

The First Decade: Lessons Learned from SSSI's National YP Network

Simon Callaghan (Australia)

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SUMMARY

Australia's Surveying & Spatial Sciences Institute (SSSI) National Young Professionals Committee (YPs) began a little over a decade ago with the aim of empowering young professionals and students in SSSI's governance. The founding National Young Spatial Professionals Committee developed a space to encourage innovation. With the establishment of regional committees in each state and territory, as well as New Zealand, the YPs have grown into a central force within SSSI. The success of the SSSI YPs has grown over the decade through sustained efforts, but has not been uniform within each region. The special interest group has prospered through two Institute changes and an amalgamation, and recently saw the introduction of free student memberships to ensure the longevity of SSSI. There has been recent discussion as to the definition used by SSSI for YPs, currently 35 years and younger. Despite these pressures SSSI YPs continue to prosper, with many of SSSI's past and present Board Directors coming through the YP ranks. There are valuable lessons that can be learned from the SSSI YP experience over the past decade, applicable to other professional associations establishing young professional groups.