

AIMS Secretary's Report 2018/2019

Fellow AIMS members,

On what has been the first year of the “changing of some of the guard”, with many new Directors taking on roles on the Board, the year has run very smoothly. We have held a Business Planning Workshop and six well attended Board Meetings throughout the year. The continued success of the State Subcommittees and the inclusion State Representatives at meetings has made them far more efficient and effective.

The addition of a second West Australian Director, Jo Jenson, has already yielded benefits with both her and Shane strongly representing AIMS to industry and students in the west. Dan Ward and Quentin Albertyn as our fresh faces for state committees have injected a lot of energy into our Institute, especially the development of a mentoring program to be rolled out soon.

With legal requirements increasing and also our industry changing, AIMS has to constantly evolve.

AIMS is soon to be registered for GST and the challenge of meeting ASIC requirements, in addition to ensuring our liquidity, by our Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer requires constant attention. The financial side of the workload of AIMS is now quite onerous and with their great efforts we are making sound decisions based on proper planning and budgets to ensure our future success.

With our current skills shortages, AIMS has continued to contribute and represent in the promotion of our profession with “Life Without Limits” program and Destination Spatial. More university visits are being planned in both Australia and New Zealand campuses with Survey Programs to talk to undergraduates about mining. This is being done at next to no cost to members.

AIMS, whilst a not-for-profit, truly is a business and has to operate like one with limited resources. As we consider where best to support our members and industry we should be constantly looking at where our money is most effectively spent. Whilst Student Sponsorships are still to be encouraged, there is in my opinion, no guarantee that sponsorship will lead to the students entering the mining industry. I would like to see more discussion on whether we should be spending more funds on promoting mine surveying to tertiary and secondary students rather than sponsorships.

Mark McShane continues to do an outstanding job on our website and being an ex-mine surveyor often fills in the gaps for articles because he understands what we do. The website, e-newsletters and social media are our most valuable communication vehicles and Mark contributes to all of these in a very professional manner.



The subject of increased fees will be raised which is required to ensure we maintain financial, with growing costs and obligations. AIMS continues to be the lowest cost surveying organisation and the rises will be as low as practical to keep up the level of services undertaken. I trust the membership understands the necessity for this.

As a profession that values practical competence with minimal fanfare, it is not surprising that we have only had a few nominees for Mine Surveyor of the Year. I believe that the AIMS Awards are a great initiative and we as a profession need to celebrate our achievement and have pride in what we do. I would encourage all members to think of those in your work life both old and new that are doing great things and put their name forward next year. I congratulate the winners of this year and look forward to another hectic year in our currently booming industry.

I intend to continue on in the Secretary role next year, if nominated and accepted and thank all our members for supporting our Board and the many events we conduct each year.

Regards,

Mick Harris
Secretary