvement of ILS staff member, Graeme Harrington, was critical to the project's success.

"We were very fortunate to be able to work closely with Graeme, drawing on his expertise to ensure a great outcome. We are also very grateful to ILS for allowing the use of their state-of-the-art scanning facilities."

For more information, see [www.militarymuseumtasmania.org.au](http://www.militarymuseumtasmania.org.au)

*Top right: Map of Gallipoli Sheet 2 (19 April 1915) (detail), published by the War Office, noting: 'reproduced by Survey Dept, Egypt'. Details: Black ink and chinograph pencil used to mark enemy positions prior to landing at Gallipoli*

*Bottom right: Detail of an oblique sketch map of the Dardanelles (dated February 1915) published by the Survey Department, Cairo. The original includes a hand-written notation "not to be removed" dated 12/3/15 and signed by Major C. H. Brand.*

*Images © Australian Army Museum Tasmania. Not to be copied or reproduced without permission.*



*Above: Detail of an 1857 plan - Wynyard - from the new 2015 Early Treasures Calendar*

## 2015 Calendars – on sale NOW

**Building on the success** of last year's calendar, ILS has just released a new 2015 version of the Early Treasures calendar, as well as a new calendar that features a selection of Tasmanian aerial photography. Calendars are on sale now for just \$14.95 through Service Tasmania shops or online through the TASMMap eShop. Full-size reproductions of the Early Treasures collection of historic maps and charts are also available for purchase on the TASMMap eShop: [www.tasmap.tas.gov.au](http://www.tasmap.tas.gov.au)



Now available online at [www.tasmap.tas.gov.au](http://www.tasmap.tas.gov.au)

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