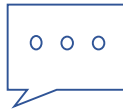




# “Dirt to Digits”

July / August 2020



## Thoughts from the MD

“As a Victorian the one thing that is constant at the moment is change. Just when you think things have settled we get to experience the next “bump”.

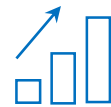
Now more than ever I am experiencing a number of ‘firsts’ in many areas I am involved in. While the focus from government is on what not to do. I am interrupting the conversation and saying here is what we have been doing to make a difference in the areas we are involved with.

As Digital Twin Champions, let’s continue to embrace the importance of establishing rigour in our Governance Frameworks for Quality Data.”



## The News Around the Traps

- A-SPEC National Forums (COVID 19 friendly)
- Online interviews and workshops.
- QGIS and A-SPEC specific training sessions
- Trial for API web service for Code Lists
- This month’s FAQ
- Olympic Trivia Quiz expanded



## QGIS & A-SPEC Training on the Up.

With the take up of QGIS as a low cost option our joint venture partner Digital Hive is now delivering training online.

Gaby van Wyk from Digital Hive has extensive experience in delivering training and this is backed up by his experience with A-SPEC and data capture methodologies across many platforms coupled by his passion and commitment to Data Integrity.

## First A-SPEC National Online Forum Series

I am pleased to announce the dates for the first A-SPEC National Online Forum Series.

Each Forum will be focused on a specific A-SPEC theme, i.e. B, D, O, R, S, and W and will be 2 hours. Along with conversations relevant to the specific theme, there will also be discussions on -

- Data Integrity – what we mean by that.
- Validation and what to validate.
- Future proofing – use of API’s.
- Harmonisation and standardization.
- Certification.
- Training

Topics discussed in the WA Forum in March will also be recapped during these sessions.

Your participation will be the key to what you get out of these Forums so we encourage you to raise topics that are of interest and importance to you or your organization. We want you to take advantage of this.

The dates for each Forum are below so that you can create placeholders for your calendars/diaries.

Specification	Date	Time	Finish
B	18 August 2020	9.45am for a 10am start	12.00pm
D	25 August 2020	9.45am for a 10am start	12.00pm
O	8 September 2020	9.45am for a 10am start	12.00pm
R	15 September 2020	9.45am for a 10am start	12.00pm
S	22 September 2020	9.45am for a 10am start	12.00pm
W	29 September 2020	9.45am for a 10am start	12.00pm
A	13 October 2020	9.45am for a 10am start	12.00pm

As a recap we will be hosting an overall A-SPEC Forum on 13 October 2020. This is something new so if you missed the series or a particular Forum we are happy for you to come to this session and raise your points.

To register for the events please use this link [here](#).

The Forums will use the GoToMeeting technology that GISSA subscribes to as this does not require any downloads because it stays contained within your web browser.

Please note that we may record some aspects of the Forums.

And remember - **Everyone** will have a front row seat!

## Around the Traps – What’s going on in the Community?

I have often spoken about the importance of **holistically** addressing how A-SPEC fits into existing processes with asset owners and consultants. If A-SPEC is the start then what’s next?

Sharing experiences is the worth of participating in the A-SPEC Knowledge Sharing Community.

Our objective is to have conversations and many of them and often with the A-SPEC Community stakeholders. Whether they be with asset management vendors, surveyors, engineers, landscape architects, council and water authority asset owners or other software vendors.

Our experience of late has been that the conversation is the same. How do we guarantee that what we receive is what we expect from A-SPEC and can fit into our systems? AND from the other side of the fence – how can we guarantee that every A-SPEC member will be consistent?

Firstly let’s unfold the question from the asset owner’s perspective. I will address the industry question in the next newsletter.

A smart man once said “The secret to success is still a secret!”

So if that’s the case, then, let’s look at the actions that can be taken to set up our structures for fulfillment and let’s look at them as a series of questions for consideration.

- *Have expectations been clearly identified and agreed to?*
- *Are the expectations clearly reflected in your relevant workflows?*
- *Have you satisfied yourselves that the company delivering the data can give you certainty about what you are receiving?*
- *Do you know where the data will end up – not just which system but the structure?*
- *Do you have rigour around your processes for communicating and resolving non-compliance?*
- *Have specific dates been defined for deliverables?*
- *Does this fit within your Corporate Governance Framework for Quality Data?*

Based on our experience, everything can be resolved in communication. If you are unclear about any aspect please contact the relevant person and if you don’t know who that is then maybe someone in your network knows who that is.

## New COVID Efficient Practice

The ancient Greek philosopher Plato said *“Necessity is the mother of invention”*.

Like other organisations we have embraced the online technology to provide us with the opportunity to deliver our services to our clients. How this played out is that two recent projects enables us to undertake user needs interviews and workshops online (both traditionally face to face activities where you can read body language and engage directly) and you know we got our results with a minimum of fuss or drama.

COVID is certainly enabling a new business practice out of necessity. Our future projects are now scheduled to utilise this method.

## Digital Hive



We reported in our May news that Digital Hive, one of our joint venture businesses started delivering QGIS – A-SPEC training courses online. This is a 2 day program specifically designed to utilise the capability of QGIS to validate and output A-SPEC compliant asset data. You can now book yourself and your team into a date that works for you.

The training is run over the 2 days for 4 hours each day. *“The exercises are designed to highlight the importance of digital data so that you have the ability to confidently and quickly go through and check that the data is correct and makes sense in the real world”* said Mary Rabling of Absolute Surveying. *“I now understand the capability of QGIS to increase our productivity. In the meantime I am still getting used to working remotely”* she continued.

Training programs will run the first Tuesday and Wednesday of each month. There are only 6 places for each training program. The next program is on 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> August 2020 and there are 2 places remaining.

If you would like to participate in the training please contact GISSA at [info@gissa.com.au](mailto:info@gissa.com.au).

## FAQ



### **When do I record Bollards as a Fence or a Traffic Management Device ?**

Another great question. This is one of the most common questions we receive.

At a previous Forum it was agreed that if Bollards were installed in areas of Public Open Space to depict a fence perimeter then this would be shown as a Fence and Fence/Wall Type would be Bollards.

If Bollards were installed for example on a Median Strip or at the entry to a Lane Way then these would be captured as a Traffic Management Device (Point).

The number of FAQ's is increasing. We are being requested to provide guidance on the capture requirements and have commenced looking at the structure of our guidance and practice notes and how we will communicate them to the Community.

## Olympic Trivia Quiz



As we continue our quiz here are the answers for the previous questions.

<b>QUESTION</b>	<b>ANSWER</b>
1. Which country is always first into the stadium at the opening ceremony?	Greece
2. What two track events were won by Australian Edwin Flack at the first Modern Games?	800m and 1500m
3. Name the continents represented by the Olympic flag's five interlocking rings.	The Americas, Asia, Africa, Australia, Europe

Continuing our quiz I am upping the ante, here are the next questions.

4. In what year did the Modern Olympics begin?
5. What is the meaning of the term "Olympiad"?
6. For what does the Olympic motto "Citius, Altius, Fortius" stand for?
7. How many nations competed at the first Olympics?
8. In what other Olympic event did Edwin Flack compete for Great Britain?

These questions have been provided to GISSA and I acknowledge Mr. Donald Ivan Richards for his generosity.

Can't wait for the answers see below!

Our focus continues to be your success. The next update is scheduled for September. If you would like us to include any stories of interest relating to your A-SPEC Community please forward your request to [info@gissa.com.au](mailto:info@gissa.com.au).

Best wishes, stay safe, we have work to do !

George and the A-SPEC Team.

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Answers: 4-1862, 5-A four-year period, 6-Faster (swifter), higher, stronger", 7-13, 8- Tennis doubles; bronze medal