

SMIC NEWS

The 131st General Meeting of the Council was held on 13 May 2011 at the RTA offices in Parramatta.

In the period between this and the previous meeting in March, SMIC has sent a letter of support to the NSW Surveyor-General and a letter to the new NSW Premier objecting to the abolition of LPMA and the potential split between the Surveyor-General and LPI NSW. The latter stated, in part:

“Splitting the responsibility between government departments will no doubt result in neither department accepting that responsibility, especially when things inevitably go wrong. This will have a substantial detrimental effect on the State and its people and poses a significant threat to the Land Titling system.

The cadastral fabric is a cornerstone of fiduciary management. Spatial information, and in particular the land titling system, is the foundation of an economically viable and sustainable society. Our Council believes that all the functions associated with spatial information management and administration must therefore be located in the same super Department.

The changes that your new Government has made places, with all due respect, the future of spatial information management and administration at significant risk. This is not the time to experiment when the consequences of failure are so damaging and pervasive. The current Surveyor-General’s exemplary reform agenda in the areas of spatial information and the cadastre are well known throughout Australia and have brought much credit to New South Wales, to the extent that it leads Australia in spatial information management and reform.”

The Council also forwarded letters of congratulations to Hunter and Sydney TAFE Institutes for their initiatives in employing more full-time teachers in Surveying and Spatial Information. A letter of support was also sent to Illawarra TAFE congratulating it on its distance education and postgraduate GIS initiatives. The letter also requested that the Illawarra Institute follow the lead of the other TAFE Institutes by increasing the number of full time staff and investing in new equipment.

The Council’s correspondence with Newcastle University regarding succession planning has resulted in a commitment to employ an additional member of the Surveying staff, at professorial level, by the end of this year.

The Council congratulated ACS NSW for its welcome initiative to hold an Industry Day on Monday 12 September 2011 in Martin Plaza.

The application form for the *SMIC Training Scholarship Program* Agreement was approved by the Council and a number of applicants have already been identified. This unique scholarship provides financial assistance to part-time TAFE teachers in Surveying who are undertaking the TAE40110 Certificate IV in Training & Assessment. SMIC invites its member organisations to contribute to the scholarship fund.

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’. This Committee first met on 21 March and the first meeting of the Drafting Committee was held at LPMA on 22 March. The SMIC Chairman announced to the Council that he had been elected Chair of both the Stakeholders’ Committee and the Drafting Committee. The AIMS representative to SMIC pointed out that there is a major distinction between “underground” and “subsurface” in terms of legislation and lobbied for the mining industry to be represented on the Stakeholder Committee.

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:** Industry Day has been booked for Monday 12 September 2011 in Martin Plaza. A grant has been obtained from WorkCover to 'roadshow' changes to OHS legislation State-wide, and several on-line modules on mitigating risk are being developed (not just for ACS members). The next BOSSI Town Planning and Engineering programs commence in July. The first on-line ACS seminar will be held on 7 June and feature Mark Deal from LPI NSW.
- **AHS:** CPO Roberts Campbell RAN gave a presentation at the February AHS technical meeting on scanning bridge pylons in Brisbane to determine the extent of any damage or build-up of submerged debris following the January floods. Hydro 2011 is being hosted at the Esplanade Hotel, Fremantle on 7-10 November 2011. The NZ Branch of the AHS is holding its annual seminar on 20 June 2011 at New Plymouth. World Hydrography Day on 20 June is being celebrated in Sydney by a tour of the Naval Heritage Centre at Garden Island: guests are welcome and all enquiries should be directed to David Garforth [[dg\(at\)bruttour.com.au](mailto:dg(at)bruttour.com.au)].
- **AIMS:** In March AIMS held a meeting to discuss the National Codes of Practice for Mine Surveying. National membership stands at 330. The June half day seminar will be held at the Southern Mines Rescue Station at Wollongong. The 2011 AIMS National Conference will be held on 17-19 August at Albert Park, Melbourne.
- **BOSSI:** Exam dates for 2011 17-19 October and the presentation of the Certificates of Competency will be on 25 November. BOSSI has raised the CPD points available for structured web-based learning from 3 to 6 CPD points. BOSSI is next meeting on 27 May.
- **GITA:** The 2011 GITA Conference "Smarter Infrastructure for a Sustainable Future – Intelligent Infrastructure ... Anything, Anywhere, Anytime" will be held in Darling Harbour, Sydney 8-10 August 2011.
- **ISNSW:** Arrangements are in hand for the 2011 Cumberland Group Land Development Seminar. The venue will be the Liverpool Catholic Club (just off the M7 & plenty of parking) on Friday 22 July 2011. The Institution Golf Day is now on Monday 1 August at the prestigious Lakes Golf Club. Michael Lockley is a new Director of ISNSW. The Institution is reviewing its Code of Ethics. There were, surprisingly, no applicants for this year's Engineering & Mining Scholarship.
- **MSIA:** Mapping Sciences Institute, Australia hosted 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.
- **Surveyor-General:** The Surveyor General International Fellowship in Surveying and Spatial Information for 2011 is now open (see SMIC website for details). LPMA has been abolished. David Job has been appointed to the position of principal Cadastral Surveyor. CORNet now has 60 active sites, with plans to expand the network to 120 sites over the next 3 years: the focus is to expand coverage in southern NSW and expand network RTK solutions into regional areas. SydNET ceased operations on 2 May 2011. Geoscience Australia has recently released AUSGeoid09 which LPI has found to be a substantial improvement in comparison to its predecessor, AUSGeoid98, when deriving AHD71 heights from GNSS. LPI advises users to adopt the new model. LPI results from extensive testing of AUSGeoid09 are available

at: http://www.lpma.nsw.gov.au/survey_and_maps/corsnet-nsw/reference_material

- **SMMF:** About 270 people attended the sell-out and very successful APAS Conference was held in Bathurst on 6-7 April 2011. SMMF will next meet on 10 June.
- **SSSI:** The Surveying & Spatial Sciences Conference 2011 will be held at the Wellington Convention Centre, Wellington New Zealand on 21-25 November 2011.
- **TAFE:** Survey Institute is investigating the inclusion of 'Extension Mathematics' within the Diploma of Surveying to facilitate articulation to UNSW. The CPSISC current has established a working group to evaluate and implement amendments to the national training package. There is a proposed change of title to the Certificate III to include the word 'Surveying'. It is envisaged that the title will become the "Certificate III in Surveying and Spatial Information Services". This is expected to become available for new enrolments in 2012. Other changes include adding the Advanced Diploma in Surveying as well as interest being expressed in Vocational Graduate Certificates and Vocational Graduate Diplomas. Hunter Institute is involved in the development and implementation of a pilot program based on the Diploma of Surveying. This initiative is known as the BOOST (Better Opportunities and Outcomes for School Transition) program. This program is aimed to increase the opportunity and outcomes for year 12 school leavers. At the Sydney Institute Graduation night on 19 May 2011 there were 26 Diploma of Surveying Graduates; 21 Diploma of Spatial Information Services Graduates; 13 Certificate IV of Spatial Information Services Graduates and 35 Certificate III of Spatial Information Services Graduates. The Civil Engineering, Surveying and Mapping section at the Illawarra Institute TAFENSW is currently running two full time classes of surveying students (one starting this year, and one continuing from last year). The section is also running the flexible Cert III class, with a pilot Cert IV flexible class being trialled. The Vocational postgraduate Certificate in Applied Geographic Information Science is open for mid year enrolment There has been a good level of interest from Surveyors who are looking to add GIS knowledge to their range of skills
- **Uni of Newcastle:** There is a total of 146 students enrolled in B.Surveying program and its associated combined degrees at this time. Last year, there were 124 students actively in the programs, i.e. actually enrolled in at least one course. There were there are 8 graduates who completed their studies at the end of 2010 and were presented with their degrees at the May 7 2011 graduation ceremony.
- **UNSW:** Engineers Australia accreditation occurs every 5 years and currently this year. This is a huge process across the faculty. We will now have for the first time 2 B Eng degrees to accredit: Surveying and GIS. The School is looking for part-time lecturers with good industry expertise in land development and cadastral courses specifically. Suggestions from member organizations from SMIC are welcomed for potential future teachers or simply for suggestions for improvements for our curriculum. Please contact the school if you can help. A short course on acquisition and processing of LiDAR data will be given by Professor John Trinder at UNSW on 27-28 June 2011. Day 1 will provide an introduction to LiDAR data and typical applications, while Day 2 will provide details on theory, accuracy and processing of LiDAR data for filtering and information extraction, as well as hands-on experience with software for processing the data.

The next meeting of SMIC (the Annual General Meeting) has been rescheduled to Friday 12 August 2011 at the RTA offices at Parramatta.