IAATI Australasian Branch

Vehicle Crime Detection,
Investigation & Prevention

2025 Vehicle Crime Conference

Brisbane
27th & 28th October, 2025



In association with our Conference Partners:

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IAATI, Australasian Branch
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Conference Partners:

The Australasian Branch of the International Association of Auto Theft Investigators (IAATI) is a non-profit organisation. Without the ongoing support of seminar partners each year it would not be possible for the branch to hold the high quality training seminars that the branch is renowned for. The branch is extremely grateful for the support of its seminars partners. The branch takes this opportunity to acknowledge the following 2025 Conference Partners:

Platinum Partners:

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Welcome

On behalf of the IAATI Australasian Branch I extend to you a warm welcome to our 2025 Annual Conference in Brisbane.

We have attracted a very strong lineup of speakers for this 2-day event. I particularly wish to acknowledge our IAATI International 1st Vice President, **D.T. 'Rusty' Russell,** from South Carolina, USA. Rusty Russell is the Director of Strategic Initiatives for the National Automotive Service Task Force (NASTF). Prior to joining NASTF, Mr. Russell spent fourteen years as the Director of Operations-Vehicles with the National Insurance Crime Bureau (NICB) where he coordinated both nationally and internationally all vehicle, marine, and specialized equipment investigative programs of the NICB at the headquarters level. Mr. Russell was instrumental in the development of NICB's License Plate Reader (LPR) Program, Specialized Equipment Program, Berla Program, and their Crash Data Retrieval Program. During his thirty-nine-year criminal justice career Mr. Russell has accumulated hundreds of hours of advanced training and holds advanced level certifications for Vehicle Theft Investigations, Fire & Arson Investigations, Environmental Investigations, and Animal Cruelty Investigations just to name a few.

In the USA the National Automotive Service Task Force (NASTF) is working with manufacturers, tool makers, aftermarket repairers and law enforcement to address this issue. Rusty is going to discuss how this model adopted by the US may assist us in Australia.

Our keynote speaker this year is **Det. Staff Sergeant Pat Smyth**, from York Regional Police, Ontario, Canada. Detective Smyth has been a serving police officer for 33 years with the York Regional Police and Ontario Provincial Police. Over his career he has worked in uniform patrol, the Marine & Dive Unit, the Drugs and Vice Unit, the Hold Up Squad, the Intelligence Unit, a District level Criminal Investigation Branch – Property Crime Unit and finally, in our Organized Crime and Intelligence Branch, as a Unit Commander of the Auto Cargo Theft Unit (ACTU) and the Integrated Property Crime Task Force (IPCTF) since 2018.

The primary responsibility of the ACTU Unit is to investigate the theft and trafficking of stolen vehicles and stolen cargo, as well as the investigation into the re-vinning of stolen vehicles.

From a Canadian perspective, Canada and the Greater Toronto Area, have had success, and stolen vehicles have dropped from its peak in 2022/23, by 30-40%. Det Smyth will share how they have tackled this from a law enforcement perspective recognising how together, they have leveraged the strong support and cooperation with their stakeholders, including Insurance companies, Equite Association, Customs officials, local law enforcement, international law enforcement and INTERPOL



IAATI 1st VP, Rusty Russell



Pat Smyth, York Regional Police

In addition we are fortunate to have a range of other great local and international experts presenting over the next two days. If you would like to see their bio's then I encourage you to read them on the conference website:
https://iaati.glueup.com/event/2025-australasian-vehicle-crimes-conference-144571/speakers.html

At 5.00 pm on Monday afternoon we will hold a short Annual General Meeting for the branch.

Then at 5.30pm, together with our Platinum Sponsors, I will host a 2–hour Networking Reception with drinks and canapés. This is a really valuable opportunity to talk with and exchange contact information with the speakers and other attendees.

On Tuesday please note, we will start presentations at 8.45 am and finish around 4.00 pm to assist those delegates who are flying home.

The 2024/25 Branch Board has enjoyed organising this conference, but it would not have been possible without the support of all our sponsors and your support as attendees.

We thank you for participating in this conference and look forward to once again getting to the chance to meet as many old and new members as possible. I encourage you to utilize IAATI and its worldwide network of members to assist you in your professional roles and hope you can join us again at our future training events.

Helen Shaw,
Acting Australasian Branch President,
International Association of Auto Theft Investigators (IAATI)

Conference Program

Monday 27 October

9:00 - 9:10	**Helen Shaw,** Acting Australasian Branch President—Opening
9.10 - 9:20	**D.T. 'Rusty' Russell,** IAATI International 1st Vice President - Introduction and Welcome
9:20 - 9:35	**Australasian Branch Award Presentations**
9:35 - 10:35	**Keynote Speaker: Det. Staff Sgt. Pat Smyth,** York Regional Police, Ontario, Canada - *"Canada's vehicle crime challenges and how we are addressing them"*
10:35 - 11:00	Morning Break
11:00 - 11:45	**Scott Bain,** CEO, SaferCities - *"Streamlining CCTV and ANPR sharing between the community and law enforcement"*
11:45 - 12:25	**Det. Insp. Julie Macdonald**, Illicit Firearms & Vehicle Crime Squad, Victoria Police - *"Number Plate Crime"*
12:25 - 13:10	**Basil Kypriadakis**, CEO, LicenSys. Pty Ltd. - *"High-Security Plate technology and Electronic Vehicle Identification Solutions"*
13:10 - 14:00	Lunch
14:00 - 14:40	**Andrew Gill,** CEO , Counter Fraud, ICA **-** *"ICINA –the Insurance Council's Intelligence Network"*
14:40 - 15:20	**Philip Aldridge**, Solutions Consultant, Fortiro - "*Document Fraud Tactics in the AI Age"*
15:20 - 15:40	Afternoon Break
15:40 - 16:20	**Peter Jeffrey,** Principal Consultant, Halliwell Global **-** *"Vehicle Fire Forensics"*
16:20 - 17:00	**Sgt. Mark Doust Jeffrey,** POLAIR, Queensland Police **-** *"POLAIR's Strategies for Tracking Vehicles from the Air"*
17:00—17:20	**2024 Annual General Meeting**
17:30 - 19:30	**President's Networking Session** - drinks and food provided in the River Room

Tuesday 28 October

8:45 - 9:20	**Rusty Russell,** IAATI International 1st Vice President and Director of Strategic Initiatives, NASTF - *"Industry access to secure vehicle data"*
9:20 - 10:00	**Det. Sen. Const. Jared Lacey**, Motor Unit, New South Wales Police - *"Strick Force Alboraya"*
10:00- 10:45	**Peter Chapman**, Partner, KordaMentha - *"Detecting Fraud Through Photo and Document Metadata Analysis"*
10:45 - 11:10	Morning Break
11:10 - 11:50	**Simon Parker,** Consulting Scientist, Forensic Services Australia - *"What is left after the smoke clears? "*
11:50 - 12:30	**Simon Major**, Forensic Vehicle Inspector, Queensland Police - *"Midnite Spares"*
12:30 - 13:15	**Panel Discussion -** *"Digital Forensics in Combating Modern Vehicle Insurance Fraud" Featuring Simon Parker, Simon Major, Kent Lineham, and Virginia Waters.*
13:15 - 14:00	Lunch
14:00 - 14:40	**Ben LeMere,** CEO, Berla Corporation - *"Digital vehicle forensics"*
14:40 - 15:15	**Kent Lineham,** Owner & Forensic Locksmith, Onelock - *"Get your hands dirty with a forensic locksmith"*
15:15 -15:55	**Keith Schmidt**, ex Queensland Police & Queensland Inspection Service - *"Internet searches on re-birthed caravans & trailers"*
15:55 - 16:00	**Helen Shaw** - *Closing remarks*
16:00 - 16:30	Afternoon refreshments