

E-INSTITUTE is an initiative of the Institute of Plumbing Australia with the aim to provide a vehicle for all members to participate in the workings of the Institute from the comfort of their desk.

E-INSTITUTE is written in Plain Text so as not to clutter your mailbox with large files written in fancy formats. We will keep each issue reasonably short and restrict it to only one or perhaps two matters requiring input by members. We hope that you will reciprocate by considering the issues raised and providing your comments and/or suggestions so as to allow your Institute to publish a consensus view.

LOST SUBSCRIPTION:

Who are you? On 14 December 2005 You transferred \$110.00 for your annual subscriptions by Netbank but did not give a name or invoice number? Your Bank is Commonwealth with a BSB 062197 believed to be in Sydney. A trace through the bank system will cost \$35.00 (billed to you) so please check your records and notify the Secretary if it is yours.

WHAT IS WRONG WITH AS3500-2003:

Why are so many State Regulators running scared of introducing the latest version of AS/NZS3500? Some states are several versions behind the current one yet they all have the opportunity to sit on the Standards Committee responsible for drafting the standard and its revisions! Surely their governing legislature is not so poorly written not to allow them to operate with the latest standards under regulations without having to go cap in hand to Parliament every time there are updates to standards. Australian Standards and Codes are the life blood of safe plumbing yet we are constantly told to work to outdated versions yet expected to use the most up-to-date environmentally friendly materials.

The Plumbing Code of Australia is a prime example of governments playing both ends against the middle, on the one hand we are told that the deemed to satisfy provisions in the PCA are too risky for plumbers to access but on the other hand training of plumbers in the underpinning knowledge of plumbing is seen to be too costly and takes too long.

The supply and protection of wholesome drinking water and the safe disposal of sewage (Plumbers Work) are seen around the world as two of the most important parameters when dealing with the spread of disease yet in Australia we seem keen to downgrade plumbers to little more than Installers of pipes and fittings with little or no knowledge of what makes plumbing functional.

Training of course is the fundamental base of any craft or profession, without adequate, in depth and pertinent training it is impossible to turn out technicians capable of dealing with the complex plumbing systems of the future or even the systems of today. We are already seeing the cracks appear with the aging of our Plumbing Teachers and little incentive for younger people to join their ranks due to poor pay and conditions and a bureaucracy that creams 90% of funding before it reached the coal face.

WHAT CAN WE DO?

>>> One thing we can do is to bulk up the voices of industry, go out and convince some of your associates to join their Industry Member Service

Organisation and/or this Institute so as when Industry makes a noise it can be heard.

>>> Encourage the various sectors of plumbing to work together for the common good.

>>> Talk to people from sectors of plumbing other than your own; find out if their concerns are similar to yours.

>>> If you have another 10 years in plumbing try and ascertain what calibre of employee today's training and apprenticeship systems will give you in 10 years time.

>>> If you have 20 years????????????????

ELECTIONS:

Institute:-

At a recent meeting of the Institute Council Mr Rod Liefman MIPA from Queensland was elected as Vice-President of the Institute for 2006.

Chapter:-

At a recent Annual General Meeting of the Western Australian Chapter the following members were elected to:

Chapter President:	Mr Peter Thompson MIPA
Chapter Secretary:	Mr Chris Galvin AMIPA
Chapter Treasurer:	Mr Tim Swift MIPA
Chapter Vice-President	Mr Chris Galvin AMIPA
Institute Councillor	Mr Peter Thompson MIPA

Nominations - Institute President-elect:-

Nominations are called for Institute President-Elect 2006 (President 2007). Nominations close with the secretary at 12 Noon WST on 5 April 2006. Your Institute is on the move and now is an exciting time to be part of the team driving it, why not give it a go I am sure you will enjoy it.

HAVE YOUR SAY:

The Western Australian Government invites you to have your say about WA's apprenticeship and traineeship system. A Skills Formation Taskforce has been established as a committee of the State Training Board. The Taskforce is charged with providing advice to the Minister for Education and Training on the reforms required to the apprenticeship and traineeship system in WA to address skill shortages both in the short and longer term.

FOR REFORMS READ SHORTENED APPRENTICESHIPS AND FAST TRACK LIMITED TRAINING.

Have your say at public forums or in writing by 7 April 2006. See www.stb.wa.gov.au or telephone 08 9264 4225 for details.

WELS Scheme:

Water Efficiency Labelling and Standards (WELS) scheme is an Australian Government water efficiency labelling and minimum performance standards scheme. It is national and goes mandatory on 1 July 2006. Mandatory items include showers, toilets, domestic washing machines and dishwashers, urinals and some taps. If you are a specifier does your specification allow for WELS, if you are a contractor does your purchasing department know about it, if you are a teacher are you teaching it?

WHAT'S ON?

ISH China. The ISH organisation from Germany also run plumbing exhibitions around the world and the next one is in Beijing China 14 - 17 March 2006. The World Plumbing Council and ISH will run the first WPC/ISH China Academy, Plumbing Symposium 16 March 2006 in conjunction with this exhibition. www.ish.messefrankfurt.com

The Institute of Plumbing and Heating Engineering in England is celebrating its Centenary with a Conference and Exhibition 1-4 June 2006 in Torquay, Devon, England. See <http://www.iphe.org.uk/conference/index.html>

1st National Hydropolis Conference to be run by the Stormwater Industry Association (WA) Inc in Perth Western Australia 8-11 October 2006. see www.promaco.com.au/conference/2006/sia

TECHNICAL BOOKS:

Did you know that the NSW Chapter of your institute runs a mail order bookshop supplying all manner of technical books and Australian Standards. Email Manager Ken Adams kadams@acenet.com.au for more information.

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

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