

REPORT ON THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE INSTITUTION OF SURVEYORS, AUSTRALIA

On Saturday 25 May 2002, the Institution formally celebrated its 50th Anniversary at Parliament House, Canberra, with a one-day conference followed by a gala black-tie dinner.

Conference

Institution President Phil Hayward welcomed the 80 participants to the Conference. Phil spoke about his pride in the Institution, the significance of being a profession and the unique identity or “branding” of surveying.

Keith Bell, Surveyor General of Victoria, who organised the Conference program, served as Master of Ceremonies for the day.

The Conference was opened by Gary Nairn, MP, Federal member for Eden-Monaro. Gary is a land surveyor, previously in partnership with Earl James, AM, the former President of FIG. Gary has been recently appointed by the Prime Minister to chair the first House of Representatives Standing Committee on Science and Innovation. He advised that:

Science, engineering, technology and innovation are the future of Australia's wealth creation. We are and can continue to be world leaders in these fields. The surveying profession is a vital part of it. not only in the enabling sciences but also in the humanities.

Gary spoke on the importance of the National Spatial Information Action Agenda, and the leading role that surveyors must play in its implementation.

Amongst the conference speakers, Victoria was very well represented. Professor Emeritus Terry Roberts, HonFISAust, was the Conference Keynote Speaker. Initially, Terry provided authoritative insight to the origins of the Institution and the bringing together of the federation. However, the major focus of Terry's address, concerned the challenges and opportunities that now faced the Institution and the profession arising from the National Spatial Information Action Agenda. Terry spoke in support of institutional reform and the need to ensure that any new organisational arrangements enhanced the surveying profession. As Terry reminded everyone, if you get the model right and adopt open communications, the hearts and minds of the members of the Institution would follow.

Gabby McCarthy, Coombes Consulting, spoke on gender equity issues for the surveying profession and the need to address the different needs of women, in order to better market surveying as an attractive career for women.

Chris Bellman, RMIT Geospatial Sciences, spoke on the broad range of new photogrammetric and satellite imagery technology, available for the surveying profession to use in land and engineering applications.

Other speakers included:

- Dean Wallington, Councillor from Western Australian who discussed the legacies of the baby boomers and the challenges for Generation X Surveyors
- Matt Higgins, from Queensland and recently appointed Chair of FIG Commission 3 Positioning and Measurement, who spoke on the global environment for surveyors
- Russell Wenholz, from Canberra, provide a personal anthology of a lifetime of interesting and amusing personal anecdotes of a land surveyor, drawing on the lessons of literary notaries such as Kafka.
- John Brock, NSW, presented an enthralling anthology of surveyors on film.

Frank Culliver Jnr, VicRoads, was an invited panel member of the Hypothetical, conducted by Professor Terry Birtles, Australian Defence Force Academy (ADFA). The Hypothetical focussed on a range of scenarios that surveyors could face during the coming decades. The challenges included:

- Organisational reforms of the Institution, including amalgamations with kindred associations
- Changes to the regulatory environments for land surveyors
- The retirement of baby boomer surveyors
- Broadening of reciprocity of licensing to include Asian-pacific rim countries

Frank Culliver Snr, Hon FISAust, who was a foundation member of the Institution received special mention for his attendance at the celebrations.

In the closing session of the Conference, President Phil Hayward proposed the following Resolution:

2002, being the 50th anniversary of the Institution of Surveyors Australia, acknowledges the contributions surveyors to Australia's development, and to the leadership, past and present.

To ensure the future of the surveying profession, the Institution commits to:

- *Leading institutional reform that recognises and enhances the scope of the surveying profession, as defined by the International Federation of Surveyors (FIG), for the betterment of society*
- *Pursuing initiatives that improve equity in the surveying profession*
- *Encouraging the surveying profession of Australia to continue to contribute at the global level*

The Resolution was passed unanimously.

Gala Dinner

Approximately 150 people attended the gala dinner at the Mural Room of Parliament House.

Richard Simpson, Carson Simpson, was at his quintessential best as Master of Ceremonies for the gala dinner. As usual, Richard's quick wit and showmanship ensured that a good time was had by all.

Phil Hayward, accompanied by his wife Joan, received a standing ovation, as he led in the official party. Throughout the evening, Phil, performed a range of presidential duties including the cutting of the birthday cake.

Gary Nairn, MP was guest of honour at the dinner. In his speech he advised:
The spatial information industry is on a 'roll'. Governments world-wide are recognising that cadastral and land management systems are fundamental to economic development, social stability and environmental management. Politicians are listening to us more than ever.

James Moodie, Young Engineer of the Year, also spoke at the dinner. James is passionate about space and the environment. He is currently employed on the FedSat project as a systems analyst. His speech had the dual themes of socially conscious surveying and surveying with a vision. James commented:
I believe that the time has come for surveying to again become the well-regarded profession that it once was. Surveyors were the people who built this country, and who have the knowledge and skills to take us forward into this new millennium."

James described surveying as an enabling technology:
Surveying, or spatial information is the enabling technology for sustainability. Remember the IT revolution? We may very well be witnessing spatial information taking

the same sort of significance and growth, as information becomes more available, relevant and accessible and location-business grows through the enabling technologies of GPS and remote sensing systems.

Like many of us in the profession, James highlighted perceptions of the image and esteem of surveyors:

However, surveyors need to be proactive in communicating these skills. To stop being seen as disintegrated and irrelevant you need to market your knowledge and talents through cohesive marketing campaigns and focus on a vision for the future of the profession. It is time to change mindsets, to challenge the paradigms of the past and focus on what surveyors can offer the community.

And for a really visionary finish, James suggested:

However, surveying with a vision may be even more than working with space and satellites in low earth orbit. We are starting to explore other planets, to understand the universe, and to once again be the explorers. When we finally settle on Mars who do you think they are going to ask to do the cadastre?

Gold Medal

A commemorative gold medal was struck and is available for purchase from the Institution's national office (Ph. 02 6282 2282). Only a limited number have been struck. Order now.

Conference Papers

A report of the celebrations is currently being prepared for *Measure and Map*. Also, a copy of all conference papers, and the dinner speeches will be placed on the ISA website during the coming weeks.

Keith C. Bell, FISAust
Councillor

3 June 2002