



Peripheral Professional Projects

Goulburn Ovens TAFE has plans to run a SIS Certificate III in 2008 and it hopes to run a SIS Certificate IV in the same year. There appears to be a sufficient number of interested “would be survey people” to fill the courses. The very fact that there are such courses available is due to the enthusiasm and foresight of the Senior Surveyor at Goulburn Murray Water, Paul Kenny, who was ably supported and encouraged by the Shepparton and Benalla Campus of TAFE during 2006 and 2007.

There will undoubtedly be a number of young(er) persons wishing to find out more of the challenges and pleasures in being part of the Spatial Industries activities, particularly those of surveying. They will all have a terrifying understanding of electronic machines, ie Total Stations, GPS and computers and an even more frightening lack of comprehension as to the probable accuracy and reliability. One of the many objects of the SIS Certificate III and Certificate IV courses is to fill in that gap!

People entering the work force over recent years are required to know a lot about many things which were not yet invented one or two generations ago! I am reminded of a short comment which appeared in The Australian Surveyor during the 1960s. The article, knowingly, said “In the modern day politicians are expected to know about many things unknown to their forebears. As time goes on and there is less time to acquire knowledge politicians learn less and less about more and more until in the end they know nothing about everything. On the other hand, accountants are now required to specialise and learn more and more about less and less until in the end they will know all about nothing”. Perhaps some politicians and accountants have already reached those positions!

One could reasonably ask how surveyors and other people in the calling are moving on one or other of the above possibilities. In the general rush to acquire technical knowledge and skills it may be that those involved are neglecting other important and sometimes necessary skills. Some such topics which come to mind are related to music, sport, school councils, community groups, education and meeting procedure.

Who has not been to a meeting of some of the above organisations and wondered why nothing was resolved or achieved? The answer is very simple – a set procedure and process for all meetings has evolved over centuries and it can be demonstrated that such procedures, properly applied, achieve results. As a group of people involved in

a fairly large range of meetings, planning requirements, instruction and dealing with other people and organisations, surveyors **need** to have some understanding of meeting procedure. Herewith a very basic summary of “Meeting Procedure”.

Chairman

Why have a Chairman? Why not just let the meeting get on with its business. This is a surefire way of creating a local Tower of Babel.

A meeting is essentially a democratic assembly, the purpose of which is the sharing of ideas and an intention to come to a common or majority agreement. To achieve this aim the Chairman must guide and help the meeting to come to agreement. In practice this means facilitating open discussion until representative opinions have been expressed. It also implies encouraging the timid member and curbing the over-enthusiastic member whilst helping others express their various opinions in clear wording.

The Chairman is to be regarded as a host at meetings and his or her job is to bring together and resolve the various issues before the meeting.

To achieve these objectives the Chairman has a certain amount of authority to maintain order and to see that accepted formalities are observed. Where does that authority and the rules of debate come from?

The accepted rules supporting the authority of the Chairman come from the Parliaments, Common Law, Written Articles of Association and Constitutions. The tradition and custom of a particular organisation also has an influence. Today’s Chairman uses tried and tested techniques which have evolved over hundreds of years.

[continued on Page 4]

Patron
Professor David de Kretser, AO,
Governor of Victoria