



SMIC NEWS

The 113th general meeting of the Surveying & Mapping Industry Council of NSW was held on Thursday 6 September 2007 at the RTA offices in Parramatta.

Guests at the meeting were Ron Lister, GITA Australasia President, and Douglas Greening, CEO of the Construction Industry Training Advisory Board. In addition, Vishal Behl was welcomed to his first meeting as the GITA representative on the Council.

Douglas Greening gave a most informative presentation on the proposal to introduce a NSW training fund for the Building & Construction Industry to facilitate a pool of skilled labour. The purpose of the fund will be to provide facilities for researching training needs, developing industry specific training to meet existing and evolving needs, to provide training in sectors where no other resources are available and to ensure that training is available to address current deficiencies. The fund is based upon a small levy set aside from the amount nominated in every Development Application approved and the proposal appears worthy of our support. Similar funds exist in South Australia, Tasmania, Western Australia, the ACT and Queensland. Mr Greening gave assurances that our industry would be afforded equitable access to the training fund. The Council also discussed with Mr Greening the associated possibility of extending traineeships and cadetships to the Diploma level.

SMIC sponsored 2 representatives, Greg Livingstone and Brett Madsen, to the GITA 'Recording of Underground Utility Services' workshop in Brisbane on 6 August, which was organised in response to the SMIC issues paper on 'Underground Services Detection & Data'. Greg Livingstone delivered a paper and was the leader of 1 of the 3 discussion groups. Attendees were from NSW, Victoria, Queensland, Western Australia, South Australia and New Zealand. It was concluded that a national standard for recording the location of underground services is urgently required and it was decided to refer the matter to BOSSI for consideration and endorsement to ANZLIC. It is expected that a Working Group will ultimately be formed under Standards Australia.

In regard to the ongoing issue of TAFE training packages, the Council was informed that the new CPP07 Property Services Training Package which includes the Spatial Information Services sector has been endorsed by the National Quality Council (NQC) and signed off by the Ministerial Delegates for Vocational Education and Training representing the Ministers for Training in each of the States and Territories. The new Spatial Information Services sector will replace the Spatial Information Services sector units and qualifications in PRD01 Property Development and Management Training Package. Each State and Territory Training Authority will guide an implementation process in their respective jurisdiction. This process includes transition arrangements between the original and new Training Packages. The Council has decided to invite Noel Hamey to its next meeting to provide advice on how the concerns of the Council can be addressed.

SMIC has asked the Young Surveyors and Young Spatial Professionals Groups to assist in the overhaul of the popular SMIC brochure, which is now 2 years old.

The Chairman reported on his BOSSI-sponsored attendance at the Spatially Enabled Government Conference in Canberra in August 2007. The federal agenda, as outlined by the Spatial Strategic Plan 2007-2010 (released at the Conference) is very-much aligned to the BOSSI CS2i initiative. The recommendation from the GITA conference in regard to a national standard for utility location is also in-line with current strategies. BOSSI and NSW must forge relationships with the national bodies such as AGIMO, NSIM, OSDM and DSE as well as obtaining regular feedback from ANZLIC on the new Australian Spatial Consortium (comprising ANZLIC, ASIBA, CRC-SI and PSMA). As SMIC contains representation from ANZLIC (through the Surveyor-General), ASIBA (through ACSNSW) and CRC-SI (through UNSW), it is in a unique position to assist in this process.

The following information may also be of interest to members of constituent organisations and the general public. Acronyms are explained on the SMIC website at www.smicnsw.org.au. Links to our member organisations are on the SMIC website.

- **ACS:** program 5 of the BOSSI candidate workshops has been completed. To date, 24 candidates have taken advantage of the program with only 1 failure. 3 programs are scheduled for 2008. The October Conference will be held at Terrigal on 19-20 October. The website has been re-vamped and is worth a look at www.acsns.com.au.
- **AHS:** The August meeting of AHS was addressed by Bass Randell from Newcastle Ports, who spoke about the challenging hydrographic survey work involved in the refloating of the Pasha Bulker. The Hydro 2007 conference will be held in Cairns on 21-24 November 2007..
- **AIMS:** The 25th annual conference was held in Brisbane and was attended by 145 delegates. Dennis Baker, Andrew Kelly and Don Wyper were accepted as Fellows of AIMS.
- **GITA:** The GITA Brisbane Conference was a success, and 2 representatives from SMIC attending the Monday underground utilities workshop.
- **ISNSW:** ISNSW has joined Professionals Australia as an Associate Member. A new Constitution will be proposed at the October AGM. BOSSI cadastral candidates workshops are proving popular. The Hunter-Manning Group celebrates its 50th anniversary on 19 November. Plans to expand the Australia Day Seminar into a multi-streamed South East Australasian Survey Congress are underway.
- **MSIA:** A successful 'Spatial Information & Cartographic Visualisation' seminar was held on 16 August. Dr Bill Cartwright FMSIA has been elected President of the International Cartographic Association. The National Council met in Sydney in August and aims to enhance the standing of MSIA in the Geospatial Sciences.
- **Surveyor-General:** The Action Plan for the Common Spatial Information Initiative, CS2i, has been developed. The 12 month review of the Surveying Act 2002 will commence on 29 October 2007.
- **TAFE:** Replacement of the existing qualifications with the Training Package will take place from Semester 1, 2009. Greater access to GIS training has been achieved through the National Environment Centre at Albury, which will offer a Diploma program through flexible arrangements. The Centre has the 2nd highest enrolments in GIS training in NSW. TAFE is currently examining more flexible delivery of training, including increasing the level of work based learning.
- **U Newcastle:** 38 students have commenced in the surveying degree and 9 in the combined degree, with a total of 110 students active in the surveying programs for 2007. Total enrolments in the Bachelor of Surveying programme in first semester 2007 is 71, compared to 54 last year. The annual surveying seminars will be held on 26 October 2007: for further information contact Karl Bretreger.
- **UNSW:** Morpeth Survey Camp was held for the final but 33rd successive year in July. A 20/10 Cricket Match & BBQ will be held on 29 October (Alumni vs Students) as part of the Golden Jubilee celebrations: contact Bruce Harvey on b.harvey@unsw.edu.au to register. A full day OHS training course, supported by ACSNSW, was held on 10 August and attracted 15 students. Golden Jubilee memorabilia is still available for purchase. The IGNSS Symposium will be held on 4-6 December 2007.

Mark T Gordon
Chairman