

Authority in Victoria, and Cumberland County Council in New South Wales, were also engaged in resource and facility assessment for planning purposes. Other States and organisations followed suit. These ventures mark the first comprehensive oversight of any part of Australia. The C.S.I.R.O. regional studies and some new State programs are now well under way.

The State departments responsible for harbours and marine matters have also experienced an increase in demand for maps and charts; ports and harbour works have needed to be represented on maps and diagrams to meet demands caused by changing and increasing use of sea-borne traffic. The Navy's hydrographic surveys have also been given priority status.

In all, some 50 State and Commonwealth Government departments are engaged in major mapping programs throughout Australia, while a further 25 produce occasional maps in one form or another, generally for special purposes such as reports. The most important of these concern forestry, soils, planning, public works, water supply and transport. Many other government departments have a large output of plans. While these are not maps, properly speaking, they are closely related and in many cases are now used as a primary source of material in map compilation.

Over 30 private organisations are engaged in mapping, many under contract to State government departments. Others, such as the publishers of road maps and directories, are issuing material for the public.

Mapping in Australia has long lagged behind other developed nations. This is the result of a combination of factors – a large and difficult land area, and a small population with the consequent shortage of trained personnel – and, most importantly, a shortage of funds.

While the first of those factors still remains, new techniques are overcoming the difficulties, and are facilitated by an increase in the funds available, as a result of the renewed and strengthened awareness of the vital role that mapping can play in the development of the nation. Training of specialised staff is now well advanced also. Much remains to be done, but in the last two decades great progress has been made in coverage, as well as in the quality and scope of the output.

Papua New Guinea Records Project

A Papua New Guinea records project has been launched by the Pacific Manuscripts Bureau, Research School of Pacific Studies, Australian National University, and the inaugurators have been fortunate enough to obtain the services of Mr. Kevin Green, formerly Chief Archivist of Papua New Guinea, as Project Director. Mr. Green began his career in archives in the Archives Office of Tasmania, and was subsequently (before going to Port Moresby) on the staff of the Business and Trade Union Records Unit at the Research School of Social Sciences, A.N.U.

The aim of the New Guinea Records Project is to locate unpublished documents of historical, literary and scientific value on Papua New Guinea, and to supply copies to participating libraries. The Government of Australia has provided a subsidy, and the balance of the finance is to come from 19 co-operating libraries (in Australia, New Zealand, the United States, and Papua New Guinea itself) who will pay a subscription each year for two years. The project will enjoy the hospitality of the Department of Pacific History in the A.N.U., and Mr. Green will be directly responsible to the Executive Director of the Pacific Manuscripts Bureau.