

## SMIC NEWS

The 134th General Meeting of the Surveying & Mapping Industry Council of NSW was held on Friday 9 December 2011 at the RMS offices in Parramatta. Our guests were Ryan Church and Liz Fulton from Illawarra TAFE. In a supplementary role, Liz was representing SSSI at this meeting.

The meeting commenced on a most positive note with the presentation of the SMIC TAFE Scholarships in Certificate IV Workplace Training & Assessment to Liz Fulton and Ryan Church. The Chairman advised that the Council was very pleased to be able to present the inaugural scholarships to two very competent and worthy individuals. He also stated that the decision by the Council to support the education of people charged with the responsibility of teaching future members of our Surveying & Spatial Information Sector was a very important one and he was pleased to acknowledge financial support from the Sector.

John Minehan reported progress towards establishing a NSW Taskforce, similar to the Victorian model. To be effective, this taskforce will require an initial funding commitment of \$25,000 plus about \$260,000 to run a four year campaign. Deputy Chair Veronica Bondarew agreed to champion this proposal.

The Chairman updated the Council on progress towards developing an Australian Standard in Subsurface Utility Engineering (SUE). The SMIC Chairman had given a presentation on the proposed SUE standard to SSSC2011 in Wellington New Zealand two weeks ago and reported that the reaction from both Australian and New Zealand delegates was most encouraging. The drafting committee last met on 2 December and significant progress was made. The development committee is due to meet on 14 February 2012.

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](mailto:smic@smicnsw.org.au) or by contacting the SMIC Chairman, Mark Gordon. Acronyms are explained on the SMIC website at [www.smicnsw.org.au](http://www.smicnsw.org.au). Links to our member organisations are on the SMIC website.

- **ACS:** The Industry Day in Martin Place will occur in September 2012.
- **AHS:** The international hydrographic conference HYDRO2011 was held from 7 to 10 November 2011 at the Esplanade Hotel, Fremantle and was attended by over 200 delegates and more than 30 exhibitors. Shallow Survey 2012 is the 6th International Conference on High-resolution Surveys in Shallow Waters. The conference is being hosted in Wellington, New Zealand from 20 to 24 February 2012. Further information can be found on the conference website [www.conference.co.nz/shallowsurvey](http://www.conference.co.nz/shallowsurvey). The Australian Maritime College in Launceston is proposing a new Hydrography program for the Australasian region to replace the course run by the University of Otago. Electives will still exist at the University of Otago and Curtin University.
- **AIMS:** The next AIMS Seminar is on 17-18 February 2012 in Mudgee. 110 people have participated in a AIMS Salary Survey. Of these, 32% were involved in underground coal operations and 41% in Open Cut. 42% held degree qualifications and 33% were registered in NSW. Hours per week at work ranged from 40 hours to 55 hours, with 91% being in full time employment. 40% were earning more than \$110,000. New unqualified entrants can expect to earn from \$70k to \$95k plus Superannuation.
- **ISNSW:** An Engineering Surveying Seminar will be held on 16 February, commencing at 5 pm in the Institution office. Michael Whelan will facilitate an ISNSW Strategic Planning Review on 2 March 2012. The Australian Day Seminar is being held on 24-25 January, with Peter FitzSimons giving the keynote address. The annual EISSI Awards will be held on 22 September 2012 at the Sofitel Sydney Wentworth Hotel. The Seniors Group Parliamentary Luncheon is being held on Tuesday 7 February 2012 and the guest speaker is John McNaughton (AM FIS Hon D Eng Ncle FAIM) who will be speaking about '*Surveyors and Earthquakes – Professional Lessons from the 1989 Newcastle Earthquake*'. A Young Surveyors Seminar is being organised. The Transit of Venus project has received a funding boost.

- **SSSI:** State membership now stands at 415. The Engineering & Mining Surveying Commission is holding a seminar in November 2012. There were 572 registrations for SSSC2011 in Wellington New Zealand. A Spatial Networking Golf Day is being held at Moore Park Golf Course on 21 December.
- **Surveyor-General:** This year marks fifty years of strata title in NSW. The review of the AS/NZS 4819: Geographic Information Rural and Urban Addressing has now been completed by ICSM's Street Addressing Special Interest Group (SASIG). The Standard's review has been undertaken through the process run by Standards Australia and was published last week. LPI's Vision 2013 has addressed the challenges of an ageing workforce and ongoing retirements by recruiting more than 200 graduates and trainees. New obligations on witnesses to Real Property Act dealings and on mortgagees such as banks, credit unions and private lenders came into effect on 1 November 2011 with the commencement of the Real Property Amendment Regulation 2011. These new requirements have been introduced as an essential safeguard against fraud in conveyancing transactions. In mid November 2011, there were 71 Continuously Operating Reference Stations (CORS) active in CORsnet-NSW. LPI recently released its latest publication 'Maps that shaped Australia', produced with Dr Robert Clancy. The book draws upon Dr Clancy's private collection, one of the most significant privately owned historic map collections in Australia, some of the maps in the book have rarely, if ever, been available in the public domain. It is available to purchase for \$60 (including GST) from the LPI Online bookshop. The tracing of land ownership over time will become easier with the delivery of the Torrens Purchasers Index Online. The index has been conserved, digitised and is soon to be loaded into the Historical Land Records Viewer (previously known as Pixel), which can be accessed via the Spatial Information Exchange. The online index will assist researchers find ownership details of Torrens Title land between 1863 and 1971 in cases when only the name of a reputed owner and an approximate date of ownership is known.
- **Uni of Newcastle:** There were 17 students presenting final year projects this semester, and including the graduations from first semester there should be over 20 graduates this year. Dr Harvey Mitchell will be retiring from full time employment at the University of Newcastle at the end of this year. The University has begun a search for a replacement, and the appointment will be made at the Professor level. The University has received 17 applications, short listing was held last month and interviews are planned for January 2012.
- **UNSW:** The short course GPS/GNSS for the Modern Surveyor will be run on 16-17 February 2012. This year's undergraduate thesis attracted over 40 members of the profession. Undergraduate thesis topics are being sought from the industry. If you have an idea for a thesis project that you would like one of our 4<sup>th</sup> yr students to devote approximately 200-300hrs work for free, contact Chris Rizos: c.rizos@unsw.edu.au. The School hosted the biannual International Symposium on GNSS (IGNSS) from 15-17 November on the UNSW campus. 200+ delegates from more than 20 countries exchanged ideas on the latest GNSS systems and signals, how they interact and the new applications that these systems enable. A Disaster Management Workshop was held on 6 December 2011. A SAR Workshop was held on 7 December 2011. The Garuda SAR Formation Flying Project is a collaborative space engineering research project aimed at developing a national capability in space-borne earth observation using GPS Formation-Flying SAR satellites. The project is funded under the Australian Space Research Program and is led by the Australian Centre for Space Engineering Research (ACSER) at the University of NSW (UNSW), with other consortium partners comprising BAE Systems Australia, Curtin University of Technology, Delft University, EADS Astrium and General Dynamics Corporation.

The next meeting of SMIC is planned for Friday 9 March 2012 at the RMS offices in Parramatta.

Mark T Gordon  
Chairman