



## NULCA President's Report Annual General Meeting –September 19<sup>th</sup> 2009.

Firstly I would like to thank the members of the outgoing committee. An Association such as Nulca is totally dependent on the voluntary efforts of the various committee members who give of their own time and, where applicable, with the continued support of their employer, to the ongoing progress of Nulca.

Nulca membership has grown by in excess of 40% over the course of the last 12 months and as we approach 80 member companies strong the demands placed on the committee has increased proportionally.

With this in mind it has been decided that make up of the incoming committee for 2009-2010 should be increased by 2 members to a total of 8 people.

Nominations were called for 4 office bearers (President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer) as well as 4 committee members to head up training and accreditation, newsletter editor, webmaster and licensing.

Some of the notable achievements for 2008- 2009 are;

- Introduction of a Nulca Locaters training course in September 2008
- Dial Before You Dig funding approval for Accreditation
- Continuing closer association with Dial Before You Dig where Nulca has made a presentation to DBYD National board as well as participating on a joint stand at Civenex and various building industry presentations in Sydney. A similar association with Dial Before You Dig in Victoria has seen Nulca representatives share exhibition stands in several field days. We believe that a closer association with DBYD can only benefit Nulca and as a result Nulca is now an Associate member of DBYD in Victoria and we have applied for a similar in NSW and await their determination.
- The appointment of a working party to review our constitution. This has been carried out and the amendments will be put forward for adoption at the AGM.
- Our 5 year plan is up for renewal at the end of this year and a strategic planning meeting will be held on the 18<sup>th</sup> September 2009 where members will have the opportunity to map out the direction Nulca will head in during the next 5 years. All members are encouraged to contribute.
- Nulca has for the first time appointed an independent Auditor to audit our financials and this report will be presented at the AGM.

As members would be aware, Telstra has for some time been reviewing their Accredited Plant Locator process. The APL course is currently delivered by JB Hunter but Telstra now intends to outsource the administration of the course as well. As at the date of this report a tender has been released by Telstra to a short list of prospective tenderers of which Nulca is one.

The new committee which will be appointed at the AGM will need to continue on with the work done to date particularly in the areas of training and accreditation as this has been earmarked as critical to the continued success of the Association. Further promotion of Nulca will also be required particularly in States other than NSW and Victoria where the growth of membership has to date been strongest. In order for Nulca to succeed in this regard we as an Association must remain committed to offering value to the membership and to act as the voice of the industry in order to bring about changes which benefit members.

I encourage the new committee to be bring energy and enthusiasm during the coming year to the activities of Nulca and I look forward to the continued progress of the Association.

Chris Gavan

# NULCA's Treasurer's Report

Treasurer's report was tabled at the Annual General Meeting and has been placed on the Nulca website. The 1<sup>st</sup> official audit was conducted by Richmond Sinnott & Delahunty Chartered Accountants. In previous years this was not a requirement because of the small amount of turnover, but as the association continues to grow, along with the accountability of the grant funds from Dial Before You Dig. An interim audit will also be conducted and presented to Dial before You Dig for their records. I look forward to another year as treasurer for the association.

Shirlee Cook  
Treasurer

## Election of Office Bearers

An election of office bearers for the year 2009 / 2010 was held as the positions were declared vacant. The following committee of management members was elected at the 2009 AGM @ Quality Hotel, Mickleham Road, Tullamarine, Victoria.

President: Chris Gaven (Barry Bros)  
Vice President: Ian Lambert (Lambert Locations)  
Secretary: Anthony Johnstone (Access Detection)  
Treasurer: Shirlee Cook (Environmental Location Systems)

### Committee Members

Ben Minutoli (Geelong Cable Locations)  
Chris Bower (SebaKMT AUS)  
Steven Fraser (Advanced Ground Search)  
John Croxton (JB Hunter Technology)

## Member Survey

Attached to the bottom of this newsletter edition is a Nulca member survey from the committee, this survey will enable the committee to work towards achieving what you the members of the association want to achieve from membership and for the locating industry here in Australia. Can you please take a few minutes to complete the survey.

The following article was submitted by Gary Humrich,  
A big thank you to Gary for another edition of the “Magic Wand”.

## THE MAGIC WAND



Hi to everyone,

This issue is a few separate ideas and concerns.

What happens when a client asks for a one hundred percent guarantee, that they won't hit anything after a location. Regardless of whether they are a good customer or an average one, Nobody can give this guarantee, if you do, or are tempted to, eventually, one day it will bite you hard, because something will be dug up, no one ever knew was in the ground. At best it may be an abandoned cable or pipe, at worst a major service, causing injury or death.

A few years ago we did a job and located Telstra and water mains for a new sewer, all was going well they exposed the services we located, but found an old gal 3” pipe under the Telstra, we confirmed it was not Telstra, it was not on the plans, or in any pits. eventually they had to break it to install the new sewer line and discovered it was an old disused diesel pipe feeding from a railway yard to the (now demolished) fuel depot 1klm away, trouble was it still had 1 klm of diesel fuel in it, which ended up in the trench flooding it with fuel and causing an environmental headache. Not a good day.

This is another scenario which probably raises more questions than answers, but makes you think “what if“.

Your job is to locate telecommunications over 50 mt through a job site, you have a current set of plans and it shows a 30 pr in a p50 conduit going through a small p4 pit. you open the pit and see the top of the 30 pr coiled up, and ¾ of the pit is full of hard baked mud – you locate the 30 pr, close the pit, and leave, job done.

Next day they pothole the 30 pr, all is ok, two hours later they hit a optic fibre, and blame you.

What's important

- Even with a current set of plans it was not shown
- It did run through the pit, right in the bottom, separate conduit, but full of mud
- “if“ the pit was clean you would have been a hero, now you're a villain
- Should we dig out every pit or manhole?
- Why would you go looking for services not shown on the plans?
- How much time do spend on a job? If normally it would take one hour, why spend three hours?
- They tell you to pothole, but why would you bother? Where would you start?
- Is it the locator's job to find and locate ALL unknown services?

As I said these are all questions, with lots of different answers, have a think about what you would do in this situation, I'll put this up as a topic on the forum, and let's get some creative answers coming in.

On a lighter note ---- Next time a bunch of kids are harassing you at the bus stop, you know, your deep in concentration on the job, and they start jeering...

\*\*\*\* You looking for gold grandad\*\*\*\* or you lost five cents old man \*\*\*\*,

Walk over to little Johnny, tell him you are doing a radioactive search over the area, then run the receiver up his leg (turn up the gain) and step back with a fright, tell him to get to the doctor immediately, and have his leg cut off.

This will quickly bring tears to his eyes, running home to mummy, it's worked for me. (twice).

Safe Locating, till next time,,  
Gary Humrich

## The following article was submitted by Anthony Johnstone, Access Detection.

Hi All members

I was asked to do a small article on the web page and Forum for the news letter. But at first thought I would give you an insight of my experience with computers, I am by no means an expert on running Web pages or Forums and when things go wrong with computers I have at many times thought of laying my computer on the ground and slowly hearing the sweat sound of cracking circuit boards as I drive over it with D9 bulldozer (for those who don't know what a D9 is it is a bulldozer used to demolish buildings or clear fire trails or make fire breaks). I am sure a few members have their own ideas of ridding themselves of the stress of using a computer in everyday life. Once you have finished your 999th windows update and can remember your passwords to access pages then using this type of technology can be beneficial to you in receiving important information.

I have personally used web pages and forums to receive and send up to date information out to people who use computers in there day to day running of business, it is a quick and easy way to receive the latest information.

I don't think there would be one member in NULCA that is not hooked to the world wide web so none of us have any excuse on be able to receive information or post informative articles for other members to receive. The Webpage and Forum can provide the members with information not only in their local area but all over of Australia and even around the world for that mater.

The NULCA webpage is the starting point for people interested in what NULCA is all about, it is also the starting point for members to receive and post information.

The most informative and one of the busiest parts of the webpage is the member's news. This is a place where members receive information from other members including up and coming events, news articles and other informative news within our industry. Members can at anytime post news items related to the industry in this section.

Other areas on the webpage are as follows:

**Contact Us:** Contact details for NULCA and the committee

**Mission Statement:** Our Mission and what NULCA would like to achieve

**Members List:** Shows all the current financial members in NULCA in the different states

**General News:** News that members and Guests can read

**Events:** Events to upcoming shows that relate to our industry

**Buy & Sell:** open to all members to advertise equipment for sale or rent

**Training:** Links to the up and coming training courses for NULCA and news relating to training

Continued next page:

**Links:** links to websites of the various companies within NULCA

**Membership renewal:** has the membership renewal form

**Members Home:** Members home pages open to financial members only

**Members News:** Visible to members only these cover industry news and stories

**Documents:** All the official documentation including the member's register & association rules

**Incidents:** a list of major incidents causing damage to utility services

**Forms:** These forms have kindly been added by members to assist other members within NULCA and cover topics like incident reports, and working alone checklists.

**Help:** this gives the members a self help on posting information in events and employment among others

CONT:

Forum:

If the webpage is the starting point then the forum is the heart of NULCA. It allows members to express their opinions give information and have a general say in an open forum; it is the easiest way for members to post articles and for other members to comment on, it is a great way to have discussions about equipment and even just have a general chat about things within the industry. I encourage more members to visit and become part of the forum to express their opinions and give out information and help their fellow members.

All it takes is a weekly visit have quick look and if you want most or reply to an article.

Hope this helps you understand your website and Forum if you have any further questions please don't hesitate to call

Regards

Anthony Johnstone

## Nulca Training – Delivered by JB Hunter

Code	Name	Location	Dates	Availability	Action
NUL117	Melbourne	Ringwood, Victoria	26 November 2009 — 27 November 2009	Limited	<a href="#">Register</a>
NUL113	Sydney 1	Chullora, New South Wales	8 December 2009 — 9 December 2009	Limited	<a href="#">Register</a>

Please follow the following link to view costs and up to date availability of courses

[https://www.jbhunter.edu.au/training\\_course\\_list/underground\\_location/nulca\\_underground\\_asset\\_location/](https://www.jbhunter.edu.au/training_course_list/underground_location/nulca_underground_asset_location/)

### **The following article was submitted to NULCA by John Boeson , Rubicof Pty Ltd.**

The day, first day of daylight saving and the grand final day. I enter the office intent on trying to find the bottom of my desk. Haven't seen it in two months. The office line rings I look at the time it is 7.30, hang on no it really is 8.30 daylight saving. Who the hell would be ring this time of day?

John, its Steve we have just hit the gas main what do I do, I have rung the Police and the fire brigade, what is the number for the Gas Company and can you ring them.

- Your clients should be made aware that they must call the emergency No as they are on site an can best describe the situation!
- You should inform your clients of the contacts No's of the utility owners.

I quickly sourced the No (Perhaps I should have them in the memory bank) and rang back and informed him that I would be there as soon as I was decent and declared alive after a coffee...

By the time I arrived there was a road block in place courtesy of the NSW Police. The Fire Brigade was in place, Hoses at the ready in the event of an ignition.

I entered the exclusion zone after convincing a Constable on the road block that I had a justifiable right to be there. I wish to pass on my admiration of their, if somewhat boring duty of traffic and pedestrian control, they carried out their duties well.

The Gas Company Jemena arrived on site in an expeditious time although it seemed like hours to the personnel on site.

I will not detail the procedures and the excavation that took place to facilitate the repair of the main but I will now raise some pertinent questions about the rules and regulations in place and the duty of care and cost that may be fairly be bourn by clients we serve.

- I carried out a DBYD on behalf of our client.
- A search was carried out by one of my crews.
- The post hole boring job was declared safe.
- I visited the site the following day to check and confirmed that the search was OK and that the gas drawings showed the 75 mm main well outside of the excavation zone.

We were totally incorrect as the gas main was **NOT** where the DBYD drawings showed the main. The following observations were made:

- The MBL was accurate at a point some 15 Metres west of the strike.
- At the strike point the gas main entered the boundary of the property.
- The gas main then crossed through private property on a splay and then entered the road reserve on the other side of the splay
- One important point **THERE WAS NO SPLAY ON THE PROPERTY.** The gas main was installed to follow the council foot paths that were installed on a splay as were the Telstra lines.
- Communication lines do not require an easement
- Gas Main lines **DO**.

The questions I raise are:

1. How far do you investigate the plans provided by the Asset owner? In particular the Untraceable wire that is mandatory when you have no access points to facilitate a trace.
2. How much money do you spend on the locate to satisfy the client that they are OK

On this occasion the cost may have been an extra \$500.00 extra over on a \$126.00 job to accurately mark the **trace wire** not the service.

3. Why should the client pay this extra cost which is far beyond the duty of care that they are obliged to exercise?

I trusted the plans and advised him that he was OK to auger their post holes. The operator of the auger, although not injured in the incident was thoroughly traumatised by the incident, Is this claim under

Workcover? Are Workcover interested in this negligence of the asset owner? I can answer this one. NO as they are afraid of the can of worms that they may open if they investigated the incident.

I spent from 8.30 Sunday morning to 2.00 pm Sunday evening in resolution of this matter and I have every intention of billing Jemena for my effort not to mention the hire of my mini excavator and operator to expedite the repair.

The points that pertinent in this incident are as following;

- The plans were inaccurate and misleading.
- There was no tape in one of the three digs carried out to isolate and repair the main
- At one point the trace wire was under the main.
- There was no non cohesive material bedding or cover on the pipe line.
- The pipe entered private property and there were no easements indicated on the drawings as to this situation.
- The depth requirements for footpath depths were met.

I want **EVERY LOCATOR** that has an issue with Jemena on their location job that has non conformance issues or other problems and you feel that are unreasonable, to contact me with the details. These must be concise, accurate and detailed. If photos are taken then send these as well. This can be as trivial as a lack of assistance or a refusal of assistance. Date, Time, Place, Project Names if available, be through and we will get results

What I need is an overwhelming stream of information that I can submit to NULCA in a manner that is factual and which cannot be ignored by JEMENA.

I hope that, given a consolidated stream of information, and with a unified voice, backed by our association, it will lead to a more co-operative and beneficial arrangement with the Gas Utility owners.

Yours Faithfully

John K Boesen

**The following article was submitted to Nulca by John Boeson, this article proves that site documentation and photo's should be taken as a precaution.**

We carried out recently a footpath location in Belmont at the site of Woolworths for a client.

The next day there was a gas strike which caused the evacuation of the construction site and nearby shops and residents.

The drama unfolds in dot point.

- We refused to undertake the location as the DBYD drawings were stale.
- The client carried out the search and we were informed that they had the drawings on site.
- My team carried out the location together with potholing some services.
- A clearance was given to excavate.
- The next day the incident occurred.
- I gave my team a right royal serve and started to draft a notification to my insurance people that there may be a claim.
- I sent the team responsible in to investigate and had them report back to me.
- It turns out that as the concrete had been removed from the path and a contractor to Jemena had moved in the evening, excavated, installed and activated a gas service to the complex. This was a large service.
- The contractor neglected to inform anyone.
- At one point the pipe was shallow and the excavator bucket hit a socket and ruptured the main.

This incident really frightened me and has resulted in a further tightening of my internal requirements which will only cost our clients more in the long run. Where will this cost burden stop?

John

### **From the Editor:**

Firstly apologies on the delay on this newsletter. The newsletter will be sent out to members each quarter the next newsletter being released late January, should anyone have any articles they would like to submit please forward them to [treasurer@nulca.com.au](mailto:treasurer@nulca.com.au) . A big thank you goes to the persons whom take the time to write articles. Best wishes to all members for the new year.

**[Please find below the member survey](#)**



The Association can potentially offer Members a broad range of benefits but we need to know what you believe the priorities should be for the next year or so. We urge you to take the time to consider this Member Benefit Survey and return it to the NULCA Secretariat. Also enclosed in addition to this general survey, is a survey specifically relating to Item 3 Development of National Industry Standards.

Completed surveys can be copied and mailed to the NULCA Secretariat, with your standards survey, to PO Box 237 Hallam 3803 or faxed to 03 9381 4966.

## Member Benefit Survey

	Important	Semi-important	Not important
<b>1. Access to latest industry news</b>			
• Quarterly newsletter, NULCA News	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Website	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Electronic Member Updates on issues as they arrive and upcoming events	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>2. Access to a professional resource bank</b>			
• Published articles and information on special topics	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Information on OH&S and employee relations issues	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Access to international associations	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Papers from conferences/seminars from around the world	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Industry research results	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>3. Development of national industry standards</b>			
• Australian Standards for locators	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Codes of Practice/Guidelines i.e. colour coding for cables, annotation, national symbols, crisis action plan, excavation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>4. Training and accreditation</b>			
• Manufacture based training	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Utility based training	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• NULCA developed/accredited training programs specific to locators	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>5. Representation to government/regulatory activities</b>			
• Assist government in formulating a regulatory framework for locators	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Lobby government for the benefit of Members	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Seek regulatory uniformity across states and territories	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>6. Liaison and networking</b>			
• Directory of Members, suppliers and manufacturers, goods and services	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Social and business network opportunities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Annual conferences	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>7. Leadership opportunities</b>			



## On the Funny Side:

Many aspects of human sexuality are very puzzling, take celibacy. This can be a choice in life, or a condition imposed by environmental factors.

While attending a Marriage Encounter Weekend, Tony and Julie listened to the instructor declare 'It is essential that husbands and wives know the things that are important to each other.

He addressed the men. 'Can you each name and describe your wife's favourite flower?'

Tony leaned over, touched Julie's arm gently and whispered, 'Self-raising, isn't it?' Thus began Tony's life of celibacy.

An elderly gentleman....

Had serious hearing problems for a number of years. He went to the doctor and the doctor was able to have him fitted for a set of hearing aids that allowed the gentleman to hear 100%

The elderly gentleman went back in a month to the doctor and the doctor said, 'Your hearing is perfect. Your family must be really pleased that you can hear again.'

The gentleman replied, 'Oh, I haven't told my family yet.

I just sit around and listen to the conversations. I've changed my will three times!'

Two elderly gentlemen from a retirement centre were sitting on a bench under a tree when one turns to the other and says: 'Slim, I'm 83 years old now and I'm just full of aches and pains. I know you're about my age. How do you feel?'

Slim says, 'I feel just like a newborn baby.'

'Really!? Like a newborn baby!?'

'Yep. No hair, no teeth, and I think I just wet my pants.'

One more. . .!

A little old man shuffled slowly into an ice cream parlor and pulled himself slowly, painfully, up onto a stool.. After catching his breath, he ordered a banana split.

The waitress asked kindly, 'Crushed nuts?'

'No,' he replied, 'Arthritis.'