

# E – INSTITUTE

## The Official Newsletter of IPA



The Institute of Plumbing  
Australia Incorporated

Issue 14  
September 2007

### Special Message

**To all members in or visiting Western Australia.**

**The Institute Council through the Secretariat has brought the National Plumbing Forum back to Perth.**

(see article below for details)

**All the work has been done, all you need to do is**

**REGISTER NOW**

**Register yourself and a friend at**

**[www.designbuildexpo.com.au/forum](http://www.designbuildexpo.com.au/forum)**

### Australian National Plumbing Forum – Perth 2007

Planning is now well under way for the return of the Australian National Plumbing Forum to Perth in conjunction with designbuild Perth the trade exhibition for plumbers and builders (see attached free ticket to the exhibition).

Friday 12 October 2007 at the Perth Convention and Exhibition Centre is the day for the Professional Plumbers of Perth to be there, there will be plenty of time to view the exhibition before the National Plumbing Forum kicks off at 3:00pm (Seminar Theatre 2, open at 2:30pm).

The Forum theme **Water – Use it, Re-use it or Lose it** follows on from our Sydney Forum but with a new line up of speakers to give the Western Australian viewpoint.

Speakers include Prasanna Suraweera, Environmentally Sustainable Design Engineer introducing the design and associated regulations, legislation and rating tools applicable to plumbing and BCA 5 Star Plus, BCA Energy Efficiency requirements, ABGR and Green Star and much more. IPA member and well known Master Plumber and Managing Director Western Wastewater Treatments, Gary Payne, will provide facts and fallacies about water re-use from Greywater Diversion to

### In this issue

Special Message to WA

2007 Australian National Plumbing Forum – Perth

Register you and your friend.

Sponsor Opportunities

The Institute - What it is and What it isn't.

World Plumbing Council appoints Australian as liaison officer to WHO

Regulation of Plumbing Product Quality.

AS/NZS3500 Part 5 under review.

alternate treatment units providing water suitable for irrigation. John Brennan that well known water efficiency guru from the Water Corporation will give us the latest on large scale community based water management and business compliance programmes, all essential knowledge for the plumbing professional.

An open forum / panel discussion will allow you the delegate to have your say, fellowship drinks and finger food will allow you to conclude the discussion or catch up with friends in an ambient atmosphere.

Your Institute Council and Secretariat are bringing this informative and enjoyable afternoon to you all you need to do is register and attend. We also ask each member to also register a friend, associate or acquaintance so as to double the exposure of what the Institute is doing to bring the National Plumbing Industry closer together.

**Register you and your friend**  
at [www.designbuildexpo.com.au/forum](http://www.designbuildexpo.com.au/forum)

**For potential sponsors there are still some opportunities but to get your name in print you will have to hurry, if you have not yet received a sponsor opportunity pack email the event organiser at [secretary@plumbing.org.au](mailto:secretary@plumbing.org.au) and we will rush one to you.**

### **The Institute - What it is and What it isn't.**

Every now and then someone asks "why should I remain a member?" usually followed by "what's in it for me?" To answer those questions it must first be remembered that the Institute of Plumbing Australia **is not a** Member Service Organisation but is a national body of plumbing professionals from all sectors of the wider plumbing industry formed over 50 years ago by the leading plumbing entrepreneurs of that time with the object of promotion of a higher educational and technological understanding within the profession. It is and always was a volunteer organisation relying on the expertise of its members to gather and disseminate information within the membership and to the public. Our founders did not join together for what they could get out of it but for what they could contribute to the wider craft and industry of plumbing.

Unfortunately in today's hectic business climate the once spare time used for altruistic pursuits such as putting back what you were taking out of your vocation has been eaten up by the relentless pace of e-mail correspondence and increasing government red tape etc. etc. The first casualty of this has been the State Chapter system where a lack of available members has seen a diminution of local input. In recognition of this trend the Institute has moved to a more "National" approach with the above Australian National Plumbing Forum and this E-Institute Newsletter together with the IPA Website aimed at providing opportunities for members and others to engage with the wider plumbing fraternity on matters that effect us all.

In furthering this national approach the IPA has and is continuing to participate in all manner of government and other national and international committees and entities including Training, Regulation, Licensing, Standards, Migrant Plumbers, Plumbing Coalition Australia, World Plumbing Council, World Skills and others.

There are numerous member service organisations providing sector specific commercial orientated services and advice to their members and in some cases inputting that advice onto the same committees that the Institute engages with. The Institute urges active participation in your particular sector but at the same time believes that there is a need for the non-commercial voice of plumbing to be heard. The Institute of Plumbing Australia can only provide that voice through the backing of a strong national membership.

### **World Plumbing Council representative to work with WHO**

Recognising the need to promote safe water supply and sanitation in developing countries, the World Plumbing Council has appointed a liaison officer to collaborate with the World Health Organisation on a series of related projects. John McBride, who has worked with the Australian Plumbing Commission for the past ten years, will help to coordinate development of these projects which will start with a training package for plumbers to be used by educational institutions anywhere in the world.

The World Plumbing Council (WPC) is recognised by the World Health Organisation (WHO) as a 'Non-Governmental Organisation' and last year these two bodies jointly published a handbook, 'Health Aspects of Plumbing', which has been widely accepted as an international reference for safe plumbing practice. This document will provide the base information for the jointly-produced training package.

John McBride's role, which is being totally funded by the WPC, is planned to extend to work with WHO on the establishment of emergency-response criteria for major disasters, together with a roster of volunteer experts in the water supply and sanitation field.

John McBride was Manager of Industry Standards, Training and Information Services for the Australian Plumbing Industry Commission from 1997 to 2007. In this role he advised the Victoria state building and plumbing commissioner on both technical and policy matters in areas of plumbing safety, durability, and water and energy sustainability. He has also worked in an advisory capacity on the development of a plumbing code for East Timor, developed working papers for tsunami relief and has undertaken overseas studies of the regulatory models in France, the United Kingdom, Japan, Germany and the United States.

George Bliss, Chairman of the World Plumbing Council commented, "We have long felt that it is vitally important for the whole world to benefit from latest plumbing principles and standards. Our global community had a wake-up call a few years ago with the SARS outbreak that was traced to poor plumbing and could so easily have turned into a pandemic. If we want to help prevent something like that happening again, we have to help developing nations improve their knowledge of basic plumbing principles.

"Through our close links with WHO, we are now in a position to make a real contribution to the improvement of plumbing standards worldwide, and in John McBride we believe we have the right man to head up this initiative. His immense knowledge of international best practice in plumbing regulations and of plumbing education means he is ideally suited for this vital project."

### **Inquiry into the regulation of plumbing product quality**

Parliament of Australia House of Representatives Standing Committee on Environment and Heritage has commenced an inquiry into the regulation of plumbing product quality in Australia. This inquiry is the direct result of lobbying by the plumbing industry with regard to anomalies in the Water Efficiency Labelling Scheme (WELS) whereby a plumbing product without Watermark approval and so not permitted by law to be installed in a regulated plumbing system in Australia is able to achieve a WELS Label, another instance is where a product does not achieve a WELS star rating but is able to be displayed with a WELS non-compliant label further confusing the buying public. These and other inconsistencies come to a head when consumers purchase products in good faith and plumbers have to refuse to install them or risk prosecution.

Along with other plumbing industry organisations the Institute has provided a submission to this inquiry.

For details of the progress of this inquiry including copies of all submissions go to the [Committee Website](#)

### **AS/NZS3500 Part 5 under review.**

The review of this document has been underway for some time and is now in its concluding stages with a final round of public comment opening in the next few days on the SAI Global website. Keep an eye on [plumbing drafts for comment](#) if you want to be part of the review.

### **Format change**

In this and the previous issue of E-INSTITUTE we have departed from our original concept of using plain text to keep the file size down and for ease of opening on all versions of software, we hope you like it but if it causes you any problems please let us know. One of the reasons behind the change was comments that the plain text sometimes appeared as spam on some computers. We have kept the formatting as simple as possible but allowing our logo and some colour to brighten it up. Please contact the Editor if you have any problems opening this version.

Our aim remains to provide a vehicle for all members to participate in the workings of the Institute from the comfort of their desk. This is particularly important as through evolution the IPA moves from the traditional Chapter system to a more National approach.

**Your input into this Newsletter and other IPA matters is always welcome and in fact sort after.**

Comments on matters raised in E-INSTITUTE or suggestions for future issues are welcome and may be sent to the Editor at:

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You have been sent this Newsletter as a member of the IPA or as a professional member of the wider plumbing industry. If you do not wish to receive further issues please send a reply email with UNSUBSCRIBE in the subject line.