



**WORKING
WEEK 2025**



Locate25 | 
THE NATIONAL GEOSPATIAL CONFERENCE



Brisbane, Australia 6–10 April

Presented at the FIG Working Week 2025,
6–10 April 2025 in Brisbane, Australia

Engaging Primary School Students (and Their Parents) with Surveying

Volker Janssen

DCS Spatial Services

NSW Department of Customer Service (DCS)

Bathurst, NSW, Australia



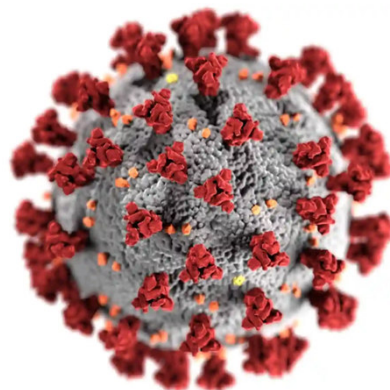
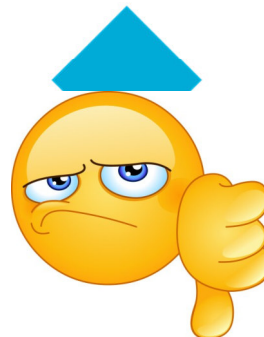
PLATINUM SPONSORS



CHCNAV



It all started here...



Exercise,
entertainment,
education



SSM Spotting

- Initiative to **engage** primary school students (and their parents) with surveying.
- **Educational & fun**, while also promoting community **engagement** & delivering real-world **benefits** to surveying profession.
- Students to take parents/carers for walk in local neighbourhood & find **State Survey Marks (SSMs)** located along the kerb.

- Investigate mark's **health** status & take **photographs** of mark & its surroundings.



Outcome

- Successfully captivated students' interest.
- 275 survey marks spotted & photographed.
- Associated metadata updated on public record, contributing to maintenance of NSW survey control network.
- SSM spotting is easily adaptable for high school or tertiary students.
- Activity has potential to target citizen science or fundraising.



Survey Mark Photos



Metadata Update on Public Record (SCIMS)

Manual Update

SCIMS 2000

Mark SS 97645

Mark Details

Ecce	Mark Type	Mark Location	Placed By	Date Placed
0	UNKNOWN	GROUND LEVEL		

Oops!

COORDINATES ALIAS/STATUS BEACON TRIG CAD REF

Mark Alias

Alias Name

Mark Status

Status

Comments

Date Reported

New Mark Retire Mark Save Search Exit

Manual Update

SCIMS 2000

Mark SS 97645

Mark Details

Ecce	Mark Type	Mark Location	Placed By	Date Placed
0	SSM TYPE 2	GROUND LEVEL	BATHURST REGIONAL COU	18-JAN-1999

Oops!

COORDINATES ALIAS/STATUS BEACON TRIG CAD REF

Mark Alias

Alias Name

Mark Status

Status

Comments

Date Reported

FOUND INTACT SSM SPOTTING. BATHURST SOUTH PUBLIC SCHOOL. 14-JUL-2023

New Mark Retire Mark Save Search Exit

Survey Mark Repair

- Health status notes & close-up photos used.
- SSM plaque wobbling, removable or buried by bitumen.
- **Trip hazards** due to PM cover box lid stuck or missing.
- PM cover box **pushed off mark**
→ mark could not be occupied.



Conclusion

- **SSM spotting:**
 - Engage primary school students.
 - Promote community engagement.
 - Deliver real-world benefits.
- Successful outcome (**275 marks**) despite challenges encountered.
- Easily **adaptable** for high school or tertiary students.
- Potential for citizen science & fundraising.

- **Aim:** Educate general public, raise profile of surveyor & attract more people to profession.



The most relevant SDGs related to the presentation and theme of this session

1st relevant
SDG

4 **QUALITY
EDUCATION**



2nd relevant
SDG

5 **GENDER
EQUALITY**



3rd relevant
SDG

9 **INDUSTRY, INNOVATION
AND INFRASTRUCTURE**



**SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT GOALS**

International Federation of Surveyors supports the
Sustainable Development Goals



**WORKING
WEEK 2025**

AND

Locate25 | **G**
THE NATIONAL GEOSPATIAL CONFERENCE

Collaboration, Innovation and Resilience:
Championing a Digital Generation



Geospatial
Council of Australia

Brisbane, Australia 6–10 April

STEP 1: SELECT HERE THE THREE MOST RELEVANT SDGs
STEP 2: COPY THE SDG INTO PREVIOUS SLIDE



ORGANISED BY



Geospatial
Council of Australia

PLATINUM SPONSORS



CHCNAV

