

# Queensland Spatial Excellence Awards 2017

## Citation

### Special Achievement Award

#### Ken Melchert

Ken Melchert is an outstanding SSSI member and leader of the spatial community. Ken has been a town group convenor and conference organiser for the last 4 years in North Queensland. He has been instrumental in SSSI young professionals in the North Queensland Region for 15 years and has presented over 10 papers at SSSI conferences. Ken was instrumental in getting GIS recognised as a profession and its representation in SSSI and encourages GIS users to become active members of the institute.

He is worthy of this special achievement award for his achievements in a remote environment and giving a voice and prosperity to the spatial information and cartography commission within SSSI. His achievements have been:

1. Bringing GIS to North Queensland- he was the pioneer of GIS in North Queensland and his efforts have made way for Mangoesmapping, Les Searle, Gareck Packer and other spatial businesses.
2. Getting GIS recognised as a profession, in the early days they were computer geeks and not recognised in the spatial industry.
3. Working inside SSSI to make the GIS professionals and Surveyors come together in the early days of amalgamation (it's been said without him SSSI would have fractured into GIS and Surveyors very early on)
4. Overcoming privacy and commercial interests in making datasets available for community consumption.
5. Championing spatial technologies and doing the hard sell to Local government on the need and use of the technology
6. Started GIS in schools in Townsville and regularly donated his time to school students to facilitate GIS projects and workshops including presenting at careers days
7. Instrumental in opening up the council database to the community
8. Coordinated every GIS user group that existed in Townsville
9. Organised all the vendors days
10. Was the go to man to get information out to the GIS users, employment opportunities new databases etc

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Like us all Ken has overcome many personal challenges to deliver this professionalism. It's all just who Ken is, he does not seek recognition or influence for what we he has done. Ken just does it because he has a deep passion for his profession and an appreciation for other people and helping them make a better life though spatial knowledge.

Every SSSI member should be grateful of what Ken Melchert has achieved for our profession.

### **Judges' Comments**

“Ken has certainly been a lead instigator for spatial professionals and the outstanding instrumental in demonstrating the importance and relevance of spatial information for decision making and consultation across local government planning processes.”

“Ken showed great initiative at the start of his career and great commitment and dedication in his continuing involvement with the spatial industry and its future.”