



## 50 Years of Surveying

In recent years various academic institutions have scrambled to delete the words Surveyor or surveying from the courses on offer. The comment applies to the universities and to the various TAFE institutions, most of which have adopted the word Spatial or Geomatics in the nominated former surveying courses. As an example the definition of one of the elements of the TAFE SIS Certificate III and Certificate IV course is 'Collect Spatial Data'. This is indeed a long handed way of saying Surveying!

Many of my contemporaries and I took up the challenge of surveying through association with Surveyors or deciding it was a calling which needed brains and brawn. Those of my vintage qualified as a Land Surveyor by presenting to the former Surveyors Board examinations after being articed to a Licensed Surveyor. It should be noted that the then Surveyors Board tried to present a broad understanding of the many facets of surveying, although the aim of the topics was to produce a cadastral surveyor.

During the early post WW2 years there were no other Surveying qualifications available from academic institutions. I was first interested in surveying during my young years as a Cub and Scout. The Scout Leader of my troop was a Surveyor. He joined the army and was one who never returned. I admired "Wogje" Smith and was enthralled with his tales of surveying activities. I later became involved with my Scout group in setting out the Jamboree campsite at Wonga Park, Ringwood.

National Service followed in the early 1950's and I was fortunate enough to 'do' my time in the R.A Survey C.M.F. and 2Topo Svy Co.

Entering employment and articles in 1954, I was fortunate in being assigned to a marvellously patient and understanding man, **Syd Saunders**. There



will be some of you who remember Syd as a former ISV President. I also worked with **Graham Knuckey** and **Gordon Knuckey**, both competent surveyors. Syd Saunders was an ex Survey Corps Surveyor from WW2 and he told some sad and lots of humorous stories of the army.

In 2Topo Svy Co. an annual camp was held in which a 1:63360 or a 1:31680 map was produced from aerial photographs and ground survey methods. The unit consisted of three groups - Surveyors, Draughtsmen and Printers.

The Draughtsmen and Printers acted as chairmen for the early part of the camp and the Surveyors acted as assistants or "gofors" to the Draughtsmen and Printers in the later times of

the camps. This meant that all members of 2Topo Svy Co had a good working understanding of the then complete map making process.

Can the same be said of modern Spatial or Geomatics students?

The Board Examinations, held in the Engineering Department, University of Melbourne, were a great social occasion for articed pupils from country Victoria. There were many pupils who met there each six months at the same examination subject!

To return to my initial theme, most of the articed pupils struggled through the Board Examinations and became Licensed Surveyors and were let loose on the unsuspecting public. However, in the same way as learner drivers improve, those then recently qualified surveyors branched out into all the facets of surveying and became experienced and competent practitioners in many fields.

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