

Welcome to this particularly wintery, Winter Edition of The Survey Datum.

With the announcement last month from the treasurer that the Government is proposing to sell off a portion of the Lands Titles Office, it raised a number of alarm bells in most Surveyors' heads.



What portion is proposed to be privatised, what services may change, how will it impact Surveyors and how we interact with the Lands Titles Office, and how will it impact the wider community?

The Surveying and Spatial Sciences Institute (SSSI) have been fortunate enough to have been a part of a series of meetings between Government and the Land / Real Estate Industry, which is starting to allow a cross flow in information. The Government is at pains to reassure the indefeasibility of Title (the certainty and reliability of ownership of land) will not alter and services will remain.

I think the take away message from this process is that the public can have full confidence in the new system, and Surveyors will be very active to help achieve this outcome.

Watch this space for further updates.



**Geocaching:
High tech
scavenger hunt**

This newsletter contains a Satellite Surveying bonanza. We discuss the different Satellite positioning systems around the world, and

then a fun application of this resource in Geocaching.

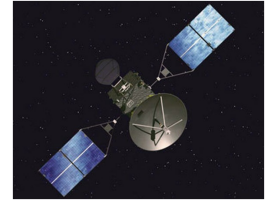


We also look at "being neighbourly", about your rights when trees come crashing down, as they have done on many occasions in recent times.

We wish you a safe and warm finish to this season.

Michael—Ed

Satellites In Our Skies



When we talk about using GPS, what we are really saying is that we use GNSS (Global Navigation Satellite Systems).

GPS Stands for Global Positioning System and was created by the Americans primarily for their defence systems. Private users have been allowed to tap into their signals and, with differential corrections, can produce very accurate (survey level) positions.

Since these initial days of Satellite locations many countries have created their own systems

Now the satellite systems in our skies include:

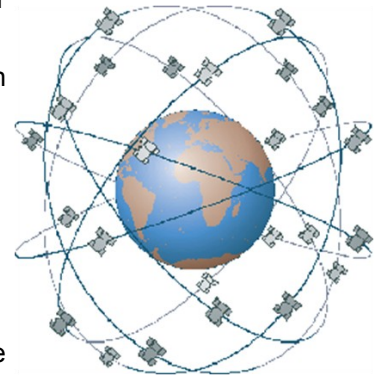
Russia has Glonass (24 satellites)

Europe has Galileo (30 satellites by 2020)

China has Bei Dou (35 satellites by 2020)

India has IRNSS (Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System) (7 Satellites)

Japan has (QZSS) Quasi-Zenith Satellite System (4 Satellites)



While these countries developed their systems primarily for their own use, Australia benefits greatly because they cover Australia as well.



Satellite using technology can tap into these satellite systems, depending on software and technology in the equipment. It would also be fair to say the more satellites you are using, the better position you can achieve.

Given the significant number of satellites available now, there are fewer situations, when you

are outside, that you can't get a clear view to 4 or more satellites that will give a good position.



Take a look at the article in this edition regarding using these satellites for **Geocaching** and have a try at finding the Michael Grear Surveys treasure. We look forward to hearing from you!

Our Weather Has Caused Some Damage!

With these wild winds and rain, rain, rain some side effects of nature are that our trees are on the move.

Many clients and friends have made comment of branches or even whole trees falling down. You might have experienced this on your property, hopefully with limited damage.

One of the questions that is discussed is who is responsible for the cleanup?

This is actually not always an easy answer. You may have heard that a neighbour can remove any encroaching roots or branches and it can be placed back over the fence. The neighbour cannot go onto the neighbour's land and cannot remove any part of the root or branch that is not on his or her property.

But, if however, a strong, healthy tree blows down across the fence in a storm, this is considered to be an 'act of God' for which there is no *liability*.



Further information can be found at

<http://www.lawhandbook.sa.gov.au/ch31s06.php>

Trees, foliage, fences, boundaries can cause neighbourly strain. In these circumstances, we suggest you take a community minded, neighbourly approach to fix the problem.

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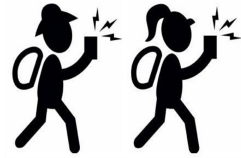
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Pokémon Go Verses Geocaching



Pokémon Go is the current craze but have you tried Geocaching?

Geocaching is an outdoor recreational activity in which participants use GPS or mobile device to hide and seek containers called 'geocaches'. (Wikipedia)



Geocaching can take you to places within your local area that you may have never visited before or even places all around the world. There are over 2 million geocaches worldwide.

It's easy to sign up and great way for all the family to have fun while enjoying the outdoors.

Use your mobile phone or GPS to create a free geocaching account (www.geocaching.com). Choose the geocache you want to find and then navigate to the area. The geocaches vary in sizes and levels of difficulty to locate. After finding, sign the logbook and return the geocache for the next person to discover.



The **CHALLENGE** begins - Now to have a try, no need to make an account for this.

Navigate to -34.912914 S and 138.594165 E

Hide and seek to find the Michael Gear Surveys Geocache... you'll know it when you see it. It has the Michael Gear Surveys red logo stuck to the outside.

Open it up.

There's a note inside.

Send us an email

(admin@mgsurveys.com.au) with the mystery words (you'll find that in the Geocache case).

We would love to send you a 'coffee' voucher for joining in the fun.

Remember to return the Geocache where you found it for the next Michael Gear Surveys winner!

(All Michael Gear Surveys Geocache finders are winners.)

Take a look at the **Michael Gear Surveys** website for more information and past issues of **The Survey Datum**

@ www.mgsurveys.com.au

Quote ... Courage is not the absence of fear, but rather the judgment that something else is more important than fear.- *Ambrose Redmoon*