

E – INSTITUTE

The Official Newsletter of IPA



The Institute of Plumbing
Australia Incorporated

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Promoting Consistency in all things Plumbing

WaterMark?

With the advent of the inclusion of the Plumbing Code of Australia (PCA) as Volume 3 of the National Construction Code (NCC) including the requirement to use authorised materials and products in plumbing and drainage installations makes an understanding of the WaterMark Certification Scheme (WMCS) essential knowledge for all in the wider plumbing industry.

To quantify industry understanding of the requirement to install only authorised products and the ramifications of not doing so; the IPA is conducting an on-line survey and will provide an analysis of the results to governments in support of a perceived need to build industry and public knowledge.

Please complete the survey (less than 5 minutes) at:

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/8YTM3CP>

Please note your individual answers will not be shared with anyone and your name and details will not be recorded.

The following points were raised at the recent Plumbing Supply Forum 2012 by Kevin Newhouse of the Australian Building Codes Board and relate to the inclusion of the Plumbing Code of Australia (PCA) into the National Construction Code and emphasize the need for Plumbers to understand the requirements of WaterMark. [See more and other presentations at www.plumbingsupplyforum.com.au](#)

- **PCA is now the primary regulatory code**
- **Opportunity for innovation through Alternative Solutions**
- **AS/NZS 3500 series still provides the bulk of technical detail**
- **Still need to use WaterMarked products**

In this issue –

WaterMark – what do you know?

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**WPC Scholarship 2012
(closes 31 July 2012)**

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Backflow Prevention – Interest meeting in Victoria:

Are you interested in Backflow Prevention and being part of an active National Backflow Association?

The backflow industry continues to grow in Victoria without an active industry body in place to focus on issues of importance to the backflow plumber.

Queensland is the only State where a backflow industry association is active, and now the Backflow Prevention Association Queensland Inc (BPAQ) in conjunction with Apollo Valves / Conbraco Backflow, LW Gemmell/Wilkins and Reece Plumbing Supplies are inviting interested backflow industry members to attend an information forum to assess what is needed in Victoria.

As the industry develops, it is essential that the backflow industry in Victoria has an active body focused on Victorian issues.

If enough support is generated to support this group, it will be based on the successful Queensland BPAQ format and will form part of a larger Australian backflow body, The National Backflow Industry Association (NBIA).

Come along and hear from;

P McLennan - Secretary of the Backflow Prevention Association Queensland Inc and other speakers representing water authorities and industry bodies.

There will also be a tour of the PICAC facility.

Date – Thursday 5th July

6.30 – 8pm

Venue –PICAC

306 Albert St Brunswick.

Contact for RSVP vic@lwgemmell.com.au

Please reply by Friday 29th June.



Media release

The Hon Robert Clark MP
Attorney-General
Minister for Finance

Tuesday 24 April 2012

Community input sought on domestic building reform options

The Victorian Coalition Government today released a far-reaching consultation paper seeking public input on options to reform the domestic building consumer protection system.

Minister for Finance Robert Clark, in conjunction with the Minister for Planning and the Minister for Consumer Affairs, announced that the Government is seeking feedback from consumers, builders and other interested parties on both the current system and reform options.

The paper describes and examines the current framework of general consumer protection laws, builder registration systems, building-specific regulations, dispute resolution and limited mandatory insurance, and sets out a range of possible reform options.

Areas listed for possible reform include:

- early dispute resolution
- the information available to consumers, builders, regulators and insurers
- insurance arrangements
- legal remedies, inspections and disciplinary actions.

The paper also presents and discusses a wide variety of possible insurance models covering:

- mandatory last resort insurance (the current Victorian scheme)
- mandatory first resort insurance
- voluntary insurance
- professional indemnity insurance attached to builders rather than projects.

"While most domestic building projects in Victoria are completed well, there have been far too many cases where the system put in place by the previous government has failed to properly protect consumers against poor workmanship and shonky operators," Mr Clark said.

"The domestic building construction industry contributes significantly to the Victorian economy and comprises around 6.5 percent of Victoria's gross state product.

"It is important that consumer protection is as practical, effective, timely and affordable as possible, and that honest and capable builders know their reputation and livelihood will not be put at risk by the failings of a minority," Mr Clark said.

The consultation and feedback on the discussion paper will be a key input into the Government's decisions on reform options.

The consultation paper and further information on the submission process are available at www.dtf.vic.gov.au. Submissions will be open until 29 June 2012.

Media contact: James Copsey 0419 984 371 james.copsey@minstaff.vic.gov.au

Visit www.premier.vic.gov.au for more news



Click to view the [domestic building consultation paper](#)

SCHOLARSHIP 2012

World Plumbing Council Chairman GP Russ Chaney has announced applications are invited from individuals involved in plumbing industry training wishing to visit another country for the purpose of researching and furthering plumbing training and skills development.

The recipients of the scholarship in 2010 and 2011 are great examples of the diversity that is available through the WPC Education and Training Scholarship Program. In 2010 Robert Goodchild of Perth, Western Australia, travelled to South Africa and as a part of his study tour visited a township of some 33,000 people with a poor water supply, few toilets and no sewerage, with little or no infrastructure to support sustainable living for that community. His report illustrated the value of a well qualified and trained plumber supported by an effective regulatory system.

The 2011 recipient Chintan Daiya of Mumbai, India, chose to visit Singapore, which boasts a highly developed water reclamation system (NEWater) and desalination system to ensure adequate water supply for the well developed and populous island state.

Mr Daiya went onto say that the WPC Education & Training Scholarship provides an excellent opportunity for an individual to witness and learn about issues of public health and environmental sustainability in another country, while considering the training mechanisms and structures to support these observations.

WPC Executive Board Director Rich Prospal, Chairman of the WPC Education & Training Standing Committee, commented "The WPC Education & Training Scholarship opens a multitude of opportunities for the recipient. If only to broaden your horizons on how things are done in other parts of the world or to immerse yourself into a different culture or to make new friends is a great learning/teaching experience. The whole idea is to expand the thought that plumbing is important in everyone's health and everyday life."

The value of the WPC Education and Training Scholarship is up to US\$10,000, which covers the costs associated with return travel, lodging, meals and incidentals. The World Plumbing Council initiated the Education and Training Scholarship in 2003 and it continues to this day to be one of the most beneficial programs offered by the WPC to the plumbing industry at large.

Please visit www.worldplumbing.org click on Communications then Education & Training Scholarship to see the reports of previous recipients and to download an application for the 2012 Scholarship.

Applications close on the 31st July 2012.

IPA Members and Readers do you know a plumbing trainer that may be interested in applying? Or maybe you have access to a training establishment if so please circulate this message.

Thank you for your support.

World Plumbing Council to meet in Australia

A General Meeting of the World Plumbing Council will be held in Brisbane, Australia on the 21st/22nd October 2012 to be followed by an Australian Plumbing Industry Conference in Cairns, Queensland, the gateway to the Barrier Reef.

More information on the World Plumbing Council at www.worldplumbing.org

Information on the Australasian International Plumbing Conference can be found at www.plumbingconference.com.au

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 and follow the links.

NOTE:

Companion Spreadsheet now available, see 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****

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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