

SMIC NEWS

The 130th General Meeting of the Council was held on 11 March 2011 at the RTA offices in Parramatta. Charlie Higgs from TAFE Wollongong was our guest at the meeting.

The *SMIC Training Scholarship Program* Agreement was signed by the Chairman and Pam Christie, Deputy Director General TAFE & Community Education. This unique scholarship provides financial assistance to part-time TAFE teachers in Surveying who are undertaking the TAE40110 Certificate IV in Training & Assessment. ISNSW Inc has joined AIMS Ltd and LPMA as a most welcome funder of this initiative. SMIC invites other member organisations to contribute to the scholarship fund.

The Council applauded the decisions by Hunter TAFE and Sydney TAFE to employ more full time teachers and also commended TAFE Wollongong for its distance education programs. It was decided that informing industry about the Surveying and Spatial Information cadetships (as advertised on the SMIC website) should be given a higher priority and the cadetships should be publicised at industry meetings and seminars.

John Minehan, convenor of the SMIC Surveying Taskforce subcommittee, tabled a preliminary report on Taskforce activities in South Australia and will present a more detailed document in the near future. The Surveyors Board of South Australia is the driving force behind the campaign, which is funded by a levy on cadastral plans.

The NSW Spatial Council Workshop on 9 February 2011 raised issues of SMIC's purpose and role. Members noted that SMIC, since its formation in 1987, 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. It was agreed that SMIC continues to fill a vital role as an independent NSW 'industry' reference group and that from time to time, as the industry evolves, the Council would review its relevance and function.

The Chairman briefed delegates on his ongoing discussions and correspondence with Lynnette Dorn, Department of Education and Training, and with Irving Warren, CITAB, concerning the winding-up of the Construction Industry Training Advisory Board (CITAB). Members discussed the implications of the demise of CITAB and the need for a replacement body. It was agreed that SMIC would support the winding-up of the CITAB as there were no other options and would be represented at special meeting on 29 March 2011.

The Chairman gave an update report on progress with the development of the proposed Australian Standard in underground utility location and mapping, including the formation of the 'stakeholder's committee', plans for the initial committee meeting, and financial management of the process. It was agreed that SMIC would financially contribute towards the development of an Australian Standard for the location and mapping of underground utilities.

Paul Harcombe, SMIC Secretary/Treasurer and FIG2010 Congress Director, reported that *'arinex pty limited'*, the professional congress organiser for the FIG2010 Congress, had won the category for best *'2010 NSW Association or Government Meeting of the Year'* at the Meeting and Events Australia Industry Awards ceremony held on Thursday 10 March 2011. SMIC was heavily involved in the Congress and had an exhibition booth at the entry to the exhibition area.

The following information should be of interest to members of our 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 the SMIC Chairman, Mark Gordon. Acronyms are explained on the SMIC website at www.smicnsw.org.au. Links to our member organisations are on the SMIC website.

- **ACS:** The February BOSSI workshops were very successful and the final exams were held on 11 March. ACS NSW is progressing with its programs for regional workshops and on-line seminars. The deadline for submissions for the 2011 NSW Excellence in Surveying & Spatial Information Awards is 11 July 2011.
- **AIMS:** The 2011 AIMS National Conference will be held on 17-19 August at Albert Park, Melbourne.
- **BOSSI:** Exam dates for 2011 are 14-16 March and 17-19 October, with the Kurri Kurri Candidates' Weekend on 27-28 May 2011. BOSSI is next meeting on 31 March and the Joint Administration Model (JAM) meeting with industry is being held on 1 April 2011.
- **GITA:** The 2011 GITA Conference 'Smarter Infrastructure for a Sustainable Future' will be held in Sydney 1-3 August 2011.
- **ISNSW:** The Australia Day (Remote Members) Seminar was held on Thursday 27 and Friday 28 January 2011 with about 250 people and 10 trade companies attending. Arrangements are in hand for the 2011 Cumberland Group Land Development Seminar at the Liverpool Catholic Club on Friday 22 July 2011. The Institution and the Cumberland Group were major sponsors for the UNSW Graduation Dinner on 8 March. In addition, the Cumberland Group sponsored the attendance of the SMIC Chairman. The Institution has been preparing information for members in regard to changes in what is now considered to be "substantial commencement" of a Development Application. Institution membership has increased 2.5% since April 2010. Membership numbers are now about half the national SSSI membership. The Institution Golf Day is on Monday 25 July at the prestigious Lakes Golf Club.
- **MSIA:** Mapping Sciences institute, Australia is hosting its 2011 Conference "100 Years of National Topographic Mapping" at University House, Australian National university, Canberra, 1 Balmain Crescent, Acton, ACT on 28 – 29 March 2011.
- **SSSI:** Free student membership has been endorsed. 5% of SSSI members will be subject to CPD audit in July/August 2011. The merits of SSSI belonging to either Professions Australia or the Federation of Australian Scientific Societies is being examined. The SSSI website is to be significantly upgraded. Events are planned for March, May, June, September and November. NSW membership is 508, with 344 of these in the land Surveying Commission. National membership is 2626.
- **Surveyor-General:** The Surveyor General International Fellowship in Surveying and Spatial Information for 2011 is now open (see SMIC website for details). As of 24 February 2011 LPI have incorporated a total of 56 Continuously Operating Reference Stations (CORS) into the CORSnet-NSW network. With this addition, nearly 80% of the state is covered by DGPS services and 30% is covered by RTK Services. Network RTK service is operating around the greater Sydney metropolitan area and is being tested in the northern coastal and central western regions. LPMA is concerned about the increasing loss of permanent survey control marks and cadastral reference marks caused by land development as well as underground utility upgrades and replacement. An education program is planned to inform relevant organisations of the importance of survey marks. Under the agreement with e-GEOS, a COSMO Mobile Acquisition and Processing Station (CMAPS) will be installed at LPI's Spatial Information Centre at

Bathurst in late March for a four-month trial. CMAPS assists in disaster management and earth monitoring. The CS2i Program Office has been charged with the development of a NSW Location Intelligence Strategy – high level, whole of government strategy to plan and manage spatial information, infrastructure and services across NSW. A consultative web space has been created to enable stakeholders to comment and provide feedback – <http://wherensw.net.au>.

- **SMMF:** last met on 23 February 2011. LPMA is committed to upgrade the positional accuracy of the NSW DCDB: as a general rule 80% of the cadastral data in Sydney is better than 1 metre in positional accuracy. The new application for SCIMS On-Line is undergoing beta-testing, with a release planned for April 2011. A contract has been let to Public Works to investigate and design a new EDM baseline for Western Sydney. The APAS Conference is being held in Bathurst on 6-7 April 2011.
- **TAFE:** Sydney TAFE has received funding for equipment, classroom set of total stations- (7 in total), 1 x Robotic total station, classroom set of digital levels (8). Hunter Institute continue to have very low numbers of part time students entering 19377 course. It looks as though they will not be offering the course part time in future, other than by flexible means to students employed in industry. At the Illawarra Institute, 2011 has begun well with full-time and online Certificate III in Spatial Information courses full as well as a healthy number of students in the Cert IV in Surveying (online) pilot project. Interest in a mid-year intake in the Cert III (online) is already picking up. There is strong support internally and externally for the Vocational Graduate Certificate in Applied Geographic Information Science and Vocational Graduate Diploma in Applied Geographic Information Science and feedback from the pilot group is very positive.
- **Uni of Newcastle:** Preliminary figures for 2011 enrolments show that in early February, there were 28 acceptances for the Bachelor of Surveying degree and 12 for the B.Engineering (Civil)/B. Surveying combined degree, giving a total of 40. The ATAR cut off for the B. Surveying degree was set at 70.70. In the 2010 graduation ceremonies, there were a total of 15 graduates from the Bachelor of Surveying program. In addition, there are 8 graduates who completed their studies at the end of 2010 and will be presented with their degrees at the April 2011 graduation ceremony.
- **UNSW:** Congratulations to Andrew Dempster for his promotion to Professor; and to Samsung Lim for his promotion to Associate Professor. 16 Graduates made up the 2010 cohort of students who graduated on 8 March 2011. We also equaled our 2006 record of graduating 7 PhD students. There were 36 participants in the short course GPS/GNSS for the Modern Surveyor held on 17-18 February 2011. The short course on LIDAR Data Acquisition & Processing has been postponed until June. The Advisory Board of 11 representatives from industry met on 31 January, with discussion topics ranging from promotion and marketing of the School, strategic planning, research trends & opportunities, and our forthcoming Engineers Australia accreditation. The team led by Associate Professor Linlin Ge had been working round-the-clock processing satellite radar images first to support NSW flood management late last year, but most recently delivering images of flooded areas to Queensland authorities on a daily basis. Due to the innovative processing methods used by this group, the processing time has been substantially reduced, and the accuracy is much enhanced. There has been considerable press coverage, not just from local and national media, but also the international media, including the BBC and New York Times.

The next meeting of SMIC is planned for Friday 13 May 2011 at the RTA offices in Parramatta and the AGM is being rescheduled to Friday 12 August 2011.