



143rd General Meeting of the Surveying & Mapping Industry Council of NSW was held on Thursday 24 October 2013 at the RMS offices at Parramatta.

SMIC has written to NSW Premier Barry O'Farrell to object to the proposed sale of the former Department of Lands Building in Bridge Street Sydney. A reply has been received from the Director General of Finance and Services which confirms that the divestment process for the building has commenced. SMIC is disappointed with this outcome and is concerned about the protection and preservation of the significant surveying heritage associated with this building. SMIC will continue to watch the situation with the sale of this iconic building to ensure that the heritage of this building is protected.

Following the publication of Australian Standard AS5488 Classification of Subsurface Utility Information, SMIC has been in discussions with ICSM to develop a promotion and training plan for the understanding and implementation of the standard. Funding for the project has been secured and the promotional and training program will begin shortly.

Deputy Chair, Mark Gordon reported that the NSW Surveying Taskforce has engaged Blue Frog Marketing to undertake research to investigate and develop a marketing program to help increase the number of registered surveyors in NSW and to raise the public profile of the profession. SMIC has agreed to contribute \$1500 towards the taskforce.

Andrew Bryson, Executive Officer of the Construction and Select Property Industry Training Advisory Body (CSPSITAB) attended the meeting as an invited guest. He addressed the Council and outlined the role of the ITAB and the current status of the surveying based traineeships was discussed. The Surveying and Spatial Information sector currently has 5 traineeships covered by Vocational Training Orders (VTOs):

- ❖ Cert III Surveying & Spatial Information Services
- ❖ Cert IV Surveying
- ❖ Cert IV Spatial Information Services
- ❖ Diploma Surveying
- ❖ Diploma Spatial Information Services

These traineeships are available for new employees with support funding from the government available to employers. Unfortunately it appears that the surveying and spatial industry is not utilising the established VTOs. In the financial year 11-12 only 9 traineeships were commenced while last financial year (12-13) this number dropped down to 0. If the traineeships are not being used then we stand the risk of losing them. Is there a reason that your company is not employing a new trainee?

It was discovered during the meeting that Surveying and/or Spatial Information are not currently on the National Skills Needs List. This list identifies traditional trades that are identified as experiencing a national skills shortage. Occupations listed on the National Skills Needs List are eligible for further employer incentives. SMIC will be investigating whether the current VTOs are suitable to be added to this list.

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The following information may 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 Chair, Narelle Underwood. Acronyms are explained on the SMIC website at www.smicnsw.org.au Links to our member organisations are on the SMIC website.

ACS: 105 CSA/ACS members attended their recent annual October conference which was held in Port Stephens. 2103 Australian Geographic Adventurer of the Year Tim Jarvis AM was the keynote speaker. During the event ACS announced and demonstrated the full implementation of their new online CPD points facility CPDBANK. The Fee Estimating Tool development is also now complete. CSN also recently held a webinar to update employers to changes in legislation on bullying in the workplace.

The PSOA and Illawarra TAFE have just produced 10 training modules (20 minutes each) for survey fieldhands. They were developed with a grant from the Professional Standards Council. There is no resultant qualification on completion of the modules as it is a risk management strategy. The modules will be on the PSOA and PSC websites.

AHS: contributed to the development of the new SSSI Hydrography commission career promotional video which can be viewed online at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rFQ1lpkW81Y>. The EAR Committee held a one day seminar on August 16th with the theme of The Blue Economy and the Law of the Sea. The EAR also hosted a Korea Hydrographic Society delegation at the seminar and included the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the Australasian Hydrographic Society (AHS) and the Hydrographic Society of Korea. The International Hydrographic Organisation (IHO) has announced an upcoming conference in Southampton titled *Digital Hydrography on the Maritime Web*. This is to be held in Southampton, UK, on 29-30 October, 2013. Sydney Ports survey department was involved in providing accurate positioning for anchorage of some of the critical depth vessels on Friday 4th October 2013.

AIMS: 120 surveyors and suppliers attended their annual conference which was held in Adelaide. The 2014 Annual conference will be held at Brighton Le Sands (Sydney) in August and will be held in conjunction with the next International Society for Mine Surveying Presidium meeting. AIMS will host the ISM congress in Brisbane in 2016. The next NSW AIMS seminar and candidate session is planned for Singleton in November. AIMS is currently involved in the preparation of Spatial Data Guidelines for Mining Operation Plans.

ISNSW: At the AGM on 4 October, Graeme Stewart completed his term and Phil Hayward was installed as President. EISSI Awards - the event was a success with nearly 400 people in attendance. A report and photos have been included in the October edition of *Azimuth*. The Australia Day Seminar 2014 will be held on Thursday 23 and Friday 24 January 2014 at the Four Seasons Sydney. The keynote speaker will be Ben Roberts-Smith VC, MG. The Seniors Group Parliamentary Luncheon is to be held in the Strangers Dining Room on Tuesday 11 February 2014. Paul Harcombe, Chief Surveyor at Land and Property Information will be the keynote speaker

MSIA: The Annual Conference was held on 24 October 2013 at the Aspire Hotel, Ultimo

SMMF: SG's Direction No 12 (Control Surveys & SCIMS) and Direction No 9 (GNSS for Cadastral and Mining Surveys) are now published. The On-line booking system for EDM calibration facilities in NSW has gone live <http://lpi.nsw.gov.au/edmbooking/>

SSSI: The regional networking conference 'Crossing the Great Divide' will be held in Bathurst on 15-16 November. SSSI continue to support the SSSI Specialised Certification Program. The NSW Location Intelligence Strategy webinar was a success.

Surveyor General: 17 LPI Senior Plan Examiners are retiring next year. There are 139 CORS stations covering 39% of NSW. The target is 150. The LPI Strategic Review is currently with the

government for consideration. SG's Direction No 9 has been endorsed by BOSSI. NSW is the second Australian State to go live with electronic Conveyancing. It uses PEXA (Property Exchange Australia). The NSW Online Road Naming System was released progressively across LGAs during August 2013. Benjamin Harrington and John Minehan are the winners of the 2013 Surveyor-General's International Fellowship.

TAFE: restructure will see the Training Education Support (TES) units disbanded, with a majority of the functions disseminated into the Institutes and others disappearing. Each Institute will be a lead institute as the contact point for an Industry sector. South Western Sydney Institute will be the central point of contact for Construction and Property services. Sydney Institute: Intake for semester 2 is steady; they currently have 120 Students in the section in various stages of full time and part time study. There is a possibility of running the Cert IV in Surveying next year. Part time teaching positions will be advertised soon.

University of Newcastle: The Annual Discipline Dinner which incorporates the presentation of all student prizes within the Discipline of Civil, Surveying and Environmental Engineering was held on Friday 13 September 2013. The Annual Surveying Seminar will be held on Friday 1 November 2013, from about 9am to 1pm. Surveying full time academic staff has been reduced to 2 in 2013. Dr Eric Kniest has been appointed as temporary academic staff member for Semester 1, from his position as Professional Officer. Mr Ron Murtagh has been appointed at a Professor Officer to replace Dr Kniest for this period. These arrangements have been extended into Semester 2. The procedure for a permanent replacement for Dr Harvey Mitchell is continuing. The University is again advertising for a professor. EA accreditation for the B. Engineering programs at the University of Newcastle was held early August 2013. The result of that accreditation review is that for all engineering offerings, the review panel will be recommending full accreditation, up until the first intake in 2019, to the EA Accreditation Board. This is only a recommendation, and the final result is at the discretion of the Accreditation Board.

University of New South Wales: The SAGE Group is undergoing a curriculum review to offer more opportunities within the new School. Staff are moving from the Electrical Engineering building to level 4 of the CVEN building. The IGNSS Conference was held at Surfers Paradise on 16-18 July, with strong representation from UNSW. Papers are available for free at www.ignss.org. UNSW hosted the SSSI AGM on 17 October.

The next meeting of the NSW Surveying & Mapping Industry Council is currently planned to be held at the office of the Roads & Maritime Services in Parramatta on Friday 14 February 2014.