

SMIC NEWS

The 123rd General Meeting of the Council was held on Monday 28 September at the offices of LandPartners at Parramatta. The Chairman welcomed all delegates, in particular Tom Williams representing AIMS and Doug Kinlyside representing the Surveyor-General.

In some exciting news, SMIC has decided to sponsor six students to the FIG2010 Congress: one each from UNSW, Uni Newcastle, Charles Sturt Uni Bathurst, TAFE Sydney, TAFE Wollongong and TAFE Newcastle. Details will be worked out with these institutions in the near future.

Adrian White from the Land & Property Management Authority gave the Council a very detailed presentation on CORSnet. The plan is to have 70 stations by 2013 and further expansion will depend on demand. In terms of cost, there is some talk of a "casual use" system being introduced, and this was welcomed as good news for the Surveying/Spatial Information sector. Datum compatibility was also mentioned as an issue, with a new national datum being implemented before 2020. CORSnet will result in less trig stations having to be maintained, and this will be addressed through the LPMA's "Monument Preservation Project". It is anticipated that the maintenance of 6500 current trigs will eventually be reduced to between 500 and 1000 active trigs being maintained by LPMA.

The scheme for national cadetships/traineeships to Diploma level again occupied a significant portion of the meeting, with Damien Cole from TAFE offering to produce "how to" guidelines for the introduction of traineeships to the Surveying/Spatial Information Sector. These guidelines will be distributed by the SMIC delegates to industry.

There has been a lot of recent effort put into the re-establishment of distance learning in Surveying at TAFE, which had been closed by OTEN in 1999. ISNSW, ACS and the Cumberland Group have each contributed \$8000 to assist in the continuing development of this distance education program. In addition, Wollongong TAFE is currently piloting on-line post graduate courses in GIS. The target audience is for graduates of other disciplines, such as environmental science or civil engineering, who use spatial technologies as part of their work but for whom greater underpinning knowledge of spatial theory would reduce the potential of erroneous results and analysis. SMIC is supporting this initiative.

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 by 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:** The ACS Breakfast seminars in rural areas have been a great success. The 2010 BOSSI Workshops will commence on 29 January 2010. Survey Fieldhands have been included in the new Surveyors Award. ACS is developing an "on-line seminar" concept, being piloted by a topic on Debt Recovery. The October ACS/CSA Conference will be conducted in Wollongong.
- **AHS:** The AHS AGM was held at HMAS Kuttabul on 15 September, with SMIC delegate Venessa O'Connell being returned as Secretary and David Garforth as Chair. World Hydrography Day will be celebrated on 18-19 June 2010. The HYDRO09 Conference will be held in Cape Town, South Africa on 10-12 November 2009. Closing date for the AHS Education Award (\$2500) is 10 December 2009 – see the website for details www.ahs.asn.au. The Western Australian Region will host HYDRO11 in Fremantle.
- **AIMS:** 280 delegates attended the Australian Mine Surveyors Convention in Western Australia in August. AIMS, KEMSIG and SSSI WA took the opportunity to discuss matters of mutual interest including education, reciprocity and mutual recognition. A very detailed report on the education and registration of mine surveyors in different States was produced, with action items to move the discussions forward. There is a BOSSI candidates' Workshop in Singleton on 26 November.
- **BOSSI:** The prosecution of an unregistered person who advertises as a "Consulting Surveyor" was a very successful test for the legislation. The Surveying Amendment

Bill 2009 is imminent. 51 examinations were held in September. The process resulted in 14 Certificates of Competency. The examination timetable has been changed for 2010: 15-17 March, with presentation of certificates on 26 March, and 18-20 October, with presentation on 26 November. The Kurri Kurri Workshop will be held on 28-29 May 2010. The Board is working on a Determination on Surveyor Supervision. The Board met with the profession on 25 September to discuss some wide-ranging issues including e-learning for remote surveyors, Surveyors' identification numbers and the preservation of survey marks.

- **FIG2010:** Over 600 technical paper abstracts have been received for the Congress, which is only 6 months away. The NSW Governor has agreed to open the Congress and unveil a statue of a prominent 19=800s surveyor, to be installed in a niche in the old Lands Department building. ESRI founder Jack Dangermond is attending the Congress and will speak on his vision for the future. Leica Geosystems has signed up as the Titanium Sponsor for the Congress. To further tempt delegates, there is a Pre-Congress 2 day History Seminar and a Golf Day at The Lakes on the Thursday of the Congress. 20% of the exhibition space has been sold. Early bird registration closes on 28 January, and delegates can register on line at www.fig2010.com.
- **ISNSW:** The Institution is updating its Environment Policy and is implementing measures to reduce its energy usage. 360 people attended the Excellence Awards, with SMIC alternate delegate Grahame Wallis being named Professional of the Year. It is expected that the AGM on 2 October will pass amendments to the Constitution. 22 candidates and 10 mentors participated in the BOSSI Cadastral Candidates' Workshop. 60 high school students attended a 'Maths Day' at Kurri Kurri TAFE and ISNSW members manned careers stalls at Orange and Canberra recently. The meeting rooms at the new office have been named after previous members Sir Douglas Mawson, Robert Scrivener and first President Duncan Mearns Maitland.
- **TAFE NSW:** 7 students have enrolled in the on-line Certificate III course at Wollongong TAFE. State-wide, there are currently 169 students studying Surveying and 95 studying Spatial Information. In August 2009 Bathurst TAFE received a Deputy Prime Minister's Award for their Traineeship program.
- **Uni of Newcastle:** The annual dinner was held on 4 September. The BOSSI medal was presented to Thomas Grinter, who also received the University Medal. The Graduate Careers Booklet is now available on-line. The annual Surveying Seminar for the presentation of student thesis projects will be held on 6 November. Topics include Longwall Mining Induced Subsidence, Monitoring Displacements, GPS in Cadastral Surveying, Studies of Alignment Stones and Whale Monitoring. The cost is \$44 and contact karl.bretreger@newcastle.edu.au for details.
- **UNSW:** Neil Bennett (DECCW) and Stewart Hay (SSI) have joined the Advisory Board. The focus for this year is promoting the new programs BE (Surveying) and BE (GeoInformation Systems). New advertising brochures have been produced. The 3rd Survey camp was held at Berry, where students were able to use the new robotic total station and RTK equipment. The School is a Silver Sponsor of the FIG2010 Congress, sponsoring the 'Surveyors' Lounge' in the Exhibition area. The Radar Remote Sensing course in September attracted 20 participants. A 'Namaru' GPS Receiver Workshop will be run in Tokyo and the Advanced RTK short course will be run by Craig Roberts in February 2010. Celebrations are underway for the 60th anniversary of the founding of UNSW: The Faculty of Engineering was a Foundation Faculty. Since August, School staff have participated in events in Argentina, Singapore, Bali and South Africa. School staff and SurvSoc President Gavin Watson also assisted at the 'Surveying Spectacular' at Homebush on 21 August.

The date for the next meeting of the Surveying & Mapping Industry Council is on 27 November at the RTA offices in Parramatta.

*Mark T Gordon
Chairman*