

Providing leadership and advice to government on surveying and spatial information



The Surveyor General of NSW is one of the oldest government positions dating back to 1787 when it was established in England prior to the sailing of the first fleet. Since then the Surveyor General has continued to provide leadership and advice to government on surveying and spatial information.

The past year has seen a focus on careers promotion and industry capacity building to address the current skills shortage and moves to improve policy co-ordination and legislative frameworks.

Promotion of the profession through a series of historical surveying events in partnership with industry associations and National Trust of Australia provided a number of highlights during the 2006 Heritage Festival featuring 'Celebrate Surveying' as one of the handful of signature events.

Policy co-ordination and legislation

Achievements during the past year include:

- Facilitation of a workshop in conjunction with Melbourne University on 'Marine Administration – Understanding the Spatial Dimension'. The workshop attracted over 50 delegates to discuss policy issues and future research directions in the development of a marine cadastre able to describe, visualise and manage rights, restrictions and responsibilities in the marine environment.
- Commenced the second stage of the development of a NSW Spatial Information Strategy which will provide a whole of industry policy framework for spatial information.
- Passage of the *Surveying Amendment Act* on 15 July 2005 clarifying the operation of disciplinary and

committee functions of the Board of Surveying and Spatial Information (BOSSI).

- The BOSSI Spatial Information Committee was reconstituted to include a broad range of key industry stakeholders. Committee members collectively represent over 100 entities across public, private and academic sectors ensuring a comprehensive input on policy and co-ordination issues.

Skills and education capacity building

The Surveyor General initiated or coordinated a number of new incentives to build capacity and encourage excellence in the areas of skills formation through:

- Creation of two new Scholarships in Surveying and Spatial Information (S&SI)
 - Surveyor General's Undergraduate Scholarship in S&SI
 - Surveyor General's International Fellowship in S&SI
- Sponsorship for TAFE Surveying students to gain essential Occupational Health and Safety training in conjunction with Sydney Water, NSW Maritime and Newcastle Port Corporation
- Assisting the promotion of surveying as a career, resulting in a record number of attendees at the Kurri Kurri candidate surveyor workshop.

Commemorative proclamation of the NSW/Victorian border

In February 2006, the Governor of Victoria John Landy and the Governor of NSW Professor Marie Bashir formalised the adoption of part of the NSW/Victorian border near Delegate known as the Black-Allen Line.

Due to a quirk of history this section of the border had not previously been proclaimed. At a major event involving state ministers, the local community and surveyors, both Governors formally acknowledged the adoption of the border survey by surveyors Alexander Black and Alexander Allan. Governors Landy and Bashir paid tribute to this extraordinary survey which traversed over 300 miles across some of Australia's wildest country and the personal contributions by surveyors Black and Allan and the survey profession to statehood and democracy.

Celebrate surveying

The Surveyor General was a major sponsor of and participant in the 2006 National Trust Heritage Festival in Canberra, Queanbeyan and regional NSW which included:

- Unveiling a plaque in Queanbeyan at the foot of a statue of William Farrer, famous wheat breeder, acknowledging his contributions as a licensed surveyor prior to becoming a wheat scientist
- Participation in a ceremony to officially open 'Surveyors Park' within State Circle on Capital Hill, Canberra, dedicated to all surveyors who have contributed to Australia's development
- Preservation and protection of the historic Lake George Trigonometrical Baseline near Bungendore at a ceremony involving all Surveyors General from Australia and New Zealand
- Sponsorship and publication of the 'States of a Nation – the Politics and Surveys of the Australian State Borders' which relates the story not only of the politics that created

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the position of the borders but also the work of the 'quiet achievers' – the surveyors who surveyed the demarcation between the states.

The Surveyor General is President of the Board of Surveying and Spatial Information and a report of The Board begins on page 72.



Warwick Watkins

Surveyor General

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Preserving the history,
culture and identity of
New South Wales

