



Surveying Apprenticeships

Ladies and Gents

As some of you are no doubt aware an apprenticeship scheme is now available for surveying firms to take advantage of if looking at employing a young school leaver, or young adult who may wish to (or have the capacity to) continue on with training in their chosen profession. Currently there is one approved course under the apprenticeship scheme available to the surveying industry which is the 'Certificate III in Spatial Information Services'. It doesn't sound like anything to do with surveying but in fact it is the introductory course which can then lead straight into the diploma course and then on and upwards into the degree and, if the individual is so motivated, further onwards to registration as a licensed surveyor.

As an employer you may wish to take advantage of the scheme which will require you to enter into a training contract with your trainee. This contract is taken out through 'Apprenticeships Victoria' to allow you as an employer to take advantage of the government incentives on offer. Should you wish to find out more information the web address is: www.australia.gov.au/australianapprenticeships or you can contact Australian Apprenticeships through 1800 639 629.

The Certificate III currently on offer through RMIT at the Melbourne campus consists of six blocks of three days through the year of contact time where the Trainee must undertake the formal course at RMIT. Outside of this time the employer is required as part of the traineeship to adequately provide training to equip the trainee with the skills to undertake the work that the firm covers. Most firms would do this as a matter of course in the day to day training of new employees over the course of their employment. A similar course was also discussed by **Alan Timcke** in Traverse No 241 held in the Benalla region although I don't believe that it falls on the recognized course available for government incentive payments.

Our profession is currently going through a severe shortage of skilled individuals and a lack of advertising to those young adults coming out of the high school system. At the same time we have the Universities offering courses for surveying that do not even contain the word 'surveying' and thus add further confusion to the mix. I understand RMIT has had its department of Geospatial Science (surveying) changed. It now forms part of the School of

Mathematical & Geospatial Sciences, and it is fighting to obtain adequate funding and numbers to keep itself viable. Melbourne University is, as of next year, going to a five year degree for those wishing to undertake surveying, meaning that even more time will be required for those individuals wishing to become registered as Licensed Surveyors. Personally I'm not sure that I would have pursued this as a career option knowing I would be spending in excess of seven straight years before I was able to become registered as a licensed surveyor.

On the positive side of this dilemma is the recognition by, I think, most of the profession that we all need to take an active role in seeing surveying kick on as we form a necessary link in the process of land development and infrastructure construction. Both the ISV and ACSV are committed to putting more time and effort into advertising what we are about and thus would also like to see the balance of firms and individuals put a little time in letting people know what it is that we do. The more active we all are in informing the general public what it is that we actually do the greater likelihood it will be that we are able to convince young adults to entertain the prospect of taking up a role in our profession as a career.

The RMIT Certificate III is currently run through the TAFE division and the contact is **Stephen Larson** who, I am sure, would answer any questions you might have. Should you wish to review the current outline of the course you can do so through the following steps:

- (1) visit www.ntis.gov.au
- (2) Click on 'Training Packages'

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Patron
Professor David de Kretser, AO,
Governor of Victoria