



SURVEYING & MAPPING INDUSTRY COUNCIL OF NSW 2008/2009 ANNUAL REPORT

It gives me great pleasure to present the Surveying & Mapping Industry Council of NSW (SMIC) Annual Report for 2008/2009 and I thank the Roads & Traffic Authority for continuing to make this venue available for our meetings.

The Council held five meetings during the year, in addition to its Annual General Meeting: 17 July, 23 September, 13 November 2008, 13 February and 8 May 2009. The November meeting was held at the new ISNSW office and was attended by Professor Stig Enemark, President of FIG, and Markku Villikka, FIG Director. The Council's support for the FIG2010 Congress is recorded on the FIG website at www.fig.net. Also attending that meeting as SMIC guests were John Minehan, ISNSW President; Ed Garvin, former Chairman ACS NSW; Dean Wallington, former federal President ISA and Dennis Punniard, SSI Executive Officer.

Highlights for the Council in the past 12 months include the restoration of the alternate name "Mount Juson" to Mount Gamdri near Parkes, publication of the SMIC careers brochure and progress towards the implementation of a cadetship for Diploma level at TAFE. The Council also made a significant financial contribution to the production of another 2000 "Surveying: Open Up Your World" DVDs.

Other activities of the Council have included the regular publication of 'SMIC NEWS' throughout the year in various industry newsletters and on our website at www.smicnsw.org.au.

SMIC members Paul Harcombe, Venessa O'Connell and I are keeping the Council fully informed of progress towards the FIG World Surveying Congress for Sydney in 2010. I am sure that Council delegates and their organisations will become more involved in the preparations for this Congress as time progresses.

During the year, the Chairman represented the Council:

- On the UNSW School of Surveying & Spatial Information Systems Industry Advisory Board;
- On the University of Newcastle Surveying Program Advisory Committee and Industry Liaison Committee;
- At the UNSW 46th Annual Awards Dinner on 7 April 2008.

The composition of the Council itself has changed substantially over the past twelve months. Diane North retired from ACS NSW and the Council in November. Diane was thanked for her outstanding service as Vice Chair from 2001 to 2008 and was presented with a commemorative plaque. Dr Veronica Bondarew replaced Diane as the delegate from ACS NSW. Paul Barnett resigned as SSI representative and was replaced by Stewart Hay. Paul had also been elected Vice Chair at the last AGM but after his resignation it was decided by the Council not to fill this position until this AGM. Vishal Behl resigned as our representative from GITA. Kate Moore retired and was replaced by Glenn Williamson, representing TAFE NSW. Damien Cole replaced Michael London as the representative from Sydney TAFE. Callum McNaughton has commenced the handover of his responsibilities as AIMS delegate on SMIC to Tom Williams.

Doug Kinlyside (S-G), Gary Batman (AHS) and Grahame Wallis (S-G) attended Council meetings as alternate delegates and made valuable contributions. I have appreciated the continuing support, counsel, valued input and attendance of the individuals, past and present, that I have just noted and indeed all our other delegates over the past 12 months: Rick Bartholomew (IEMS), Karl Bretreger (Uni Newcastle), Paul Harcombe (representing the Surveyor-General), Greg Livingstone (SMMF), Roy Lowe (IS NSW), Bill Miller (SMMF), Venessa O'Connell (AHS), and Craig Roberts (UNSW). Your unselfish and often unheralded contribution and commitment to

the spatial information sector as demonstrated through your activities on this Council is admirable.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Lands Department for the provision of the services of our Executive Officer and to once again acknowledge the continuing and dedicated contribution of Kevin Volk in this capacity. Kevin's work both between and during Council Meetings is sincerely appreciated by me and his excellent support in financial matters is well reflected in the reports from the Secretary/Treasurer. In this capacity, I have also appreciated the assistance of Paul Harcombe, particularly in view of his other onerous responsibilities as Chief Surveyor of the Department of Lands and Congress Director of the FIG2010 Congress.

I would also like to thank Rick Bartholomew for representing the Council as an observer to the Board of the Construction Industry Training Advisory Board and working so diligently and fervently towards an improvement in paraprofessional education for our sector of the workplace. The implementation of cadetships at Diploma level, so confidently announced in the last Annual Report, has been a difficult and, some may say, at times disappointing path. The industry support brochures that SMIC prepared have been ready to distribute since September 2008, but it is only today that the VTO (Vocational Training Order) for the Surveying Diploma is gazetted. However, the excellent contribution of ACS NSW and TAFE to achieve the implementation of the cadetships, in particular the efforts of Dr Veronica Bondarew, cannot go unrecognised and is very much appreciated.

In last year's Annual Report I noted the imminent formation of the NSW Spatial Council, the merger of NSW IEMS with ISNSW and the combination of SSI and ISA on a national level. I asked whether such activities were a threat to the existence of the NSW Surveying & Mapping Industry Council. During the past 12 months all three activities have progressed: the NSW Spatial Council is a reality, NSW IEMS has ceased to exist and the national Surveying & Spatial Sciences Institute (SSSI) has been formed. The Spatial Council is concerning itself exclusively with higher level, government common spatial information initiatives. ISNSW has recognised the importance of retaining an "IEMS" focussed representative on SMIC. SSSI is seriously considering the maintenance of a NSW regional representative. In all this, the importance of the work of the Council has been reaffirmed and its 'niche market' activities of bringing together our industry's public, private, business and tertiary education sectors for the mutual benefit of all associated with the spatial information sector, will continue.

Finally, I would like to thank the members of the Council for permitting me to serve the industry as Chairman for the past ten years. Through the admirable efforts of everyone on the Council, "SMIC" is an acronym that continues to be more widely known and respected in our industry. The unique value of the Council is recognised and supported by most organisations in the NSW Surveying & Spatial Information Sector, as demonstrated by their continuing support. They recognise this Council not as a peak industry body, which we do not have in NSW, but as a useful resource for communication and decision making. The Council continues to work quietly, efficiently and, most importantly, effectively for the benefit of the Surveying and Spatial Information sector, providing an effective forum for debate and a valuable & unique channel for consolidated action.

Mark T Gordon
Chairman
Surveying & Mapping Industry Council of NSW
10 July 2008