

SMIC NEWS

The 126th General Meeting of the Council was held on Friday 14 May 2010 at the RTA offices in Parramatta. The Chairman welcomed all delegates, in particular Tony Baker, an alternate delegate from MSIA, and also Doug Kinlyside, an alternate representative of the Surveyor-General in the absence of Paul Harcombe.

Also attending the meeting were ISNSW President John Minehan and TAFE Wollongong Surveying head teacher Charlie Higgs.

The Chairman provided a report on the success of the SMIC exhibition stand at the FIG2010 Congress and thanked all those who contributed to it, in particular Veronica Bondarew and Laura Honeysett from ACS NSW and Rick Bartholomew from ISNSW. The assistance of LPMA was also gratefully acknowledged. Praise was also given to Craig Roberts for his important work in hosting a careers advisor delegation to the Congress. It was also noted that 2 of the students sponsored by SMIC to FIG2010, Nilofer Tambuwala and Ben Tarlington, had already submitted their final reports to the Council.

ISNSW President John Minehan addressed the Council on the work of the Surveying Taskforce and the contribution of NSW to this promotion of the profession. It was agreed by the Council that any involvement by SMIC would have to cover the broader definition of the profession as defined by FIG. This broader definition is exemplified by the links on the SMIC website www.smicnsw.org.au to the two websites www.alifewithoutlimts.com.au and www.destinationspatial.org.

Charlie Higgs gave the Council a comprehensive update on the progress being made in the development of on-line courses at TAFE. This initiative is seen as critical to the future education of surveyors in NSW.

Venessa O'Connell (AHS) and Damien Cole (TAFE) spoke to the Council about the exciting initiative for TAFE NSW to run a Cat B Hydrographic Course for civilians. It was discussed that the technical field components of the course could be provided by an industry and TAFE partnership arrangement whereby instrument supply companies, govt agencies (NSW Maritime, Sydney Ports, Newcastle Ports) etc could assist with the practical training of course attendees.

The Chairman informed the Council of the Standards Australia Forum held on 10 May to discuss the need for an Australian Standard in the collection and depiction of underground utility information (Subsurface Utility Engineering). SMIC Chairman Mark Gordon joined speakers from the USA, the Street Opening Conference and Standards Australia at this critical initiative Forum. The Chairman reminded delegates to the Forum that the catalyst for action towards an Australian Standard was originally instigated by SMIC and its constituent government entity, SMMF.

The following information should be of interest to members of our constituent organisations and the general public. Full reports by the representatives on SMIC can be obtained on request by e-mailing smic@smicnsw.org.au or by contacting the SMIC Chairman, Mark Gordon. Acronyms are explained on the SMIC website at www.smicnsw.org.au. Links to our member organisations are on the SMIC website.

- **ACS:** A CPD program is being developed, primarily focussing on regional members. ACS is also very much involved in the on-line delivery of TAFE courses. At the ACS NSW Engineering and Town Planning workshops, 23 sat for assessment with 16 passes. The 2010 ACS/CSA October conference will be held on 22-23 October at Ballina, with the theme 'Coastal Sustainability'.
- **AHS:** Jacquomo Monk was presented with the 2009 AHS Education Award at a luncheon in his honour on 10 May. His PHD research is "Understanding demersal fish-habitat associations using video observations and sonar imaging". The FIG2010 Congress attracted the largest number of delegates ever witnessed for Hydrography sessions at any FIG congress to date. The Hydrography technical tour was proclaimed the "best ever". The East Australia Region seminar and dinner will be held on 13 September at the Royal Automobile Club, Circular Quay. HYDRO11 will be held in Fremantle WA on 7-11 November 2011.

- **AIMS:** The next AIMS Conference will be held on 11-13 August at the Holiday Inn, Surfers Paradise. Phil Orr was recently elected a Fellow of AIMS. The International ISM Congress will be held in Sun City, South Africa on 20-24 September 2010.
- **BOSSI:** The BOSSI March examinations resulted in 31 passes and 12 Certificates of competency being issued. The Board met with industry at the JAM meeting on 25 March, discussing amendments of the Act and Regulation, CS2i, the Supervision Determination, the review of the BOSSI CPD policy and POSI. SSSI has asked to replace SSI ACT as a ratified organisation. The next meeting of BOSSI is on 28 May, immediately preceding the Kurri Kurri candidates' Workshop. A Board determination has been made in regard to the assessment of Pre-existing Mining Surveying Qualifications.
- **FIG2010:** Over 2000 people from 100 countries, including 1539 full delegates, attended the very successful Congress, with 700 delegates from Australia. 4 Nigerians are coming over in early August (as their Visas were not ready in time for FIG2010) for a mini-Congress of 'Technical Tours'. Technical papers can be accessed via the link on the SMIC homepage at www.smicnsw.org.au.
- **ISNSW:** The ISNSW Office in Goulburn Street was officially opened on 7 May 2010 by the Governor, Prof Marie Bashir AC CVO in the presence of Tony Kelly Minister for Lands and SG Warwick Watkins. The ISNSW Office subjected itself to an energy audit and a resultant Environment Policy was adopted. Changes were then instigated to improve energy consumption. The Goulburn Chamber of Commerce is looking to adopt a version of the ISNSW Environment Policy. At the May meeting of the Management Committee, there were 2 members elevated to Fellow and one to Honorary Fellow. As at February 2010, the Institution has a total membership of 1282 (an increase of about 50 since 2008), including 820 Corporate Members, 46 Fellows and 3 Honorary Fellows. Surveying Spectaculars will be held at Olympic Park on 21 May and 20 August. The Institution Golf Day at The Lakes on 15 April was a great success, with 88 golf enthusiasts attending.
- **ISNSW IEMS Group:** The Group has presented its annual TAFE Award "Best in Survey Projects". The IEMS Scholarship was not presented this year due to lack of applicants.
- **MSIA:** The Annual seminar will be held on 21 October 21010 at the Aspire Hotel, Bulwara Rad Ultimo. The NSW Division AGM was held on the 28th April with Col Mitford being elected President and Hank Stahl, Vice President. Tony Baker, David Taylor and John Sutton were recently re-elected as Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer of the Bathurst Group.
- **SSSI:** The NSW Regional Meeting was held on 16 April and praised the success of the FIG2010 Congress, which SSSI jointly hosted. SSSI is a bronze sponsor of the NSW Excellence Awards. It is intended to hold a regional SSSI conference in conjunction with the 2011 SEASSIC. The national Land Surveying Commission conference will be held in Melbourne in April 2012.
- **Surveyor-General:** 35 CORS have been incorporated into the CORSnet-NSW network. Applications for the 2010 Surveyor-General's Fellowship close on 27 August 2010. Invitations to apply for the 2011 SG's undergraduate scholarship will be sent soon. The Surveying & Spatial Information Regulation 2006 is due for a remake in 2011. The celebration of the 100th anniversary of the marking of the NSW ACT border will be held at Mount Coree on 25 May.
- **TAFE NSW:** 350 students are currently enrolled in Surveying at the Sydney, Newcastle and Wollongong TAFE campuses. Positive feedback was received from the student helpers at FIG2010. The Illawarra Institute's proposal for a Graduate Vocational Certificate and Graduate Vocational Diploma in GIS is gathering momentum. 3 full-time teaching staff at TAFE Sydney are retiring. The Illawarra Institute has gained funding to develop on-line assessment resources for the Diploma in Surveying.
- **Uni of Newcastle:** There are 29 commencing students in the Surveying degree course and 9 for the combined degree. There are a total of 122 students enrolled in the Surveying degree and its associated combined degrees: a significant increase. This year the University of Newcastle will be introducing Australian Higher Education Graduate Statements (AHEGS) for all students who graduate with an Award of the University. The AHEGS will assist students with employment and further study opportunities, but do not replace the existing Testamur or the Academic Transcript. The University is offering mid-year admissions to the B. Surveying and all engineering

degrees. All applications must be made online through UAC and applications close on 11 June 2010. ATAR Cut Offs are expected to be the similar to 1st semester 2010. Second semester teaching begins on 26 July.

- **UNSW:** Our staff and students authored or co-authored, and presented, 16 papers. Surely a record for ANY organisation. They also were seen chairing and rapporteuring sessions, hosting tours, and generally welcoming delegates from all over the world. We are also grateful to our 26 undergraduate students, the “blue shirts”, who volunteered during the Congress to help keep the wheels in motion. Chris Rizos, as Head of School, was interviewed 6 times in various forms of print, radio and online media to help promote the surveying and geospatial disciplines. Photos can be accessed from: http://www.surv.unsw.edu.au/album/20100411_FIG2010Sydney/. The Survey camp for senior students was held at Berry in April. The Graduation Dinner was held on 3 May, with over 100 guests. Joel Haasdyk won 6 prizes and the University Medal. A new website has been launched at www.ssis.unsw.edu.au. The School has 15 new students including 6 TAFE articulations. One of the consortia participating in the Australian Space Research Program and involving researchers from the School of Surveying and Spatial Information Systems won almost \$3 million for “advanced tracking, navigation, climate and atmospheric modelling for space-related research”. Continuing the theme of space, the School’s “Namuru” GPS receiver (Australia’s only locally designed GPS receiver) operated successfully on a sounding rocket launched by the German Space Agency (DLR) on 2nd March. DLR is collaborating with the School to design a next generation receiver able to track all of the GNSS constellations, not just GPS.

The next meetings (the AGM and the first general meeting of the new SMIC year) of SMIC are on Friday 9 July 2010 at the most impressive new ACS NSW office in Bathurst Street, Sydney.

Mark T Gordon
Chairman