

DECEMBER 2023 E-NEWSLETTER

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# ALDE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Following the recent (Sept 20, 2023) Annual General Meeting, we are pleased to announce the new ALDE Executive Committee.

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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## PRESIDENT'S REPORT



The end of year brings mixed emotions for many of us in the land development sector. There is the added pressure of tidying up the loose ends and closing out items before the Christmas shutdown. There is the relief knowing that we should have a few days free of emails and hopefully find time to rest the mind.

From an ALDE perspective, it is my view that 2023 has been a year of resilience and dedication. With 2023 coming to a close, it's not so much on reflecting on the year that was, but focusing on 2024 and beyond. Absolutely, there have been highlights. Since the last publication of the Conduit, ALDE recognised excellence within our membership with an awards presentation and our Christmas dinner was the largest gathering of ALDE members in the 29 years of our association.

I am excited with the energy and enthusiasm of the current ALDE board. The support and cohesion within ALDE will shine through in 2024. We are an association for members comprising of wonderful people, we are refocusing so that we have clear direction and integration amongst the committees. Without doubt, 2024 will be a busy year for ALDE. We will address the challenges directly and let the results speak for themselves.

ALDE is acutely aware of the difficult times our members are having with Melbourne Water (MWC), jointly ALDE and UDIA are working with MWC and encouraging them to better engage with all levels of industry. At this time, the decision to improve collaboration rests with MWC of which there have been some positive signs in recent weeks. MWC engagement is a priority for ALDE in 2024 and I encourage members to contact myself and share experiences or concerns.

Our headline event for 2024 is the Conference to subbe held in August at Lorne. This will be a gathering of brilliant minds, innovators, and experts. It is an opportunity for us to engage in thought-provoking discussions, share ideas, and forge connections that will shape the future of our industry.

On behalf of the ALDE board, I wish all our members a joyous and Merry Christmas and safe New Year. It is your contribution that makes our association shine.

Cheers to a wonderful year ahead.



**Anthony Grodzki**

Association President

## TRAINING AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

### ALDE/12D LAND DEVELOPMENT TRAINING COURSE

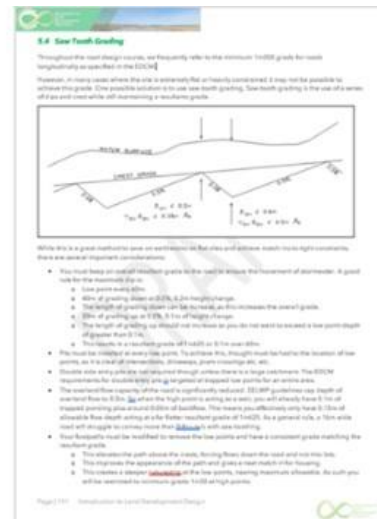
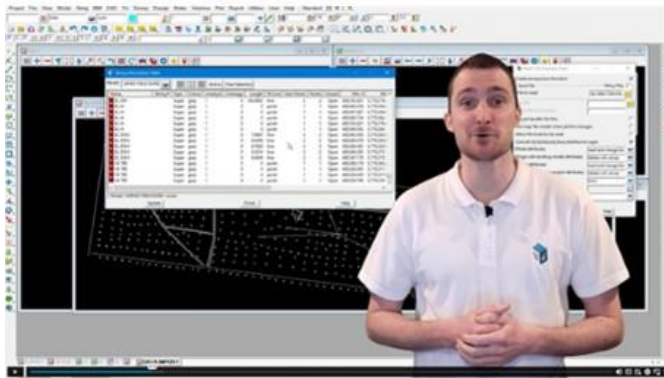
ALDE in conjunction with 12d have developed a Self-Paced Online Training (SPOT) course to cater specifically to Land Development design within Victoria. The course has been created for designers starting out or transitioning to the Land Development industry. The course aims to:

- Provide consistent training across the industry, and anywhere in the world
- Take the pressure off in-house training
- Provide context to the “how” and “why” behind engineering decisions made in Land Development during design.
- Create a self-paced and continuous learning environment

The ALDE/12d Course will include:

- The ALDE Land Development Design document – Created for the course, this document provides an overview of typical Land Development procedures and requirements including:
  - Discussion of key input documents, reports and standards
  - Functional Layout Plan submission
  - Advanced Design Theory & Scheduling
- Access to a 12d Model licence and industry-tailored training videos:
  - Detailed Road and Drainage design using 12d Model
  - Procedures consistent with authority requirements (e.g., EDCM, Melbourne Water)
- Knowledge-check quizzes, assessments and certification for completing the course.

Enrolments will commence in 2024 and can be at any time that suits your company.



[Register Your Interest Now](#)

[View Other Available SPOT Courses](#)

## BARE FOOT BOWLS

Young Engineers in Land Development (YEILD) hosted its annual End of Year Barefoot Bowls event on 23 November. This year's event was hosted at Fitzroy Victoria Bowling & Sports Club on what turned out to be a beautifully warm late-Spring evening. The evening was made possible with sponsorship from Iplex, presenting their latest products and service offerings to a strong turnout of the next generation of engineers in the industry.

The success of the night (other than some quality lawn bowling!!) was seeing so many attendees making new connections and expanding networks to peers that may not otherwise be possible without groups such as YEILD.

## WESTERN WATER TREATMENT TOUR

With support and sponsorship from Greater Western Water (GWW), Young Engineers in Land Development (YEILD) organised a site visit to Melbourne Water's Western Treatment Plant in Werribee. Attendance was limited to the bus capacity however it was a full bus of curious attendees that were provided with a guided tour from Melbourne Water who provided commentary and answered participant's numerous questions.

The tour demonstrated the overall treatment process from the open channel inflowing sewer after it has passed the odour control facilities to the primary and secondary treatment using mixes of bacteria, anaerobic and aerobic reactions before making its way through the world listed wetland.

It was an eye opening, inspiring and smelly event that highlighted the importance of properly processing waste with the plant running off its own natural biogas for electricity and the beauty of over 300 different bird species living in the unique ecosystem.



## INDUSTRY UPDATES

### AUSNET CABLE THEFT

Dear ALDE Members,

I hope this message finds you well. As we approach the festive season, it is crucial to bring your attention to an emerging concern within our industry - the heightened risk of copper theft during the Christmas holiday period. This briefing aims to provide valuable insights into the potential risks, implications, and preventive measures that can be taken to safeguard our operations and assets.

#### **Background:**

Copper theft has been a persistent issue in various industries, particularly within the telecommunications, construction, and energy sectors. The demand for copper, coupled with its



recyclable value, makes it an attractive target for criminals seeking quick financial gains. During the Christmas holiday period, when many businesses are closed or operate with reduced staff, the risk of theft tends to increase.

### **Factors Contributing to Increased Risk:**

1. *Reduced Surveillance and Security:* Many sites operate with reduced staffing levels or even shut down during the holidays. This results in decreased surveillance and security measures, providing potential thieves with an opportunity to exploit vulnerabilities.

2. *Market Demand:* The demand for copper tends to rise during the holiday season due to increased construction activities and infrastructure projects. This uptick in demand can drive the value of stolen copper, making it more enticing for criminals.

3. *Extended Periods of Darkness:* Longer nights and reduced visibility during the winter months provide cover for criminal activities, making it easier for thieves to operate undetected.

### **Implications:**

1. *Financial Loss:* Copper theft can lead to significant financial losses for projects, including the cost of replacing stolen materials, repairing damage caused during theft, and potential downtime in operations.

2. *Operational Disruption:* The theft of copper can disrupt essential services, communications, and energy supply, negatively impacting both businesses and consumers.

3. *Reputation Damage:* Incidents of theft can harm reputation, eroding trust among customers, stakeholders, and investors.

### **Preventive Measures:**

1. *Enhanced Security Measures:* Implement or bolster security measures, such as surveillance cameras, alarms, and on-site security personnel. Ensure that security systems are functional and monitored, even during holiday periods.

2. *Employee Awareness:* Educate employees about the increased risk during the holiday season and encourage them to report any suspicious activity. Establish a clear protocol for reporting and responding to security concerns.

3. *Inventory Management:* Keep accurate records of copper inventory, and monitor stock levels regularly. This can aid in quickly identifying any discrepancies and mitigating potential losses.

4. *Collaboration with Law Enforcement:* Establish a collaborative relationship with local law enforcement agencies. Share information about potential risks and seek their support in patrolling and monitoring critical infrastructure. Ensure all criminal activity is reported at the earliest opportunity. This can aid in potential recovery of the item(s) but also provide crucial intelligence to Police in their intelligence led tasking activities.

## **Conclusion:**

In summary, the Christmas holiday period poses an increased risk of copper theft, necessitating proactive measures to safeguard our operations and assets. By implementing enhanced security measures, raising employee awareness, and collaborating with law enforcement, we can mitigate the risks associated with copper theft and ensure the continued smooth operation of our businesses.

Your attention to this matter is greatly appreciated, and we encourage all stakeholders to remain vigilant during this holiday season.

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## INDUSTRY ENGAGEMENT

### ALDE CONFERENCE

We are very excited having launched our 2024 ALDE Conference scheduled for Lorne on the 19 - 21 August. The theme is '*Connecting the Pieces: Crafting the Future of Land Development*'.

The theme highlights the intricate nature of land development projects and the various components that need to come together seamlessly for successful outcomes. Just like assembling a puzzle, the land development team must skillfully connect different aspects such as infrastructure, environmental sustainability, urban planning and regulatory compliance. This conference is set to explore the challenges and innovative solutions that we all employ to create liveable communities.

We have recently received numerous abstracts from our broader land development community and will launch our program in the new year. For more information, click on the tab below.

[Visit the Conference Website](#)



# NEW MEMBERS

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS!



**Plan B Group**  
Gold Member



**Utility Vision**  
Bronze Member



**Southern Geosynthetics Supplies**  
Bronze



**Stormwater Environmental Solutions**  
Bronze Member



**Verve Projects**  
Level 4 General Member

# SUB COMMITTEE SPOTLIGHT

## GEELONG REGIONAL

Now that Movember is now over, we can get rid of the bit of hair on our top lips, what a relief! Dan Hall being the exception, who continues to proudly sport his Mo post event.

Thanks to those that attended the event last Friday night. It was a great night and good to catch up with everyone. We also had a talk from Luke from RightMate. For those that weren't there on the night, RightMate is a men's mental health support network, which was created and is based here in Geelong (<https://www.rightmate.org.au/>). Special mention goes out to those organisations that sponsored prizes on the night, Winslow, Lake and Land, SMEC, Villawood Properties, Creo Consultants and Beveridge Williams.

Congratulations to our award winners on the night:

- Most Raised by an Individually - Ryan Cross
- Most Raised by an Organization - Creo Consultants
- Most Distance Moved Individually - Isaac Hogan
- Best Moustache - Isaac Hogan

Overall, as a group the ALDE (Geelong) Mo Bros and Sistas raised over \$6,500 and moved over 1,000kms, these figures including a number of consultancies who participated with our event but were linked to their organisations team on the Movember website. This is an amazing effort and thanks goes to all those who participated and donated.



Your copy should address 3 key questions: Who am I writing for? (Audience) Why should they care? (Benefit) What do I want them to do here? (Call-to-Action)

Create a great offer by adding words like "free" "personalized" "complimentary" or "customized." A sense of urgency often helps readers take an action, so think about inserting phrases like "for a limited time only" or "only 7 remaining"!

[Visit Facebook Page](#)

## STAYING SAFE

### DOGGING & SLINGING



WorkSafe have released updated Dogging & slinging techniques guidance on their website.

[View Dogging and Slinging Techniques](#)

This replaces the original guidance issued in 1996 & updated in 2005, and includes:-

- The legal duties and definitions for dogging and slinging techniques
- When work is not dogging
- Slinging and directing loads without exercising judgment for high volume and repetitive lifts; and
- Who has the appropriate expertise to pre-determine slinging techniques.

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## BEFORE YOU DIG AUTO-RENEW



Did you know that Before You Dig (BYD) has an Auto-Renew function?

This function will automatically send you updated BYD search results every month, for up to six months after the date of your initial search.

This is quite useful for locations where there is significant construction activity by other parties, such as existing roads in growth areas.

To use this feature, undertake start a new enquiry, and select a 'Job end date' for the search that is at least a month *after* the start date.

For more details, see the BYDA website.

[Enquiry Auto-Renew - Before You Dig](#)

**SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENT**

The Safety and Environment subcommittee will be developing a Sustainability Toolkit in 2024. The toolkit will provide members with engineering-focused information on improving the sustainability of land development projects, including:-

- An overview of the sustainability frameworks (GreenStar, UDIA EnviroDevelopment etc)
- Resources (e.g. IDM Sustainable Infrastructure Guidelines)
- Example products and materials
- Innovations and techniques

If you have any ideas or information that you would like to see included in the toolkit, please contact the Safety & Environment subcommittee chairperson, [Craig Doubleday](#).

## EVENTS

### ALDE CHRISTMAS DINNER

The annual ALDE Christmas Dinner was held on Wednesday, December 6 at The Event Centre. This year saw a record attendance of members, with 212 people coming along to enjoy the festivities. It was fantastic to see so many of our new members in attendance, mixing with the regular crowd – networking is really what it's all about! Photo's can be seen by following the below link.

[Image Gallery](#)

### WINSLOW / ALDE GOLF CHALLENGE

The Winslow / ALDE Golf Challenge has been locked in for 6 May 2024, once again at the prestigious Royal Melbourne Golf Course. Winslow has partnered with ALDE for the 14th year to provide an opportunity to play at this prestigious venue. Ticket sales will open in March - Keep your eyes open!



[Visit ALDE Events Page](#)

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**EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

Karen Leoncelli

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[Send ALDE a Message](#)

Keep in Touch!

