

SMIC NEWS

The 124th General Meeting of the Council was held on Friday 27 November 2009 at the RTA offices in Parramatta. The Chairman welcomed all delegates, in particular Peter Shoemark, the new representative from SSSI, and also Michael Green, an alternate representative from UNSW in the absence of Craig Roberts.

SMIC has sent a letter to Bess Moylan at Illawarra TAFE in support of the proposed Graduate Certificate and Graduate Diploma in GIS. The Council believes that the introduction of these two postgraduate courses will help to address the critical skills shortage in the spatial information sector by providing professionals with knowledge and skills relating to Geographic Information Systems (GIS). The Council expressed its appreciation that the proposed access to the course is also open to people who do not primarily work in the area of GIS but who are increasingly incorporating mapping and spatial analysis in their work. SMIC also congratulated Illawarra TAFE on its proposal to open access to the course to people in remote locations through an e-learning facility: a most important and critical initiative for our industry sector.

SMIC has now developed a 'Marketing Inventory', listing all the marketing initiatives from Surveying and Spatial organisations in NSW. This is a most important resource for our member associations.

As reported in the last SMIC News, the Council is sponsoring 6 students, one from each of 6 tertiary institutions, to the FIG2010 Congress. Illawarra TAFE has already announced that Peter Larsen is their successful student. However, Hunter TAFE have rejected the offer, with the result that the Sydney Institute will be able to nominate two students: one from Surveying and one from the GIS stream.

The Illawarra campus of TAFE has completed the Cert III on-line course development and is now looking at on-line development for the Diploma course. This is great news for the regional areas of NSW, as soon potential students in these regional areas will be able to undertake their studies by remote learning. Combined with the recently announced traineeship/ cadetships, this should provide an incentive for country survey practices to further educate their staff.

Effective from 20 November 2009, the Vocational Training Order for the traineeship vocation of Spatial Information Services has been varied by adding the traineeship qualification of CPP40209 Certificate IV in Spatial Information Services. There are now five qualifications in spatial information services, three of which support traineeship pathways:

1. CPP30109 Certificate III in Spatial Information Services
2. CPP40209 Certificate IV In Spatial Information Services
3. CPP50207 Diploma of Spatial Information Services.

The CITAB (Construction Industry Training Advisory Board) would like feedback on:

1. The extent of the shortage of Diploma qualified people
2. Implications for enrolments if traineeship funding was not made available
3. Implications for NSW if the availability of suitably qualified (Diploma) people were not available
4. Comments to support the traineeship funding application.

Please contact smic@smicnsw.org.au with your contribution. Traineeships may be offered, but they do not happen without support from the surveying & spatial information sector (that's us!).

Important news considering the recent support of the CITAB in the development of traineeships is that The State Government is restructuring Industry Training Advisory Boards. SMIC is keeping a close watch on developments.

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 October ACS/CSA Conference was conducted at the Novotel in Wollongong and was a very successful event. The next BOSSI candidate workshops in Town Planning and Engineering commence in January 2010.
- **AIMS:** The October Seminar in Orange was well attended. Peter Sergeant is the new AIMS representative on the University of Newcastle's Surveying program Advisory Committee. The mining content of the course is being improved. A Candidates' Workshop and Seminar was held in Singleton on 26 November.
- **ICSM:** In conjunction with GITA, ICSM is pursuing the development of a national standard in underground utility location and mapping. ICSM and ANZLIC will be sharing an exhibition booth at the FIG2010 Congress. A Road Construction Standard has been published on the ICSM website. A report is being prepared for the next ICSM meeting (Wollongong, 5-6 May 2010) on the mapping of "sensitive information".
- **ISNSW:** The AGM was held on 2 October 2009 with John Minehan entering his second year as President. Amendments to the Constitution relating to the wind-up of ISA, the clarification of Senior status and membership of the Board of Directors were made. The ISNSW Golf Day will be held on 15 April 2009 at the prestigious Lakes Golf Course, during the FIG2010 Congress. The Deniliquin grave of the 7th Surveyor-General of NSW, Walker Rannie Davidson, has been restored by the Seniors Group.
- **MSIA:** 60 attendees enjoyed the NSW Annual Seminar on 29 October 2009 at the Aspire Hotel "Spatial Data – a Wonderful Diversity". MSIA (NSW) has had a very successful year and provided to members a number of technical evenings (some in conjunction with SSSI), regular newsletters, industry journals, seminar and kindred Institute activity advices.
- **SSSI:** The NSW Region had its first formal Committee meeting on 29 October. Regional Chair is Warwick Hehir and Vice Chair is Greg Goodman. Greg represents the Committee on the Consultative Council. The 'Sydney's Spatial Future' event is being held on 9 December 2009. Safe Software and Lagen Spatial held their annual user meeting on 19 October. The North Coast Spatial Information Group held their latest bi-annual meeting on 10 November at Coffs Harbour.
- **TAFE NSW:** Illawarra TAFE has commenced delivery of an on-line Cert III course. TAFE is looking at formal articulation for students wanting further education at universities.
- **Uni of Newcastle:** The annual Surveying Seminar was held on 6 November 2009, with 15 student presenters. The ATAR cut-off was 74.25, an increase compared to the last 2 years. It is expected that enrolments for 2010 will be similar to 2009.
- **UNSW:** In 2010 the School will be offering 2 Engineering degree programs, in Surveying and Geoinformation Systems. The latter degree will not be a suitable education base for registration as a land surveyor. There are no plans for a double degree BE (Surveying)/BE (GIS). Although the ATAR entry score is 90, there are a number of alternate pathways for students wanting to undertake a Surveying/ GIS degree at UNSW. In summary:
 1. HSC+ gives students who choose 3 unit Maths and Physics "bonus points".
 2. We interview students to profile their aptitude for Surveying or GIS under the Faculty of Engineering Admission Scheme (FEAS).
 3. Students who haven't done the right courses but are keen to enrol in our degrees can apply for entry to the Diploma of Engineering, Science and Technology (DipSET) with an ATAR of 80, and then transfer to our degrees.
 4. We generally accept TAFE Diploma graduates with a credit average or above.
 5. The university also offers pathways for Mature Age entry.

Contact Dr Craig Roberts at c.roberts@unsw.edu.au. The Shortcourse GPS/GNSS for the Modern Surveyor is on 18-19 February 2010 and LiDAR Data Acquisition and Processing is on 22-23 February 2010. The Thesis Presentation Day was held on 27 October and involved 11 students projects. The University would like the industry to think of useful topics for undergraduate thesis projects. A/Professor Lin Lin Ge won the award for NSW Scientist of the Year in the category of Physics, Earth Sciences, Chemistry and Astronomy. Dr Craig Roberts won the award for best oral presentation at the SSC2009Conference.
- The next meeting of SMIC is on Friday 12 February 2010. SMIC wishes all members of its constituent associations a very happy and safe holiday period and new year.

Mark T Gordon, Chairman