

SMIC NEWS

The 135th General Meeting of the Surveying & Mapping Industry Council of NSW was held on Friday 9 March 2012 at the RMS offices in Parramatta. Our guests were Dr Ken Lyons of Spatial Information Services P/L and Noel Hamey FSSSI, Chair of the CPSISC (Construction & Property Services Industry Skills Council). The Council was very grateful that these guests flew in from interstate at their own expense specifically to address the Council.

Dr Lyons gave a presentation entitled *Skilled Workforce in Surveying & Geospatial*, based on his experiences in Queensland. Noel Hamey presented on CPSISC's *Workforce Development*. Both guests believe that the skills shortage in Surveying will get worse. SIBA believes that there is a shortage of about 3000 skilled practitioners throughout Australia, and all State Surveyors' Boards are reporting an ageing workforce. Surveying vacancies had the fourth highest growth rate last year on www.seek.com. The presentations recommended an industry-wide **workforce development plan**. CPSISC is willing to assist our sector to obtain federal funding, but cautioned that we would need to be able to act very swiftly to meet the short application timeframes.

Mr Hamey was complimented on the CPSISC document 'Environmental Scan 2012-13' (available on the internet), which presents a succinct and timely review of the sectors covered under the CPSISC. The report states, in part, "*Surveying and spatial stand out as a property services occupations with high demand and limited skilled personnel.*", and acknowledged that surveyors are included in the DEEWR national skills shortage listing. The document also states "*The surveying and geospatial industry is suffering from a serious skilled workforce shortage in all segments of the industry and at all skill levels. Industry consensus is that it is expected to get worse over the next five years. The Queensland industry successfully secured Critical Skills Investment Fund (CSIF) allocations to upskill technicians which will assist to some degree. Spatial information services have better employment prospects that most due to increasing demand for their specialist services brought about by the need for increasingly sophisticated location technology.*". The Environmental Scan concludes that there is "*strong demand for qualified surveying professionals largely due to growth in the civil and commercial construction sectors and mining. Queensland and WA indicate shortages, particularly in cadastral surveying.*".

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** – Daryl Bath has resigned as ACS Chairman for health reasons and the Council asked the ACS representative to convey our very best wishes to him. The Transit of Venus is approaching on 6 June 2012 and Queensland has developed an excellent website for the Transit of Venus: www.transitofvenus.com.au. The 'Surveying and Mapping Industry Day' is scheduled for 5 September 2012 in Martin Place. Industry Day booths/marquees will be available for hire. SMIC has reserved a marquee at the 'Surveying and Mapping Industry Day'.
- **AHS** – The East Australian Region held a meeting on 7th February 2012 at Sydney Ports Corporation offices in Walsh Bay. The main focus of the meeting was to create discussion around the Australian Maritime College proposed course. The meeting discussed the original prospectus prepared by the AMC and decided to appoint Scott Preskett to prepare a formal response to the AMC on behalf of the EAR. It is hoped that the AMC manage to get their courses up and running without too much criticism from industry.
Grounding of Costa Concordia - Hydro International recently featured a news story on the grounding of the Costa Concordia near the Italian island of Giglio. The article focussed on the viewpoint from the hydrography perspective, in particular whether or not the rock had been charted correctly. Details of the article can be found at <http://www.hydro-international.com>

- **AIMS** – Due to recent changes to the Queensland legislation pertaining to who can sign statutory mine plans in Queensland, the Surveyors Board of Queensland has adopted the “100 points” system of determining acceptance of the academic requirements for registration as a Surveyor.
- **BOSSI** - On 12 August 2011 the Board removed a surveyor from the ‘Register of Surveyors for professional misconduct and professional incompetence.
- **GITA** – The 17th Annual Geospatial Solutions Conference (GITA 2012) is being held from 6 - 8 August 2012 at the Sofitel, Victoria, Australia.
- **ISNSW** – The Australia Day Seminar was a sold-out success. The Excellence Awards are being held on 22 September 2012 at the Sofitel Sydney Wentworth. ISNSW is holding a photographic competition with first prize of 2 tickets to the Excellence Awards. The Cumberland Group’s Land Development Seminar is being held on 20 July 2012 at the Liverpool Catholic Club.
- **MSIA** – A Technical Evening is planned for April - May and arrangements are currently in hand to have this event at the Bureau of Meteorology, Elizabeth St, Sydney, in cooperation with SSSI. The Mapping Sciences Institute’s Annual Seminar will again be held at the Aspire Hotel in Bulwarra St, Ultimo on 25 October, 2012. MSIA are also in discussions with SSSI to hold a joint seminar/ conference for the GIS/spatial industry at a venue yet to be determined.
- **SSSI** – ISNSW is providing office space for the SSSI NSW Regional Executive Officer. The national Land Surveying Conference is being held on 20 April 2012 at the Sebel, Melbourne.
- **Surveyor General** – It is anticipated that around 100 LPI CORS will be operational by the end of the calendar year. The Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA) is making changes to the 400 Megahertz spectrum, which will affect surveyors who use a radio link in their GNSS surveys. The new arrangements will need to be adopted by the end of 2012 in Newcastle, Sydney and Wollongong and by the end of 2013 for the rest of the state. Under the new arrangements there will be 10 channels specifically set aside for Differential GPS techniques. The remake of the regulation is on track to be completed before September 2012. SG Direction No 12 – Control Surveys and SCIMS has now been published for comment. In addition to 6 pillar baselines at Dubbo, Mudgee and Kingscliff, two new 6/7 pillar EDM baselines will be operational later this year at Lethbridge Park (Western Sydney) and Bathurst. Blacktown Council and LPI are currently finalising the development application and conditions of use for the Western Sydney baseline. LPI is also investigating sites at Grafton/Coffs Harbour and Newcastle for new 6 pillar EDM baselines.
- **TAFE** – There are 340 students enrolled in Surveying and Spatial Science course throughout the State.
- **University of Newcastle** – There have been 34 acceptances for the Surveying degree and 11 for combined Surveying degrees. The ATAR is 71.55. 16 graduates completed their degrees at the end of 2011 and graduate in April. Interviews for the Professorship in Surveying were held in February. Dr Harvey Mitchell is planning to retire in mid 2012.
- **UNSW** – A ‘Trends in Geospatial Technology – implications for Research’ seminar is being held on 13 April 2012. The SMIC Chair is guest speaker at the Graduation Dinner on 20 March 2012. Professor Chris Rizos has been elected a Fellow of the Institute of Navigation.

The next SMIC meeting will be held on Friday 11 May 2012 at the RMS Offices at Parramatta.

Mark T Gordon
Chairman