

INDIVIDUAL AWARDS

Former Australian Government minister Gary Nairn is the top individual winner in the 2009 APSEA competition – taking out the award for professional eminence and excellence in spatial sciences.

Nairn was Special Minister of State in the Howard Government and a driving force behind the establishment of the spatial information industry Action Agenda.

During his eleven-year term in parliament, he was widely regarded as a spatial information industry 'champion' and played a leading role in numerous initiatives to boost industry development. He is now an industry consultant and a member of the national board of the Spatial Industries Business Association (SIBA).

The award is the top individual honor in the annual APSEA competition with the winner nominated by directors or regional chairs of the Surveying and Spatial Sciences Institute. It is given to the person who has made 'a significant national or international contribution to the spatial sciences and/or is materially advancing the practice and profession of the spatial sciences'.

Nairn's award citation said: "Thanks to his efforts we are well on the way in Australia to the creation of an environment where spatial data is valued, shared and available to contribute to economic growth."

Dan Paull, chief executive officer of PSMA Australia, is the Spatial Professional of the Year. He was cited for 'outstanding performance and service to the spatial profession' and for making a lasting difference to the profession by his leadership and contribution to continuing professional development.

Other individual APSEA winners were:

SERVICE TO THE SPATIAL COMMUNITY

Graham Marion is a former ISA president. He was cited for 'exemplary dedication and service to the spatial community for the past 21 years, both in WA and nationally'.



Below: Dan Paull has achieved a new peak in his career by winning the 2009 Spatial Professional of the Year Award.

YOUNG SPATIAL PROFESSIONAL OF THE YEAR

Lee Hellen, past chair and treasurer of the SSSI Queensland Young Professionals, was cited for his significant contribution to fostering and developing the Young Professional movement in Queensland.

SPATIAL STUDENT AWARD – UNDERGRADUATE

Marika Boelen is president of the Melbourne University Geomatics Society and has initiated and led the organisation of many events to foster the relationships between universities, their students and the surveying and spatial industry.

An SSSI member since 2005, she served on the Young Professionals Committee in Victoria and held executive positions in the SSSI's Student's Special Interest Group.

EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Robert Webb is a lecturer and spatial science program coordinator of undergraduate spatial sciences and surveying in the School of Urban Development at the Queensland University of Technology. He was cited for educational leadership.

SPATIAL TEACHER OF THE YEAR

Pam Tuffin, a drama and music teacher at the Nyindamurra Family School at

Margaret River, WA. Under her leadership, the school won the state and national primary school section of the Spatial Technology in Schools Competition in 2007 and 2008.

Her citation said this was an outstanding performance, as most of her work was voluntary.

SPATIAL STUDENT AWARD – POSTGRADUATE

Ken Clarke is a postdoctoral research associate at the University of Adelaide and noted for his work in using remotely sensed and other spatial climatic data to create a spatially comprehensive measure of biodiversity required for informed management of Australian rangelands.

JOURNALIST WINS CHAIRMAN'S AWARD

Christopher Jay, a senior reporter with the Australian Financial Review, is the winner of the SIBA Chairman's award for 2009

SIBA's outgoing Chairman David Sinclair said that Jay was a journalist of integrity who had a special empathy with the spatial information industry.

The SSSI president's award went to Julie Fairman, executive officer in the SSSI's Canberra office.

Fairman has spent the past seventeen years working for various spatial industry organisations.

Left: Gary Nairn.