

From the President



This last quarter has been extremely busy with NULCA activity and a number of initiatives we have been working on for some time are starting to fall into place. In particular I have had a number of positive meetings with related groups to promote NULCA and identify opportunities where we can work with complimentary organisations.

To assist in meetings we have developed a NULCA PowerPoint presentation outlining the role and goals of the Association, and this has proven to be a great tool to enable us to make professional presentations and convey important messages. It also enables us to tailor the PowerPoint slides to a specific audience. Within this NULCA News we have provided an update on these meetings to keep you informed of the progress.

With our AGM and elections being held on Friday 28 July in Melbourne it is time for Members to give some consideration to the Committee of Management roles. All positions will be declared vacant at this point in time with up to seven positions

available: President (currently Shirlee Cook), Vice-President (currently John Croxson), Treasurer (currently Wendy Murray), Secretary (currently Steven McConnell) and up to three additional Committee Member positions (currently one Committee Member, Glen Blackmore).

Members are urged to think about the skills, time and attributes they may have to offer to the Association, and consider seeking nomination to help NULCA move forward and achieve our collective goals.

I look forward to seeing as many Members as possible at our AGM on Friday 28 July, followed by drinks and dinner. We require registration forms for attendance to be returned by 1 July, 2006.

Shirlee Cook

President ■

Dial Before You Dig

NULCA continues to develop a relationship with DBYD on a state and national basis, as we believe that our goals are very similar and that we can add-value to the DBYD process.

Dial Before You Dig (DBYD) are very responsive to the idea of NULCA and can see that our Members will play a valuable future role, complimenting their current program.

Recently President Shirlee Cook attended meetings with DBYD national and state representatives to discuss how NULCA Members can gain recognition through DBYD. The DBYD Board of Management encouraged Association to our work towards a minimum competency standard, training and accreditation of NULCA Members. This enables organisations such as DBYD to feel confident in recommending NULCA Member locators as opposed to non-NULCA member locators.

However, it will be some time before we see DBYD endorsing us on their web page, as we will need to prove that as an Association we are responsible and have a structured criteria

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- | | | | |
|------------|---------------------------------|------------|----------------------------------|
| 1 | From the President | 3 | New Members |
| 1-2 | Dial Before You Dig | 3 | Training |
| 2 | Cemetery Industry | 3 | Association Liability Insurance |
| 2 | Industry Reference Group | 3 | Professional Indemnity Insurance |
| 2 | Vacuum Excavation Sub-Committee | 3-4 | NULCA Website |
| 2 | Advertising in NULCA News | 4 | World Locator News |
| 3 | Annual General Meeting 2006 | 5 | Planning for a Pandemic |
| 3 | Yellow Pages | 6 | Insurance Offer Letter |

for membership. This will mean that all Members will need to undergo further training and hold professional indemnity and other insurances.

DBYD reviewed the NULCA Competency Standards and provided positive feedback. In addition DBYD has commended the move towards minimum compulsory training and the requirement for Members to provide key compliance documents covering Public and Professional Insurance and WorkCover when renewing or applying for membership.

Members can apply to use the DBYD logo in their promotional material and NULCA is now developing a protocol for the use of the NULCA logo by Members in their own publications and websites. Further information on applying for utilisation of the NULCA logo will be posted on the NULCA website shortly. ■



Cemetery Industry

NULCA representatives recently took the opportunity to make a presentation to a conference group of 150 cemetery managers in Victoria. The presentation outlined why cemeteries should utilise the services of a NULCA accredited locator, to correctly locate and map the underground assets within the cemetery grounds.

We would welcome similar opportunities to make presentations to other industry groups such as hospitals or schools. Please let us know if an opportunity arises in your area. ■

Industry Reference Group

President Shirlee Cook was pleased to represent NULCA at an Energy Industry Reference Group in Sydney in April. The purpose of the IRG is to develop an industry wide risk management plan and representatives at the meeting included: Energy Australia; Telstra; AWU TAPS; Agility; DBYD; DEUS; WorkCover NSW; and Sydney Water.

Following the NULCA PowerPoint presentation, the delegates in attendance unanimously expressed support for NULCA's endeavours and agreed that we have an important role to play on a national basis. The meeting agreed in principle that there is a role for NULCA accredited locators and that our drafted minimum standards of competency to be widely accepted. The IRG has requested that NULCA continue in an advisory capacity. ■

Vacuum Excavation Sub-Committee

A sub-committee has been formed to undertake the development of a draft NULCA Vacuum Excavation Standard. Members who have shown interest in contributing include:

Matt Keppich-Arnold	Australian Underground Services	Vic
Paul Fletcher	Fletcher Plumbing & Co.	NSW
Neal Young	Vacuum Excavation	Qld

Chris Gavan	Barry Bros	NSW
Craig Jackson	Environmental Location Systems	Vic
Gary Cowley	Vermeer Sales & Service	Vic

A preliminary meeting was held in Melbourne in March with Shirlee Cook, Gary Cowley and Chris Gavan. It was agreed that vacuum excavation locators face many of the same problems as with radio-detection in terms of the potential of hitting a conduit etc.

The group agreed that there is a need to develop some basic training, develop some generic descriptors and undertake risk assessment. It was also agreed that existing guidelines/ documents and legislation need to be reviewed in the context of vacuum excavation including EPA, DBYD, Telstra, Australian Standards, overseas and state based legislation. The committee is now in the process of collecting this information.

Some of the topics to be covered in the Vacuum Excavation Standard are:

- Occupational noise management
- Occupational protective gloves
- Eye protectors for industrial applications
- Occupational protective footwear
- Clothing for protection against hazardous chemicals
- Acoustics-hearing protectors
- Confined space
- Australian Standard for water jetting/pressures ■



Advertising in NULCA News

Material sizes

Ad Rates

	Casual price per edition	Four Consecutive Editions price per edition
Full Page Type Area	\$456.50	\$387.75
Half Page Vertical or Horizontal	\$299.50	\$253.00
Quarter Page Vertical	\$137.50	\$137.50

NULCA Classifieds

\$10.00 per line (minimum of four lines) in 1 issue

For all advertising enquiries including publication dates, please contact NULCA Australia Inc. Tel: 03 9700 7446
Fax: 03 9314 1568 Email: info@nulca.com.au ■

Annual General Meeting

The NULCA AGM 2006 will be held on Friday 28 July at the City Park Hotel, South Melbourne. Registration, nomination and proxy information has been distributed to Members. Members are invited to book their accommodation directly with the hotel. Members and partners are encouraged to stay for drinks and an early dinner.

City Park Hotel Reservations 1800 666 800
Single/Double Room from \$112.50 per night ■

Yellow Pages

The Yellow Pages National Headline Committee have advised NULCA that a questionnaire will be sent to locators Australia-wide to work towards an agreement on the introduction of a new heading for locators.

The survey form has now been circulated with most members receiving theirs in the past couple of weeks. We are awaiting feedback from Yellow Pages at present. ■

New Members

We are pleased to welcome the following companies that have recently been accepted as NULCA Members, we hope to meet you at the AGM

MF Daly Plumbing	Michael Daly	Bayswater, Vic
Gippslocate	Steve Wood	Traralgon, Vic
Vermeer Sales & Service	Gary Cowley	Campbellfield, Vic
Tagal Pty Ltd. Sure Search	Leo Vink	Walkerville, SA
Elliots Underground Service Locations	Bruce Eloit	Woodford, Vic

Training

President Shirlee Cook has been working closely with the Secretariat to identify and assess various options for developing training for NULCA Members. Meetings have been held with several training groups who have assessed the NULCA Competency Standards and put forward proposals on approaches to training that support the competency standards and meet all government and compliance requirements.

The Committee of Management has awarded the contract to develop the course to J B Hunter Technology who was one of the three companies who provided proposals to NULCA, J B Hunter Technology, has supported NULCA Member from the start of the association. John Croxson is Managing Director of J B Hunter Technology and the current NULCA Vice-President.

J B Hunter's proposal is to develop competency based training for locating the underground assets of utilities including: the development of an overall course in underground asset location; development of generic utility training courses; development of these courses to meet the legislative requirements of states or territories, and those of individual utilities.

In terms of utility groupings, the following will be invited to participate in the training: electricity distribution and generation; gas; water; and telecommunications. It is envisaged that each utility will have its own competency therefore there would be a core competency that would be compulsory with optional electricity, gas, water and telecommunication endorsements.

More information on the training developments for NULCA will be provided for discussion at the AGM on 29 July. ■

Association Liability Insurance

Recently the Committee of Management obtained Association Liability Insurance, a combination of Professional Indemnity, Directors' and Officers' Liability Insurance and Employment Practices Liability. Association Liability Insurance is designed to provide the Association's office bearers with protection for any claims that may arise from any advice they give to third parties and Members as well as wrongful acts committed whilst representing the Association.

In addition, Association Liability Insurance provides protection for loss of money due to the dishonesty of an office bearer. ■

Professional Indemnity Insurance

Professional Indemnity Insurance meets the cost of defending a claim and any damages payable - should your client sue you as a result of alleged neglect, error or omission. Following Aon Insurance's presentation at last years AGM and the development of the NULCA Member Competency Standard, the Secretariat has been in contact with Aon Insurance as well as Australian European Insurance Brokers Pty Ltd .

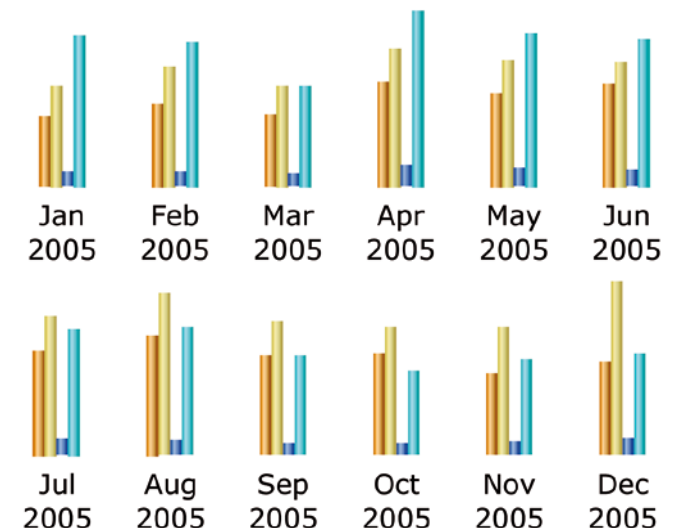
Australian European Insurance Brokers currently have five NULCA Members on board and believe they can offer an excellent arrangement for all Members. We will be providing further information on this insurance in the near future. In the meantime if you wish to speak with them mention you are a Nulca member, and ask for Shelby Rainey phone (02) 6280 5477. ■

NULCA Website

www.nulca.com.au

It is pleasing to report that one of your greatest member benefits, the NULCA website, received nearly 2000 visitors from January to December 2005. It shows that our pages have received much attention and were visited from locators and associated people from all over the world.

We continually strive to keep Members and visitors to the website informed of the latest news, events and activities of our association and we welcome contributions, feedback and suggestions for further improvement.



World Locator News



Month	Unique visitors	Number of visits	Pages	Hits
Jan 2005	84	123	955	10555
Feb 2005	100	148	929	10047
Mar 2005	87	122	796	6957
Apr 2005	128	170	1277	12364
May 2005	112	154	1165	10598
Jun 2005	125	153	1045	10213
Jul 2005	128	172	1054	8670
Aug 2005	146	206	1094	9102
Sep 2005	125	168	800	7081
Oct 2005	127	162	805	5990
Nov 2005	104	161	835	6826
Dec 2005	118	219	1142	7159
Total	1384	1958	11897	105562

Unique visitors: Number of separate people that have visited the site in that time period (e.g. 10 people)

Visits: How many total visits to the site in that time period (e.g. 10 people made 15 distinct visits to the site)

Pages: How many pages did they view during the visits (e.g. 10 people, 15 visits, 45 pages = average of 3 pages per visit)

Hits: Total number of files downloaded, including pages and images etc.

Countries	Hits
Australia	80193
United States	18284
China	2437
Unknown	1454
Canada	1565
Hong Kong	765
Venezuela	46
Great Britain	291
Iran	60
India	145
Russian Federation	43
South Africa	46
Turkey	70
European Union	5
Indonesia	4
Netherlands	38
Estonia	37
Sweden	39
Norway	18
Brazil	3
Italy	1
Poland	2
Germany	16

Buncefield Explosion



This photograph was taken at 6.00am on 11 December 2005, at the Buncefield oil terminal, Lane Hemel Hempstead in the UK. The fire started due to a leak of fuel, vapour built up over some hours and finally ignited with a big boom. The cause of the ignition has not been identified.

No one was killed, only a few injuries given that it was 6.00am on a Sunday morning, however if it was a work morning then hundreds would have either been killed or seriously injured, as a number of the adjacent office blocks were destroyed and local houses badly damaged.



Pakenham, Victoria 19/10/2005

An Australian incident made it into *Underground Focus* November/December 2005, Vol. 19, Issue 8

Construction workers breached a natural gas main, forcing the evacuation of 60 people from an indoor sports complex for over two hours. The leak, from a 50mm polyethylene pipe, was the fault of a drainage contractor doing excavations outside the centre.

Manilla, The Phillipines 23/02/2006

Talk about a chain reaction—workers were driving pilings for a building construction project when they apparently ruptured a water main. This was first noticed when a sinkhole opened in a street and swallowed two vehicles. Then, the escaping water loosened soil around steel beams being installed for the building's superstructure, causing them to shift. Two hours later, a tower crane being used at the site collapsed, with the operator barely making it to safety. The mayor ordered the city engineering department to suspend the permit for the building construction and to start an investigation into why the accident happened.

Taft Heights, CA, USA 18/10/2005

Two homes were damaged and several hundred people had their water service disrupted after a construction crew punctured an 8-inch water main. Some of the water got into a sewer line where raw sewage mixed with water gushed from under manhole covers onto and down the streets. The water flowed out under 90psi pressure until the valves in the area were shut off. One home owner said the water flowed onto her property and ran under the home, causing the cement slab under the home to start to sink. The construction crew was digging for installation of a new sewer connection when they hit the line. Most customers had very low pressure for most of the day and lost water service completely while crews replaced the damaged pipe. Water service was fully restored about six hours later.

Montreal, Canada 12/10/2005

Cars in a parking lot were damaged by pieces of pavement launched by water shooting into the air from a water main break. A construction crew was checking the ground for contamination when they drilled into the main. The crew had been contracted to drill some holes and got down about six feet when they hit something hard. The next thing they knew, the ground lifted and the water blew. News videos of the scene show a geyser seven stories high. Police and fire officials were at the scene to keep onlookers back. The force of the escaping water lifted a bulldozer off the ground. ■

Planning for a Pandemic

To meet the avian flu threat, businesses need to:

Identify

Identify and assess essential business functions and processes, including key employees and the core skills needed to carry them out. Identify scenarios and assess the impact of a pandemic on your business, employees, suppliers and customers and develop appropriate contingency plans.

Plan

Plan for business continuation in the extreme case of up to 50 per cent staff absenteeism for extended periods due to sickness, family illness care and other staff shortages and alternate locations.

Review

Review and update sick leave, return-to-work and compensation policies in response to unique situations created by infectious diseases and particularly pandemics.

Communicate

Develop communication and collaboration plans for external stakeholders – including governmental agencies, key customers, suppliers and the community – for periodic and emergency communication.

Educate

Develop communication and awareness/education plans for employees for prevention, preparedness and response planning.

Ensure vigilance and employee education in protection and basic hygiene measure to minimise the spread of illnesses among employees and visitors, including promoting health check-ups and seasonal flu vaccines.

Supply

Develop supply chain contingency plans in case of disruptions that result in parts and products shortages and demand changes, especially in just-in-time environment.

Ensure mobility

Assess the potential disruption of domestic and international transportation networks, including air, sea, over the road shipping, and the impact of international and domestic travel restrictions in affected areas; Plan for long-term disability, fatalities and succession planning for key staff.

Develop contingency plans to establish flexible worksites and work hours.

Remote working

Widen and ensure remote electronic online access to allow workers to telecommute, teleconference and work and provide services from home if indicated by public health officials and civil authorities.

Test

Test and audit the plans for effectiveness and business resilience.

Reproduced with the permission of *Risk Management* ■



NULCA Mission Statement

The mission of NULCA Australia is to define, establish and maintain best work practices performed by the underground utility locating industry. To establish work standards and competencies which will assist in providing a safer work environment for the general public, excavators, and all people in the civil works and underground service locating industry.

As an association we will fulfill our mission by partnering with utility companies, excavators, 'Dial before you Dig', suppliers, manufacturers and regulatory bodies, as well as other interested parties passionate to provide leadership roles, to assist in the reduction of underground facility and environmental damages.

NULCA Vision Statement

The vision of NULCA Australia is to provide world's best practices in a constantly evolving environment, developing new work place standards, using new improving technology with regard to Health, Safety and the Environment to all.

Insurance Offer Letter



Dear NULCA Member

Welcome to the NULCA insurance program with preferential service and rates on various insurance products related to your unique industry.

Please allow me to introduce myself and Austbrokers. Austbrokers are a national broking organization listed on the stock exchange with over 1000 employee's all over Australia. Austbrokers Canberra act on your behalf (not the insurers) to obtain quotations and maintain all your insurance needs including the lodgment and management of claims should they occur.

Please find attached information required to obtain quotations under the discounted insurance packages offered to NULCA members. Please complete and return all the information to Austbrokers Canberra to my attention and I will return the detailed quotations to you as soon as possible.

The package of policies available to you include

- 1) Public and Products Liability Insurance
- 2) Professional Indemnity Insurance
- 3) Tools and Equipment (including cover away from the office)
- 4) Machinery and Plant

I look forward to working with you, and should you have any questions, or require some assistance with the applications, I can be contacted as follows:

- a) In the office 02 6280 5477 Business Hours
- b) In the office 03 6280 7562 Office Fax
- c) Mobile 0424 273 380
- d) Email shelby.rainey@abs.austbrokers.com

Kind Regards,

Shelby Rainey
Account Manager
Austbrokers Canberra

For Members requiring more information and forms please log onto the NULCA website. ■