



NULCA NEWS

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From the Editor

Just a short newsletter for this issue.

The committee has just had their first meeting held in Newcastle, attendance was good and the meeting was sponsored by Vermeer which had a VAC Trailer and locator on display.

I will be starting on the Christmas issue from this month. Yes CHRISTMAS ISSUE, we are less than two months away and before you know it Santa will be arriving.

If you have an article you would like to present for the Christmas edition please contact us and either send it to the president or directly to me.

I have added future meeting dates and ask members to put the time aside for these dates and make the association worthwhile by being part of the industry and having your say.

Regards

Anthony Johnstone

Melbourne Meeting 25th November

Hi all the Melbourne meeting is going to be a information packed event and would be well worth the trip to attend.

A few very good members have put a lot of time to make this meeting a benefit to all its members so please support your association by attending.

We have been seeing a slow building of people attending and would like to see this continue to grow.

If you have any questions or issues within the industry addressed please send this to either the Secretary or President so we can add this to the Agenda.

We look forward to seeing you there

Regards

NULCA Committee



The Essential First Step.

Introduction

As part of Dial Before You Dig's continuing efforts to improve our services to both Members and Customers, a major upgrade of the Dial Before You Dig system is under development.

As part of this upgrade, there are changes which will affect the existing email referral notification to Members with the addition of new fields, deletion of unused legacy fields and the modification of some fields to provide consistency in terminology. Full details are outlined in Attachment 1.

Also, there are two new formats for the referral notification, in addition to the existing text email and pdf versions, which are explained in Attachment 1.

Summary of Changes

The new version will include:

- an upgrade of the entire product to Microsoft.NET Framework 4.0
- a technical refresh and update of Core and Customer components
- minor Customer workflow changes
- major architectural changes
- improvement in Scalability / Performance
- Mapping provider flexibility

Customers will benefit from:

- redesigned screens and improved enquiry flow making it even easier to use the web-based lodgement system (see Attachment 2).

- new capabilities available to manage their details and enquiry records

- new mapping tools to define a work site. These mapping tools will be easier to use and are in-line with popular and contemporary mapping systems (such as Google, Bing and Open-StreetMaps). Based on feedback from Members and Customers we have removed the point tool to improve the accuracy of the drawn dig site. Customers will still have the choice of the line, shape or circle tools which have all been improved to make drawing the proposed dig site easier.

Members will benefit from the following improvements:

- a revised email referral notification that will include new fields for information collected during the enquiry process, as well as deleting those legacy fields

- that are no longer used, and modifying some other fields to provide terminology consistency.

- a new XML format as an alternative for the text based Email Content.

- a new GML 3.0 format which adheres directly to the published GML schema (Open Geospatial Consortium) which will make it easier to view in OGC compliant GIS systems.

- better support for Member's Areas of Interest data allowing more complex areas to be defined on the Dial before You Dig system

Implementation Timetable

The planned Upgrade implementation date is the **weekend of 3rd & 4th December 2011**, with the cutover to occur after hours to minimise the disruption to Customers.

This date will be coordinated with Members closer to the time to ensure that all our Members are ready for the switch to the new referral format.

ptownsend@dialbeforeyoudig.com.au

I would like to thank Philip for allowing NULCA to display this in our news letter

FROM THE FRONTLINE

We see it everyday but a small report from a professional Contractor sums it up with the attached photo

I know you have all seen similar to this before, but I thought just before they finish backfill the trench I would take a photo.

Issues

- Warning tape is lower than the pipe itself
- It is good they have a tracer in the tape but it is around 400mm away from the pipe.

Within the next 10 years I'm sure I will be called back to locate it and then pot hole it. The problem will be I'll locate the tracer, dig down and expose it, not find the pipe so just assume the pipe must just be deeper, keep digging till I get to at least two meters, then decide maybe to go left or right, probably end up going the wrong way and keep searching for it, not find it so go the other way, eventually find it and then have to try and explain to the client why a 5 – 10 minute hole took just over 2 hours.

Warning tape with tracer wire attached to it.



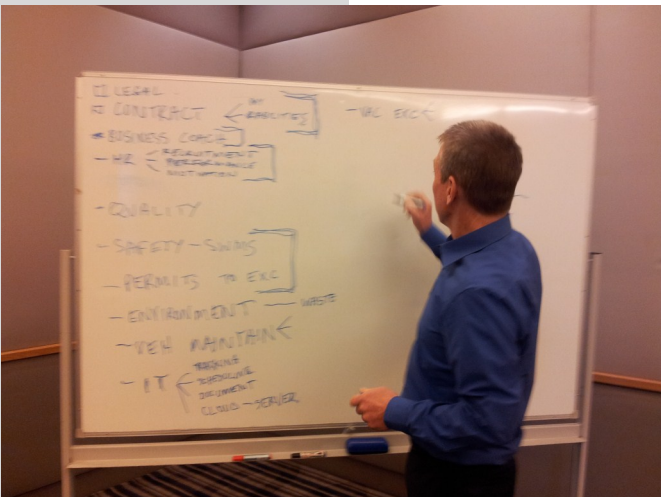
2011 AGM GOLD COAST HIGHLIGHTS



Executive meeting discussions on the year ahead.



Members and Guests start to arrive for the AGM



Paul Forbes (locaters) Presents ideas for NULCA over the next year for the next meeting including Guests speakers.



AFTER AGM DRINKS

The AGM was finished with all members welcomed for evening drinks and then off to dinner.

It was another enjoyable night with many a discussion about industry related items



I had to include the last photo of our president. I think he is demonstrating a new locating technic. Or is just one of those nights. Come join us at the next meeting to find out.

Next Meeting Date and Venue

Friday 25th of November from 2.00 pm to 5.00 pm

Held at:

Best Western City Park Hotel

308-310 Kings Way

South Melbourne, Victoria 3205

www.cityparkhotel.com.au

Ph: 03 96860000

Fax: 03 96999224

Future Meetings

- Adel - Friday 23rd March 2012
- NSW - Friday 18th May 2012
- QLD - Friday 6th July 2012
- Perth - 21st Sept 2012
- Melb - 16th Nov 2012

Venues yet to be confirmed

Check the website for further updates

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.

GENERAL MEETING

NEWCASTLE

Over 20 members and there guests attended the Newcastle NULCA meeting with Vermeer demonstrating there locator and vacuum excavation trailer.



Never hide in a culvert during a cyclone warning - ESPECIALLY IN WA!!

The Water-Corp crew, putting in lines for an addition to the Millstream Pipeline, found the following in a culvert they were using...

The crocodile is/was 18' 2" long.

The snake roundup totalled 87.

We thank Water Corporation for sharing these pictures.

