



ISEE
Australia

9TH 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
8.10 am	Welcome Address - Ken Singer, Commissioner for RSHQ
8.20 am	ISEE Australia President's Address - Paul Klarić
8.30 am	Technical Session 1 Keynote Speaker - Darren Flanagan
9.30 am	Regulators Panel
10.00 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 TBA)

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) for the most up to date information and exhibition floor plan or email us at: 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**

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**

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**



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 Regulators Panel**
- 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 gruynère 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**
Ali Kuyuk
Commercial Manager - Mine to Mill, Weir Motion Metrics Canada
- 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*

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, Cenerg*

Conference Dinner, Venue & Accommodation

An opportunity currently exists to sponsor this year's dinner 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.**

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

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.

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



Coffee Cart & Lanyard Sponsor



Arrival Networking Sponsors



Event Exhibitors

- | | | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------|
| • ACA Training | • Clariant | • Orica |
| • Action Drill & Blast | • Diptek | • Petra Data Science |
| • Aquirian Group | • Dyno Nobel | • Platinum Blasting |
| • ArrowTail Precision | • Enaex | • PR Polymers |
| • Austin Powder | • Hanwha | • QMR Blast |
| • Australasian Mining Services | • Haulroc | • Saros |
| • Berga | • IEE Global | • Shottrack |
| • Blast Ability | • Imdex | • Sigicom |
| • BME | • Jevons Robotics | • STX Technologies |
| • Carlson Software | • Maptek | • Ulterra |
| • Cenerg | • Mining Skills Australia | • Xbulk |
| | • MTi Group | |

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

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

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

Chapter Affiliate

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

The cost is FREE. Click below to join:
iseeaustralia.org/membership

Australian Chapter Officers and Directors

President

Paul Klarić (Fortescue)

Past President

Ryan Brogden (Frontier Safety)

Vice President

Lee Julian (Blast Ability)

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Drew Martin (Blast It Global)

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Rakhi Pathak (BME Explosives)