

SMIC NEWS

The 125th General Meeting of the Council was held on Friday 12 February 2010 at the RTA offices in Parramatta. The Chairman welcomed all delegates, in particular Robert Wadlow, the new representative from GITA, and also David Job, an alternate representative of the Surveyor-General in the absence of Paul Harcombe.

SMIC is sponsoring 6 students to the FIG2010 Congress in April: Adam Kolenko-Rezek (TAFE Sydney), Peter Larsen (TAFE Wollongong); Nilofer Tambuwala (Melbourne Uni), Ben Tarlington (TAFE Sydney), James Wards (UNSW) and Gavin Watson (UNSW).

Delegates to the Council have welcomed the suggestion from the ISNSW Management Committee that a "Surveying Taskforce" similar to that promoting Surveying in Victoria, be set up under SMIC with funding arrangements similar to Victoria. It was considered that SMIC would provide an appropriate 'all encompassing' home for the Taskforce. A final decision will be made following visits to the Victorian Task Force by ISNSW President John Minehan and SMIC Vice-Chair Veronica Bondarew (representing ACS NSW) in February and March 2010.

On 4 February SMIC delegate Paul Harcombe and SMIC Chair Mark Gordon met with Peter Shoemark (also a delegate to SMIC), Roger Collins-Woolcock and Nick Zebillas from Cardno about the development of a national Standard for Underground Utility Location similar to the ASCE 38-02 USA Standard. The Cardno team met with Standards Australia on 5 February and the outcome was that Standards will run a half day seminar for invited attendees outlining the process required to get the Standard in place in both Australia and New Zealand.

The online resources developed by Wollongong TAFE for the Certificate III in Surveying (funded by ACS NSW, ISNSW and the Cumberland Group of Surveyors) are now complete and are available for any TAFENSW Institute to use. TAFE also has funding to assist in the development of resources for the Diploma. SMIC is discussing the application for the funding of the Diploma traineeship program with the Construction Industry Training Advisory Board (CITAB).

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. The website also has links to two promotional websites: www.alifewithoutlimits.com.au and www.destinationspatial.org.

- **ACS:** The Surveyors Modern Award commenced on 1 January 2010 and ACS has already commenced information sessions for members. The BOSSI candidate workshops in Town Planning and Engineering commenced on 28 January 2010. ACS NSW is relocating to Level 10, 99 Bathurst Street Sydney in mid March. The 2010 member firms book will be available by March. The 2010 ACS/CSA October conference will be held on 22-23 October at Ballina, with the theme 'Coastal Sustainability'.
- **AHS:** Alec Millet is the new President of AHS. The winner of the 2009 AHS Education Award is Jacquomo Monk who is undertaking research titled "Understanding demersal fish-habitat associations using video observations and sonar imaging" at Deakin University. Demersal fish live at or near the bottom of a body of water. World Hydrography Day is on 22 June 2010. The East Australian Region seminar will be held on 13 September 2010 in Sydney. Hydro11 International Hydrographic Conference will be held on 7-11 November 2011 in Fremantle WA.
- **AIMS:** Presentation of the AIMS Scholarship at USQ (\$2500 per semester for 3 years) will be on 22 February. AIMS has recently advertised for members in *The Mining Chronicle*. The next Candidates' Workshop and Seminar will be on 19-20 February 2010.
- **BOSSI:** The Surveying & Spatial Information Act 2002 was assented to on 14 December 2009. Ed Garvin, nominated by ACS, has joined the Board, effective from 1 January 2010. Bruce Douglas, nominated by GITA, also joined the Board in place of Craig Hersant, effective from the same date. David Bruce has retired as a Board member. The Board removed from the Register 2 registered land surveyors who

“ticked the box” to indicate that they had complied with the Board's CPD requirements but had not. A major consideration was that each surveyor made a declaration knowing it to be false. Registration fees will rise this year by the 2.1% CPI, rounded to the nearest dollar. A draft outline of the Board's Supervision Determination is being circulated to the profession.

- **FIG2010:** Over 1500 people have registered to attend the Congress, from 100 countries. To date, 600 delegates are from Australia. On-line registration is still available at www.fig2010.com. Congress dates are 11-16 April 2010.
- **ISNSW:** Membership of the Institution is very strong, with 1317 members including 812 corporate members and 205 students. Students (free) no longer receive *Azimuth* but an electronic newsletter each month. The ISNSW offices will be officially opened by the NSW Governor, Prof Marie Bashir on Friday 7 May 2010. The Institution has a new post office box: PO Box 104 Darlinghurst NSW 1300. The DX address is being discontinued. The Excellence Awards this year will be held on Saturday 25 September at the Four Seasons Hotel, the Rocks (same venue as last year). Ticket prices have been reduced to \$155 per person.
- **ISNSW IEMS Group:** The 2010 TAFE Engineering Surveyor Scholarship is being offered to students from 3 campuses and will be presented at the graduation ceremony.
- **SSSI:** The national Board has held its Strategic Planning Day. SSSI will continue to support the Photogrammetry & Remote Sensing Prize at UNSW.
- **Surveyor-General:** The Surveyor General, Warwick Watkins, was made a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) in the Australia Day Honours List. LPI has installed 30 CORS around NSW, the most recent being Lithgow, Orange, West Wyalong, Singleton and Putty. From 19 February, CORSnet-NSW will switch to global GDA94 coordinates. In November 2009 LandXML was signed off as the National Standard for digital lodgement by ICSM (Intergovernmental Committee on Surveying and Mapping). Software vendors can now start creating LandXML files for testing and LPMA expects to accept test digital plan data (LXML) from surveyors in the 2nd quarter 2010. Full ePlan electronic plan processing is scheduled for completion 4th quarter 2010 including LandXML lodgment from test surveyors (survey content). Initially supporting tiff file; on-line validation (partial validation of survey data); electronically assisted examination and the storage and dissemination of XML digital files.
- **TAFE NSW:** Sydney Institute is actively seeking part-time teachers to assist with the workload. Sydney Institute has 45 FT and 30 PT enrolments in the Certificate III course and 10 new enrolments in the customised LPMA Certificate IV course. The on-line Certificate III course is going well but seems to be more suited to students who are also working in Surveying.
- **Uni of Newcastle:** There have been 31 acceptances for the Surveying degree course and 10 for the combined degree. The required ATAR for the degree was 70.7. 13 students graduated from the Bachelor of Surveying degree in the December 2009-January 2010 period.
- **UNSW:** In 2010 the School is offering 2 Engineering degree programs, in Surveying and Geoinformation Systems. It is estimated that there will be at least 10 new enrolments this year. The ATAR entry score was 91. Topics for thesis projects are welcomed from the profession – please contact Chris Rizos if you have an idea. The School is a Silver Sponsor of FIG2010 and both academics and students from the School are peppered through the technical program as presenters, chairs and rappetours. UNSW is also hosting a technical tour visit to the school on campus at UNSW. 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 next meeting of SMIC is on Friday 14 May 2010 and the AGM will be held on 16 July.

Mark T Gordon
Chairman