

SMIC NEWS

The 120th general meeting of the Surveying & Mapping Industry Council of NSW was held on Friday 13 February 2009 at the RTA offices at Parramatta. The Council welcomed Stewart Hay, newly appointed Chair of SSI NSW and the SSI NSW delegate to SMIC. The Chairman thanked Paul Barnett, former Deputy Chair and SSI NSW representative, for his contribution to the Council over the last 12 months.

The Council also welcomed Alexandra Lyle, a Graphic Designer and recent honours Surveying graduate, who designed the new SMIC brochure. Alexandra was applauded for her efforts in a publication that is certain to attract young people into the surveying and spatial information sector of the NSW community. SMIC has also made a significant financial contribution to the production of 2000 additional "Open Up Your World" DVDs. Further in relation to promotion, the Chairman directed the Council members to a Victorian website (www.alifewithoutlimits.com.au) that promotes Surveying as a career:

New delegate Stewart Hay addressed the Council by lamenting the "dumbing down" of current tertiary courses in GIS, stating that recently qualified people lacked a number of important skills: in particular the knowledge of projections. In a presentation to the Council on the course structure at UNSW, Senior Lecturer Craig Roberts responded to this by announcing plans to introduce a second program at UNSW, being a four year Bachelor of Engineering degree in Geographic Information Systems. This is very exciting news for the profession.

The Council members noted with interest that the *Sydney DownUnder* pilot project, initiated by SMIC and promoted by its member association GITA, had been completed with a presentation to stakeholders on 17 February 2009. It is hoped that the results from the project will demonstrate the worth of expanding the project to the whole of the CBD and then to other commercial centres such as North Sydney, Bondi Junction and Parramatta.

The scheme for national cadetships to Diploma level is progressing, albeit more slowly than originally anticipated, with the Vocational Training Order expected to be finalised by the end of the month. Both the Chairman and ACS NSW representative Veronica Bondarew have been putting considerable effort into this project.

In his report from AIMS, the Australian Institute of Mine Surveyors Ltd, Callum McNaughton revealed that AIMS was assisting in the content of the Mine Surveying subject at the University of Newcastle to ensure that it provides sufficient detail specific to the mining environment. AIMS is to be applauded on this initiative.

The Council discussed contributions by member associations to the FIG2010 Congress in Sydney next year, and aligned various organisations to each of the FIG technical Commissions that will be arranging parallel sessions at the Congress. Members of all industry organisations are encouraged to not only attend the Congress but also submit technical papers to showcase the international standard of both work by local practitioners and research by academia.

The following information should 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:** BOSSI workshops were conducted in January and there is a waiting list for the July workshops. Workshops on Bushfire Vegetation and Hazard Assessment are being held in February-March. The October Conference is being held at the Novotel, North Beach, Wollongong on 23-24 October. A number of country Breakfast forums are planned following the successful forum in Goulburn in November 2008. The 2009

Excellence Awards will be held on 25 September at the Four Seasons Hotel, George Street. A meeting with the Local Government & Shires Association has resulted in a directive not to restrict infrastructure/ engineering design work to engineers: great news for surveyors who practice in this area.

- **AIMS:** AIMS is offering a scholarship at USQ. The Australasian Mine Surveying Convention will be held on 12-14 August 2009 at the Burswood Convention Centre, Western Australia. The AIMS Mudgee Seminar is on 21 February 2009.
- **FIG2010:** See www.fig2010.com. Look out for significant savings with 'Early Bird' registration. The Sponsorship and Exhibition Prospectus is about to be released and the Registration & Call for Papers Brochure is being designed. Watch for details about the attractive Young Surveyors Beyond Horizons (YSBH) pre-Congress activities.
- **GITA:** Greg Oaten is the new GITA President and Chris Hanlon is the new CEO. The GITA 2009 Geospatial Infrastructure Solutions Conference will be on 31 August to 2 September at the Sofitel on Collins, Melbourne.
- **ISNSW:** The ISNSW Board has voted to support the wind-up of ISA and recommends that all ISNSW members join the new Surveying & Spatial Sciences Institute (SSSI). NSW IEMS members now have the opportunity to join ISNSW. The Hunter-Manning annual cadastral seminar is on 21 April. The SEASSIC (South East Australian Surveying & Spatial Information Conference) will be held at the Hilton Hotel on 23-24 April 2009, with help from our friends in SSI NSW and the Cumberland Group.
- **NSW IEMS:** This foundation member of SMIC wound up on 31 December 2008 and merged with ISNSW.
- **SMMF:** The APAS Conference 'Backsite to the Future' is on 31 March to 2 April at the Mantra, Ettalong Beach.
- **SSI:** see www.spatialsciences.org/nsw for current information. SSI and GITA plan a one day Utilities Seminar in March 2009. Stephen Lead has joined the SSI NSW Committee. The ISA/SSI Merger at a national level is progressing.
- **Surveyor-General:** The first triple satellite constellation (GPS + GLONASS + GALILEO) has been installed in SydNET (in Dubbo). There are currently 17 stations in the CORS network. The commissioning of a further 6 CORS in Western and Northern NSW is planned to occur before June. The Bill resulting from the review of the Surveying Act is expected to be tabled at the next Parliamentary session. The SG's International Fellowship winners are Jai Reddy and Shane Brunner. ANZLIC and the ASC have forwarded a funding bid of \$300m for an additional 2400 stations to expand and densify the CORS network across Australia.
- **TAFE NSW:** The national CPP07 training package is being introduced into NSW this year. The Sydney Institute has 45 F/T and 30 P/T enrolments in Cert III courses and 14 Lands Dept enrolments in a customised Cert IV course. TAFE would like to thank those who responded to the industry survey in Nov-Dec 08. Discussions are continuing with Integral Energy for a training program for existing staff.
- **Uni of Newcastle:** There are 30 acceptances for the Surveying degree and 8 for combined degrees. UAI cut-off was 71.85. A 13 week semester has been introduced.
- **UNSW:** UAI this year was 88. The first year intake is less than 10. The short course on Advanced GPS-RTK Surveying is sold out. There is a short course on Lidar (Airborne Laser Scanning) on 23-24 February. A/Prof Linlin Ge and his CRC-SI team won an APSEA Award for work during the China earthquake. The School would like ideas from industry about topics for Undergraduate Thesis projects: write to Chris Rizos at c.rizos@unsw.edu.au. The 50th anniversary book produced last year is now available FREE from the School. The UNSW Graduation Day is 20 April 2009.

The next meeting of the Surveying & Mapping Industry Council will be at 10 am on Friday 8 May 2009 at the RTA offices at Parramatta.

Mark T Gordon
Chairman