

SMIC NEWS

The 121st general meeting of the Surveying & Mapping Industry Council of NSW was held on Friday 8 May 2009 at the RTA offices at Parramatta. The Council welcomed Glenn Williamson, Education Programs Manager at TAFENSW Training & Support. Doug Kinlyside was also present, representing the Surveyor-General.

The scheme for national cadetships/ traineeships to Diploma level occupied a significant part of the meeting. The relevant Vocational Training Order (VTO) was signed on 1 April and gazetted two days later. Information on the VTO can be found on <http://apprenticeship.det.nsw.edu.au/html/cibs/407.htm>. However, the organisation supplying the information only provided details for the Spatial Information Services Certificate III and Diploma and not the Diploma of Surveying. In consequence, the Surveying Diploma course is still not funded under the NSW Apprenticeships and Traineeships Program. The national Construction & Property Services Industry Council advised ACS NSW to complete the necessary paperwork so that CITAB can sign off on the requirement and the documentation can then go for gazettal. If this is completed in time, traineeships for the Diploma in Surveying can still commence in Semester 2, 2009.

The Council viewed the promotional DVD for the FIG2010 Congress, which will be held in Sydney 11-16 April 2009 – less than one year away. The Council discussed contributions by member associations to 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 Council was also given a presentation on the Sydney DownUnder project, which involves the mapping of underground public utilities and subterranean features such as basements and arcades in the Sydney CBD. The Council is very pleased with progress on a project that originated as a result of a SMIC discussion paper.

The Victorian Surveying promotional website, www.alifewithoutlimits.com.au was examined by the Council. Members applauded the initiative of ISNSW and ACSNSW in contributing substantial funding to the next stage of this campaign.

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:** The Association is meeting with individual Councils to ensure that registered land surveyors retain the approval to certify subdivision plans. The Distance Education Program negotiations with TAFE NSW are progressing. ACS is looking for assistance to develop an onsite detention and drainage design course. The Association also requires assistance to source an economist for the August Business Seminar. The October ACS/CSA Conference will be conducted in Wollongong.
- **AHS:** World Hydrography Day on 22 June 2009 will be celebrated with a seminar at the Royal Automobile Club in Sydney: see www.ahs.asn.au for details. The Navy is offering positions on its H2 training course to civilians. The National Tide Centre is holding a tide course on 25-28 August. The East Australian Region of AHS met on 10 February 2009: SMIC delegate Venessa O'Connell is now Secretary of the AHS EAR, as well as Director of Communication and is looking forward to a closer working relationship with the SSSI Hydrography Commission.
- **AIMS:** AIMS has changed its logo: go to www.minesurveyors.com.au to see it. About 60 delegates attended the AIMS Mudgee Seminar, held on 21 February 2009. There will be a seminar and dinner at the Southern Mines Rescue Station on 19 June. The Australasian Mine Surveying Convention will be held on 12-14 August 2009 at the Burswood Convention Centre, Western Australia. Simon Arthur from the Beaconsfield Mine is one of the guest speakers.
- **BOSSI:** 13 candidates were presented with their Certificates of Competency in land Surveying on 27 March. Prosecution of an unregistered, unqualified person who

advertises as a "Consulting Surveyor" is progressing. The Joint Administration Model (JAM) Committee met on 27 March to discuss the review of the Surveying Act, CS2i, the introduction of a 'spatial' component into the examination process and reciprocity of mining registration with Western Australia. The Charter of the NSW Spatial Council was also tabled. The July meeting of the Board will be held in Orange on 30 July to enable Board members to meet with ISNSW Central Western Group members.

- **FIG2010:** See www.fig2010.com. Tim Flannery has been engaged as the Keynote Speaker. The Sydney Town Hall is the venue for the Welcome Reception. The Registration and Final call for Papers brochure is on the revamped website, along with the Sponsorship & Exhibition Prospectus. The Young Surveyors Beyond Horizons pre-Congress tours include the Barossa Valley, Central Mount Stuart, Sydney Highlights and Canberra.
- **ISNSW:** The SEASSIC (South East Australian Surveying & Spatial Information Conference) attracted 360 delegates. ISA and SSI have voted to wind up and form the Surveying & Spatial Sciences Institute (SSSI). ISA President Jonathan Saxon is the interim President. ISNSW is reducing its membership fees.
- **MSIA:** The AGM was held in Brisbane on 17 March and the new National President is David Fraser. "Mapping Queensland" was launched at the MSIA/AMC conference on 17-19 March. Col Mitford was returned as president at the NSW MSIA AGM on 29 March. The NSW annual seminar will be held on 29 October 2009 at the Aspire Hotel (formerly the Mercure/ the Lawson) in Bulwara Road Ultimo.
- **SMMF:** Last met on 23 February and was attended by representatives from Lands Dept, RTA, NSW Maritime, Commerce, Transgrid, RailCorp, State Water, Hunter Water, Sydney Ports, urban Councils and rural Councils, who each represented a written report. Presentations were made on CORS and CS2i. NSW Maritime expressed concern about the poor quality of some survey plans submitted as the base for registered leases. The next meeting is on 3 June 2009.
- **SSI:** The Institute has voted to wind up and form a new entity with ISA – the Surveying & Spatial Sciences Institute (SSSI).
- **TAFE NSW:** There are 350 students enrolled in Surveying and Spatial information course in the Sydney, Hunter and Wollongong Institutes. Enrolments are higher than last year. The Certificate III and Diploma of Spatial Information Services courses were declared as traineeships on 3 April 2009. Sydney Institute is preparing documentation required to deliver the traineeship, but that does not mean it will run: it requires sufficient demand from industry. The Sydney Institute business unit is fast-tracking the approval of the Certificate IV in Spatial Information Services, as this course may attract Commonwealth funding for organisations in training of existing workers.
- **Uni of Newcastle:** The SMIC Chairman has arranged a meeting with the University of Newcastle Pro-Vice Chancellor to discuss the very important issue of succession planning for Surveying staff at the university. 36 students commenced semester one in the Surveying degree and its associated combined degrees. Total enrolment in all years is 123. Mid-year admissions are being offered to the Bachelor of Surveying course, with the applications closing on 12 June 2009. The annual dinner is on 4 September 2009.
- **UNSW:** In 2010 the School will be offering 2 Engineering degree programs, in Surveying and GeoInformation Systems. The GIS course will include one third computer science and IT courses, to offer first class GIS education. Although the UAI cut-off for 2010 will be 90, a UAI of 80 should be adequate for entry when alternative pathways are followed. 160 guests attended the Graduation Dinner with the 25 graduating students. This night was also a 25th anniversary reunion for the class of '84. Venessa O'Connell was the guest speaker. Three of our graduate students, Sana Qaisar, Jinghui Wu & Nagaraj Shivaramaiah, were selected winners of the U.S. Institute of Navigation's student scholarship to attend the world's premier GPS/GNSS conference in Savannah, Georgia on 22-25 September. These are the 26th, 27th & 28th US ION student prize/scholarships awarded to students of the School. The History of the School book is now FREE from the School office.

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

Mark T Gordon
Chairman