

SMIC NEWS

The 141st General Meeting of the Surveying & Mapping Industry Council of NSW was held on Friday 17 May 2013 at the RMS offices at Parramatta. A special welcome was provided to Peta Cox, A/Head Teacher at the TAFE Sydney Institute who is to replace Damien Cole as the representative on SMIC for the remainder of 2013.

Further to the intention in the last *SMIC News* to lobby for the inclusion of the feeder qualification Certificate III on the 2014 Skills List, the Council was pleased that the Minister for Education Adrian Piccoli had announced the commencement of consultations to develop the 2014 NSW Skills List. The Skills List will define which qualifications will be funded by the Government under the *Smart and Skilled* reforms to be implemented from 1 July 2014. The SMIC Chairman and Veronica Bondarew subsequently represented the Sector at a 'Smart & Skilled' Industry Consultation Forum on 29 May and argued for the inclusion of all Sector VET qualifications on the 2014 list. The *Smart & Skilled Industry Profile for Professional, Scientific and Technical Services* is available from the Department of Education & Communities or from SMIC at smic@smicnsw.org.au.

The Chairman announced that Australian Standard AS 5488, *Classification of Subsurface Utility Information (SUI)* had been published on 14 May 2013 and an official Launch is planned for 12 June. As SMIC was one of the funders of the development of the Standard, an invitation to the Launch was extended to the Council. It was agreed that Rick Bartholomew would represent the Council at the event. The SMIC Chair, being the chair of the Standards Development Committee and the representative of Austroads, is giving a presentation at the function. Also attending as members of the Committee are SMIC delegates Paul Harcombe and Tom Williams. The Chairman congratulated the Council on the publication of a Standard which was originally advocated by SMIC and its represented organisations SMMF, BOSSI and GITA.

Damien Cole gave a presentation to the Council on the courses being offered through the TAFE Sydney Institute. Sydney Institute has been delivering the Diploma of Surveying and the Diploma of Spatial Information Services in various forms for a decade or more. Sydney Institute offers the current delivery structure, which commences with an entry level common Certificate III in Surveying and Spatial Information Services to all Surveying and Spatial students (6 months for full-time, 12 months part-time). This program then articulates into either the Diploma of Spatial Information Services or the Diploma of Surveying (each being a further 18 months full-time or 3 years part-time). Damien provided a copy of the new national Certificate III and Diplomas with the electives currently on offer, and noted that there is a unit for locating underground services. At this stage it is forecast the new courses will be delivered in the same manner commencing Semester 2, 2013. Following discussion, the Council moved its acceptance of the new courses to be offered by the Sydney Institute.

The SMIC/TAFE Scholarship Committee was pleased to recommend that a scholarship be awarded to part-time TAFE teacher Mr Ian Pearson from the Illawarra Institute. The purpose of the scholarship is to assist existing and intending part-time TAFE teachers in Surveying or Spatial Information to fund their *TAE4110 Certificate IV in Training & Assessment* course. Mr Pearson's scholarship nomination was endorsed by the Council and approved by acclamation.

On 27 May 2013, the SMIC Chair participated in an 'invitation only' *Future Directions Forum* for industry leaders, organised by the Construction & Property Services Industry Skills Council (CPSISC). One of the interesting and relevant presentations at the event was by Mr Jol Keeble, Executive Director Construction at Barrangaroo South. The "*Future Forecasts: Construction and Property Services Skills 2016-26*" study by the Centre for International Economics was launched at the Forum. The study concluded that the projected demands for CPS skills across Australia will be 150,000 persons higher by 2025-26 than in 2011-12. Skills gaps, the ageing workforce, workforce development, training, flexible learning, the increasing use of technology, safety and sustainability were all topics of passionate debate. It was also interesting that all CPS sectors shared a common problem in how to attract people to their industry. Also made available at the Forum was the CPSISC Environmental Scan 2013-14.

On 28 May, the SMIC Chair attended the inaugural NSW Surveying Taskforce meeting, chaired by the Surveyor-General and held at the ACS NSW office in Bathurst Street. There was broad

support across the sector for action to consolidate all forms of communication to school students and other target groups about becoming involved in Surveying & Spatial Information.

SMIC has provided input into the Vocational Training Order (VTO) "variation" submission to update various qualifications from previous versions of the CPP07 Property Services Training Package to current versions from the CPP07 Property Services Training Package Version 13. The qualifications to be updated are the Certificate III in Surveying & Spatial Information Services, Certificate IV in Spatial Information Services, Diploma in Spatial Information Services, Certificate IV in Surveying and the Diploma in Surveying. The Certificate II in Surveying and Spatial Information Services (CPP20112), which is not currently a traineeship, was also considered for inclusion in the submission, however consultation with industry did not identify any support for declaring it as a traineeship. Traineeship pathways for the Certificate III, IV and Diploma courses formed part of the submission. The submission is now being presented to the Department of Education & Communities

Through Deputy Chair Narelle Underwood, SMIC is becoming involved in promoting the industry through social media outlets such as *LinkedIn* and *Facebook*. This is very much a "brave new world" for many on the Council but it was unanimously agreed to pursue it with passion.

The following information may 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 ACS CPD Bank will be launched at the ACS State Conference on 21 June at NSW Parliament House. The conference is an opportunity to discuss issues with State Government Ministers.

AHS: World Hydrography Day will be held on 21 June 2013 and Sydney Ports Corporation will be conducting tours of the Survey vessel *Port Explorer*. The RAN Fleet Review is to be held in Sydney on 3-11 October to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the formation of the Royal Australian Navy. Invitations have been extended to over 50 nations, and 40 visiting war ships and 12 tall ships will be in Sydney Harbour for the event.

AIMS: There is a salary survey on the AIMS website at www.minesurveyors.com.au. The AIMS annual conference is on 14-16 August at the Adelaide Intercontinental Hotel. The Survey & Drafting Directions for Mine Surveyors (Coal) were gazetted on 25 January 2013.

ISNSW: The Excellence Awards will be held on Saturday 7 September at the Hilton Hotel, with Peter Berner as MC. *Azimuth* is now in digital format, with full colour and interactive advertisements. ISNSW held its first webinar on 17 April with 80 attendees. The Cumberland Group Development Seminar is on 19 July. Graeme Stewart is stepping down as President at the October AGM. Phil Hayward will be the new President.

MSIA: The 2013 MSIA seminar will be held on 24 October at the Aspire Hotel, Bulwarra Road, Ultimo. Kellie Persson from ESRI, eminent geologist Dr David Branagan, Paul Williams from ABS, Martin Russell (Aurecon), Maggie Patton (State Library) and George Gatz (Transport Management Centre) have been secured as speakers. A visit to LPI Bathurst and BOSSI is also planned for this year.

Surveyor General: There are now 121 stations forming CORSnet NSW and Network RTK covers 36.7% of the State. Michael Spiteri has been appointed the new BOSSI Registrar. SCIMS Online was launched on 31 October 2012 and an on-line customer survey was undertaken in March 2013. There are over 2,100 registered SCIMS users. BOSSI and SCIMS fees will rise by the 2.5% CPI in July. The draft version of the SG's Direction No 9 on GNSS for Cadastral Surveys has been released for comment. Queensland has now followed NSW and Victoria by passing the Electronic Conveyancing National Law on 18 April 2013. Historical maps and plans of the crossing of the Blue Mountains are available at the website <http://baseline/exhibitions/western-crossings/index1.html>. Input into the current LPI review can be made at lpi.review@lpi.nsw.gov.au.

TAFE: The LPI-sponsored TAFE Certificate IV in Spatial Information Services is now in its eighth year. There were a total of 31 graduates in the Surveying and Spatial Information Services Diplomas at Sydney Institute. Recruitment for temporary teachers is imminent at Sydney Institute. Hunter Institute is currently upgrading its survey equipment. Better integration

with part-time students at Hunter institute is being assisted by improved timetabling. Illawarra Institute is looking forward to starting a new Temporary teacher next Semester, Jane Hayward (who has been a long serving part time teacher with the section). 10 short videos for the PSOA on basic topics relating to Surveying are nearing completion. Bess Moylan spoke at the APAS conference earlier this year in which she acknowledged SMIC support and received a thank you from the SMIC Chair.

University of Newcastle: Surveying full-time academic staff have been reduced to two in 2013 and advertising for another full-time staff member has stalled. Interestingly, student numbers have doubled since the time the degree supported five full-time academic staff. The Surveying Programme Advisory Committee, chaired by Allan Cavanaugh, met on 23 May 2013.

University of New South Wales: The former Chair of the Industry Advisory Board of the School of Surveying And Geospatial Engineering (SAGE) has been invited to join the Industry Advisory Committee of the School of Civil & Environmental Engineering. The SMIC Chair has been invited to deliver the occasional address to graduates at the Graduation Ceremony on 18 June. The 52nd annual graduation dinner will be held on Tuesday 18 June at Le Montage at Lilyfield.

The next meetings of the NSW Surveying & Mapping Industry Council will be held at the offices of Roads & Maritime Services in Parramatta on Friday 12 July 2013. These meetings will be the Annual General Meeting and the first general meeting of the new SMIC year. Rick Bartholomew announced his intention to retire from the Council, having represented engineering surveyor interests since 2001, and the Chairman pre-empted his intention to step down as Chair, having been in that role since 1999.

Mark T Gordon
Chairman