
THE INSTITUTE OF PLUMBING AUSTRALIA INCORPORATED

THE NATIONAL BODY FOR PLUMBERS AND PLUMBING

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In this issue, we have two thought provoking articles by Institute stalwart Ken Adams NSW Chapter President and Treasurer, Manager Institute Technical Bookshop. The articles are directed at prospective members but are equally pertinent to existing members in understanding why you are a member and how and why you should sell membership to others.

>Editor<

>>>>>>>>>MEMBERSHIP in the INSTITUTE of PLUMBING. Ken Adams.

For years, Members of various Organisations ask the same question "What's in it for me"? In this day and age I wonder if this question should be "What can I contribute?"

Over the years, the role of the Institute has change due to the many changes that have influenced our society. Some of the changes are explained in the article "The INSTITUTE of PLUMBING AUSTRALIA" also within this publication.

The Institute has a very small band of very willing and dedicated people who are prepared to stand up and be counted on behalf of the Plumbing Fraternity. Willing to stand up and be counted and to fight for what they consider is right for our Industry. However they need the support of those in the Industry to continue their work, they need the strength of Membership to provide the financial backing and the grunt necessary to deliver a strong Industry backing to the matters that are affecting our Industry in Regulatory matters, Training, Product quality etc.

So you say what has this to do with me? I am contented to continue to go to work each day, and whilst I may complain to my colleagues about many avenues of change that are affecting my livelihood, what can I do, I don't have the time, nor the inclination to be involved.

Well just as well there are some people within our Fraternity that are prepared to stand up and be counted, persons who are not prepared to allow Governments, and law makers to walk all over us. Major changes are taking place in our Industry, changes that have not had any input by our Industry, no consultation with those that the changes are going to effect; the Industry voice is lost in the wilderness. This is why we need a strong and unified Organisation that can speak out on behalf of the whole Plumbing Fraternity and be large enough for Governments and law makers to sit up, listen and take notice. The Institute of Plumbing is the only National Body for Plumbing and is the only Body that incorporates all aspects of Plumbing, so why should it not be able to approach Government and other sectors that have an influence on our Industry. The I.P.A needs your input and whilst you may say "I don't have time" you can make a difference by becoming a Member and paying an annual subscription which contributes to funding the matters that the Institute believes are in the best interests of the Industry.

So whilst we wish to have more people prepared to give of their time to assist the Institute, we also need Membership to support what the Institute

is attempting to do to improve conditions and the future of our Industry, so why not become a Member and thereby make your contribution to the future of the Industry that is providing you with your livelihood.

So you ask "What's in it for Me"?, well you will receive regular copies of E-Institute which will give you an insight into the activities of the Institute, it provides you with a forum to express your views on matters pertaining to the Industry. You have the opportunity of being involved in National Seminars conducted by the Institute, you can purchase Plumbing publications and Standards through the Institute at discounted prices, you have the opportunity of being a Member of the only National Plumbing, all encompassing, Organisation and the opportunity of sharing with other Members of the Plumbing Fraternity and having your voice heard.

But you should be asking "What can I Contribute", there are many ways that you contribute and by just reading this and other articles provided by the Institute you will soon see ways in which you can make your contribution to the future of the Institute and your Industry.

In conclusion, don't ask **"What's in it for Me"** ask yourself **"What can I contribute"**.

>>>>>>>>>>The INSTITUTE of PLUMBING AUSTRALIA. A view by Ken Adams.

Over 50 years ago certain Members of the then Federated Master Plumbers of Australia realized that there was more to Plumbing than Master Plumbers and that the time had come to provide a forum that ALL Members of the Plumbing Fraternity could come together to discuss the many aspects affecting the Plumbing Industry and so the Institute of Plumbing Australia was born.

This Association took into account the many avenues of Plumbing and provided Membership to Apprentices, Journeymen, Master Plumbers, Trade Teachers, Inspectorial Staff, Water & Sewerage Authority personal, Plumbing Manufacturers and Plumbing Consultants, all those that made up the broad range of the Plumbing Fraternity. Membership criteria was established and application Forms produced, now there was an Association that could discuss all aspects of Plumbing and have the input required from all the various Players.

Over the years the Institute has conducted Seminars, whilst Seminars are still vital for keeping up, face to face attendance has been largely taken over by the Web, where instant access is available to almost everything and it can be done in the Office or at Home, why go out at night to a gathering, when you can be comfortable and get the information you need immediately

The world has changed greatly since the first meeting of the Institute just as over 50 years ago and some of the Industry Leaders decided that we needed a total Industry Body, since that time other Industry Players have decided that we have needed Specialist Bodies within the Industry and now we have any number of splinter Groups all doing their own thing, specifically meeting their own needs. As a result of these individual Groups, the Plumbing Industry has become divided and each Group has concentrated on their own agenda. The result has been that there has been a lack of a whole Industry approach to the problems and advancements associated with matters pertaining to our Industry and we have been left with a very fragmented approach.

With this fragmented approach achieving few results, the Institute has facilitated the **Plumbing Coalition Australia (PCA)**, a calling together of all Organisations within the Plumbing Fraternity to discuss and hopefully

provide a unified approach to matters that are of great concern for the future of Plumbing, as we now know.

The extremely important matter of the future of Apprentice Training, a matter that has been creating great concern for many years, not only from our Industry point of view, but from the point of view of Government and Training Facilities. We have all witnessed the shutting down of many of our Plumbing Training facilities, the reduction in Government spending within the T.A.F.E Sector, the abnormalities in the training structures from state to state, the various differences in standards for licensing within our States. Discussion is taking place at the level of the PCA, which has an aim to draw together the differences between the States and hopefully achieve a unified and National outcome.

The reality of the sectionalizing of our Industry is a real threat, some of our large Builders, Manufacturers and Privatised Authorities want sectors of our Industry to be separated off to their benefit, deleting their particular interest from the standard Plumbing Training and developing specialist careers. Such objectives will further fragment our Industry to the point that we may have totally segmented careers for Roofing, Gasfitting, Water Plumbing, Waste Plumbing etc, why should we let those outside our industry dictate the future of Plumbing, when we as Plumbers can decide, after completing our formal broad training, that we wish to concentrate on a particular sector, we don't need Manufacturers and Authorities to decide for us.

There are many factors and changes that are being considered for our Industry, the Institute can see that many predicted changes will not be of advantage to our Industry and therefore we must fight for our rights as we see them.

The role of the Institute has become one of a facilitator, in this ever changing world where communication has become so fast and easy, we cannot continue to do things the way we did in the 1900's and whilst it was fine at the time of Federation, when communication was slow and difficult, it was necessary to have this great Country of ours broken up into States to enable ease of communication and control. However with the advent of Telephones, Computers, Internet, Web, Satellites and modern technology we can no longer afford to have the separation that was necessary in the past. The Institute has seen this and realizes that the only way to the future is unification and cooperation. The future of Plumbing in Australia is unlimited, providing we cooperate with each other and have the numbers and the strength to make our Governments and Law Makers listen and adopt the consensus of our Industry. To achieve this end, all Plumbing Organisations must work together; when considering actions within their own sector they need also to consider the broad picture with other Plumbing Organisations to reach a consensus that will benefit the entire Plumbing Industry.

Be part of this new and exciting time, join the fight for the future of Plumbing in Australia, be proud of being a member of the Institute of Plumbing Australia, introduce a new member and make the difference.

Application forms are downloadable from
www.plumbing.org.au/ipa_howtojoin.htm

WHAT'S ON?

>>Australian National Plumbing Forum<<

- On Tuesday 5 June 2007 The Institute of Plumbing Australia will in conjunction with Designbuild Sydney, continue its series of open forums begun in Perth 2004. The theme in Sydney is "Water" and will feature Australia's largest integrated urban water cycle management plan and its

