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From the Editor

2010/2011 seems like a blur as we finalise our AGM at the Gold Coast.

As a supplier in the industry I normally see trends that the normal contractor may not see. Two of the biggest trends I have seen is the use of GPR and the investment and interest from larger corporations with regards to locating services.

GPR technology is getting cheaper this is mainly due to our strong AUD more than the technology itself becoming cheaper. As always locator contractors should seek advice from other users and deal with the major manufacturers who can support the product here in Australia, some of these companies are members of NULCA

The other area that appears to be growing is the investment and enquiries of larger companies in locating equipment, this maybe due to the interest in the NBN or maybe due to these corporations diversifying into other areas.

Most of these companies use relatively in-experienced operators who have a minimum of training but these companies normally have the resources to be able to tender for large projects.

NULCA is known to most of the major asset owners and by our members showing a professional image and improving the safety of the industry will assist in raising the standards. Raising the standards will give smaller companies a chance to react quickly to changes, giving their customers a better more flexible package than what a larger corporation could provide.

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AN UPDATE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

For the past eighteen months the committee has been discussing the possibility of licensing or accreditation.

And after much consultation we have come up with a proposal.

The whole purpose is to raise the perceived standards of our locating profession and what this organization stands for as displayed below.

Mission Statement

The mission of NULCA Australia Inc. is to define, establish and maintain best work practices performed by the underground utility locating industry. To establish work standard 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 fulfil 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.

Vision Statement

The vision of NULCA Australia Inc. is to provide worlds 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.

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This is one of the major reasons why being a member of NULCA is so important for our smaller companies.

Finally I would like to say a thanks to the outgoing committee. For members who have not been on the committee or who sometimes complain that not a lot is done, please remember we are not paid, we do run our own business which sometimes take priority over what we can achieve as an association when things get busy with our own work. It is a fine line between juggling your business and NULCA.

The President has asked me to also thank members who have assisted throughout the year with small tasks including assisting at the shows that NULCA have displayed at..

See you at the AGM.

Anthony Johnstone
Secretary



As we now have a recognized accredited locating course which is competency based we plan to use this as the starting benchmark for all concerned. Although some may disagree, we plan to display on our member card whether a member has completed our course and nominate that the member is NULCA accredited or not.

It is up to the member if they wish to have or display ALL their accreditations on the card or in fact use the card at all. I personally would prefer to display a membership card that states NULCA accredited – Yes rather than No. You must pass the NULCA course to obtain this recognition.

This is not the be all and end all but just a starting position.

As we now have associate membership for staff members, they also have the ability to display any accreditations obtained as well on a staff member card.

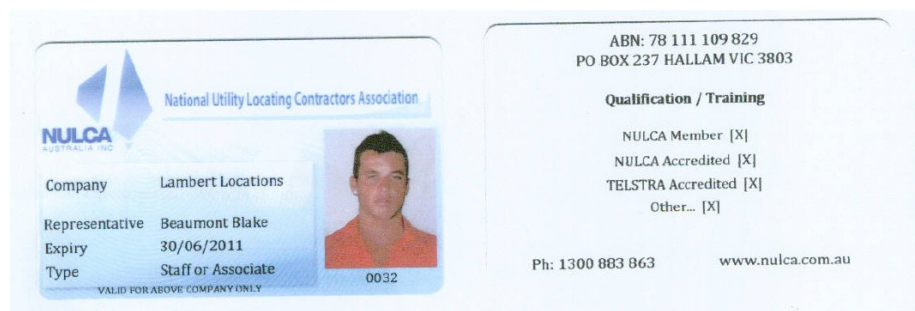
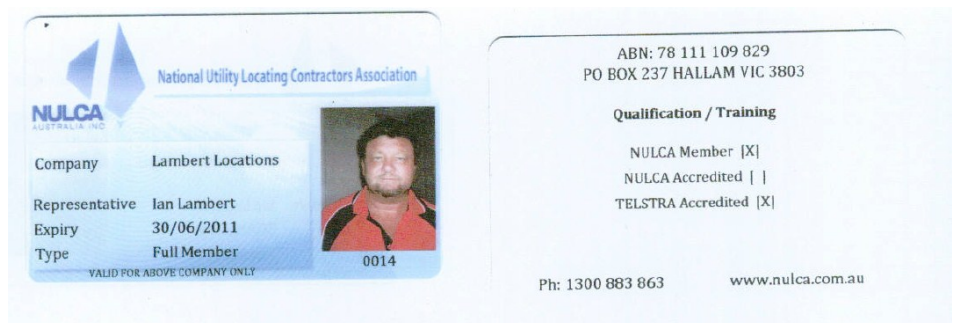
For twelve months we would like to trial this and then obtain feedback from all members on how to improve this system.

Attached is a preview of what a card will look like if you do not already have one.

Ian Lambert

President.

Attached Draft Cards



MINUTES ADELAIDE MEETING

Held on the 24th February 2011

Please Note: These minutes are in point form for a more detailed representation of the minutes please contact the Secretary.

Executive Meeting & General meeting

Present: Ian Lambert, Anthony Johnstone, Shirlee Cook, Ben Minutoli, Mike Ward

- Welcome from Ian Lambert
 - Minutes form Previous meeting where accepted
 - Correspondence In
 - Correspondence Out
 - General business
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1. NSW Rail (Rail-Corp) using NULCA training course as a basis for there require-ments to work in rail corridor
 2. NBN Update and what it might mean for NULCA and its members
 3. Website update new website released
 4. Jemena Victoria and use of NULCA contractors on there network
 5. Discussions: letter from Steve Fraser of meetings and whether members where getting enough notice
 6. Discussions: letter from Ben Minutoli of AGM, voting, reimbursement and going over past issues
 7. Asset owners and membership
 8. Advertisement of NULCA for its members CivEnEx stand
 9. General business included: new DBYD I-phone I-Pad App, Energy Australia /NULCA becoming reciprocal members, April meeting discussed executive members away, using SMS to remind members about meetings costs involved, limit discussions to 5 minutes in General & Exec meetings, committee members must table agenda items for discussion before it goes to general meeting, Steve Fraser bought up various items for discussion
 10. Close of meeting

MINUTES SYDNEY MEETING

Held on the 20th May 2011

1. President welcomed all present
2. Apologies: Matt, Keppich, Scott Hogan, Phil Pegler, Shirlee Cook
John Croxson, Steve Fraser, Glen Foreman
2. Correspondence in
 - a) Email from Shirlee re advertising through Sensis for broader outcome
 - b) Letter from resident re Brisbane meeting cancelation
 - c) Email from John Croxson re training dates
 - d) Email reply from Mike Langton re UK Surveyors training course
 - e) Email from Steve Fraser re members Survey
 - f) Email Mark Virtue re change to website
 - g) Email from Steve Fraser re Gas Industry
 - h) Email from Ian Lambert with Presidents Report
 - i) Email Mark Virtue re website emails
 - j) Email/letter from John Croxson re: SOC reciprocal membership
 - k) Email from Chris Berkery Jemena Vic No Go Zones and NULCA
 - l) Email Chris Berkery re NULCA meeting and reply
3. Correspondence out
 - a) Email to Sensis re expanding advertising
 - b) Email to LTU/Rachel re UK training program
 - c) Email to Steve Fraser re questions to Gas industry
 - d) Email to Chris Berkery re No Go Zone

Business arising from Correspondence

- a) LTU UK training program. Question asked if this was course RTA did.
Response, yes. Ian addressed meeting that Anthony has had correspondence with them
and to ask whether they will come over on NULCA behalf and possibly introduce their
course through NULCA & we will ask if we can introduce their course.
Anthony explained the course – 3 Modules (introduction/Intermediate/Advanced)
& covers any technology in regards to locating underground services. Expensive.
- b) Vic No Go Zone – Ian advised the meeting that Jemena has picked up one of NUL
CA's member for clamping onto a live cable coming down a pole. The cable was a
No Go Zone.
Meeting next week and this may result in having to do a underground awareness
course with your energy supplier; not sure yet. Not an issue in Qld or NSW but if
we can make it safer for members, if feasible, we will look at some process.
4. Treasurers report: Printed copy from Shirlee tabled for members.

Guest Speaker 1.

Andrew Willoughby, Sydney Water.
Introduced himself and data on pipes that supply water; how much water that goes
through
the system and how much water is being lost through the system. Staff training
course.
Competency progress. The guys use simple locators. Changes in Sydney Water pro
cessers, protection and skills.

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Guest Speaker 2

Paul Forbes, Locaters.

Paul addressed the meeting in regards to SUE (US) and how Locaters are implementing ground markings of services.

D Class = Provide plans to utility owners. Review all information and plot on utility drawing.

C Class = Mark field observations to identify visible aboveground utilities.

B Class = Use appropriate locaters or methods to designate existing subsurface utilities systems and plot onto clients plan sheets

A Class = Resolve differences between B, C & D for more accurate information. e.g. pot-holing of utilities.

Examples and general discussion had with members.

For further information, contact Paul Forbes.

Guest Speaker 3

Dominic, DBYD

Brief rundown on Civenex stand and visitors to same.

Announcement of new DBYD mapping via iPod/Smart Phone where you can request plans via phone and a quick demonstration on how to use it. Easy to use. Due out in August.

End of June/early July, 2 gentlemen from USA coming over to talk about DIRT.

It's a common damages data base showing utilities damages, costs, customers etc to a common data base which is shared by all DBYD utility members.

Free of Charge; meetings will be held Brisbane, Sydney, Melbourne.

Examples and general discussion had with members.

Guest Speaker 4

Jamie, Ausbrokers (Canberra)

Welcomed everyone to meeting and opened up floor to members for any insurance questions because he wants to learn more in details about what is done and go to insurance companies and plead the case.

GENERAL BUSINESS

A) Steve Fraser's issue with gas company.

"Motion I would like to move at the general meeting; does the gas company have any Intention of placing transponders on road crossings? do they intend to show utility services owned by the utility on their plans? Is there a process in place to ensure trace wires are installed with their non-metallic services?"

There is no law that says they have to.

Example given by member of a case where they had gas plans but plans did not show a gas crossing and signal stopped because there were two mains and gas line was hit.

Discussion had re: duty of care, insurance, pot-holing, tracing, resleeving/cut-outs.

NULCA to send letter to Dominic DBYD about this problem.

B) Standards Australia (SUE)

Ian advised he has attended first meeting regarding SUE (Subsurface Utility Engineering) process. NULCA has a seat on the sub-committee (Ian Lambert) and Ian will advise members of progress. Slow process but must be finished within 18 months.

C) A special thank you to Ausbrokers for sponsoring today's meeting.
Meeting Declared Closed 4.20 PM

NEW TRAINING MODULES

To all members:

NULCA has seen the potential to build on the current 2 day NULCA training course. These courses will give the locator contractor the ability to expand on their knowledge with specialist tools. The Three courses require assistance for experts in the Field of Cable Location, Ground Penetrating Radar and Vacuum Excavation.

Advanced EMF Locator training:

NULCA is wishing to Build on the current two day introductory course, This course will include the more advanced functions newer technologies including Current Direction, Fault location using an A-Frame, Sonde Location including Deep Sonde Location. We expect this course to go three days on top of the two day course and will include intense training. This course may include specialised modules on Power & Telco. There is a fair amount of material already available for this course and the main issue that we may have is getting the right instructors along to instruct on this course.

Ground Penetrating Radar Module:

Our First meeting was held at the Sydney GM. Areas of discussion included how long the course would go for, what should be included in the course. Currently we see this as an extended 2 to 3 day course and will cover technology, how it operates and one on one instruction from field experts

Vacuum Excavation Module:

We require Industry experts for this module who will have the time to assist with building an industry standard course for Locator Contractors. They will need to assist in providing information and knowledge to build a course for the proper use of Vacuum Excavation.

Combined Courses: In the end we will be improving the industry and the standards for all locators. The people attending these courses will have had to complete the two day introductory course before commencing any of the above courses.

INCIDENT MANLY VALE

This incident happened just outside our service centre at Manly vale.

The company was excavating to run a new conduit for AusGrid. They had supposedly located but markings were very poor and inadequate after observing.

It appears they hit the
House connection to the
Main.

There was no pot holing
Done to confirm service
positions



This could have been
Avoided with clearer
Markings



It happened on a Friday
Afternoon.
It took over 4 hours
To repair.



**GOOD LUCK TO ALL MEMBERS LOOKING
AT THE VACANT POSITIONS IN THE AGM**