

SMIC NEWS

The 128th General Meeting of the Council was held on 15 October at the RTA offices in Parramatta. The Chairman welcomed Charlie Higgs from TAFE Wollongong as our guest speaker and David Job representing the Surveyor-General.

The meeting commenced with a teleconference with Gerry Shone and Roberta Esbitt from the Victorian *Surveying Task Force Inc.* The purpose of the discussion was to ascertain whether setting up a NSW Task Force (such as 'SMIC Inc') would be a viable proposition. It was decided to seek financial assurances from a number of organisations prior to making such a commitment. The emphasis of a Task Force would be to attract new students and improve our profile in the wider community. Notwithstanding any support for a NSW Surveying Task Force, the incorporation of the Council was viewed favourably by the delegates.

The *SMIC Training Scholarship Program* Agreement is in its final draft and is expected to be executed before the end of the year. This unique scholarship will provide financial assistance to part-time TAFE teachers in Surveying who are undertaking the TAE40110 Certificate IV in Training & Assessment. TAFE is hoping to use the Agreement as a model for similar scholarships in other disciplines.

Charlie Higgs gave a presentation on the Australian Flexible Learning Framework (AFLF) Project and its associated assessment tools. Council members were very impressed with the developments undertaken at Wollongong TAFE in this area and the benefits to the surveying and spatial information disciplines were readily discernible from the on-line demonstration. Charlie also thanked the Council and its members for the support provided to the development of the e-learning Post Graduate Certificate and Diploma courses in Applied GIS.

The SMIC Working Group consisting of Venessa O'Connell, Damien Cole and Rick Bartholomew has met with Simon Ironside (SSSI Hydrographic Commission Chair) and Scott Preskett from the University of Otago in regard to establishing a Cat B Hydrographic Course at TAFE NSW. There is enthusiastic support for this idea from all interested parties, including the Australian Navy.

The Council expressed its concern about the apparent lack of commitment by two tertiary institutions for succession planning in the Surveying teaching fraternity. It noted, in spite of assurances by the Pro Vice Chancellor in May 2009, the University of Newcastle situation appears to have worsened, with two lecturers on leave this semester and only one full-time lecturer remaining to run the course. Similarly at TAFE Sydney Institute, in the last five years the full-time complement of staff has decreased from 8 to 3 staff, with the impending result of a significant reduction in courses and an inability to meet the demand from industry in 2011. This may also have a detrimental effect on TAFE's ability to service a Cat B Hydrographic course. The Council believes that TAFE Wollongong also needs to look seriously at staff succession planning. All TAFE institutes are also in need of equipment updates, with the majority of instruments being over 15 years old.

The Chairman gave an update on plans to develop an Australia-New Zealand Standard for the location and mapping of underground utilities (also known as SUE – Subsurface Utility Engineering). He reminded the Council that the impetus for this development came from SMMF, GITA and SMIC. The Chairman advised that sufficient funds have been promised to commence the project and a Stakeholders' Committee is currently being formed.

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 Excellence Awards were a great success, with 380 people attending. Many winners went on to shine at the national APSEA awards in October. The 2010 ACS/CSA October conference is being held on 22-23 October at Ballina, with the theme 'Coastal Sustainability'. ACS NSW has split from SIBA. A new logo and signage is being developed for the Association.
- **AHS:** HYDRO11 will be held in Fremantle WA on 7-11 November 2011.

- **AIMS:** The AIMS Conference held on 11-13 August at Surfers Paradise was great success, with 16 technical papers being delivered: the next national conference will be held in Melbourne. Callum McNaughton has been returned as AIMS President. Chris Moy is to replace Phil Orr as AIMS representative on BOSSI. National Codes of Practice in Mine Surveying are currently in draft format. There are ongoing discussions regarding a MOU with SSSI. There is a potential for 5 candidates to gain their Certificates of Competency following the October BOSSI exams.
- **BOSSI:** BOSSI last met on 24 September 2010. A Committee has been formed to review the Surveying & Spatial Information Regulation 2006. The Certificate of Competency for Land Surveying has been redesigned. The Board has issued a Determination on *Supervision by Registered Land Surveyors* and is preparing *Guidelines for Professional Conduct*. The Board is about to conduct audits of the CPD ratified organisations. BOSSI is holding two industry forums next year (the first in February) on spatial information. A Speed Mentoring evening for Young Professionals is being held on 25 November. The next meeting of the Board is on 25 November 2010, and the next meeting of the JAM (Joint Administration Model) will be held on 26 November. The Young Surveyors 'Spatially Smart Wine' project is gathering momentum.
- **ISNSW:** Grahame Wallis was installed as ISNSW President at the AGM on 1 October. A MOU exists between ISNSW and SSSI. An agreement for joint publicity has been brokered with UNSW. The SWIG (Strata Working Industry Group) alerted the Institution to the ISTM publication "Who's Responsible?" and the draft 'Strata Plans Fact Facts 2010'. The Remote Members' Seminar will be held on 27-28 January 2011 at the Mercure, Railway Square. The ISNSW Cumberland Group will hold a Land Development Seminar on 22 July 2011.
- **MSIA:** The Annual Seminar is scheduled for 21 October 2010 at the Aspire Hotel, Bulwara Road Ultimo. Presentations will be given by Department of Defence, ESRI, ERDAS, RTA, City of Sydney, LPMA (Bathurst) and others. One of the most interesting topics will be how we are using spatial technology in the war in Afghanistan.
- **SMMF:** Met on 1 September: presentations by Les Gardner (Regulation Remake), Doug Kinlyside (SCIMS2000 Workshop) and Mark Gordon (OHS and Supervisors). The City of Sydney is hosting the next Government Surveyors Dinner in November. LPMA recently hosted a national cadastral seminar: with the exception of the Northern Territory all states, territories and commonwealth were in attendance. Version 4 of the RTA's 'Traffic Control At Worksites Manual' has been released and is available from the RTA's website.
- **SSSI:** The APSEA Awards resulted in many prizes going to NSW entrants, including SSSI President's Awards to SMIC members Paul Harcombe and Mark Gordon.
- **Surveyor-General:** A structural review is underway for the Cadastral Integrity Section of LPMA. The S-G has written to Sydney City Council acknowledging the project to re-establish primary spatial infrastructure within the CBD. The new 'SCIMS on-line' search facility in SiX will provide improved access to all survey control mark records. There was a meeting on 28 September between LPMA and NBN Co to discuss potential effects of the National Broadband Network roll-out on Survey infrastructure and underground utilities.
- **TAFE:** Hunter Institute has taken delivery of 5 Trimble M3 total stations. There has been a large number of potential students expressing interest in Surveying and Spatial Information courses at the Sydney Institute in 2011.
- **Uni of Newcastle:** 112 people attended the Annual Dinner on 3 September. The BOSSI medal was presented to Vaughan Lander. The Annual Surveying Seminar will be held on Friday 29 October 2010 from 9 am to 12 noon.
- **UNSW:** The (free) Undergraduate Thesis Conference will be held on 9 November from 10.30 am to 5 pm in Rex Vowels Theatre. The Open Day on 4 September attracted a good response. Peter Sergeant and Warwick Hehir have been appointed to the Advisory Board. The Australian Space Research Program (\$4.6m) is led by the SSIS School's Associate Professor Andrew Dempster and the Australian Centre for Space Engineering is to be launched by NASA astronaut Jan Davis on 22 November 2010 at UNSW.

The next meeting of SMIC is planned for 10 December at the RTA offices in Parramatta.