

## **SURVEYING & MAPPING INDUSTRY COUNCIL OF NSW 2012/2013 ANNUAL REPORT**

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I'd like to start this Annual Report a bit differently than the last thirteen. A most significant event has culminated this year that is worthy of first mention: an event that has occupied the second half of my chairmanship. I am referring to the publication of Australian Standard AS5488 *Classification of Subsurface Utility Information*. Every member of the Council should feel justifiably proud of their contribution in bringing this to fruition.

I remind the Council that in 2006, after lobbying by SMMF (the Surveying & Mapping Managers' Forum), the Surveying & Mapping Industry Council of New South Wales released an issues paper on *'Underground Services Detection & Data'*, recommending common accuracy standards for data capture of new or replaced underground utilities and as-built drawings to be lodged for new or replaced services. In the following year, a GITA (one of our constituent bodies) Workshop in Brisbane, inspired by the SMIC Issues Paper, concluded that *"a national standard for recording the location of underground services is urgently required"* and *"critical infrastructure protection is a prime driver for recording the location of underground services"*. The ultimate result of this was the publication of the new Australian Standard AS5488 on 14 May 2013. The Australian Standard AS5488-2013 *Classification of Subsurface Utility Information (SUI)* is unashamedly a *surveying and spatial information* standard due to its attention to absolute spatial position, metadata and attributes. This Standard promotes the reputation of our profession to a public level previously only acclaimed for cadastral surveys: it offers a new pinnacle for achievement and recognition for both surveying and mapping.

The Council has also, significantly, supported the Standard through lobbying for funding the Standard to an amount in excess of \$90,000. This amount is sufficient to not only pay for the development of the Standard but also for industry awareness training and education in years to come. The Council continues to be the trusted custodian of funds for this latter activity.

Well done to all Council members over the past 7 years – the publication of the Standard is a landmark event not only for the Council but also for the whole Surveying & Spatial Information Sector.

And now, on with the Annual Report...

It gives me great pleasure to present the Surveying & Mapping Industry Council of NSW (SMIC) Annual Report for 2012/2013 and I thank Roads & Maritime Services for hosting our meetings during the last 12 months.

The Council held five meetings during the year in addition to its Annual General Meeting: 13 July, 14 September, 16 November 2012, 8 March and 17 May 2013. Due to a Rule change at the March meeting, in the coming year SMIC will hold not less than four meetings during the year in addition to its AGM.

Highlights for the Council in the past 12 months include the publication of Australian Standard AS5488 Subsurface Utility Information (of course), the awarding of a SMIC Scholarship in Certificate IV Training & Assessment and participation in the Surveying & Mapping Industry Day in Martin Place on 12 September 2012. The Council's somewhat tenuous first step into the world of *Facebook* and *LinkedIn* is also a matter for celebration.

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](http://www.smicnsw.org.au).

During the year, the Chairman represented the Council:

- As Chair of the UNSW School of Surveying And Geospatial Engineering (SAGE) Industry Advisory Board to March 2013 and then as a member of the School of Civil & Environmental Engineering (CVEN) Industry Advisory Committee;
- On the University of Newcastle Surveying Industry Liaison and Program Advisory Committee;
- Chairing all meetings of the Standards Australia IT-036 Committee on Subsurface Utility Information;
- Delivering the Occasional Address to UNSW graduates on 18 June 2013;
- Attending meetings of the CPSISC Industry Reference Committee for Select Property Services Industries in NSW, at which the Council was also represented by Dr Veronica Bondarew;
- At a CPSISC 'invitation only' *Future Directions Forum* for industry leaders on 27 May 2013;
- At the inaugural NSW Surveying Taskforce meeting on 28 May 2013;
- At meeting with DEC to lobby for the inclusion of Surveying & Spatial Sciences tertiary qualifications on the Industry Skills List on 29 May 2013;
- Presenting papers on SUI at a number of venues throughout the year.

The merging of UNSW SAGE into the School of Civil & Environmental Engineering is an enormous opportunity to build the higher education component of our profession. Whilst independence has been lost, it was unsustainable even in the short term and in my opinion the benefits of the merger will be quickly realised.

The only visitor to Council meetings over the last 12 months was Bess Moylan from Illawarra TAFE. Bess advised the Council of the success of the on-line Certificate III course in Surveying, which was targeted towards people already working in the Surveying sector. She praised the efforts of industry in promoting Surveying as a career and advised that work had commenced towards an on-line Diploma course.

The composition of the Council itself is changing significantly. I am not renominating as Chair of the Council for the next SMIC year, having been Chair

for 14 years since 29 July 1999. Rick Bartholomew has also announced he will be stepping down as our “Engineering & Mining Surveying” delegate, having first attended a SMIC meeting in his capacity, as IEMS NSW President, as a visitor on 5 October 2000 and then becoming the IEMS NSW delegate to SMIC from 20 April 2001. Peter Shoemark relinquished his GITA representation due to work commitments and Liz Fulton has advised that she can no longer represent SSSI. Bill Miller also retired from LPI NSW and Stephen Saunders replaced him as a SMMF delegate. Damien Cole, who first represented TAFE Sydney Institute at our 13 November 2008 meeting, announced at our last meeting that he would be handing representation from the TAFE Sydney Institute to Peta Cox. I would like to express my thanks to those outgoing members of the Council who have made a most valuable contribution over their many years of support. In particular, Rick Bartholomew deserves special mention for his service of over 12 years and his persistent and valuable work on the TAFE Training Packages.

Les Gardner (S-G), David Job (S-G) and Norm Mann (ISNSW) attended Council meetings as alternate delegates and made valuable contributions. I have appreciated the continuing support, valued input and attendance of these representatives and all our other delegates over the past 12 months: Rick Bartholomew (ISNSW), Veronica Bondarew (ACS NSW), Karl Bretreger (Uni Newcastle), Damien Cole (TAFE), Peta Cox (TAFE), Liz Fulton (SSSI), Allan Gordon (SMMF), Paul Harcombe (Surveyor-General), Venessa O’Connell (AHS), Craig Roberts (UNSW), Stephen Saunders (SMMF), Peter Shoemark (GITA), Graeme Smith (TAFE), Hank Staal (MSIA), Narelle Underwood (ISNSW) and Tom Williams (AIMS). Our constituent organisations should be well pleased with the Council’s achievements over the past year and the contribution and commitment that their representatives have made.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank LPI and the Surveyor-General Des Mooney for the provision of the services of our Executive Officer. Kevin Volk works tirelessly behind the scenes to ensure the smooth operation of the Council, and I thank him very much for that. Kevin’s continuing dedicated contribution to the Council and to the profession is truly exemplary.

The Executive of SMIC has worked well together again this year. Narelle Underwood has proven to be a Deputy Chair with modern, youthful ideas that will serve Council well in the years to come. She has most impressively led the charge towards involvement in social media. I have also appreciated the work of Paul Harcombe as Secretary/Treasurer and his continuing dedication to Council activities.

The SMIC website was developed very soon after my first election to the Chair position and I would like to thank my elder son Daniel for his unpaid, but dedicated, work as Webmaster for the past 13 years. As I step down, Daniel also steps down but he has made a most significant and enduring contribution to the promotion of the profession and I thank him most sincerely for that.

There has been much discussion recently on the future of the Council: whether it should be absorbed into SSSI or is it being replaced by the new NSW Surveying Taskforce. In my opinion, both organisations currently fall short. At this time,

SMIC continues to be the only organisation that brings all sectors of the industry together on a regular basis and provides an independent focal point for industry advocacy: particularly in regard to education and training. SMIC continues to fill a vital role as an independent NSW industry reference group, bringing together our industry's public, private, business and tertiary education sectors for the mutual benefit of everyone associated with the spatial information sector.

Finally, I would like to thank the members of the Council for permitting me to serve the Surveying & Spatial Information Sector as Council Chairman for the past fourteen years. I voluntarily leave this position proud of the achievements of the Council over its entire 26 year history and over the last 14 years in particular. SMIC has become very well respected in the Surveying & Spatial Information Sector and I wish the Council well in the years to come.

Mark T Gordon  
Chairman  
Surveying & Mapping Industry Council of NSW  
12 July 2013