

NULCA 20th Anniversary Yearbook

20th ANNIVERSARY EDITION

WWW.NULCA.COM



NULCA 2024

The success of NULCA undoubtedly stands as a testament to the unwavering loyalty and support of its members, both longstanding and recently joined. The journey from a mere idea in 2003 to the thriving association it is today is a story of collaboration, dedication, and shared vision.

Our hard working team are continually focused on successfully implementing new strategies and lines of support for our members and industry as a whole. This focus will result in improved industry safety and compliance initiatives that will ultimately lead to increased revenue and market share.



March, 2024

NULCA 20 Years and counting. Join us at a number of events in celebrating this special milestone including special events at the Crowne Plaza in Surfers Paradise.

Top News

Articles this special edition:

- NULCA Board Report
- The (Very)Early Years of NULCA - One Mans Recollection
- Magic Wand - Issue 6
- 20 Years of NULCA from a Suppliers Perspective (Access Detection)
- NULCA Training History
- Past Presidents Reflections
- Radiodetection advances in technology that lead to benefits for all
- and much, much more!



NULCA 20th Anniversary Yearbook

20th ANNIVERSARY EDITION

WWW.NULCA.COM



March, 2024



NULCA - Ahead in Leaps & Bounds

Two decades ago, a vision was born - a vision of fostering collaboration, promoting best practice and enhancing safety in underground utility operations.

Today as we reflect on our journey, we celebrate the collective achievements, the progress made and the invaluable contributions of each member who has been a part of this extraordinary endeavour.

It's also worth noting the significance of the support received from these current and former members and leaders. In any endeavor, having a strong support system is essential, and NULCA has been fortunate to have such a network backing its endeavors. Whether it's through financial contributions, advocacy efforts, or simply being a sounding board for ideas, the collective support of the NULCA community has been indispensable.

We are delighted and extremely proud to bring you this special edition of the NULCA Newsletter.



Our Commitment Are you on board?

NULCA commits to a continuation of working together, inspiring each other, and pushing the boundaries of what is possible in the realm of utility locating.

Reflection & Celebration

Throughout our history together, NULCA has always strived to be a beacon of excellence, a platform for innovation and a driving force for positive change in our industry. Together, we have overcome challenges, embraced technological advancements, and set new standards of professionalism and proficiency.

As we continue to celebrate this significant milestone, let us take a moment to honor the dedication, passion, and hard work of all those that have played a part in shaping NULCA into the thriving community it is today. Our journey thus far is a testament to the power of collaboration, the silence of spirit and the unwavering commitment to our shared mission.

Behind the Scenes



NULCA Treasurer - Shirlee Cook
(NULCA Member Number 1) with
John Croxson (original NULCA
Member Number 2)

FleetCard 

FleetCard™ frees you to get on with your business

Nothing compares to the feeling of freedom. FleetCard makes life on the road easier for Nulca members with a single card that's accepted almost everywhere – with savings you can see. Accepted at over 90% of Australia's fuel sites, it's the only card you'll ever need for vehicle expenses.

Newsletter Highlight

NULCA Board Report



Welcome to 20 years of NULCA.

To those that were there first, thank you.

For those that were there along the way, thank you.

For those that are still here, thank you.

NULCA is still here.

Through NULCA I have had the ability to travel to all the Australian states, New Zealand, Singapore, USA and now Canada. Whether that be meetings, training, presentations, standards or assessments. Before anyone comments, most trips are majorly self funded with some expenses refunded. On average I have counted well over one day per week away from my business for 15 years now. That's 20% of my time, non productive in my company.

Would I change anything? NO. Someone has to do it.

I honestly thought the industry was making progress, attending meetings in every state, Certification was accepted, DBYD, DCL and NULCA were all progressing and working harmoniously. Then COVID hit March 2020. The world stopped. I was ready to fly to the USA on a family holiday and to attend the US CGA, leaving on a Monday when all transport was virtually stopped by the government on the Friday before.

To adapt we moved to some extent to online meetings. I can not say they are close to the same but possibly better than nothing. I am not still sold but we will be guided on members as to progress with these or maybe try to mix online with face-to-face meetings. It is the members decision.

A delayed ASTT NoDig (2021) in 2022 in Sydney was our first outing as an organisation with around 100 participants attending our get together, not necessarily a meeting but a greeting. Downside is I heard around 10 or so participants contracted covid from the conference, not necessarily our meeting.

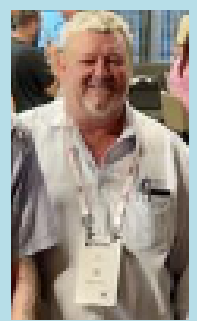
Our next gathering was a meeting after ASTT NoDig Brisbane in September. Not as successful but around 50 in attendance.

In November, for the first time I had the opportunity to attend the Canadian CGA in Fairmont Le Château Frontenac Quebec. More on this later.

By the time this is published I will have been to Perth to reconnect with our Perth Members. The main topic is BYDA. Are they helping the locators?

Newsletter Highlight

NULCA Board Report cont.



BYDA have invited a NULCA member to participate on each state advisory committee which hopefully will bridge communication between our organisations allowing two way communication.

Moving forward, OUR 20 YEARS.

Please help celebrate this event at the Crowne Plaza on the Gold Coast, 16-17 March, 2024. The program will be finalised by print but expect 10-12 dedicated suppliers, 7-9 presentations all around locating techniques, a short drinks package each afternoon, lunch Friday, a cocktail function Thursday night and a dinner Friday night. Accommodation and all details are available on NULCA website. The conference is free for anyone in the industry with a small fee for evening meals for non-members. Please bring your staff along and invite anyone in the industry if our invitation has not reached them.

Ian Lambert
NULCA Board

Newsletter Highlight

Increasing Professionalism in the Locating Industry - DBYD Certification Ltd (DCL)

In Australia, the Certified Locator program has been running successfully since 2015. The national program was established following concerns from utility owners about the inconsistency of locating skills and expertise and the damage occurring to their assets – and the risk this posed to workers and the public. They wanted something in place to distinguish professional locators from the various ‘DIY’ or self-authorised locating operators and minimum standards established that supported best practices.

A Collaborative Initiative

To ensure an appropriate solution met key needs, in 2013 a cross-industry working party was established to address the pressing issues faced by utility owners. The collaboration and cooperation between Australia’s notification centre (then the Australian Association of Dial Before You Digs), NULCA, major utility owners, and representatives from the construction and training industries saw the creation of Australia’s Certified Locator program.

Setting the Standard

Today, the Certified Locator program is delivered by DBYD Certification Ltd (DCL), whose motto is to see “Every Locator a Certified Locator”. DCL oversees the certification of underground utility locators and ensures they have the required skills and experience to identify critical buried assets. Furthermore, when ground disturbers use a Certified Locator, they know that locator has been through a rigorous assessment and has the expertise to complete all types of location work to accepted industry standards.

State	Certified Locators
NSW	280
VIC	246
QLD	220
WA	118
SA	98
TAS	25
NT	16
ACT	6

To gain certification, locators must pass a comprehensive theory exam and practical field assessment by an independent industry assessor. Covering equipment proficiency, workplace safety, locating theory, and verification procedures, the assessment ensures that certified locators are well-equipped to identify critical buried facilities.



Newsletter Highlight

Increasing Professionalism in the Locating Industry - DBYD Certification Ltd (DCL)

Educating Ground Disturbers

Through our unique industry education programs designed for anyone involved in planning, supervising, and undertaking ground-breaking/excavating work, we have reached well over 5,000 ground disturbers over the past years. Our programs inform them of their obligations on site, their duty of care and the importance of engaging Certified Locators whilst highlighting the significance of AS5488.

Delivering Value

The value of the program led one of Australia's major telecommunications utilities, Telstra, to enter into a service agreement with DCL in 2019 to manage the Certified Locating Organisation (CLO) program – which requires locating companies to register their Certified Locators with DCL and observe certain criteria, such as equipment compliance, contract insurance, safety standards, etc. Telstra have mandated only CLOs with Certified Locators can conduct locates on their vast network.



The success of this endeavour led Telstra to write “the engagement of a certified locator is the most effective way to prevent damage to underground assets”. Since then, several utilities either mandate or endorse the Certified Locator program.

Rob Row
CEO



DBYDCertification^{PTY} LTD



Newsletter Highlight

Increasing Professionalism in the Locating Industry - DBYD Certification Ltd (DCL)

Another utility who experienced success with the Certified Locator program, is a major Australian gas utility that approached DCL for a solution to address work crews failing to adequately identify underground utility assets. A program was developed to provide a Certified Locator for each work crew. The program commenced in 2019 and today that utility has over 125 Certified Locators. A report to the Gas Utility Board stated the utility had seen a 50% reduction in damages to their network because of the program. In dollar terms this is at least over \$250,000 per annum of savings in direct damage costs (refer table below), with the indirect and societal costs being up to 29 times that amount*.

	Rate/damage. \$AUD	Annual Range \$AUD
Standard Gas Service	\$ 320	\$384,000 to \$460,800
Standard Gas Main	\$1,440	\$34,560 to \$86,400
Additional significant damage cost	3-5 per year	\$150,000 to \$450,000
Total Annual costs		\$568,560 to \$997,200

These success stories show the tangible benefits of investing in Certified Locators.

International Expansion

In 2019, the program went international with New Zealand's beforeUdig adopting the program. The following year, it was launched in Canada as the Canadian Certified Locator Program and in October 2023 was launched in the USA as American Certified Locator. All the international programs are under licence from DCL.

Looking Ahead

The Certified Locator program still has a long way to go but the seeds of success have been planted and our mission to have 'Every Locator a Certified Locator' is well underway.



Newsletter Highlight

NULCA 20 Year Celebrations - Reflections from the First NULCA President



I first met Shirlee at Box Hill TAFE whilst I was conducting a Telstra Accredited copper cable locator course for JB HUNTER Technology in May or June 2003, long before our first NULCA meeting.

I agreed with everything that Shirlee wanted to achieve with NULCA and asked how can I help. Shirlee explained she had obtained all of the Yellow Pages and cable locator's advertising in them to try and get NULCA started. I stated I would help spread awareness as well.

I identified that all stakeholders needed to be made aware of NULCA and its existence and goals. The best place to advise underground asset owners was through Dial Before You Dig (DBYD). I contacted and met with every State Manager of DBYD nationally.

Also all manufacturers and suppliers of underground locating equipment needed to be aware of NULCA. I attended many Trade Shows around Australia in South Australia, Northern Territory, Western Australia, Queensland etc. I was a Key Note speaker at many of these trade shows, this also made a lot of excavation equipment suppliers and contractors aware of the need for NULCA.

In addition I approached Local, State and Federal Governments.

Firstly I met with Clover Moore the Independent Lord Mayor of Sydney. After this meeting Clover Moore wrote to NSW Member of Parliament for Sydney and also Tanya Pilbersek the Federal Member of Parliament who wrote supporting letters to others.

I also met with Federal Member of Parliament for Vaucluse Peter King MP. Unfortunately, he was replaced as a result of internal Liberal Party reasons by a chap named Malcolm Turnbull MP shortly afterwards.

All in all, it had been a very busy time before NULCA had its first national meeting. I was not paid any income or reimbursed for any work I did for NULCA.

I arranged all of the meetings and Trade Shows whilst I was travelling interstate for JB HUNTER Technology as a contractor delivering courses.

The same arrangement occurred after I became the first President of NULCA. I had managed to have a NULCA representative position to be on the board of each DBYD State. This was not implemented prior to my departure.

I'm very impressed with where NULCA is today.

That kind of covers a couple of years of the early days.

Mick Winterton

NULCA's 1st President



Newsletter Article

NULCA 20 Year Celebrations - Reflection from the a Past NULCA President



In 2004 I joined a small industry association called NULCA.

It was a fledgling association formed to represent the membership of the utility locating contractors of Australia.

There was much to do. Most importantly to grow the membership nationally, implement a constitution and make contact and develop relationships with both the relevant customer base and industry bodies to promote the use of NULCA accredited locaters.

An accredited training program was developed and introduced while JB Hunter was contracted to deliver this training.

The civil construction industry in the mid 2000's had developed a "permit to dig" process which was quickly adopted and included steps for all underground utilities to not only be located but also exposed for positive identification.

This proved to be a catalyst for utility locating contractors. Many rose to the challenge and steps were taken to "expand and professionalise" their businesses with the introduction of ground penetrating radar and the common use of potholing trucks. In the late 2000's it was recognised that there was a need to develop an Australian Standard.

NULCA was a participant in a national roadshow organised by a group of engineering consultants to raise awareness and promote the need for an Australian Standard.

Many years later the first draft of this standard was released in 2018 for public comment. NULCA was a committee member and active contributor.

This draft went on to become the AS5488 Standard we all know of today.

Today, NULCA remains the voice of the locating industry and continues to represent its members.

Chris Gavan

NULCA Past President

2005-2006 and 2009-2010

**PIPE MANAGEMENT
AUSTRALIA PTY LTD**

PMAUS.COM.AU

CALL 1800 455 660
AUSTRALIA WIDE, 24/7



Newsletter Article

VIVAX METROTECH



The Vivax Metrotech team would like to congratulate NULCA on achieving 20 years service to the locating industry. A lot has changed in that 20 years and NULCA has been actively involved in assisting its members to navigate these events.

The principals of the Australian arm of Vivax Metrotech have been involved with NULCA since it was first formed. Like all journeys there have been some ups and downs, but, in general moving in the right direction.

One of the major changes that the industry has seen is the availability of more specialised training. The development of introductory and advanced training has helped the locator out there deliver a better outcome for the asset owners.

Over the past 20 years we have seen some major developments in both electro-magnetic field (EMF) locating as well as ground penetrating radar (GPR) technologies. Vivax Metrotech will continue developing new technologies that will assist with making the locators job easier.

We look forward to seeing you all at the conference in May. Vivax-Metrotech looks forward to supporting and assisting NULCA for the many years to come.

VIVAX METROTECH Keep your vLoc3 up to date with the free MyLocator3 Desktop App

RTK-Pro vLoc3-Pro vLoc3-ML vLoc3-9800 vLoc3-5000 vScan

MyLocator3 App for the vLoc3 Series Receivers MyvScan App for the vScan Receivers

The advertisement features a light blue background with a grid pattern. On the left, a computer monitor displays the MyLocator3 software interface, connected to a vLoc3 receiver. To the right, six different vLoc3 receiver models are shown: RTK-Pro, vLoc3-Pro, vLoc3-ML, vLoc3-9800, vLoc3-5000, and vScan. At the bottom, there are two yellow banners. The left banner contains the MyLocator3 app icon and text, and the right banner contains the MyvScan app icon and text.

Newsletter Article

Radiodetection

Founded in Bristol, UK in the 1970's, Radiodetection was the originator of the electro-magnetic technology that is used in the locating industry globally to find, avoid and survey buried utilities. In the early days, Radiodetection's Cable Avoidance Tools (CATs) became a key safety tool for anybody that was excavating in for all kinds of construction, utility and civil engineering activities.

As time moved on, so did the technology and Radiodetection drove significant industry change by launching its more sophisticated ranges of precision locators and transmitters; the newest versions of these (the RD7200 & RD8200) were launched as recently as 2021. Precision locators take the basic capabilities of a CAT and extend them to make a range of tools suitable for a wide range of survey and utility professionals worldwide. Precision locators are designed for the safe and accurate location of buried metal utilities, such as power and telecom cables as well as metal water, gas and oil pipes. The equipment is often used to complete detailed surveys, find faults and to build asset maps.

As the need to find more underground has become increasingly, critical Radiodetection has added further technology to the organisation. Sensors & Software, a leading Canadian designer and manufacturer of GPR (Ground Penetrating Radar) equipment and related software, joined the family through acquisition in late 2020. GPR is an emerging technology that is well suited for finding buried utilities and is especially useful for locating plastic pipes and fibre optic cables that a traditional locator won't usually find.

Completing the picture is Radio detection's range of metal locators which includes both Schonstedt magnetic locators and traditional metal detectors. Metal detectors are especially useful in the water industry where they are used to uncover manhole covers that have become hidden by dirt or plant growth. Schonstedt magnetic locators meanwhile are designed for the accurate location of ferrous metals, including survey pins, water and gas valves and even Unexploded Ordinance (UXO).

As utility locating experts, Radiodetection is proud to offer the broadest range of location technology to cover all industry requirements.

RADIODETECTION 

Pearpoint • Schonstedt • Sensors & Software

SPX 
TECHNOLOGIES



Newsletter Article

The (Very) Early Days of NULCA - One Man's Recollection

It was almost like a biblical verse, "In the beginning, there was Telstra and the Word was Telstra".

Well not quite, but not far from the truth,

The gospel of St John (Croxon) says the genesis of the utility location industry was Telstra. Until the 1990's Telstra Network Integrity has a system of local accreditation and training conducted by Telstra staff following Telstra's withdrawal from providing location services.

The delivery of the training produced mixed results, so a decision was made to outsource it. The Newcastle Network Integrity Manager, Gary Searston, was given the job. Sometime before that in 1991, JB Hunter Technology had been formed in Newcastle providing telecommunications training to the industry, including Telstra.

In due course, JB Hunter was contracted to nationally deliver the one day Telstra location accreditation course.

The course was designed to ensure that those conducting locating would do do within Telstra guidelines and not damage their assets. It was delivered as part of JB Hunter's telecommunications training schedule by telecommunications instructors. It's worth mentioning here that the course was never designed to teach people how to locate. But because it was the only course of its type, it became the industry standard.

It is further worth mentioning here that the newly installed Dial Before You Dig NSW Manager, Dominic Pulu was a student on the first course. Dominic was and still is a strong advocate for NULCA.

In May 2004, I was contacted by Shirlee Cook of Environmental Locating Services about the creation of a national body to represent the interests of the newly emerging utility locating industry. I thought that such an association was needed and wholeheartedly embraced the concept. JB Hunter's Training Manager, Mick Winterton worked closely with Shirlee promoting NULCA around the country, made easier because we had a national presence. Mick Winterton was absolutely committed to the cause, and I believe a lot of the early success was directly attributed to his commitment.

Early in the establishment process it was determined that a properly designed training course was needed to teach those entering the industry how to locate. At JB Hunter, our new Training Manager, Ian Palmer, was given the project to write the course. To ensure that the new course would be fit for purpose, it was decided that a workshop of industry experts would meet in Newcastle to assist in the process. In 2007, Les Cook, Alan Hunter, Gary Humrich, John Boesen, Wolfgang Trapp and Steve Wood met over a few days and provided up to date industry knowledge, work practice and expertise. After the workshop, Ian then spent many weeks finalising the course, preparing it for accreditation with ASQA and delivery.



Newsletter Article

The (Very) Early Days of NULCA - One Man's Recollection

The first course was delivered by Les Cook in Melbourne in July 2007. The development process decided that the the new course would only be delivered by NULCA locators, a pledge that has stayed unbroken to this day.

The course has stood the test of time, although we are doing a small update in the classroom presentation methodology as I write. The course notebook has become the reference book for the whole industry. A testimony to all those that developed it, especially Ian Palmer.

For any organisation to succeed its needs to be able to generate income. I was concerned that in the long term, income generated from membership fees would be inadequate and a separate line of income would be needed. Having carried all of the course development costs (with the exception of the workshop), I decided to gift the course to NULCA in return for presentation rights. Part of the contracted arrangement would be a per student fee paid to NULCA. Without going into detail, over the years the JB Hunter student fee contributions approximately match membership contributions and assists NULCA to provide needed membership services.

Over the last twenty years it's been a privilege to have been part of NULCA's journey from conception to adulthood. With hardly an exception everyone has had an ambition to see NULCA prosper. The trip has not been without some angst and robust discussion, but everybody has always acted with good will. I think that sometimes we tend to forget that the journey to the destination can have more than one pathway.

To the friends I have made, thank you.

John Croxson

NULCA Member No 2

Newsletter Article

Subsite UtiliGuard

Subsite UtiliGuard 2 Improves Locate Speed, Performance and Reporting on the Job Site



The UtiliGuard 2 from Subsite provides locate crews with integrated data capture, GPS positioning and an intuitive user interface to help operators improve work quality and maximise locate awareness.

For increased confidence, locate consistency and operational performance, the user interface features simplified graphics that are easy and fast to interpret. Operators will notice an obvious change in screen layout when directly over a utility locate, providing positive confirmation.

The data automatically captured with the UtiliGuard 2 can be used by operators to quickly prove or track performance, compare with benchmarks and provide actionable outcomes to help increase quality and productivity while reducing cable strikes.

In addition to data logging capabilities, the UtiliGuard 2 is equipped with integrated GPS positioning, enabling crews to improve activity reporting.

For more information about the UtiliGuard 2, contact your local dealer or visit:

<https://www.subsite.com/>

Newsletter Article

The Magic Wand - Issue 6

Hi to everyone,

First up, Congratulations to NULCA for 20 years representing and working hard for Locators across Australia.

It's a small dedicated team who keeps up the effort to raise the standards and generally make the Industry better.

At first I found it hard to find a suitable topic to come up with, then it came to me!! What has changed in 20 years (or more). Read on for the young and old.

Locate Gear / Then

I started out with a clapped out EA Falcon station wagon, box of white paint, Split Box Locator, handmade barriers, 1 pit lifter, no rods, no gas detector, no safety equipment and thrown in the deep end on excavation projects. I soon learned that I had to learn and learn "FAST".

Those that dont know what a Split Box Locator is, look up (ancient electronic locating device). One frequency, good work out for the back and you could obtain peak and null if you held your tongue right!

Locate Gear / Now

You name it, you got it. Multi frequency, multi antennae, Ma, depth, direction, Db values, peak and null comparisons, offset options, 3D GPR scanning, built in mapping systems, high quality sondes and generally really good gear.

We are now seriously spoiled for choice and options and yet it is only as good as the operator using it.

Digging / Then

A Pothole 25 years ago was a hold in a bitumen road for the lazy Council to backfill. Confirming an UG service gently was done with a backhoe or excavator with a flat blade bucket 100mm at a time. 100mm for the machine, 100mm for me could be considered slow but usually the existing trench presented itself and if done slowly was very efficient.

Backfill was quick and easy.

Digging / Now

Well we just "Vac" everything, even if we dont know what we are looking for! Wonderful bits of gear do save heaps of damage and always works best "after" good and accurate location. My criticism of the Vac / Civil Industry is they can now "wriggle" other utilities in and around other critical services at ridiculous angles, bends, tight spaces and not maintain any clearance or alignment to the next service/utility. Once backfilled you would have no way of locating services properly, it's just become impossible.

Newsletter Article

The Magic Wand - Issue 6 cont.

Record Keeping / Then

Paint on the ground "thats its", no flags, no photos, no digital records. My first drawn mud maps had carbon paper behind them so that I had a carbon record of the job. Photos were a pain because you had to remove the card from the camera, plug it into the computer and download all the right ones often late at night which took forever.

Record Keeping / Now

Digital record of everything, digital sketches, photos by the thousands, Google/Nearmap sketches, detail survey, drone survey, lidar 3D survey etc.

On the Job / Then

Apologies, this is more of a generational item than locating item but still relevant. "Trust" was of massive importance, the excavator or client was entrusting you to deliver accurate results to the best of your ability time after time. No excuses, no if's or but's, performing difficult locate tasks to solve the impossible then communicate personally why something could not be located. When you have got a 10 tonne excavator behind you, it is amazing how sharp your focus gets!

On the Job / Now

Well I dont know! I have seen Locators give up, walk away, not try every last method, not problem solve to the end, not attempt alternative methods and not think outside of the box. A lot of the time it is not about the fancy equipment, its about the dedication and commitment of the individual on the day.

Finally / Then

It was a challenge of locating services to keep ahead of the excavation crew, dont hold anyone up and "discover" UG services. No one knew what was in the area or trench path and it was your responsibility to save damage, avoid injuries and protect infrastructure. Pay off your house, work hard, plain and simple. Get up early and do it day after day.

Finally / Now

It is still a challenge. To employ anyone as a Locator these days is bloody hard work and those that do, I take my hat off to you. The pressure of litigation, missed damaged services etc. must be a nightmare. There are too many horror stories to list here for sure.

Newsletter Article

The Magic Wand - Issue 6 cont.

Final Positive Note

There are many good Locators out there that in time will take over from the older ones. Good luck to them that take it on. If they want a career path to test them out for the rest of their lives, I cant think of a better one. Just do it, but do it properly!

Safe Locating, until next time,

Gary Humrich



A Little Test

- Find 10 things "wrong" with the picture above?
- Send replies to idontgiveashitoldfart@nulca

Newsletter Highlight

Before You Dig Australia (BYDA)



Before You Dig Australia (BYDA) has been promoting best practice in safety when it comes to breaking ground for nearly four decades. BYDA is committed to a vision of zero damage and zero harm in the construction industry and broader community, and to achieve this BYDA has been developing its role as an essential safety partner. BYDA provides the free referral service, safeguarding both workers and essential infrastructure and to support this service BYDA also provides free damage prevention awareness sessions including our recently developed “plan reading” session, so there is no excuse for digging blind.

BYDA Damage Data highlights a worrying trend that up to 50% of underground infrastructure damage is a result of excavation work in the civil space. More worryingly, in 70% of damages, a BYDA enquiry was not completed, or the plans and information were not passed on to the team on-site.

BYDA is currently building a new Damage Data Dashboard which is collecting damage data from utilities across the country to further deep dive the trends behind damages, we can then share these learnings with industry, develop our education material and community messaging to address the areas of concern as well as better focus our advocacy work with government.

A Change for the Better - Streamlined Referral Responses

At BYDA, we are working to launch a consolidated referral response in early March. Viewing and downloading your responses in a single place encourages a more efficient process for safe excavation than the current process of multiple emails clogging up your inbox! As a first step towards this, we have been working with the asset owners to refine their responses, and we have revamped the enquiry confirmation sheet – you will notice a streamlined new look that aligns with our commitment to simplifying the referral information so that safety is front and centre.

The new collated response feature will be free for all users and will include the ability to download all of your responses as a zip file, as well as the ability to share the collated responses for a job with your team members via a “copy and share link” function.

Book a Free Awareness or Plan Reading Session

BYDA's offers two different sessions. The free sessions are offered online and face-to-face to suit your organisation's needs. The BYDA Awareness session helps your team understand the role of BYDA in safe excavation practices and the consequences of damages. The Plan Reading Session helps your team develop the skills to interpret asset owners' plans, legends, and symbols effectively. Book a session for your team via the BYDA website.

Final tip - always follow the 5Ps of safe excavation: **Plan, Prepare, Pothole, Protect, Proceed.**

For more information, please visit our website at www.byda.com.au.



Zero Damage – Zero Harm

Mell Greenall | CEO
Before You Dig Australia Ltd

Newsletter Highlight

C.R. Kennedy



GNSS correction service
SmartNet is the GNSS correction service built on Australia's largest reference station network, enabling GNSS devices to quickly determine precise positions.

High-accuracy GNSS antenna

- Leica FLX100 Plus GNSS smart antenna
- Multi-constellation as standard GPS, Glonass, Beidou and Gallileo
- RTK accuracy Horizontal 2cm + 1ppm Vertical: 3cm + 1ppm
- Compatible with Android, IOS and Windows
- Up to 20 hours operating time
- IP67 all weather

Powerful GIS / Surveying App

- Leica Zeno Mobile One
- Targeted at non-surveyors, interaction with Zeno Mobile One is simple and intuitive, providing advanced functionality without the need for extensive training
- Project creation, data capture, complex editing, data import / export, WMS, multi-feature collect and stakeout
- Esri ArcGIS Online compatibility
- Export to SHP, ArcGIS Web Service, ASCII, KML and GML

Leica
Geosystems

Leica FLX100 plus GPS Kit
Compact, accurate and lightweight smart antenna

SPECIAL COMBO PRICE

\$12,490* Normally \$14,490*

Kit includes the following:
Leica FLX100 plus Smart Antenna
Samsung Galaxy Tab Active4 Pro 5G and case Included
Leica Zeno Mobile One Data Collection Software for first year
Leica GLS13 Pole
Cradle for Samsung Galaxy Tab Active 4
RTK State license for first year

* Excluding GST. Offer valid until 7th April 2024.

For more information please contact sales@crkennedy.com.au
Philip Byrne 0409 724 826 | pbayne@crkennedy.com.au
Brad Keane 0407 499 008 | bkeane@crkennedy.com.au
survey.crkennedy.com.au/GIS

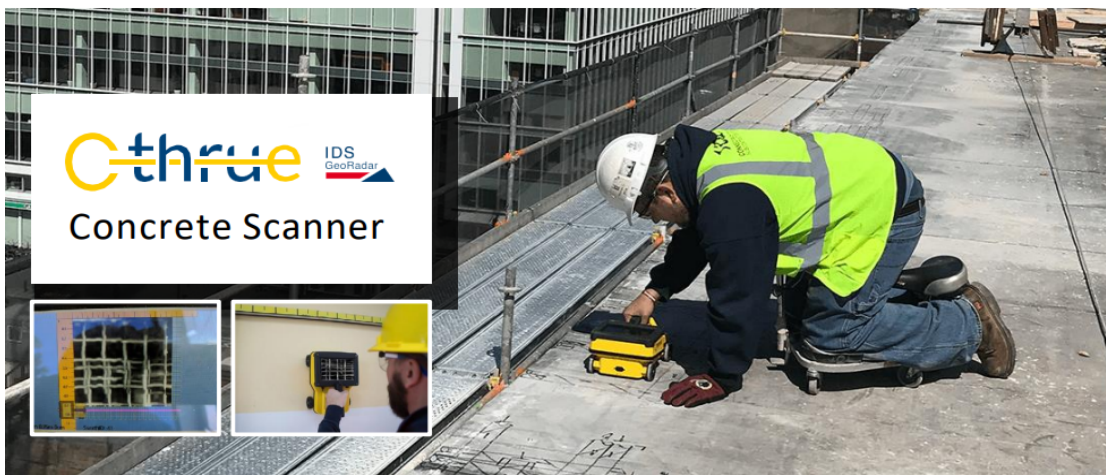


Newsletter Highlight

C.R. Kennedy

Easter Promo 2024

Utility Locating and Concrete Scanning Combo Kit



- Detection of both first and second levels of rebars thanks to the system's double polarisation
- Visualisation of acquired data in 3D models
- The C-thrue 2.0 GHz frequency offers unparalleled quality to identify assets, such as rebars and utility assets
- Depth of base of slab, rebar and Post Tension and scans to a depth of 800 mm
- Use vLoc3 as an essential tool for locating the key threat, e.g. lighting cables

SPECIAL COMBO PRICE

\$33,990*

Normally \$37,855*

* Excluding GST

Promotion ends 7th April 2024

Combo includes the Following:

- Vivax vLoc3-pro locating kit (includes utility locator, transmitter, clamp, direct connect leads and bag)
- IDS C-thrue concrete scanner
- Product training on both units (includes certificate of completion)
- Calibration certs for both units

Standard Terms apply survey.crkennedy.com.au



For more [information](http://survey.crkennedy.com.au) please contact sales@crkennedy.com.au

Philip Byrne 0409 724 826 | pbyrne@crkennedy.com.au

Brad Keane 0407 499 008 | bkeane@crkennedy.com.au

survey.crkennedy.com.au/detection-systems



C.R. Kennedy
& COMPANY PTY. LTD.



Newsletter Article

20 Years of NULCA - From a Suppliers & Trainers Perspective



I really feel old, I can't believe I have been in this industry for well over 20 years and associated with NULCA as a supplier and on and off as committee member and currently a board Director.

When I first started in the industry, I was young energetic and enthusiastic about the industry I had started, for me it was a real challenge. I did not know much but was thrown a lifeline and had the opportunity to be trained by some of the best people in this industry from the likes of Jerry Palmer with 20+ years of experience with Radiodetection USA. Jerry had such a wealth of knowledge on the technical ins and outs of a locator still by far one of the best in the industry that I have come across. I have also been lucky to learn from leaders in the Telco, Power, Water and Gas authorities throughout Australia further improving my knowledge in these areas.

I was introduced to NULCA when it first started 20 years ago, my then boss David Golomb, was sales director of MACKTEK/Radiodetection and was a committee member when NULCA first started. I was privileged to meet some enthusiastic people within the locating industry who had a desire to change and improve on a very unregulated industry. The initial committee was made up of locators, a training organisation and a supplier with the vision to improve the industry.

Starting with a few members it quickly grew, with members all over Australia joining. Proof that the industry needed NULCA to represent them. We then started to have meetings in all states (OK not the Northern Territory). I loved being able to talk to people in each state and getting their perspective, all had slightly different ways of doing things, but all had the same passion for the industry.

It was nice to be able to work in the background as I was not on the committee at this stage. My first role working with NULCA was assisting to help build a training course. The great benefit of this was the amount of expertise from locator training committee, from industry gurus like Les Cooke, Gary Humrich, John Boeson being just a few all with many years of experience in the field of locating. There was no social media back then, so these people built their reputation through quality of work and building successful business in their respective areas, it was also a very different industry back then.

Newsletter Article

20 Years of NULCA - From a Suppliers & Trainers Perspective cont.

With the assistance of Rod Palmer from JB Hunter an RTO with expertise in telecommunications industry, the course material was constructed and then the first few pilot training courses were run. We had great feedback from participants with many a student commenting that this was the best training that they had done. The funny thing was the course was initially developed for locators who had some level of experience, yet what we learnt over the first year or two of running of the course was the number of new locators or operators who had had no formal training wanting to do the course. Not all people who attended the NULCA course passed as NULCA wanted to raise the bar in the industry.

One of things I loved when training for both NULCA and the locating industry is when a locator with relatively little experience or even a locator who had been in the industry for years began to understand the concept of how to properly locate and a process to follow when locating. This is the most rewarding experience for a trainer and is still why I enjoy training today it was not for the money. I think that goes for all trainers who specialise in this area, they are very passionate and love to train.

So the first 10 years were building on improving the industry through education and best practices. I feel we did miss good opportunities back then with talks about NULCA accreditation and having different tiers of locator. But through no real backing from industry and limited funding nothing came to fruition.

What a lot of members tend to forget especially newer members is that all the committee/board members have never been paid a wage to run and progress the association, they are volunteers even expenses for running bookwork, answering the phone and traveling are not fully covered with a lot of these same committee/board members being out of pocket. This hasn't at times been easy especially when the then committee ran with just three committee members for over a year putting a strain on their business and personal lives.

As a responsible board, we must look at how we spend our members money and in what way. NULCA over the past 10 years have been actively involved with having Ian Lambert our long-term president working on the AS5488 standards committee, we have worked with DCL overseeing the certification program and giving members discounts with DCL. We also looked at other avenues including insurance and training. Insurance is a difficult service to be able to offer members as a one stop shop, this is due to each business being different. Training is another difficult area as it is expensive to build an industry course and deal with the government agency and we feel members money could be better spent. Although I have not been on the committee all this time with a few breaks, NULCA is now in a strong financial position and working to give back to its members.



Newsletter Article

20 Years of NULCA - From a Suppliers & Trainers Perspective cont.



Present day, what's next for NULCA? Two years back we had a our NULCA strategic work group, this was a full day at looking back at what NULCA achieved and I how we could better improve things for our members. What came out of this meeting is that we needed to focus more on what our members want and listen more too these members. This can only be achieved by support from our members and valuable feedback. Of course COVID also got in the way and did not help with implementing some of the goals that NULCA had.

With COVID, NULCA had to get better at IT and communicating electronically. This was a challenge, but we have finally started to build a good communication hub for the board and our members and from this we are hoping to better implement a communication portal for our members.

This is where I must acknowledge a member who has been a long-term committee and board member for NULCA. Shirlee Cooke who along with husband Les Cooke initially started the organisation 20 years ago with a group of other interested people. Shirlee has worked tirelessly in the background for our members for many years having a break from NULCA when Les passed away. New members may not know this, but Shirlee and Les ran a large and successful locating company in Melbourne, so Shirlee has been very much part of the industry.

Just recently Shirlee organised Bunnings and Fleet Card Discounts and reinstated the Signet Paint discount deal for all members. I feel Shirlee deserves the recognition. For people that have turned up to meetings had input or even called the NULCA number they would have been in communication with Shirlee.

Newsletter Article

20 Years of NULCA - From a Suppliers & Trainers Perspective cont.

NULCA have some great ideas that will start to come to fruition soon, but I personally would like to see more members join meetings whether online or in person. I am hoping to see some more face to face meetings again combined with electronic meetings to see more involvement from members. The face-to-face meeting have proven popular with both the Sydney and Brisbane meetings bringing a good number of members.

Is NULCA perfect, no, can we improve, yes. A majority of the board has always been run by locators both big and small companies not corporate office dwellers who have little understanding of the locator industry. This way we balance what we feel is best for the professional locators in our industry. Will everyone agree no, but this is why we encourage all our members to participate.

I look forward to seeing a good number of members coming to the Crowne Plaza on the Gold Coast on the 16th and 17th of May to celebrate 20 years. We will have presentations from professionals in the industry and will have small but important number of exhibitors displaying. We will update you when we can who is presenting and exhibiting. This would be a worthwhile trip for all to attend.

Board Director Training

Anthony Johnstone



Newsletter Highlight

Our Members and interested parties attending the NULCA meeting in Brisbane.

Training Mitigates Risk

An informed workforce is an engaged workforce! An engaged workforce will always act in your best interests. How do we get an engaged workforce?

By conducting training, of course



Best practice information from our members and industry, collaborative brainstorming and collective engagement all form part of our strategy and commitment to:

- offer value.
- actively advocate and continually improve service provision across all facets in industry support our membership base with information, resources and training opportunities.

Behind the Scenes



Newsletter Article

GEOTRACE



Geotrace's origins can be traced back to the mid-1980s when it was initially established as Locators under the entrepreneurial leadership of Darryl Critcher, who also happened to be my father. Darryl's foray into the utility locating realm wasn't just about founding a company; it was about pioneering an entire industry. At a time when private utility locating services were virtually non-existent, Darryl saw an opportunity to fill a critical void in the market.

My personal journey with Geotrace began in the early 1990s when, as a young apprentice, I would eagerly accompany my father on visits to Foster Test Equipment Seven Hills NSW for equipment repairs and calibration. These trips weren't just about fixing gear; they were about imparting knowledge, sharing experiences, and instilling within me a deep appreciation for the intricacies of utility locating. Little did I know, those moments spent alongside my father would shape my career and fuel my passion for the industry.

Darryl's pivotal role as one of the first utility locators in the industry underscores the pioneering spirit that has defined Geotrace from its inception. His vision, coupled with his unwavering commitment to excellence, laid the foundation for the company's evolution from Locators to the esteemed Geotrace of today.

With over two decades of experience in utility locating, I am honored to carry forward Darryl's legacy and contribute to the ongoing success of Geotrace. His mentorship, guidance, and unwavering support have been invaluable throughout my career journey.

In recent years, Geotrace has continued to build upon Darryl's foundation, forging strategic partnerships, investing in cutting-edge technologies, and expanding our service offerings to meet the evolving needs of our clients. Our collaboration with America's largest utility locating company is a testament to our commitment to innovation and excellence.

As we celebrate two decades of industry leadership in 2024, we do so with profound gratitude for Darryl's vision, dedication, and leadership, which have shaped Geotrace into the industry leader it is today. Moving forward, we remain steadfast in our commitment to pushing the boundaries of utility locating, driving innovation, and delivering unparalleled value to our clients, partners, and stakeholders alike.



Newsletter Article

NULCA Training - A Rough History and the Importance of Quality Training - Steve Woods

Somewhat indirectly I got involved in underground asset locating. Always looking for something new I found a company in America, PCI Instruments, in the early 1980's that had equipment that allowed me to identify a circuit breaker that controlled a circuit and would allow me to trace it. It is called the Pathfinder and has a history of its own. It would also locate buried cables. They also had the FL500. An underground cable fault locator. It was great at locating faults to earth but it would also locate all kinds of buried assets. This suited my electrical contracting business when it came to fault locating, however I was getting strong demand for locating buried cables and pipes. even though there was very little in the ground that we relied heavily on at the time.

Most assets were overhead but of course for the amenity of the natural world more and more were being installed underground. Hidden from us by burying it. Great plan but our day to day life was becoming way more reliant on these buried assets. Fibre optic was a new thing, but it had no conductive element built in due to the risk of lightning strike. Then fibre optic was not installed with a reliable method to locate. A major problem that we as locators continue to endure today. Not only fibre optic but most assets installed today are nonconductive.

Prior to any kind of training, other than what the equipment manual said, and our experience as to what worked and what didn't we were largely flying blind.

Something for NULCA to look at.

At NULCA we had many discussions in relation to this. While I learnt a hell of a lot by discussing locating issues with other locators at NULCA, it was determined that we needed a recognised training course. John Croxson, a founding member, and RTO in the telecommunication industry agreed to work on this. Les Cook already had substantial knowledge due to his connection with Radio detection and previous locating experience. Les was also a founding member with his wife Shirlee, who is still a very active member.

The NULCA Committee agreed to invest, in conjunction with JB Hunter, to develop a training course. It was agreed that it happen in the 2005 / 2006 financial year and a budget was agreed upon.

The acknowledgements as per Version 1.1 of the training course show that the course was developed by

- 3M Australia Pty. Limited Mr Giovanni Yogore
- Environmental Location Systems Ms. Shirlee Cook
- Dial 1100 Before You Dig Mr Dominic Puiu
- RUBICOF PTY. LTD. Mr John Boesen
- Telecom Australia Mr Terry Phillips

Though not listed I am pretty sure Les Cook was involved too.



New Partnerships Formed

Newsletter Article

NULCA Training - A Rough History and the Importance of Quality Training - Steve Woods

The new NULCA Locating course was completed by the end of 2006 and was first delivered at the JB Hunter training facility in Newcastle early 2007. I was fortunate enough to be invited to attend the first delivery and review the contents. Accompanied by other being John Boesen, Wolfgang Trapp, Gary Humrich, Les Cook, Alan Hunter and delivered by Ian Palmer. We were the first to be deemed competent and became NULCA Accredited Locators and received our card to demonstrate this.

The following Saturday night, we had the appropriate celebration at several Newcastle watering holes. And rightly so, as we now had a recognised Australian based training course.

Having experienced both receiving and delivering training in the US and Canada, our locating environment is very different and requires training specific to our environment down under.

Technology has and will continue to change rapidly. Both in the types of assets in the ground, what these assets provide in our day to day lives but also the equipment available to us to locate these assets and importantly understanding the limitations of our equipment. The asset owners unfortunately don't properly understand the limitation of our equipment to locate their assets leaving their critical infrastructure vulnerable. Training is not only about how to use the EMF locating equipment but must incorporate the other technologies available to us, the way asset owners install their assets but also be about the limitations of our equipment and the way we report information in relation to what is in the area that is to be excavated. Documenting your locate is critical, probably more important than the your locating process. The process to locating is also critical. It can be time consuming, but it is what allows you to validate the asset you have located.

This is what locating to Quality Level B as per AS5488 the Classification of Sub Surface Utility Information is all about. This is where we talk about the four steps to a reliable location. Connect, Confirm, Trace, Sanity Check. While these steps vary depending on what you are locating and how you are locating it. I get the comment Sanity Check and what the hell does that mean. It is a legal term meaning double verification of fact. There are many variables when it comes to locating which means we must do these things to verify. Critically we need to understand the variables. Which is why no two things are located in the same way.

So, the importance of all of this? The need for quality training. Continual reviewing and upgrade is critical. I have been lucky enough to have had four decades in the industry and an electrical background giving me a good understanding of the basic concepts around EMF locating. Having assessed for Certified Locator for over seven years, I have learned a lot about the bad habits, misunderstanding and misconceptions. Being able to use this to assist with developing and providing training, particularly the NULCA Course for nearly eight years, has been a privilege and extremely rewarding.



Newsletter Article

Trenchless Service Centre



Leading Service Repair Agents for the Trenchless Service Industry

Trenchless Service Centre is an industry leading Specialist service provider, supporting the Trenchless industry, specialising in repairs and maintenance for specialist equipment utilised in the Water, Wastewater, Location, and other trenchless activities.

At TSC we have highly skilled professional technicians qualified in both Electrical and Mechanical engineering dedicated to the Trenchless Industry focusing on repairing CCTV, Robotics, Location and all related electronic equipment.

We are a MiniCam Authorised Repair Agent.

Please contact us to assist you with your next service or repair.

Phone 07 3299 4488 or Email: Service@t-sc.com.au

We are located at Unit 11/126-130 Compton Road, Woodridge QLD 4114



Newsletter Highlight

BLAST FROM THE PAST - Recognise any of these people



NULCA
AUSTRALIA INC.

An Association for Professional Locators

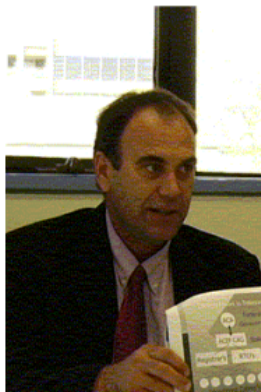
NATIONAL
UTILITY
LOCATING
CONTRACTORS
ASSOCIATION

NULCA NEWS

Volume 1, Issue 1**July 2005**

www.nulca.com.auinfo@nulca.com.au

From the President



Mick Winterton, President

It has been just over a year since we held our first meeting in April 2004, and NULCA was incorporated as an association in Australia. In reflecting on the lead up to the establishment of the Association, there were a number of fundamental reasons that brought us together as an industry.

Firstly, it was clear that underground service locating is a growth industry and therefore the potential for associated risks is also growing. The increased industry-associated accidents and utility damages are a concern for the general public and the industry itself. Therefore, the highest priority for NULCA must be the safety of the general public, workers, contractors and protection of the underground infrastructure.

Secondly, as many of you aware, in Australia we do not

continued on page 2

NULCA in Australia

Dial Before You Dig

The following supportive comments were published by Dial Before You Dig (DBYD) in their Queensland Newsletter. We appreciate the vote of confidence from DBYD.

'The National Utility Locating Contractors Association was established in Australia in late April. NULCA has a long history of helping to establish standards in the location industry for ground marking and location of underground services in the USA. Dial Before You Dig (DBYD) believes NULCA will bring many benefits for people who need on site services from location providers. They will also contribute to the development of Australian Standards and other codes that will ultimately serve to make excavation safer for everyone. That's part of the DBYD mission so we can anticipate that DBYD will be working closely with NULCA, as we do with our other partner organisations.'



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

1-2	From the President	4-6	Locating and Potholing
2	Member Survey	6-7	Confined Space and Hot Work Permit Gas Monitors
2-3	Copper Cable Location	8	Cable Avoidance Reaches a New Level
3-4	Professional Indemnity Insurance		

Newsletter Highlight

BLAST FROM THE PAST - Recognise any of these people



Volume 1, Issue 2

November 2005

From the President



Thanks to all Members that have renewed their subscriptions, and welcome to the new Members.

It is an exciting time for us all as we finalise the standards for the association.

Once we have all the comments and suggestions back, these shall be addressed and the final draft given to our solicitor to review.

Where to from there, you may ask? Once again I shall be knocking on the doors of Dial Before You Dig, Telstra, Water Authorities, Gas, WorkSafe and asking for their support for our Members.

The next stage will be to approach training authorities, for quotations to design a training program which incorporates the standards.

Thank you for your continued support.

Shirlee Cook

President ■



from around Australia, which led to lively discussion and debate. A further eighteen Members lodged apologies, and it is hoped these people can attend next year.

Vice-President Shirlee Cook (Environmental Location Systems) officiated over proceedings in the absence of President Mick Winterton who was unable to attend. Shirlee advised that the current President Mick Winterton was unable to attend the AGM and passed on his apologies and acknowledged the effort he made in the early stages of establishing and promoting NULCA. In December 2004 Mick had a career and lifestyle change which meant that he was no longer able to fulfill his role as President at this time.

Shirlee Cook delivered her Vice-President's Report, and reviewed the previous year's activities. She recalled the first meeting in April of the previous year, when over thirty people got together to discuss the idea of an association for Locators. At that meeting concern was expressed about: the lack of support for the locating industry; inadequate training; absence of standards and competencies; and the difficulties in obtaining affordable professional indemnity insurance.

She advised that considerable advancement had been made in the past year including the appointment of a part-time Secretariat to assist the Committee of Management undertake

NULCA Annual General Meeting 2005



The 2005 Annual General Meeting of NULCA was held at the City Park Hotel in South Melbourne on Friday 29 July 2005. It was pleasing to see a good roll-up of Members in attendance

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- | | | | |
|------------|---|------------|--|
| 1 | From the President | 3 | Lane Cove Flats Collapse |
| 1-2 | NULCA Annual General Meeting 2005 | 3-4 | Results of NULCA Member Benefit Survey |
| 2 | NULCA Member Locator Competency Standards | 4-6 | Techniques for Better Locating |
| 3 | Tips for Locators | 6 | World Locator News |

NULCA 20th Anniversary Yearbook

20th ANNIVERSARY EDITION

WWW.NULCA.COM

NULCA Board

Ian Lambert

Shirlee Cook – Treasurer

Natalie Hunter

Scott O'Malley

Neil Archibald

Tony Alcock

Anthony Johnstone



March, 2024

NULCA 20 Year Celebrations & Upcoming Events

The list below shows all upcoming NULCA Australia events:

Thu, 16 May 2024

Come Along help NULCA Celebrate - [Link for Accommodation](#)

Crowne Plaza, Surfers Paradise

[Link to Register for Cocktail Party](#)

Crowne Plaza, Surfers Paradise

Fri, 17th May 2024

[Link to Register for Friday 17th May Dinner](#)

Crowne Plaza, Surfers Paradise

