

# E – INSTITUTE

## The Official Newsletter of IPA



The Institute of Plumbing  
Australia Incorporated

Issue 42

December 2011

Promoting Consistency in all things Plumbing

**MERRY CHRISTMAS  
AND A  
PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR**  
to all our readers.

From the IPA Council and Secretariat we wish you all a happy and safe festive season and look forward to an exciting and busy year in 2012.

### In this issue –

Emerging Opportunities  
require new training

Training Award

Plumbing Code  
Seminars

Emerging Technology  
Symposium 2012

Draft Standards for  
comment

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Notes

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### A recent report highlights emerging opportunities:

A report issued in the International Specialised Skills Institute most recent newsletter titled Skills Deficiencies in the Australian Plumbing Industry – Green Plumbing Practices and Grey Water Recycling may not be agreed with by some of the more forward thinking RTO's but the subject matter highlights opportunities for those seeking niche markets where the competition is not so fierce such as Geothermal Heating Systems including Ground Surface Heat Pump Systems; High Efficiency Biomass Boiler Heating Systems and Water Reclamation and Recycling Technologies.

All these new or improved technologies are “Plumbing Work” and as a Profession and Industry we must be ever vigilant to maintain as plumbing work when pursuing the recommendations made in this report.

To read the full report follow the link below:

[Tony Darcy](#) (2008 Skills Victoria/ISS Institute TAFE Fellow) reports on [‘Skills Deficiencies in the Australian Plumbing Industry. Green Plumbing Practices and Grey Water Recycling.’](#)

## **Master Plumbers Win Prestigious Training Award**

### **Media Release**

**For immediate release**

**November 28, 2011**

### **Bid to boost industry shortages scores national training award**

AN innovative Perth training program helping students become plumbers, gasfitters, painters and decorators has won a major Australian Training Award.

Announced in Brisbane on Friday night (November 25), MPA Skills won the School Pathways to VET Award in recognition of its training partnership with John Forrest Secondary College.

The Australian Training Awards are the peak, national awards for the vocational education and training (VET) sector.

The same WA partnership was state winner of the School First Award in 2010.

With two state-of-the-art training campuses in Maylands and Bayswater, MPA Skills is a division of the MPA Group that includes the Master Plumbers and Gasfitters Association of WA and Master Painters Australia (WA) Association.

MPA Group CEO Murray Thomas said the painting and decorating and plumbing and gasfitting programs on offer were designed to address industry shortages.

“Through these programs, students begin the first stage of a mapped and highly supportive life cycle for employment,” he said.

“It begins by integrating school-based pre-apprenticeships and apprenticeships with the senior school curriculum.

“The pathway continues through to potential full-time employment with the MPA Skills apprentice employment division on completion of Year 12 or in lieu of finishing secondary schooling.”

As employees of MPA Skills, students remain in a supportive and nurturing environment and have ongoing access to training expertise, industry mentors and a large range of employers and tradespeople within the MPA Group.

“Our aim is to provide a win-win arrangement for all stakeholders,” Mr Thomas said.

“Winning the School Pathways to VET Award gives national acclaim to the outstanding opportunities we are providing, along with many impressive outcomes.

“This is a sensational achievement that reflects our strong commitment to training high-quality apprentices because we want to ensure a bright future for this industry.

“It’s important we promote professional and ethical business practices at the training stage and educate our apprentices on the required trade standards.”

Mr Thomas said trends have shown an increase in applications each year and, beyond 2011, it is anticipated there will be waiting lists for all programs.

More information about MPA Skills is available at [www.mpaskills.com.au](http://www.mpaskills.com.au)

### **Plumbing Code of Australia 2012**

Another round of seminars in February and March 2012 have been programmed by the Australian Building Codes Board (ABCB) and Standards Australia on the Plumbing Code of Australia and how it fits in the National Construction Code, see [ABCB/Events](http://ABCB/Events) for dates and registration details. or [www.abcb.gov.au](http://www.abcb.gov.au) for full information about the workings of the ABCB.

### **International Emerging Technology Symposium 2012**

Once again this unique symposium will be Co-Convened by IAPMO and World Plumbing Council

1-2 May 2012 Washington DC USA.

Read all about it including online registration and accommodation etc. just follow the link below to the IAPMO Green Newsletter.

<http://forms.iapmo.org/GreenNewsletter.asp>

### **Draft Standards open for comment include:**

DR AS 2419.3 Fire hydrant installations – Part 3 Fire brigade booster connections  
comment period closes 10 January 2012

DR AS 5414 Bushfire water spray systems – comment period closes 8 February 2012

A full list of drafts currently open for comment is provided by Standards Australia click [here](#)

### **Plumbing Advisory Notes**

The National Plumbing Regulators Forum (NPRF) have an informative website on national regulatory and general plumbing matters at [www.plumbingregulators.org](http://www.plumbingregulators.org) or to go direct to Advisory Notes at [www.plumbingregulators.org/home/innovation/advisory-notes](http://www.plumbingregulators.org/home/innovation/advisory-notes)

### **Selection and Sizing of Copper Tubes for Water Piping Systems**

[Selection and Sizing of Copper Tubes for Water Piping Systems](#) by Barrie Smith (the blue book) is now available in both DVD and E-Book download, visit

[www.plumbing.org.au](http://www.plumbing.org.au) and follow the links.

**NOTE:**

**Companion Spreadsheet now available, see [www.plumbing.org.au](http://www.plumbing.org.au) for details and FREE Download. (follow the button links or click on **Technical Book Sales** and scroll to bottom of page for **Spreadsheet Files****

Correction – The November Issue was incorrectly numbered 40 but should be No.41.

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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