

SMIC NEWS

The 139th General Meeting of the Surveying & Mapping Industry Council of NSW was held on Friday 16 November 2012 at the RMS office at Parramatta.

The Chairman, Mark Gordon, was pleased to announce that over 200 public comments were received on the draft Standard AS 5488 Classification of Subsurface Utility Information (SUI) by the due date of 22 October. Standards Australia was very pleased with this result as it demonstrated that the industry was interested and active. The IT-036 Committee met to discuss the comments and either accept or reject them for the next stage, which involves a redraft of the Standard ready for the Committee's endorsement prior to release.

Rick Bartholomew has made contact with the Department of Education regarding the concept of a "virtual classroom" and how it may be employed in the surveying and spatial information sector.

The meeting spent time discussing the ongoing role of SMIC, given the changes to our sector's composition and institutional arrangements. Members agreed that SMIC has, and continues to play, a leading role as an independent "whole of industry" reference group. It was agreed to reduce the number of meetings per year by one and also to investigate the use of social media like LinkedIn and Facebook.

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 Industry Day promotional DVD has been placed on YouTube. The Skills Shortage questionnaire is being distributed on Monday after the receipt of over \$100,000 in industry support. Results will be made available at the Australia Day Seminar. The regional Webinars continue their success. ACS made submissions on the review of 'Strata and Community Title' laws in NSW as well lobbying for changes to the Standard Instrument LEP.

AHS: Professor Christina Hulbe has been appointed as Professor and Dean of Surveying at the University of Otago. The Cat A Hydrographic Surveying Course will re-commence at Otago in 2013. The University of Tasmania has not supported the Australian Maritime College's proposal to run a hydrographic course in 2013. Commodore Rod Nairn's term as the RAN Hydrographer ends in January 2013, and Brett Bruce will be the new RAN Hydrographer. The SSSI Hydrography Commission will be producing a DVD for Hydrographic Surveying. At the last AHS EAR meeting Sydney Water gave a very interesting presentation on how future development will affect water quality/flows of the Hawkesbury – Nepean river system.

AIMS: The Singleton Seminar will be held on 5th December 2012 with a Candidate workshop to be held in the morning. The Mudgee Seminar will be held in February 2013. The 2013 Annual Conference will be held in Adelaide, South Australia. 9 candidates passed their oral exams and will receive their mining surveying certificates of competency in November 2012.

GITA: The AGM and Board Meeting are scheduled for 30th November 2012 in Brisbane. PSMA Australia is the winner of the 2012 GITA Excellence Award with Essential Energy awarded the 2012 GITA ANZ Dial Before You Dig Performance Award.

ISNSW: The Institution's new President is Graeme Stewart with Phillip Hayward President Elect. Membership has increased from the previous year. The Australia Day Seminar 2013 will be held on 24-25 January 2013. ISNSW Young Surveyors and SSSI Young Professionals held a very successful CPD event on 9th November 2012. ISNSW and the Seniors Group attended the bicentenary celebration of the arrival of John Oxley (3rd Surveyor General of NSW) in the Colony. The FIG 2016 Working Week will be held in Christchurch, New Zealand.

MSIA: The annual MSIA seminar “Utilising Contemporary Mapping” was held on 25 October 2012. Speakers were from ESRI Australia; LPI NSW; Spatial Policy (Depot Resources Energy & Tourism); Intergraph; the AGs Dept; Bureau of Transport Statistics and the Dept of Trade & Investment..

SSSI: The Young Professionals held a free CPD conference at the Sydney Brewhouse on 9th November 2012. GIS Day was held on 14th November 2012. The Institute will hold a networking dinner on 22nd November 2012a the William Blue Dining Restaurant. The Mapping and Standards in Underground Services Twilight Seminar has been postponed until March 2013.

Surveyor General: There are now 110 stations forming CORSnet NSW. LPI held a ‘New Generation Datum’ workshop on 23-24 October 2012. The Surveying and Spatial Information Regulation 2012 commenced on 1st September 2012. A new version of SCIMS Online has been released. On the 3rd November 2012 the Minister for Finance and Services announced a scoping study to examine the viability of private sector investment into the services provided by LPI including land titling and registration, property information, valuations, mapping and surveying

TAFE: The ‘Smart and Skilled’ report was released by the Government in October 2012. A skills list based on industry consultation will define which courses will be subsidised by the NSW Government. Potential student numbers for the Sydney Institute are looking sound for 2013. Hunter Institute will see over 20 students progressing into the second year of the Diploma. There is a lot of interest for the Cert. III course in 2013. Every teaching section in TAFE is undergoing a review to justify its continuance.

University of Newcastle: From 2013 the Bachelor of Surveying degree will be known as the Bachelor of Engineering (Honours) (Surveying). The position of Professor/Associate Professor in Surveying will be re-advertised. The Annual Discipline Dinner incorporating the presentation of student prizes was held on 15 September 2012. The Annual Surveying Seminars were held on 26 October 2012.

University of New South Wales: An education forum involving 5 Deans from 3 Chinese Universities will take place on 19 November 2012. A GPS/GNSS for the modern surveyor workshop is scheduled for 14-15 February 2013. A short course on Airborne LiDAR Data Acquisition and Processing will be held 18-19 February 2013. Kurt Lambeck, 1963 university medallist, has won the Balzan prize for his work on climate change. Over 200 delegates attended the 3rd International Conference on Indoor Positioning and Indoor Navigation (IPIN) at the University on 13-15 November 2012. The School is supporting the surveying spectacular at Bicentennial Park on 16 November 2012

The next meeting of the NSW Surveying & Mapping Industry Council will be held at the offices of Roads & Maritime Services in Parramatta on Friday 8 March 2013.

Mark T Gordon
Chairman