

○ EDITORIAL

The first volume of *Applied GIS* is now complete. I would like to thank the staff of Monash University ePress, not only for their competence and guidance but also for playing a leading part in evolving strategic approaches to publishing the results of spatial modelling so that the detail can be presented.

In this third issue, four of the papers refer to Australian study areas/data. We have a paper from Joshpar Kunapo that exemplifies the utility of data integration, this time in reference to classifying data in data point-clouds during the generation of 'bare ground' DEMs. Peter Wheeler has written two papers for this issue, both of which draw quantitative information from a time-series data-set after visualisation was used during data-quality assessment. Data visualisation of this type is a prerequisite to planning consensus building among resource stakeholders.

A paper from Sweden deals with results from work in the northern hemisphere. Again, information about environmental change has been derived from time-series spatial data. In this case, the result exemplifies the utility of land-parcel land-use history in assessing the potential for land developers to work in collaboration with heritage authorities.

So far, contributions to *Applied GIS* have included little about modern cities and factors determining the evolution of urban form. In this issue Dr Yan Liu has led our efforts to redress this balance with a paper that demonstrates a flexible implementation of rules to control the simulation of urban development of Sydney from 1971 to 1996, using a cellular automata model.

In 2005 my co-editor Ray Wyatt and I faced a steep learning curve in bringing out the three issues for the first volume. Progress was significantly boosted when Gregoire Dubois of the European Commission's Institute for Environment and Sustainability chose *Applied GIS* as a platform for publication of the peer-reviewed conference proceedings of SIC (Spatial Interpolation Comparison) 2004. These proceedings were published in vol. 1, no. 2 of *Applied GIS*. We plan to continue the practice of theme issues: each year there will be at least one theme issue that offers rapid publication of current research results and discussions of this kind. Thanks are again due to Professor Jacek Malczewski for bringing Dr Dubois and Monash University ePress together.

I thank the contributors to the first three issues for meeting deadlines and format guidelines: it makes the passage from submission to review to publication much faster and is a great help to organising the publication schedule. Thanks also to our referees: so much relies on the referees' input, and we greatly value their contributions. In this context, I encourage readers to register their interest in refereeing for *Applied GIS* (register online at Monash University ePress's Submission and Refereeing website). Please note that referees of *Applied GIS* receive free access to the journal.

We hope you've enjoyed the first volume, and look forward to another successful volume in 2006!

Jim Peterson and Ray Wyatt

Editors

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