

SMIC NEWS

The 21st Annual General Meeting of the Surveying & Mapping Industry Council of NSW was held on Friday 10 July 2009 at the RTA offices at Parramatta. Mark Gordon was returned for his 11th year at Chairman, Dr Veronica Bondarew was a very popular choice as Deputy Chair and Paul Harcombe was returned as Secretary Treasurer. Kevin Volk received appropriate acknowledgment for his excellent work as Executive Officer. The opportunity was taken to make essential changes to the Constitution following recent developments in the NSW Surveying & Spatial Information Sector. In particular, the ISNSW Inc proposal to continue the "NSW IEMS" representation on the Council through its Engineering & Mining Surveying Regional Group was welcomed by the Council and validated by a change to the Constitution.

The 122nd General Meeting of the Council followed the AGM. The Chairman welcomed all delegates, in particular Ron Lister representing GITA, Hank Staal representing MSIA NSW and Grahame Wallis representing the Surveyor-General.

The scheme for national cadetships/traineeships to Diploma level again occupied a significant part of the meeting, with news that the traineeship for the Diploma and Certificate IV in Surveying has been established from 10 July. Information on the VTO can be found on <http://apprenticeship.det.nsw.edu.au/html/cibs/415.htm>. The CITAB has asked SMIC to supply relevant details to enable the traineeship to obtain the appropriate level of funding. The TAFE Sydney Institute is producing a number of guides for traineeships which will be either loaded onto the SMIC website or linked to the site. These guides should assist both employers and students to understand the process and for employers to gain maximum benefit from federal and state government incentives for training.

There has been a lot of recent effort put into the re-establishment of distance learning at TAFE, which had been closed by OTEN in 1999. Wollongong TAFE is developing a very impressive model and Damien Cole demonstrated Sydney TAFE on-line learning package for Certificate IV to the SMIC meeting. Hunter TAFE has volunteered to trail flexible delivery in Certificate III from February 2010. In addition to TAFE, the contribution of NSW IEMS over many years and recently the focus of ACSNSW in this endeavour needs to be acknowledged.

The Excellence in Surveying & Spatial Information Awards entries close on 25 July and all organisations were encouraged to ensure their members showcase their performances as well as nominating members for Professional Surveyor and Young Surveyor of the Year.

There are only ten months to go before the FIG2010 Congress in Sydney 11-16 April 2010. On-line registration is now open at www.fig2010.com. The 'home visits' program is gathering momentum. The deadline for Abstracts for non-peer reviewed papers, and for full peer-reviewed papers, is 25 September 2009. A 2-day pre-Congress History Seminar and pre-Congress tours to Central Mount Stuart, the Barossa Valley and Canberra are being organised.

The Chairman met with Professor John Carter, Pro-Vice Chancellor of the University of Newcastle, on 28 May in regard to succession planning for the university's Surveying staff and received a commitment to the continuance of the Surveying degree program at the University.

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 Association is developing an information brochure for Councils and the general public regarding services supplied by its members. ACS has made submissions to the Industrial Relations Commission regarding a Surveyors' Award. Breakfast Seminars in Tamworth and Port Macquarie were well attended and will be continued in Dubbo (28 August) and Wagga Wagga (11 September). The August Business Seminar program has been finalised. The BOSSI Candidate Workshops are currently underway. The October ACS/CSA Conference will be conducted in Wollongong.

- **AHS:** A number of industry wards were presented on World Hydrography Day on 22 June 2009, including recognition of Malcolm Lindsay's research to assist marine park managers in containment and clean-up operations in the event of an oil spill. Full details of World Hydrography Day can be downloaded from the AHS website at www.ahs.asn.au. The Fugro Larry Robbins Scholarship was awarded to Taryn Murray from the University of Otago. The website of the University of Otago has recently been updated: see www.otago.ac.nz for details of tertiary studies in Hydrography.
- **AIMS:** 16 mining candidates attended the BOSSI Kurri Kurri workshop in May. The seminar at the Southern Mines Rescue Station on 19 June was well attended and included a tour of the very impressive underground gallery training simulation and virtual reality room. The Australasian Mine Surveying Convention will be held on 12-14 August 2009 at the Burswood Convention Centre, Western Australia. It is hoped that the convention will provide a pathway for national recognition of registration/authorisation and common standards.
- **BOSSI:** Prosecution of an unregistered person who advertises as a "Consulting Surveyor" is set for hearing on September 11. 16 land and 16 mining candidates attended the BOSSI Kurri Kurri Workshop in May. The review of the Surveying Act is nearing finalisation. 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.
- **GITA:** 300 delegates attended the 2008 GITA Annual Conference in Sydney. In May, 70 delegates attended the joint GITA/SSI Seminar on mapping underground assets, and a full report on the Seminar was provided to SMIC members in the ISNSW Engineering & Mining Surveyors Group Report. The 2009 Geospatial Infrastructure Solutions Annual Conference will be held in Melbourne 31 August – 2 September, with the theme 'Spatially Enabling the \$20 billion National Infrastructure Plan'. See www.gita.org.au to view the program and register.
- **ICSM:** The June 2009 ICSM News has been published. ICSM has endorsed a new standard for calculating and reporting on the horizontal accuracy of maps and spatial data. ICSM has released 2 modules that explain datums, including GDA, in simple terms: see www.icsm.gov.au/mapping/datums1.html.
- **ISNSW:** The next BOSSI Cadastral Candidates Workshop is on 8-9 August. The Institution will video its Twilight Seminars and make them available to members on its website. The last 2 Twilight Seminars had attendances of 80 and 72 respectively. ISNSW has had a very large presence at recent Careers Days throughout the State. The Institution is liaising with the Victorian Surveying Task Force in regard to implementing a similar program for NSW.
- **MSIA:** The NSW annual seminar will be held on 29 October 2009 at the Aspire Hotel (formerly the Mercure/the Lawson) in Bulwara Road Ultimo at a cost of \$120 for members, \$150 for non-members. Topics include 'Advanced 3D Modelling with Pictometry', 'GIS for Engineers', "CORS", "LiDAR and AHD" and 'Microsoft's Spatial Offerings'.
- **SMMF:** The last meeting on 3 June included presentations on E-PLAN and Land XML, the development of the SiX Survey Marks Channel and the Cadastral Upgrade Program.
- **Surveyor-General:** Fees of \$2000 per annum per concurrent user of CORS are being introduced from 1 July: contact adrian.white@lands.nsw.gov.au for details. SydNET has been renamed CORsnet-NSW. The CS2i initiative is continuing, with the Spatial Council having met on 27 February, 20 April and 24 June. The Council has endorsed the development of a NSW Government Spatial Inventory, the formation of Spatial Information Working Groups and the adoption of eight NSW Spatial Strategic Initiative projects. E-Plan lodgements now represent 40% of total plan lodgements at LPI NSW.
- **SSI:** The Institute has voted to wind up and form a new entity with ISA – the Surveying & Spatial Sciences Institute (SSSI).
- **TAFE NSW:** 40 Students have completed the Certificate III in Spatial Information Services, with 15 of these enrolling in the Diploma of Spatial Information Services and 25 in the Diploma in Surveying. The national group of Registered Training Organisations will meet at the end of July: this group is sponsored by the Construction Property Services Industry Skills Council (CPSISC).

- **Uni of Newcastle:** The UAI Cut-off for the mid-year intake was set at 80, resulting in 2 new enrolments into the Surveying degree program. At the Graduation Ceremony on 16 April, there were 7 graduates in Surveying including Thomas Grinter, who earned First Class Honours and the University Medal. The annual dinner is on 4 September 2009: contact anne.ramsay@newcastle.edu.au.
- **UNSW:** In 2010 the School will be offering 2 Engineering degree programs, in Surveying and Geoinformation Systems. The Queens Birthday Honours List included Kurt Lambeck AO (one of the School's first graduates) and Professor Bruce Forster, AM. The Dean's Honours List for 2009 included David Conway, Matthew Cooper, Anthony Grace, Joel Haasdyk, Aditya Shahapurkar, Anthony Wallace, James Wards and Nicholas Woodward. The History of the School book is now FREE from the School office. UNSW is celebrating its 60th anniversary this year. The 2009 Engineering Alumni Dinner is on 21 August. The School is a Silver Sponsor of the 'Surveyors Lounge' at the FIG2010 Congress. The annual Courses & Careers Day is on 5 September and all members of the profession are invited to the Marquee on 'Surveyors Lawn' near the Roundhouse to help promote the degree programs.

The date for the next meeting of the Surveying & Mapping Industry Council is yet to be confirmed.

*Mark T Gordon
Chairman*