

SMIC NEWS

The 119th general meeting of the Surveying & Mapping Industry Council of NSW was held on Thursday 13 November 2008 at the new ISNSW office in Sydney. The Council was privileged to have in attendance the FIG President, Stig Enemark, and the FIG Director, Markku Villikka, from the FIG Office in Denmark. Also joining the Council on this occasion were John Minehan, ISNSW President; Ed Garvin, Immediate Past Chairman of ACS NSW, Dennis Puniard, Executive Officer of the Spatial Sciences Institute and Dean Wallington, a former ISA President and an Assistant Congress Director for the FIG2010 Sydney Congress.

The Council also welcomed Veronica Bondarew, who commenced as Executive officer of ACS NSW that morning. Veronica is the new representative of ACS NSW on the Council. The Council also welcomed alternate delegates Gary Batman (AHS) and Damien Cole (TAFE NSW).

This meeting marked the retirement of Diane North as ACS NSW delegate to the Council. First attending as an observer in 1999, Diane served as Deputy Chair from 2001 to 2008. In commemoration of her service, Diane was presented with a plaque that stated *“presented by friends and colleagues to Diane North, in recognition of her significant contribution to the Council and her meritorious service to the Surveying profession in New South Wales”*.

The Chairman made a presentation to the FIG President and FIG Director to explain the work of the Council and the role of the constituent organisations in the time leading up to the FIG2010 World Congress. The FIG President then addressed the Council, highlighting the importance of the Congress to the NSW surveying and spatial information community and inviting all the constituent organisations to become involved. The Chairman thanked the FIG President for his address and advised that a link to the Congress website at www.fig2010.com had been placed on the first page of the Council website at www.smicnsw.org.au.

The following information may be of interest to members of 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 contacting your organisation representative. Acronyms are explained on the SMIC website at www.smicnsw.org.au. Links to our member organisations are on the SMIC website.

- **ACS:** Paul Mather took over as Chair of ACS NSW at the October AGM and Michael Parkinson joined the Executive. The 2009 BOSSi workshops will be held in January and July. The joint ACS/CSA Tamworth conference was a success. The APSIC Conference is being held on 18-19 November. The first Breakfast Forum in Goulburn attracted surveyors, solicitors, architects and council representatives. *Medianet* has been engaged to aid in the distribution of press releases. The NSW Excellence Awards were attended by 394 people – the biggest event yet. ACS is meeting with the Local Government & Shires Association in regard to out-of-date survey reports, competition by Council business sectors with the private sector on tenders and surveyors undertaking engineering design/infrastructure work.
- **AHS:** A present member of AHS, Commodore Bruce Kafer RAN, is responsible for large scale maritime security operations in the Persian Gulf. Applications for the annual AHS Education Award close on 12 December 2008.

- **FIG2010:** See www.fig2010.com. The Organising Committee had meetings with the FIG President and FIG Director on 10-14 November 2008. The new theme of the Congress is "Facing the Challenges: Building the Capacity". Young Ambassador Rebecca Strang has been named New Zealand's Young Professional Surveyor of the Year, Young Ambassador Chris McAlister has been named 2008 Young Achiever by the National Association of Women In Construction (NAWIC) and Assistant Congress Director Mark Gordon was awarded NSW Professional of the Year for 2008
- **ISNSW:** John Minehan took over as president at the 3 AGM in October. ISNSW is proposing John Worlton, Pat McNamara and Mark Gordon as BOSSI members 2009-2010. The SEASSIC will be held at the Hilton Hotel on 23-24 April 2009.
- **NSW IEMS:** The NSW IEMS Scholarship for 2009 applies to TAFE Engineering Surveying students entering their final year of studies. The Executive consider that there should be consistent, benchmarked standards developed for RTO deliverables.
- **SSI:** see www.spatialsciences.org/nsw for current information. The 'Spatial Ignite' seminar attracted 120 people to hear 12x5 minute presentations and was supported by ESRI, NGIS, Omnilink, MOLTN, Microsoft and Google. SSI is supporting the SEASSIC in April 2009.
- **TAFE NSW:** Details of a cadetship system for Diploma level are still to be finalised. Course detail and timetables for the 2009 Surveying and SIS courses are still under review. There is currently a skills audit being undertaken in preparation for a Workplace Assessment for SIS qualifications with Integral Energy employees at Huntingwood. Other commercial courses exist with the Department of Lands and Sutherland Council. An industry questionnaire will be released soon through ISNSW and SSI.
- **Uni of Newcastle:** The Surveying Seminar of final year projects was held on 30 October 2008. 3 ISNSW membership certificates were presented by Tony Proust later in the day. The programme Advisory Committee and industry Liaison Committee also met on 30 October. The Engineers Australia accreditation panel has presented its preliminary report and a discussion document will be circulated to the profession soon. The total number of graduates for 2008 is 19. Enrolments have increased substantially over the past 2 years.
- **UNSW:** The Advisory Board met on 30 October and members were given a tour of the School's facilities. 27 students presented their thesis at a Seminar on 27 October. A short course on Advanced GPS-RTK Surveying will be held on 19-20 February 2009: the registration brochure is downloadable from http://www.gmat.unsw.edu.au/futurestudents/short/RTK_2009.pdf, or contact Maria Ponce on m.ponce@unsw.edu.au, ph 02 9385 4182, fax: 02 9313 7493. Short courses attract 12 CPD points. Surveyors with ideas for undergraduate thesis projects for 2009 (ideally relevant to your business) should contact Chris Rizos on c.rizos@unsw.edu.au. The 50th anniversary book produced last year is now available free from the School.

The next meeting of the Surveying & Mapping Industry Council will be at 10 am on Friday 13 February 2009 at the RTA offices at Parramatta.

Mark T Gordon
Chairman