



**ISEE**  
Australia

# 9<sup>TH</sup> DRILL & BLAST DOWN UNDER CONFERENCE 2025

Gold Coast, Australia  
4, 5 & 6 November 2025



**ISEE**  
Australia



# CONFERENCE PROGRAM **2025**

Hosted by

**THE STAR**  
GOLD COAST

Platinum Sponsor

 **PLATINUM**  
BLASTING SERVICES

# Conference Program

## Tuesday 4th November 2025

---

- 2.00 pm Delegate Registration
- 4.00 pm Exhibitor Bump in and set up
- 6.00 pm Arrival Networking Session (Emerging Professionals Event) - Exhibitor Hall

## Day 1: Wednesday 5th November

---

- 7.00 am Delegate Registration
- 8.00 am Welcome Address - Ken Singer, Commissioner for RSHQ
- 8.10 am ISEE Australia President's Address - Paul Klarić
- 8.20 am Technical Session 1  
Keynote Speaker - Darren Flanagan
- 9.20 am *Bororen Emulsion Accident Report* - Vishwa Bhushan, Principal Inspector of Explosives - Resources Safety & Health Queensland
- 10.05 am *Psychosocial Safety in Focus. Creating Respectful, Inclusive Workplaces* - Heather Akin
- 10.30 am Morning Tea
- 11.00 am Technical Session 2
- 12.30 pm Lunch
- 1.30 pm Technical Session 3
- 3.00 pm Afternoon Tea
- 3.30 pm Technical Session 4
- 5.00 pm ISEE Australia Awards
- 5.15 pm Happy Hour (in Exhibitor Hall)
- 6.15 pm Conference Area Close
- 7.00 pm Conference Dinner by the Pool (Sponsored by Black Diamond Drilling)

## Drilling Stream (in Cooloongatta Rooms 1-2)

---

11:00am-3:00pm

## Day 2: Thursday 6th November

---

- 8.00 am Registration Open
- 8.30 am Technical Session 5
- 10.30 am Morning Tea
- 11.00 am Technical Session 6
- 12.30 pm Lunch
- 1.30 pm ISEE Australia Awards - DOTY, SOTY, Past President Award, Paper of the Year
- 1.45 pm Technical Session 7
- 3.15 pm Conference Closing Address
- 3.30 pm Afternoon Tea
- 4.00 pm Conference & Exhibition Close
- 4.30 pm Closing Networking Drinks @ Venue TBA

## Technology & Innovations Spotlight (Exhibitor Hall)

---

- 11:00am-3:00pm Event Sponsors & Exhibitors - 20-minute time slots to showcase new technologies/innovations/case studies

# From the ISEE Australia Chapter President



The International Society of Explosive Engineers (ISEE) Australian Chapter are proud to announce the dates for the 9th Drill & Blast Down Under Conference this year, which will be held on the 4th – 6th of November at The Star Casino, Gold Coast, Queensland.

I'm very excited by this year's program, which for the very first time includes a second stream, supporting the newly established ISEE Drilling Committee. This stream will run in parallel with the traditional program on Day One of the Conference which is a major leap in supporting the blasthole drilling industry in Australia.

As usual, there will be a wide variety of topics covered by the Technical Program, with some very interesting case studies and unique applications of explosives highlighting the dynamic environments we operate in.

Our ever-popular opportunity to examine the Regulators will make a return this year, through a Panel forum. We'll take the time to honour, acknowledge and appreciate our colleagues who have dedicated so much to our industry.

We are pleased to announce that this year's keynote speaker is none other than Darren Flanagan who played a pivotal role in the rescue at Beaconsfield in Tasmania. Along with Darren, we'll also hear techniques to maintain a safe and respectful environments for our employees.

Exhibition spaces and sponsorships are selling quickly. Please visit the ISEE Australia website ([iseeaustralia.org](http://iseeaustralia.org)) for the most up to date information and exhibition floor plan or email us at: [conference@iseeaustralia.org](mailto:conference@iseeaustralia.org)

On behalf of the Conference Committee and Board, I look forward to welcoming you to the Conference in November.

**Paul Klarić**  
President / ISEE Australia  
Principal / Drill and Blast Fortescue

# Conference Registration Information

Please register for this event using online booking website Humanitix: **ONLINE BOOKING** or copy and paste this URL: **<https://events.humanitix.com/9th-drill-and-blast-down-under-conference-2025-australian-chapter>**

Humanitix issues a tax invoice/receipt. If you require an additional accounting assistance, please email the ISEE Treasurer: **[conference@iseeaustralia.org](mailto:conference@iseeaustralia.org)**

---

**ISEE Member:**           **\$495** (current membership number required)

**ISEE Non-member:**   **\$825**

ISEE Society Associate Membership is US\$150 and Full Membership is US\$115. To pay the member rate for the conference, complete the ISEE member application at **<https://isee.org/membership>** and use your membership number for the discounted conference rate (it will take up to 5 business days to receive your ISEE membership number).

---

When you sign up, nominate Australia as your chapter and you are automatically signed up as an ISEE Australian member for free on the Australian Chapter website at **[www.iseeaustralia.org](http://www.iseeaustralia.org)**

Joining the Australian Chapter will enable you to vote and nominate for the Chapter Board and help your industry body grow. Any questions relating to membership, please email **[team@iseeaustralia.org](mailto:team@iseeaustralia.org)**



## KEYNOTE SPEAKER



# Darren Flanagan

**From saving lives in the heart of a mine collapse to starting conversations about mental health, I'm Darren Flanagan – just a guy who's all about resilience and real connections.**

*On an April night in 2006, I was at home in Nowra when I received a phone call that would irrevocably change my life.*

An accomplished miner and explosives expert, my services were requested at the site of a collapsed Tasmanian gold mine. Flying immediately to the site, I prepared to help save the lives of two men who were trapped nearly 1 km beneath the surface. Little did I know, this ordeal would affect me on a deeper level than I could have anticipated.

My name gained national recognition through my critical role in the Beaconsfield mine disaster. I was instrumental, heading far underground and operating more than 70 individual explosives over a period of 30 straight hours. Two weeks after the collapse, the rescue mission was successful and the exhausted miners walked free.

## Life beyond the mine

The Beaconsfield mine disaster left its mark. Not just on me, but on all of us who were part of that intense rescue mission. It changed us, forever etching its impact on our lives.

These experiences led me to a new path – one where I speak openly about mental health, a topic often pushed aside. I've learned firsthand the aftermath of trauma, and I'm determined to ignite a wider conversation, urging those who've suffered to lean on others for support. In a world that glorifies a "tough guy" exterior, I emphasise the power of genuine connections between men.



*As I navigated the pain and aftermath, I found purpose in sharing my story. It's not just about the mine disaster; it's about resilience and hope in the face of adversity.*

# TECHNICAL TOPICS

*\*Presentations are not finalised and program is subject to change.*

## TECHNICAL SESSION 1

---

- 1 Welcome Address**  
Ken Singer  
*Commissioner for RSHQ*
- 2 ISEE Australia President's Address**  
Paul Klarić
- 3 Keynote Address**  
Darren Flanagan
- 4 Bororen Emulsion Accident Report**  
Vishwa Bhushan
- 5 Psychosocial Safety in Focus: Creating Respectful, Inclusive Workplaces**  
Heather Akin

## TECHNICAL SESSION 2

---

- 1 Wall Control Blasting to Minimise Vibration Intensity – A Case Study**  
Mark Killip  
*Senior Mining Consultant & Richard Sullivan, Specialist Drill & Blast Engineer - MEC Mining*
- 2 Systematic Methodology for Preserving Final Pit Walls**  
Jhonnatan Gonzales & Nilmer Quispe  
*Masters Students - Curtin University*
- 3 Sold Sensitised Bulk Explosives**  
Drew Martin  
*Principal Drill & Blast Engineer/Managing Director - Blast it Global*

## TECHNICAL SESSION 3

---

**1 Western Australia's response to the gruycère ane tanker accident**

**Henry Zuidersma**

*Principal Explosives Officer - Department of Energy, Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety*

**2 Prilled-type Hydrogen Peroxide Mining Explosive – The Latest Development of the Hydrogen Peroxide-based Explosive Technology**

**Miguel Araos**

*Founder - STX Technologies*

**3 Spontaneous Detonation of Ammonium Nitrate**

**Gary Cavanough**

*Consulting Engineer/Research Scientist & Director - QMR Blasting Analysis*

## TECHNICAL SESSION 4

---

**1 Controlled Blasting in a Bowl**

**Paul Cubranic**

*Shotfirer/Shotfirer Trainer & Assessor - Explosives Training Australia*

**2 Blasting on a Small Remote Tropical Island in the Pacific Ocean**

**Tony Zoitsas**

*Director - Saros & Jason Donnelly & Dan Donnelly - Donnelly Blasting Services*

**3 Using Blast Prediction Modelling to Improve the Performance Outcomes of a Development Optimisation Program – A Case Study**

**Scott Sheldon**

*Senior Specialist Engineer - Orica*

## TECHNICAL SESSION 5

---

- 1 Impedance-Based Blasting Optimization for NOx and Fragmentation Control**  
**Juan Navarro**  
*Modeling & Simulation Specialist - MAXAM Terra Solutions*
- 2 Using Air Decks to Achieve Superior Blast Outcomes**  
**Gustavo Sampaio Lopes**  
*Engineering Solutions Manager - MTi Group*
- 3 Using AI-enabled Machine Vision and Load Sensors to Determine the Optimal P80 for a real-life Australian Mine**  
**Will Brentson & Adam Thorncroft**  
*Regional Manager Motion Metrics, Australasia - Weir*
- 4 Safety and Productivity Enhancements Utilising Integrated Blast Management Systems**  
**Charles Deacon & Peter Duniam**  
*Principal Consultant - Africa - BMI*

## TECHNICAL SESSION 6

---

- 1 Shifting the Paradigm in the Pilbara, using a Civil Blasting Approach to Manage Sensitive Sites**  
**Alex Devereaux**  
*D&B Engineer - Vibration - Fortescue - Operations Planning*  
  
**Paul Klarić, Principal**  
*Drill & Blast - Fortescue - Operations Planning*  
  
**Lachlan Hurst**  
*Drill & Blast Superintendent - Fortescue - Eliwana Mining*  
  
**Rauf Osterman**  
*Director - Osterman*
- 2 Influence of the Media in the Blasting Induced Ground Vibration Levels: A Case Study from S11D to Enhance Prediction Accuracy and Preserve Natural Cavities**  
**Leonardo Soares Chaves**  
*Blasting Engineer - Vale - Brasil*
- 3 Blasting in Extreme Temperatures**  
**Fred Kalipa**  
*Drill & Blast Specialist & Darren Francis, Group Principal Drill and Blast Engineer - Newmont*

# TECHNICAL SESSION 7

---

- 1 The Influence of Mine Water on Blast Dynamics, Blast Results and Blast Outcomes in Geomaterials**  
Trevor Little  
*Director and Principal Consultant - Blasting Geomechanics*
- 2 Inhibited ANFO Trial For Use in Reactive Ground**  
Brenden Robinson  
*Drill & Blast Compliance & Projects Supervisor - BHP*
- 3 Optimising Bulk Stope Mining in St Ives Gold Mine Using Wireless Blasting Technology**  
Ricardo Massabki  
*Senior Engineer (WebGen) - Orica*

## DRILLING STREAM

RUNNING CONCURRENTLY WITH THE MAIN CONFERENCE SESSIONS 2 & 3  
LOCATION - COOLOONGATTA ROOMS 1 & 2

---

- 1 Rio Tinto ADS™ Autonomous Drill System**  
Guy Crossley | *Senior Computer Systems Engineer - Rio Tinto*
- 2 Bootless Bench® - Concept or Reality?**  
Greg Patching | *Managing Director - Aquarian*
- 3 Tungsten Carbide the Elephant in the Room!**  
Lawrence Dunstall | *Trainer - SRT (Specialised Research Training)*
- 4 Revolutionizing Coal Mining Efficiency with PDC Drill Bits: A Case Study from New South Wales**  
Sam Shady | *Operations Manager - iCutter Industries* / Kyle Christison | *iCutter Industries*
- 5 It's Not Design; it's Execution**  
Brian Kellett | *Co-Founder & Director - Diptek*
- 6 D65 Automation Development Journey**  
Tom Ormsby & Ty Cranston | *Fortescue*
- 7 Shaping the Future of Drilling: Innovation, Efficiency, and Sustainability**  
Craig Spark | *Everdigm*
- 8 Silica Awareness Training and Assessment**  
Russell Adams | *CEO - Infrastructure Training*
- 9 Fundamentals for Effective Tricone Rotary Drilling in Mining Blast Hole Applications**  
Andre Herbst | *Product and Application Manager, Generg*
- 10 Optimisation of Drilling Design in Underground Lateral Development Mining**  
James Hay | *Inventor/CEO - Acculaser*

# Conference Dinner, Venue & Accommodation

The conference dinner this year is proudly sponsored by Black Diamond Drilling and will have the usual tropical/bright colours/crazy shirt theme and will be held Poolside at The Star. This casual event will give delegates the chance to unwind and catch up with new and old friends. The dinner will cost \$132.00 per person and can be booked along with delegate registration via online booking. **Partners are welcome.**

Delegates can book this special promotion code two ways;

1. Directly online via <https://www.star.com.au/>. Input the dedicated promotional code “EVENT” into the promotional code field when booking the accommodation online.
2. Directly through their reservations team, please call 1800 074 344 and quote the promotional code “EVENT” to be honoured the discounted rates.

## Venue information

The Star Gold Coast  
1 Casino Dr, Broadbeach QLD 4218

## Accommodation information

The Star Gold Coast has a range of different accommodation options to suit each individual attendee and the below promotional codes are valid for all of their accommodation options!

- The Star Residences - The Star Residences | The Star Gold Coast
- The Star Grand - The Star Grand | The Star Gold Coast
- The Darling - The Darling | The Star Gold Coast

Please see below additional terms and conditions

- 25% off Best Available Rate (The Star Grand, The Darling) or
- 15% off Best Available Rate & Minimum 2-night stay (The Star Residences Gold Coast).
- Please note discount is calculated from “Best Available Flexible Rate”
- Valid for all room types
- Rates are bookable 3 days pre and post event dates.
- Rates are subject to availability & Blackout dates apply.
- Bookable via Star Website & Central Reservations.



# Event Sponsors

## Platinum Sponsor

---



## Gold Sponsors

---



## Conference Dinner Sponsor

---



## Coffee Cart & Lanyard Sponsor

---



## Arrival Networking Sponsors

---



## Event Exhibitors

---

- ACA Training
- Action Drill & Blast
- Aquirian Group
- ArrowTail Precision
- Austin Powder
- Australasian Mining Services
- Black Diamond Drilling
- Blast Ability
- Blast It Global
- BME
- Carlson Software
- Cenerg
- Clariant
- Deswik Mining Consultants Australia
- Diptek
- Dyno Nobel
- Enaex
- Hanwha
- Haulroc
- IEE Global
- Imdex
- Jevons Robotics
- LiveMine
- Maptek
- Mining Skills Australia
- MTi Group
- Orica
- Petra Data Science
- Platinum Blasting
- PR Polymers
- QMR Blast
- Saros
- Shottrack
- Sigicom
- StemSafe
- STX Technologies
- Surefire Insurance Brokers
- Ulterra
- Xbulk

# About Us

The ISEE Australian Chapter is run entirely by volunteers as a not-for-profit Professional Society to give people in the Drill and Blast industry a forum to discuss and learn about new blasting techniques, standards, legislation, and technology. The Chapter was incorporated in September 2015. All funds stay in the Chapter, which are re-invested into our community through scholarships and sponsorship.

For more information regarding the ISEE, please go to [iseeaustralia.org](http://iseeaustralia.org)

## Membership Information

### Society Membership

**ISEE Society Associate Membership: US\$150**

**Full Membership: US\$115**

The Society is based in Cleveland, Ohio, USA

- Access to Onemine which includes thousands of technical papers, presentation and articles that have been presented all over the world.
- Print and digital copies of the Journal of Explosive Engineers. This publication is provided quarterly.
- The ability to vote and nominate for the Society Board.
- Special rates for the Society Annual Conference and ISEE Bookstore.
- Access to various templates, information and the ISEE marketplace.
- Access to online training courses.

Click to join: [isee.org/membership](http://isee.org/membership)

### Australian Chapter Membership

#### Chapter Membership

- Required to be a Society Member (with fees up to date)
- Chapter members can nominate and vote for the Chapter Board.
- Chapter members are encouraged to get involved at Committee level.

The cost is FREE. Click below to join:

[iseeaustralia.org/membership](http://iseeaustralia.org/membership)

### Chapter Affiliate

Any person that is involved in the Drill and Blast Industry.

The cost is FREE. Click below to join:

[iseeaustralia.org/membership](http://iseeaustralia.org/membership)

## Australian Chapter Officers and Directors

### President

Paul Klarić (Fortescue)

### Past President

Ryan Brogden (Frontier Safety)

### Vice President

Lee Julian (Blast Ability)

### Treasurer

Drew Martin (Blast It Global)

### Secretary

Miguel Araos (STX Technologies)

### Director

Sarah Foster (BHP)

### Director

Steve Mansfield (First Quantum Minerals)

### Director

Anthony Gilchrist, DSM (DSM)

### Director

María Sullivan (Pilbara Minerals Limited)

### Director

Rakhi Pathak (BME Explosives)