

## Garry Christoffersen

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**From:** Garry Christoffersen [garry@odin.co.nz]  
**Sent:** Monday, 24 January 2005 8:26 a.m.  
**To:** 'gislist@gis-list.gisuser.co.nz'  
**Subject:** NZ ESRI User Group Newsletter, Issue 1

Greetings all

Welcome to the first edition of GISUser News. This will be a monthly publication (published the first Monday of each month, except February) with the aim to:

- Provide information on NZ ESRI user group activities.
- Share relevant GIS information.
- Get to know one another better.
- Be a little thought provoking.

Many people are saying we should be sharing more information ... well here's the start ... but to be successful we need your input. Refer to the contributions section for contact details.

### User Group Update

#### ***Metadata application***

Kumar Kannan and Gary Christoffersen will be meeting with Eagle Technology on the 7th February to discuss the issues raised in the "NZGMS Metadata Extension for ArcGIS Discussion Paper" based on submissions from the users. If you haven't already seen the document, please refer to [http://www.gisuser.co.nz/pages/download/getfile.asp?ID=115&filename=/ESRI\\_user\\_group\\_metadata\\_v2.pdf](http://www.gisuser.co.nz/pages/download/getfile.asp?ID=115&filename=/ESRI_user_group_metadata_v2.pdf)

We'll inform you of progress in the next newsletter.

#### ***User Group Meeting***

The first user group meeting of the year is to be held at the Rotorua District Council on Thursday 10th March at 10am, hosted by Garry Christoffersen.

Preliminary timing is:

10.00 - 10.30am: Coffee and catch up.

10.30 - 12.00pm: Session one

1.00 - 4:00pm: Session two

4:00pm - late: "Networking"

Preliminary agenda includes (not necessarily in this order):

- **Introduction and what I did in the holidays;** Garry Christoffersen.
- **Metadata update;** Where we are at. Garry Christoffersen.
- **LINZ geospatial strategy update;** The latest gossip from LINZ, LINZ rep or Garry/Kumar.
- **Geyserview;** A hot and steamy internet/intranet application, Rotorua District Council.
- **GIS use in the recent Bay of Plenty Floods;** Environment Bay of Plenty.
- **Forestry company;** Something cool to do with trees.
- **Tauranga District Council;** Managing asbuilts with smashed glass.
- **Handheld mapping;** on handheld devices and using an Ike in practice, Rotorua District Council.
- **Eagle update;** to be confirmed.
- **Hansen integration with ArcGIS;** discussion on additional tools (this will probably be as a discussion in the corner during "networking" over a beer/coffee/water, as we don't want to scare the other punters)..

This is one event not to miss, as Greg always puts on great lunches.

The Rotorua District Council offices are located at 1061 Haupapa Street. A office location map is available from <http://www.rdc.govt.nz/maps+and+data/cbd+map/default.asp>

If there is anybody else out there who wants to present something, please contact [garry@odin.co.nz](mailto:garry@odin.co.nz) and we'll see if we can squeeze you in.

RSVP to [garry@odin.co.nz](mailto:garry@odin.co.nz) by 4:00pm Friday 4th March 2005.

## **Recent GIS Industry News**

This section contains some selected GIS related gems from over the last month ...

### ***ER Mapper Releases Free ECW and JPEG 2000 Compression Software***

ER Mapper announced that its free image compression application has been updated to output to the new JPEG 2000 compression format as well as to the industry standard ECW format. The free ECW JPEG 2000 Compressor allows users to compress images of up to 500 MB in size. Geospatial and CAD professionals use compression to reduce the size of imagery datasets, whilst still retaining the original quality ... read more at [http://www.ermapper.com/company/news\\_view.aspx?PRESS\\_RELEASE\\_ID=366](http://www.ermapper.com/company/news_view.aspx?PRESS_RELEASE_ID=366)

### ***Possible Shutdown of GPS Network in Crisis***

President Bush has ordered plans for temporarily disabling the U.S. network of global positioning satellites during a national crisis to prevent terrorists from using the navigational technology .... read more at <http://newsmax.com/archives/ic/2004/12/15/211854.shtml>

### ***Vector Compression and Streaming in ArcGIS with RaveGeo***

Idevio today announced that RaveGeo is available for ArcGIS. This means that ESRI users now can benefit from fast, streaming access of geographic data, something that previously only been available in advanced military systems ... read more at <http://spatialnews.geocomm.com/dailynews/2005/jan/14/news3.html>

### ***Ricoh Introduces the World's First GPS-Ready Digital Camera***

Ricoh Corporation today launched the Pro G3. The Pro G3 is a high-resolution digital camera that embeds captured images with GPS coordinate information received from either its on-board GPS unit or from external GPS devices ... read more at <http://spatialnews.geocomm.com/dailynews/2005/jan/18/news1.html>

## **Did you know**

The following are tips and tricks people may find useful. If readers have any items they wish to share, refer to the **Contributions** section on who to contact.

### ***Relative pathnames in map documents***

This can be a good way to ensure map documents will still work if file folders are moved about the computer/network or even provided to other organisations (with the source datasets). Under **File | Map Properties | Data Source Options** make sure the "Store relative pathnames" radio button is selected.

### ***Save data from an ArcIMS server.***

Here's how you can get vector data off an ArcIMS map service.

- Add a service to ArcMap, say from [file://www.geographynetwork.com](http://www.geographynetwork.com)
- Select some features from one of the layers.
- Right mouse click | Selection | Create layer from selected features.
- Go to newly added layer (at top of TOC). Right mouse click | Data | Export Data
- Viola ... you have a local dataset of the selected features.

### ***Map Cache***

In ArcGIS 9 there is a new feature called a map cache. From reading the propaganda, oops I mean documentation, using a map cache increases the performance of ArcMap when your data frame contains data from geodatabases, particularly from ArcSDE geodatabases.

After reading the fineprint, the best use of this feature for performance gains appears to be editing an ArcSDE database in a specific area. Panning and zooming over large areas probably won't benefit. Since ArcSDE didn't appear under my christmas tree this year I have yet to test this. You can access Mapcache under **View | Data frame properties | Map Cache**.

## **Interesting websites**

Aerial photography in GIS like you haven't seen it before. Be kinda cool for NZ suppliers to offer this (if they don't already). <http://www.pictometry.com/>

A new collaborative project by a few kiwis who are interested in Geographical Information System (GIS) software, and the associated spatial data that goes with it. <http://www.gis.org.nz>

Found after a particularly hard night of web surfing <http://www.shibumi.org/eoti.htm>

## **Personal Note**

### ***Addition to the GIS family***

Edward Bruce Harold was born at 10:42pm on Christmas Eve, three weeks and five days early, but weighing in at 3180g (exactly 7lb to the non-metric), and perfectly formed, like his Dad.

Ted is now busying himself with eating, sleeping and howling in roughly equal measures, which the owner's manual states is quite normal.

Erin (mum) and Ted are both well, and Bruce ... well he is still sobering up. You can contact Bruce on [bruce@need.sleep.com](mailto:bruce@need.sleep.com).

## **Guest Corner**

This section features a randomly selected ESRI user each edition. To start this section off with a bang, this editions guest is **Kim Ollivier**.

### ***Who do you work for and what do you do?***

I have had my own GIS consulting company since 1996. My main customers are regional and local councils, with some commercial organisations. My work divides into thirds of consulting/programming, data capture/conversion and resupply of LINZ datasets.

### ***What is the earliest version of ESRI products you have worked with?***

I first saw ArcInfo 3.2 on a Prime minicomputer on 18 August 1987. There was no AML, no Arcedit, no images, mouse or screen menus. I did not immediately see how a "database approach to mapping" was better than the CAD packages we were using, but David Pimblott eventually persuaded me over the next six months.

### ***If Jack Dangermond granted you one wish to enhance ESRI products, what would it be?***

Unbundle previous software versions from ArcGIS (like Corel does), and issue ArcView 3, ArcInfo Workstation separately, perhaps on Linux, to let anyone do intelligent analysis. GIS is slipping into making static PDF and JPEG maps from inflexible object databases of unrelated features. Analysis is getting harder because it is not scalable to full datasets.

### ***What is your favourite piece of software on your computer and why? (Other than ArcGIS of course)***

I spend most of my time in Cygwin and Emacs (a customisable program text editor) writing scripts and programs. I can continue with the excellent Unix tools and even run ArcInfo from Cygwin, pretending I am not in Windows. GIS datasets are so large, most processes are not practical unless they are automated and repeatable. Scripts are a good for documenting processes. Now being re-introduced in ArcGIS with Python.

### ***What is the coolest GIS based project you have done and why?***

Intramap (web based property inquiry system). This was the first effective map server installed in NZ councils (1999) to fill the need to interface rating systems with parcel maps. Most importantly it provided fast maps for everyone, on every desktop. The first site was a challenging collaborative project at Nelson City Council and set a high standard in ease of use, response time and showed how legacy systems could be integrated using web interfaces.

### ***What is the one thing the GIS industry in NZ could improve?***

Share their datasets more widely - like Canada. To do this we need a portal, metadata, interchange standards, but most importantly, the recognition that in the Knowledge Economy, that we are all supposedly dependent on, cannot function without the exchange of source data.

### ***What is your favourite website and why?***

[www.linz.govt.nz](http://www.linz.govt.nz) Here is a stand-out NZ site with really useful information for the GIS community, entirely free and up to date. It is the only site in NZ (other than [www.ollivier.co.nz](http://www.ollivier.co.nz) !) that has downloadable GIS data in the form of orthophotos, survey data, projection tools, placenames and a trial site for topo online that is able to export shapefiles.

Next months guest is **Peter Newsome**

### **Contributions**

This editions contributors include .... well nobody other than the guest, but hey it's the first edition ... but we'd love to hear from you. You can send ideas and information into [usernews@odin.co.nz](mailto:usernews@odin.co.nz). Also if you have any comments on this edition please let us know.

### **The Lawyers made us do it**

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