

SMIC NEWS

The 133rd General Meeting of the Surveying & Mapping Industry Council of NSW was held on Monday 24 October 2011 at the RTA offices in Parramatta. Our guest was the Acting Principal Surveyor for the RTA, Grant Kilpatrick. Narelle Underwood replaced Roy Lowe as the SMIC delegate from the Institution of Surveyors NSW. The Chairman acknowledged and thanked Roy for his most valued contribution to the Council, which he first attended in 2003.

The applications for the inaugural SMIC TAFE Scholarship in Certificate IV Workplace Training & Assessment have been assessed and interviews have been held. The Council agreed to support two \$1000 Scholarships, and the successful applicants have been asked to attend our next meeting on 9 December to receive their Scholarship.

The Council has submitted a response to the Minister for Education's invitation to comment on proposed skills reform designed to strengthen economic growth in NSW. This announcement follows the recent agreement by the Council of Australian Governments to the principles of reform designed to support a more productive workforce and give people the skills they need to participate in work. The vocational education and training system in NSW and the central role played by our 10 TAFE NSW Institutes is regarded as pivotal in this reform.

The Chairman reported on progress towards developing an Australian Standard in Subsurface Utility Engineering. The purpose of the project is to develop an Australian Standard for Subsurface Utility Engineering. The Standard will specify requirements for locating, identifying and recording subsurface utility infrastructure and related attributes in order to quantify the integrity of asset information.

The delegate from UNSW provided information to the Council on changes to legislation to encourage rural students to study at university. Formerly, it was common practice for rural students completing HSC to do a gap year in order to claim independent status and therefore being eligible for youth allowance. The rules were then changed to 18 months minimum to claim independent status and some new categories (inner regional) meant that students from (for example) Port Macquarie and Coffs Harbour were no longer eligible. The UNSW delegate to SMIC was happy to advise that new rules will come into place as of Jan 1, 2012. The "inner regional" will be dropped, significantly more support will be available, relocation expenses will be included, means testing has been re-evaluated. However, it is still not clear if the 18 months will be reverted to 12 months. UNSW now allows 2 year deferrals in case the 18 months remains. This really helps with the finances for living expenses in Sydney (the most expensive city in Australia) and takes the pressure off their parents. It might mean more rural students studying at UNSW. UNSW has noticed a drop off in rural students and a desire to increase the number of rural scholarships to support living expenses. The message from UNSW is not to worry about the high ATAR for UNSW, rather just encourage students who want to study at UNSW to apply, otherwise they do not appear on UNSW lists, and the university cannot get students into the course through its various pathways if they don't apply.

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:** This year's Excellence Awards ceremony was a very successful night – the event was a sell out with nearly 450 attendees. Planning for next year's event has already begun.
- **AHS:** international hydrographic conference is being held between 7 - 11 November 2011 at the Esplanade Hotel, Fremantle. The AHS has an awards scheme to recognise the professionalism and service to our industry as well as to promote education in hydrography and related fields: details about the awards as well as nomination forms are available from the AHS website www.ahs.asn.au. 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. The University of Otago is ceasing the postgraduate level Category A program at the end of 2011, but is continuing with undergraduate electives for the Bachelor of Surveying. Alternative options for a Cat A or Cat B program are being sourced.
- **AIMS:** Following recent lobbying of the International Society for Mine Surveying (ISM), Australia will be the host nation for the XVIth International Mine Surveying Congress in 2016 and will be held in Brisbane. Announced at the recent Presidium meeting in Freiberg, Germany, the 2016 congress will be the second time that Australia has played host to the world's biggest meeting of mine surveyors, with the last congress held on our shores in 1997 in Fremantle. Dr. Andrew Jarosz from Curtin University's WA School of Mines was recently elected Vice President of the International Society for Mine Surveying (ISM). To support the Model Work Health and Safety Act, Safe Work Australia, in conjunction with the National Mine Safety Framework, have released draft model Work Health and Safety Regulations, model Codes of Practice and an Issues Paper for public comment. Of particular interest to Mine Surveyors are the draft model Code of Practice for Mine Surveyors and the model Code of Practice for Inundation and Inrush Hazard Management. AIMS has been heavily involved with industry in providing input into the draft Code of Practice for Mine Surveyors and will be preparing another submission to highlight some issues that were not adequately addressed in the draft. Frank Smith made an Honorary Member of AIMS for his contribution to the industry through his Compnet Software. Please note the following dates: AIMS Singleton Seminar & Candidate workshop Friday 11th November 2011; AIMS Mudgee Seminar & Candidate workshop 17-18th February 2012.
- **BOSSI:** A Strategic Planning meeting was held on 23 September 2011. The Board was informed that LandXML is being exposed to Survey CADD software packages to ensure that they will be able to comply with the LPI LandXML format. Later this year it is to be rolled out to surveyors on a trial basis. Your "Surveyor ID" (the number on your registration card) will be a mandatory element of the NSW EPLAN protocol. EPLAN is due for release by mid 2012. The registered land surveyor who was removed from the register after a finding of professional misconduct and professional incompetence by the Board has commenced proceedings in the ADT. On the ICSM website, there is a comparison of cadastral systems used in all States (98 Pages). Proposed dates for 2012 JAM meetings are 30 March 2012 and 30 November 2012. These are also the dates for the presentation of Certificates of Competency. 2012 land surveying exams are scheduled for 12-14 March and 15-17 October 2012. The Kurri Kurri Candidates' Workshop will be on 25-26 May 2012. The ACS Workshop schedule is Engineering 12-13 January, 10 February, 16 March and Town Planning 19-20 January, 17 February and 23 March 2012. Surveyors lodging DPs and SPs at LPI this year has dropped suddenly from a constant of about 795 over the past 5 years to 715 this year. The number of DPs is also expected to fall this year.

- **GITA:** The GITA 2011 AGM is to be held in November in Brisbane. In November 2011, Ergon Energy will begin in an operational sense, the largest cm level 3D mapping annual cycle undertaken in the world. This program specifically targets improvements in vegetation management, but provides a platform for efficiencies in asset management across a range of functional areas from forecasting to design to incident response.
- **ISNSW:** The ISNSW AGM was held on Friday 7th October. Grant Baker has been elevated to Fellow of the Institution. The ISNSW Website www.surveyors.org.au has been upgraded and updated. The Australia Day Seminar is being held on 24th-25th January 2012 at the Four Points by Sheraton, Darling Harbour. The Keynote Speaker is Peter FitzSimons and his address will be based on his book '*Mawson and the Ice Men of the Heroic Age: Scott, Shackleton and Amundsen*'. Registration forms will be in the November Azimuth. The Seniors Group Parliamentary Luncheon is being held on Tuesday 7th 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*'.
- **SMMF:** RailCorp hosted a very successful Government Surveyors dinner on 1 September 2011, attracting both public sector and private industry surveyors. LPI has commenced a 5 year program to replace all NSW topographic maps. The program will complete NSW coverage of GDA94 topographic maps, replace existing aging maps and enable regular update of maps. The mapping program is a component of LPI's overall improvement of topographic data, topographic web map services and eTopo service delivery. The maps are being produced utilising ArcGIS MapAtlas which enables automated extraction, data generalisation and output file generation direct from the Digital Topographic Data Base (DTDB). Some printed 1:50 000 scale maps will be replaced by 1:100 000 scale, and 1:25 000 scale replaced by 1:50 000. This will reduce the total numbers of maps to be produced, maintained, stored and distributed. Additionally all NSW maps have been generated at current scale as geo-pdfs. These have been distributed to key NSW emergency services organisations and regular or on request updates will be provided.
- **SSSI:** At its AGM, Warwick Hehir was returned as Chair of the SSSI NSW Region. The national Land Surveying Commission conference will be held in Melbourne in April 2012. SSC2011 will be held in Wellington New Zealand on 23-25 November 2011. The MOU between ISNSW and SSSI NSW is now up for review. Membership of SSSI NSW stands at 403, with 270 belonging to the Land Surveying Commission. Two seminars were held in September: GIS in Engineering and Spatial Data Infrastructure & Metadata. The following events should be noted: 22nd March 2011: State Library Map Room Tour (FREE); 7th April: Technical Evening: NSW Transport Management Centre (FREE); 13th April: Twilight Seminar: An introduction to Mash-ups adhoc mapping; 30th June: Women in Engineering; 3-6th July: Institute of Australian Geographers Conference: Geography on the Edge; 9th September: GIS in Engineering Project and 23rd September: SDI and Metadata Workshop (FREE)
- **Surveyor-General:** Des Mooney has been appointed as the 28th Surveyor-General of NSW. Des has been the General Manager, Land and Property Information Division (LPI) since February 2001. He has extensive senior management experience in both the public and private sectors including experience in surveying, mapping and valuation activities. He is a Director of PSMA (Public Sector Mapping Agencies) Australia and a member of the National Steering Committee for Electronic Conveyancing. Mr Mooney is also a registered surveyor and registered valuer. The Remake of the Surveying and Spatial Information Regulation 2006 has been postponed to 1 September 2012. The Parliamentary Counsel's Office is continuing work on preparing the draft Regulation which when finalised will be circulated for comment. The

winners of the 2011 Surveyor General International Fellowship in Surveying and Spatial Information are Narelle Underwood and Joel Haasdyk. The eligibility criteria for the Surveyor General International Fellowship in Surveying and Spatial Information will be reviewed and broadened for 2012. This year's Surveyor General Undergraduate Scholarship in Surveying has been awarded to Christopher Ryan. The Hon Gregory Pearce MLC, Minister for Finance and Services has announced that Michael Coutts-Trotter, Director General, Department of Finance and Services will represent NSW on the board of ANZLIC. Des Mooney General Manager, Land and Property Information will continue to represent NSW on the board of PSMA Australia. NSW Spatial Data Governance arrangements are currently being revised. The new arrangements will provide leadership and direction for Spatial Information in NSW across government and industry. The new peak body will be led by Michael Coutts-Trotter, Director General, Department of Finance and Services. LPI have incorporated a total of 70 Continuously Operating Reference Stations (CORS) into the CORSnet-NSW network. CORSnet-NSW recently moved to dual Network Control Centres located in Sydney and Bathurst for redundancy and improved network resilience. Differential GNSS providing sub-metre accuracy now covers 83% of the State's area or 99% of the population. RTK GNSS providing sub decimetre accuracy coverage is available for 35% of the State's area or 94% of the population.

- **TAFE:** Sydney Institute is revising the courses on offer for 2012 to reflect the changes to the national training package: Cert III, Cert IV and the Diploma courses, with all being offered either F/T or P/T and some being offered flexibly.
- **Uni of Newcastle:** The annual Surveying Seminars was held on Friday 28 October 2011, from 8.30 am to 12.30 pm. This will include talks on: Subsidence monitoring on a Coal Lease, Accuracy of Sir Thomas Mitchell's Sketches, repeatability and Reliability of Real Time CORSnet-NSW Positioning, Tracking Human Body Motion using Photogrammetry, Accuracy of Volume Determinations, Redevelopment of Sydney's Glebe Trotting Raceway, Redefinition of Milparinka, Deformation Studies of Wire Fencing, Camera Calibration for Close Range Photogrammetry and Photogrammetry with Inexpensive Cameras. Dr Harvey Mitchell will be retiring from full time employment at the University of Newcastle at the end of this year. He will however be working half time in 2012. The University has begun a search for a replacement, and the appointment will be made at the Professor level. At this point of time, the University has received 17 applications with short listing expected to take place in November this year.
- **UNSW:** The Open day was held on 3 September 2011. UNSW students were well represented at the NSW Excellence in Surveying and Spatial Information Awards. This year there were two winners of the NSW Surveyor Generals Fellowship – UNSW SSIS graduates Narelle Underwood (*BE SSIS '09*) and Joel Haasdyk (*BE SSIS '10*). NSW University Student of the Year was UNSW SSIS's Nic Gowans with his thesis 'CORS, who wants it?'

The next meeting of SMIC is planned for Friday 9 December 2011 at the RTA offices in Parramatta.

Mark T Gordon
Chairman