

SMIC NEWS

The 115th general meeting of the Surveying & Mapping Industry Council of NSW was held on Friday 16 May 2008 at the RTA offices in Parramatta. The Council was very pleased to welcome back Kate Moore, representing TAFE NSW.

The Council noted progress in the nationwide proposal to extend apprenticeships to Diploma level at TAFE. Anna Henderson has been advertising the proposal to various nation-wide Apprenticeship Centres and Georgie Cane has developed a range of promotional tools. Employer incentives are to be included in this material. The information will be distributed to professional associations, the career information network and the RTO network and will be made available to upload onto industry sites. Douglas Greening, CEO of the CITAB, is ready to progress the matter in NSW as the Package has now been released on the NTIS website, and this is good news for employers in NSW.

Recent media reports indicated a proposed ban by the NSW Government on Class 3 and Class 4 laser pointers following recent attacks on aircraft. The proposed ban only applies to *Class 3 or Class 4 hand held, battery operated laser pointers*. Surveyors do not use any Class 3 or above hand held laser pointers- total stations and digital levels are not deemed "hand held" as they are fixed to a stable base and some hand held laser distance measuring devices are Class 2 only. The NSW Government will also be introducing an offence for possession of any hand held, battery operated laser pointer in a public place without a reasonable excuse, such as business or employment. Laser survey equipment used safely and legitimately by surveyors and other professionals in the course of their work are not the targets of this ban."

Industry and the profession are reminded to submit entries into the NSW Excellence in Surveying & Spatial Information Awards. Submissions are due by 28 July and information is available on the ISNSW and ACS websites, being www.surveyors.org.au and acsnsw.com.au respectively.

The following information may be of interest to members of constituent organisations and the general public. Acronyms are explained on the SMIC website at www.smicnsw.org.au. Links to our member organisations are on the SMIC website.

- **ACS:** Program 7 of the BOSSI Candidates' Workshops has reached the mid session assessment. The Association has provided submissions to the National Employment Standards Review and Skilling Australia for the Future. The Association was represented at the SEAC Summit on workforce development in Canberra on 10 April 2008 and provided a report to SMIC. A joint agreement has been reached with ISNSW to engage a PR Consultant. The annual Business Seminar will be held on Monday 4 August at Rydges on World Square. The joint conference with the Country Surveyors Association will be held in Tamworth on 24-25 October 2008. A reminder that the website has been re-vamped and is worth a look at www.acsnsw.com.au.
- **AIMS:** AIMS is a gold sponsor for the Excellence Awards and will present the award for excellence in mining surveying. Summit Partners ran a Business Planning session for AIMS on 10 May. The Annual Conference is on 14-15 August 2008 at the Crowne Plaza, Coogee Beach.
- **BOSSI:** 12 Certificates of Competency were issued after the March examinations, including one in Mining Surveying. From September there will be 3 cadastral examinations of 1 hour each: rural, urban and strata. The CS2i has been endorsed by State Cabinet and a Spatial Information Office is to be established within the Department of Lands. Cadastral Modelling is being examined by the Board. A Strategic Planning Meeting is being held on 30 May, followed by the Candidates' workshop at Kurri Kurri TAFE.
- **GITA:** The GITA 2008 Brisbane Conference on 8 May was a great success. The GITA Sydney Conference will be held on 25-27 August 2008 at the Novotel Hotel, Olympic Park and will include a workshop to discuss the outcomes of the Sydney

DownUnder Project. GITA has received an invitation to join the Victorian Spatial Council. Chairman Ron Lister is the keynote speaker at the TAFE graduation night on 29 May 2008.

- **ISNSW:** ISNSW is moving to 162 Goulburn Street in July. Plans for the merger with NSW IEMS are progressing well. A national committee has been formed to progress the merger of ISA and SSI. Student membership of ISNSW is now free. A joint venture Public Relations Communications Strategy has been entered with ACSNSW.
- **MSIA:** The national 2008 AGM is to be held in Brisbane on 30 May. Upcoming CPD events are the RTA's Transport management Centre on 30 June 2008 and the Rural Fire Services on 20 August 2008. The annual one day seminar is on 14 August 2008 at the Mercure Lawson Hotel Ultimo. Contact Hank Staal on staal1@bigpond.com for all details.
- **NSW IEMS:** A postal vote to members has been distributed in regard to the amalgamation with ISNSW. This requires a 75% majority of the returned votes to be successful. Papers are due by 23 May.
- **SMMF:** Last met on 21 April 2008, where Charlie Higgs and Grant Kilpatrick gave a presentation of TAFE SIS "OHS On-Line". Alan Gordon has replaced John Ireland at NSW Maritime and John Masters has been appointed Principal Surveyor at the Department of Commerce. An 'RFQ' has been issued for the development of a 'Strategy for the Redevelopment and Enhancement of the Register of Public Surveys'. The Department of Lands has published the document '*Control Surveys & SCIMS – What is acceptable?*' which outlines the requirements for placing coordinates and heights in SCIMS. Greg Livingstone presented the "Underground Services Location Issues" paper at the recent APAS Conference. Greg provided a background to the issues and updated SMMF on recent developments. NSW has signed the AUSCOPE Participant Agreement, committing to joint funding of ten geological stable GNSS CORS stations across NSW as part of a national network of 100 stations. NSWnet will provide the 'infill' for the ten 'super stations' to provide a denser network at 30-50 km spacing.
- **SSI:** 25 people attended the Innovation in Spatial Information Seminar with James Moody on 21 April. Megan Stanley and Lisa Wilhelmseder have joined the SSI NSW Committee. A joint MSIA/SSI NSW technical visit to the Rural Fire Service is being planned. The NSW Regional Committee next meets on 5 June to discuss Operational Planning.
- **Surveyor-General:** Two Surveyor-General International Fellowships are being offered this year: one in Surveying and one in Spatial Information. State Cabinet has agreed to continue implementation of CS2i. SydNET has been expanded to 11 stations, now including Goulburn and Nowra. Initial funding for NSWNET will be given in the next financial year. SydNET moved from limited testing mode to full single base RTK service for all registered users on 1 May 2008. Frank Blanchfield has submitted the Stage 2 draft report on the review of the Surveying Act.
- **TAFE NSW:** Grant Kilpatrick is to attend a meeting on 26 May in Melbourne to determine resources available to progress competencies. TAFE is going through a restructure.
- **U Newcastle:** 25 new undergraduates have commenced the Bachelor of Surveying degree in 2008 and 14 have commenced the combined BE (Civil)/B Surv degree (a total of 39). 13 new surveyors graduated on 15 April 2008 and there will be another graduation ceremony in September. Mid year enrolments are now being accepted.
- **UNSW:** The Survey Camp has moved to a new location at the berry Sport & recreation Centre, replacing Morpeth which has been used for about 30 years. The Graduation ceremony and annual Dinner was held on 7 April, with Dan Paull (PSMA CEO) as guest speaker. Graduate students Omer Mubarak and Anthony Cole were selected winners of the U.S. Institute of Navigation's student scholarship to attend the world's premier GPS/GNSS conference, the 21st International Technical Meeting of the Satellite Division of the U.S. Institute of Navigation, ION-GNSS2008, Savannah, Georgia, 16-19 September. These are the 24th & 25th US ION student prize/scholarships awarded to members of the SNAP Lab. The free seminar "Location Privacy: Part of Your Expectations of Privacy in Public?" will be held at the Law Theatre, UNSW on 23 July and asks the question 'Can metre-level Location based Services be delivered while maintaining user privacy?'. There will be an Industry day on 12 August. Copies of the 50th anniversary "History of Surveying at UNSW" are on sale for \$33 at the School office or over the Net.

The Annual General Meeting of the Council will be on Friday 18 July 2008 at the RTA offices at Parramatta.