

# E – INSTITUTE

## The Official Newsletter of IPA



The Institute of Plumbing  
Australia Incorporated

Issue 27

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Promoting Consistency in all things Plumbing

### A different view:

I recently wrote a short article for a trade magazine (yet to be published) regarding the use or uses for Certificate IV in Plumbing and this coupled with a role on the steering committee for a CPSISC Pathways Project looking at availability of training beyond Certificate III started me thinking again about the career pathway for a plumber. The conclusion that I came to is that the steps in the path are too broad and the goals along the way are not well recognised within the current certificate system.

Many in the industry see the natural progression for a plumber to be pre-apprentice, apprentice, tradesperson, licensed plumbing contractor and then splitting to one of several paths through business owner, management, teaching, regulator/inspector, designer/consultant etc. The academic progress is out of step with this career pathway due to the large step from apprentice to license studies the achievement of which, in most states, does not currently produce an academic outcome of a certificate IV. Maybe a more gradual progression is pre-apprentice, apprentice, tradesperson/cert III, plumbing technician/cert IIIA, licensed plumber/cert IV and on to diploma/cert V? The idea is to complete the "hands on" subjects such as commission and maintain backflow prevention devices, commission and maintain hot water temperature control devices, service type A gas appliances and similar certificate IV courses in the certificate IIIA, this will give the committed tradesperson an additional qualification early in his/her career therefore improving their employability and encouraging further studies at a reasonable pace. By keeping plumbing technician/cert IIIA as an extension of Certificate III may allow an apprentice once deemed competent at certificate III to progress to the IIIA studies in the latter part of their apprenticeship thereby maintaining a steady progress along their chosen career path (this continuous progression made possible by competency based training is a pet hobbyhorse of mine as it rewards the student prepared to work at achieving within their chosen

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career). In this scenario Certificate IV should be repackaged to suit a licensed contractor outcome encompassing business, estimating, contract control, site OH&S etc. etc. Thinking further outside the square could see the balance of Certificate IV split again to include all the design aspects and some site management/OH&S to skill someone to site supervisor level (with a certificate) and then include real business management skills in the final package to achieve licensed contractor level (with a separate certificate). This smaller packaging and achievable steps with full certification will allow someone coming out of a certificate III apprenticeship to plan a pathway to go as far as they wish without having to undertake studies that they do not need.

What do you think?

Stephen Movley

[secretary@plumbing.org.au](mailto:secretary@plumbing.org.au)

### Queensland Tradeshow:

Our friends at Master Plumbers Association Queensland are conducting a tradeshow complete with interesting seminars, ctrl+click on the advert below to see all the details and registration form.

Whilst you are there say hello to:

**2009 Institute Supporters:** [Enware](#), [Reliance Worldwide](#) and [Rheem](#)

**Industrial Associates:** [Caroma Dorf](#), [Galvin Engineering](#), [Philmac](#) and [Rinnai](#)

For those wanting to make a weekend of it at the beautiful Gold Coast the inaugural 2009 Southport Boat Show and River to Reef Fishing Classic will be held on the 11 - 13 September at Parklands on the Gold Coast.

Brisbane's Riverfire Festival is also being held on Saturday 12 September this a great opportunity to enjoy a great weekend in Queensland's Great South East.



**PLUMBING INDUSTRY TRADESHOW** Thursday 10 September: Open Plumbers Forum/Welcome Cocktail Party  
**CLICK HERE** for more info  
DATE: Friday 11 September 2009 VENUE: Conrad Jupiters - Gold Coast  
COST: Free to attend TIME: 9.00am - 4.00pm

### WorldSkills International Competition 2009: (repeated from issue 26)

The Institute for Trade Skills Excellence has provided the following information to allow you to

view happenings in Calgary from your computer screen.

The 40th [WorldSkills International Competition in Calgary](#), Canada, in September this year, is drawing closer and the competitors are busy training for what could be one of the biggest competitions of their lives.



[The Institute for Trade Skills Excellence](#) led the way last year with the creation of the [WorldSkills Australia Channel](#) during the WorldSkills 2008 National Competition in Darling Harbour.

It was through the success of this new Channel on SkillsOne, that its producers, The Australian Channel, were approached by the WorldSkills International President, Tjerk Dusseldorp, to provide in-depth coverage of the weeklong event in Calgary 2009 and promote the competition throughout the world.



The Australian Channel will be producing approximately 100 videos over the course of the competition. The videos will be available for viewing by audiences worldwide via the Internet.

[The Institute for Trade Skills Excellence](#) sees the promotion of the WorldSkills International competition as an important promotion vehicle for trade skills. As such, [The Institute](#) is the first organization globally to volunteer their assistance in the program.

How can you help?

1. Keep updated. If you'd like to receive video updates throughout the week of the competition in Calgary, [click here](#).
2. Tell your friends. If you know anyone, friends, family, your local plumber, metalwork teacher etc who might be interested, you can enter their details [here](#) and we will ask them if they want to be included on our mailing list. Or, you could simply forward them this email.
3. Embed a video. You can embed a player in your own website or share a link on your MySpace or Facebook page so your friends can check out the action. You can put a specific video there, or embed a player to randomly rotate the latest news and stories from Canada. Email [info@theaustralianchannel.com.au](mailto:info@theaustralianchannel.com.au) for more information.
4. Tell us more. Do you know a great trade magazine, RTO or industry body? Enter their web address [here](#) and we will contact them about how they can get involved.

You can also visit the SkillsOne WorldSkills website to view videos and information about the competition. [Click here](#) for details.

We will keep you updated on WorldSkills leading up to the competition. Stay tuned!

Have a great week,

**Brian Wexham**

Chief Executive Officer,  
The Institute for Trade Skills Excellence

PS. If you haven't verified yourself to receive this email regularly - [click here](#) to join

My SkillsOne.

Your input into this Newsletter and other IPA matters is always welcome and in fact sort after. If you are not already a member why not join and really help us provide a voice for plumbers and plumbing. Simply email the Secretary below.

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.