

SMIC NEWS

The 24th Annual General Meeting and 137th General Meeting of the Surveying & Mapping Industry Council of NSW were held on Friday 13 July 2012 at the Sydney Ports Corporation office in Port Botany.

Mark Gordon was returned for his 14th year at Chairman and Paul Harcombe was again voted in as Secretary Treasurer. The Chairman advised that anyone aspiring for the Deputy Chair position should be prepared to take over as Chair in July 2013. Voting resulted in a draw, and in accordance with SMIC Rules the two candidates' names were placed in a hat and the winner's name was drawn: Narelle Underwood (representing ISNSW) was successful over Peter Shoemark (representing SSSI). The Chairman thanked the outgoing Deputy Chair, Veronica Bondarew (ACS NSW), for her support and her achievements as Deputy Chair since 2009, particularly in the area of vocational education.

Kevin Volk received appropriate acknowledgement for his ongoing exemplary work as Executive Officer. The Chairman also thanked retiring SMMF representative Bill Miller for his service on the Council since 2007. The Chairman acknowledged the success of the Council over the last 12 months, in particular the awarding of two TAFE Teaching Scholarships to Liz Fulton and Ryan Church.

The Chairman advised the Council that 2012 was the Silver Anniversary year of the Council's existence, having been founded on 5 November 1987.

Our guest for the General Meeting was Bess Moylan from Illawarra TAFE. Bess advised the Council of the success of the on-line Certificate III course in Surveying, which was targeted towards people already working in the Surveying sector. She praised the efforts of industry in promoting Surveying as a career, and reported that Illawarra and Sydney TAFEs were in the enviable position of having too many applicants for the positions available. Bess advised that work had commenced towards an on-line Diploma course. TAFE representative Graeme Smith acknowledged the vision of Charlie Higgs and Bess Moylan in instituting on-line courses in Surveying and Bess for her postgraduate courses initiative.

The Chairman advised that Queensland University of Technology (QUT) has taken its last Surveying first year intake this year.

Les Gardner, representing the Surveyor-General, drew the Council's attention to the Review of the Surveying and Spatial information Regulation, which has been released for public comment until 1 August 2012. He also advised that the ICSM publication SP1 *Control Surveys* has been revised and is also open for public comment.

The Chairman advised that the draft SUE (Subsurface Utility Engineering) Standard has been styled into Standards Australia template AS5488. It is now being examined by the SA editors and will be released for the 9 week public comment period in mid to late August. The Standard is on track to be published in March 2013.

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 'Surveying and Mapping Industry Day' is scheduled for 5 September 2012 in Martin Place. Industry Day booths/marquees are available for hire. The ACS NSW State Conference was held at NSW Parliament House on 8 June 2012 and attracted 3 senior ministers of the NSW government. The ACS LinkedIn group has over 100 members. The inaugural CSN national webinar is being presented on 17 July. The ACS Regional Workshops commenced on 22 May.
- **AHS** – The only tertiary education program in hydrography within Australia (last offered in the 1980s) is being developed, under the guidance of industry, to commence in 2013. Graduate Certificate (Coastal Hydrography) and Graduate Diploma (Hydrography) courses at postgraduate level are proposed, using a flexible delivery mode. The AGM for the West Australia Region is being held on 14 August. There are plans to refloat the Costa Concordia.

- **GITA** – The 17th Annual Geospatial Solutions Conference (GITA 2012) is being held from 6 - 8 August 2012 at the Sofitel, Melbourne.
- **ISNSW** – The results from the ISNSW Strategic Planning Day should be available next month. The ISNSW Golf Day is being held on 2 August. The Excellence Awards are being held on 22 September 2012 at the Sofitel Sydney Wentworth. ISNSW is holding a photographic competition with first prize of 2 tickets to the Excellence Awards. The production of the next edition of the Hallmann text is being planned. 220 solar scopes were distributed to about 180 NSW schools so students could watch the Transit of Venus. The next Surveying Spectacular is on 10 August 2012.
- **MSIA** –The Mapping Sciences Institute’s Annual Seminar will again be held at the Aspire Hotel in Bulwarra St, Ultimo on 25 October, 2012.
- **SSSI** – Kate Fairlie is to become the SSSI NSW Young Surveyors Representative. The first FIG Young Surveyors Conference was held in Rome of 4-5 May 2012 with Kate Fairlie chairing and Narelle Underwood attending, with about 150 young surveyors from 40 countries.
- **Surveyor General** – There are now 97 stations forming CORSnet NSW. Comments on the remake of the SG Direction No 9 GNSS for Cadastral and Mining Surveying are due by 30 September 2012. The Western Sydney (Lethbridge Park) and Bathurst baselines have been constructed, with the former surviving an independent and unprogrammed strength test. Sites at Grafton/Coff Harbour and Newcastle are being investigated for new 6 pillar baselines.
- **TAFE** – The State budget has resulted in a very significant \$16.1m cut to the TAFE budget. The COAG reforms will see the introduction of student vouchers and HECS-style loans in 2014. The Surveying program at Hunter TAFE is under threat of closure.
- **University of Newcastle** – There are 27 commencing students in the Surveying degree and 8 for combined Surveying degrees, which is slightly less than last year. Total first year enrolment in Surveying is 114. The annual dinner is on 15 September 2012 – contact Anne Ramsay at the University for more details. Harvey Mitchell officially retired on 6 July.
- **UNSW** – The School has a new name: the School of Surveying and Geospatial Engineering (SAGE), with the official launch being on 3 August. The Transit of Venus project resulted in good publicity on Channel7 and Al Jazeera. The 3rd International Conference on Indoor Positioning and Indoor Navigation (IPIN’12) will be hosted by the UNSW School of Surveying and Spatial Information Systems from 13-15 November 2012, with participation from well-known companies such as Google, Nokia and Aeroscout. For more information, visit www.surveying.unsw.edu.au/ipin2012/ .

The next meeting of the NSW Surveying & Mapping Industry Council will be held at the offices of Roads & Maritime Services in Parramatta on a date to be determined.

Mark T Gordon
Chairman