



Patron: Professor David de Kretser, AC, Governor of Victoria

Training the Other Surveyor

The education and training of surveyors is well documented and structured throughout the various learning institutions in Australia. Not so well known and developed is the training regime required for those not wanting to be professional surveyors, but more attuned to being a technical officer or assistant to a surveyor.

The role of the survey technical officer and/ or assistant is every bit as important as that of the surveyor. Some may disagree with this statement, although knowing that you have a competent assistant adds considerably to the ease of undertaking a survey, adds to the enjoyment of the survey and makes reductions and finality very much easier.

This short paper (for longer version contact writer) is about setting up training regimes for those who wish to take on this role of a survey technical officer and/ or assistant. It came about by a desperate need to have staff trained in various areas of surveying in order to provide the required assistance to professional surveyors. It also came about by a need to provide training in country centres for those who did not want to migrate to the capital cities, preferring to retain a rural lifestyle. Finally it came about by a need to provide an indenture style training regime that would provide a combination of in house and classroom arrangements. To date the cooperation of the employers to the scheme has been successful and students are finding the course material and lectures a positive reinforcement to their on the job learning.

Apart from the learning achievements, students graduate with a certificate which they can then use to negotiate more favourable arrangements in the employment process. The qualification will ensure that the survey assistant will have a more rounded understanding of the nature of the business in matters of safety, quality assurance, data interaction and client relationship.

Setting up a new study arrangement within the TAFE sector, employers and student groups has been a heavy task for all those involved, although it has been a rewarding one. It is not always easy to have people persist to the finale in training, particularly those who have been in employment for many years or those who see no significant advantage in furthering what they already have. The emphasis placed in this learning process has been the changing face of surveying in the light of technological change and the importance of the surveying industry in furthering that change.

Surveying is a specialist role although the magnitude of the role is expanding and exciting to the professional and assistant. Therefore ongoing education is fundamental to maintaining a constant grasp on training though formalised structures, conferences and on the job training. My experience with a significant number of surveyors is their need to pursue further studies and training.

A number of colleagues have been actively involved in training students. We are using our own experiences to transfer knowledge to our younger colleagues. We continue to seek support from the profession in further developing new learning approaches for the "other" surveyor.

In summary what we have achieved to date at TAFE is:

- 2 Certificate III courses (18 months) have been completed and students have graduated.
- 1 Certificate III course is currently running.
- 1 Certificate IV course has been completed and students have graduated.
- 1 Certificate IV course is currently running with a second course due to commence later this month.

In addition discussions are taking place in relation to the commencement of a Diploma course.

The team running the courses are always keen to hear from members of the profession with ideas on what they would like to see in the course structure, and to provide potential students. We are also available to provide assistance in setting up similar courses in other areas as a means of developing the profession.

The primary contacts are

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