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A new resource for Australian business

CSIRO has a new Division which brings together powerful expertise in mathematical and information sciences.

In November, CSIRO created a new Division: *CSIRO Mathematical and Information Sciences*. This Division comprises the two former Divisions of Information Technology and Mathematics and Statistics, together with CSIRO Office of Space Science and Applications (COSSA) and Biometrics.

Several of the new Division's staff were recently awarded CSIRO Medals. These medals recognise high quality science in CSIRO.

Baywatch

David Fox, formerly of Biometrics, was awarded a medal for his contributions to the Port Phillip Bay Environmental Study. This just completed study explored the sustainable use and management of the Bay. David was the statistician on the CSIRO Technical Group, responsible for ensuring the study's scientific rigour.

The study took four years and cost \$12 million, funded principally by Melbourne Water. Six Victorian state agencies, three Commonwealth agencies, nine universities and 12 consultants carried out 47 research tasks. David made important contributions to estimating nutrient pools, designing and analysing a video survey of habitats on the Bay floor and handling statistical issues associated with monitoring and impact assessment.

"I believe that only CSIRO could undertake an environmental study of this complexity and size", David says. "CSIRO, more than any other organisation, can put together high-calibre, multi-disciplinary teams".

Spatial information

Dave Abel and his team, formerly



A new CSIRO Division brings together good science. Dave Abel (above) and David Fox (below) were awarded CSIRO Medals in recognition of their important scientific and technical contributions.



of the Division of Information Technology, were awarded a CSIRO Medal for the major role they played in the evolution of spatial information systems. These systems are now an important planning and management tool in government. Dave's team recognised their potential in the early 1980s and facilitated their emergence as an integral part of corporate information systems. The economic benefit to Australia for each dollar invested by CSIRO in this research is about 100 to 1.

Dave's team has recently started a series of pilot projects with the ACT Department of Urban Services to better utilise spatial databases for government services. See the article overleaf for more details.

Business benefits

Dr Ron Sandland, former Chief of the Division of Mathematics and Statistics, has been appointed Chief of CSIRO Mathematical and Information Sciences.

Dr Sandland explains: "The new Division will build on existing strengths, allowing CSIRO to better define customer needs and create teams to meet them efficiently and effectively. It will develop synergies between CSIRO groups so we can deliver more complete solutions".

For more information about environmental monitoring, phone David Fox on (09) 387 0625 or email David.Fox@cmis.csiro.au