

SMIC NEWS

The 140th General Meeting of the Surveying & Mapping Industry Council of NSW was held on Friday 8 March 2013 at the RMS office at Parramatta.

The Council was pleased to receive advice from Dianne Dayhew from the NSW Construction and Select Property Services ITAB that the Diploma in Surveying, the Diploma in Spatial Information Services and the Advanced Diploma in Spatial Information Services are included in the 2013 NSW Skills Priority List as a 'High Priority'. Inclusion on this list is essential for government subsidies and it was disappointing that the feeder qualification Certificate III was not included. This is a challenge that the Council intends to pursue for 2014.

The Council was also pleased that Veronica Bondarew from ACS NSW tabled the research paper "*Determining the Future Demand, Supply and Skills Gap for Surveying and Geospatial Professionals*" 2013-2022. The study was discussed at great length. It was interesting that the paper acknowledged that the rapid advancement of technology meant that fewer surveyors could undertake a greater amount of *field* work than our predecessors, but the professional surveyor's role was changing to one of project management and data integrity. The paper concluded that professional surveyors are "*very highly skilled people who provide critical skills for national development*". The Council recommends the publication to all surveyors and spatial information specialists.

The Chairman, Mark Gordon, announced that the Ballot has now closed for Australian Standard AS 5488, *Classification of Subsurface Utility Information (SUI)*, and explained that this is where the national organisations (including the Surveying & Spatial Sciences Institute) represented on the development committee vote to either accept or reject the draft Standard. The Chairman reported that there was a 100% response rate and 100% approval for the document. Standards Australia stated that there could not be a more ringing endorsement of the Standard. The Chairman reminded the Council that the impetus for the new Australian Standard came through SMIC. Veronica Bondarew then tabled the Consulting Surveyors National Bi-annual Newsletter February 2013, which contained an article on SUI by the SMIC Chairman.

In his UNSW Report, Dr Craig Roberts advised that open forums on the Next Generation Datum will be presented at the upcoming 2013 APAS and SSC Conferences. The forums would seek feedback about the impact of the proposed dynamic datum currently being promoted by Geoscience Australia and the ICSM Permanent Committee on Geodesy. There is no doubt whatsoever that the implementation of a Next Generation (dynamic) Datum will have a major impact on surveyors and spatial specialists and the Council urges all readers to remain up-to-date with developments and actively participate in the discussions.

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: Lobbying has already begun following the release of the demand study. ACS NSW has negotiated with Macquarie University for the creation of an animated surveying game for high school students. National webinars continue to be successful, and the LinkedIn group now has over 200 members. 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: Contrary to our last report, the CAT A Hydrographic Surveying Course will not commence at Otago at any time in the near future, resulting in no CAT A course in the Southern Hemisphere. Commodore Rod Nairn's term as the RAN Hydrographer has ended and Brett Bruce is the new RAN Hydrographer of Australia. The Australasian Hydrographic Surveyors Certification Panel (AHSCP) recently celebrated its 60th meeting of the Panel and its 200th applicant.

AIMS: The 2013 Annual Conference will be held in Adelaide, South Australia.

ISNSW: The Australia Day Seminar attracted 256 Delegates and 18 trade representatives. The ISNSW Constitution has been reviewed to include the FIG definition of Surveying and the ability to appoint alternate directors to the ISNSW Board. The Excellence Awards will be held on Saturday 7 September at the Hilton Hotel, with Peter Berner as MC. A Property Council of Australia subcommittee has been established to interpret existing PCA guidelines and adjudicate on disputes between members. The Seniors Group luncheon was held at Parliament House in February, with 55 attendees. The BOSSI Cadastral Candidates Workshops in February attracted 15 candidates.

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.

SSSI: The webinar on 12 March detailing the new subsurface utility information Standard and its practical application attracted well over 50 participants. The SSC2013 'Collect, Connect, Capitalise' conference will be held in Canberra on 15-19 April 2013. The Remote Sensing & Earth Observation Field Seminar will be held twice a year, with the last one being held on 30 January at ISNSW and the next one planned for July/August 2013. The high profile speakers included Alexander Held (CSIRO), Adam Roff (OEH), James Smith (Intergraph), Professor Anthony Milne (UNSW), Brad Fulton (who spoke on the application of LiDAR to support Police detecting criminal activity in NSW) and Peter Kinne (DigitalGlobe). After the January event was a SSSI Networking Drinks function at Café Lounge Sydney.

Surveyor General: There are now 119 stations forming CORSnet NSW and Network RTK covers 33.6% of the State. The Electronic Conveyancing (Adoption of National Law) Act 2012, passed on 14 November 2012, means that there is a sound statutory basis for documents in electronic form being lodged and processed under NSW land titles legislation. Surveyors can now lodge plans in LandXML (LSML) format. LPI encourages NSW State and Local Government custodians to publish their spatial metadata on the NSW Spatial Data Catalogue, which replaces the Natural Resources Data Directory. All LPI Dealings registered from March 1962 are now available on-line. The Spatial Information Applications in Rural Australia (SIARA) project aims to list the national adoption rate of positioning technologies and controlled traffic farming from the current 15% to 50%. SiX Maps has replaced SiX Viewer and SiX Lite. The Sydney Satellites Project pilot, investigating the alternative positioning system Locata, had very impressive preliminary results, with RTK GPS and Locata agreeing to within 4.4cm (2D at 95%) for the first three loops analysed. The LPI Reviews are continuing, with the Surveyor-General holding briefing sessions for a number of stakeholder groups. For submissions, go to LPI.review@lpi.nsw.gov.au.

TAFE: The impacts of the "Smart & Skilled" government reforms are unknown at this stage but industry support for the continuance of courses will probably be required. Sydney Institute has enrolled 80 new students into the Certificate III full time and part time programs. There are another 80 continuing students in the Diploma of Surveying programs. LPI Bathurst has started a new intake of Spatial trainees. 45 students commenced Certificate III at Hunter Institute and there are 28 students in Year 2 of the Diploma. At Illawarra Institute, there are 75 core students enrolled in either Certificate III (face-to-face and on-line) or Diploma. Illawarra Institute is developing 10 short videos for PSOA on such topics as WHS, setting up over a mark and using a measuring tape.

University of Newcastle: The name of the Bachelor of Surveying degree is now the Bachelor of Engineering (Honours) (Surveying). There were 26 acceptances for the B. Engineering (Honours) (Surveying) degree, and 7 for the surveying/civil engineering combined degree, giving a total of 33. The ATAR cut off for the B. Surveying degree was set at 70.45. In the 2012 graduation ceremonies, there were a total of 20 graduates from the Bachelor of Surveying program. With the retirement of Dr Harvey Mitchell in 2012, surveying full time academic staff has been reduced two in 2013. It was hoped that a replacement would be in place for the beginning of 2013, however this was not possible and the University is re-advertising the position. The University has decided to advertise for two surveying academic positions, one at Professor/Associate Professor level and another at a Lecturer/Senior Lecturer level. For this year, Dr Eric Kniest has been appointed as temporary academic staff member for Semester 1, from his position as Professional Officer. Mr Ron Murtagh has been appointed at a Professor Officer to replace Dr Kniest for this period. The

Pro Vice-Chancellor of the Faculty of Engineering and Built Environment, Professor John Carter will retire from his position at the end of April this year.

University of New South Wales: The School of Surveying And Geospatial Engineering (SAGE) has merged with the School of Civil and Environmental Engineering, with the new Head of School being Professor Stephen Foster. In 2013 there are 450+ first year Civil Engineering students and 10+ first year Surveying students. The Australian Centre for Space Engineering Research (ACSER) is moving to the School of Electrical Engineering. ACSER hosted a very successful Off Earth Mining Forum on 19-21 February, attracting a lot of media attention. 30 participants attended the GPS/GNSS for the Modern Surveyor workshop on 14-15 February 2013. The short course on Airborne LiDAR Data Acquisition and Processing was cancelled due to lack of numbers. Open forums on the Next Generation Datum will be presented at the 2013 APAS and SSC conferences.

The next meeting of the NSW Surveying & Mapping Industry Council will be held at the offices of Roads & Maritime Services in Parramatta on Friday 17 May 2013.

Mark T Gordon
Chairman