

# E – INSTITUTE

## The Official Newsletter of IPA



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The Institute of Plumbing  
Australia Incorporated

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 productive year in 2012.

The Institute Council recently called for nominations and conducted postal ballot where required for the positions of Institute Councillor representing each Chapter/State for the two years 2013 and 2014 with the following results:

Queensland: Mr Rodney Liefman MIPA  
[rod@gascoservices.com.au](mailto:rod@gascoservices.com.au)

New South Wales: Mr Jon Tourle MIPA  
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Victoria: Mr Peter Wenning MIPA  
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Tasmania: Mr Robert Pearshouse MIPA  
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South Australia: Mr Derek Harris MIPA  
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Western Australia: Mr Paul O'Reilly MIPA  
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## **The Year that was:**

2012 started full of promise, national licensing for plumbers and gasfitters and several other occupations was to come to fruition after several years of hard work by industry stakeholders continually striving for world best practice legislation; it was thought that the Plumbing Code of Australia was to be adopted by all States and Territories as it was now included as Volume 3 of the National Construction Code; In Western Australia the Plumbing Industry Reference Group (PIRG) was re-established and its purpose re-confirmed as a provider of industry input into the policies of the Plumbing Licensing Board (State Plumbing Regulator) to name a few of the matters that the IPA has involvement with. There were many other aspects of regulation, training, standards and codes affecting plumbers and gasfitters, their craft and their industry too numerous to comment on here but all requiring freely given time and expertise of peak industry stakeholders.

Of the three matters raised above, national licensing, in bureaucratic speak is all settled with the “Final Industry Roundtable” held recently in Canberra, (see attached NOLS Update, the grey head in the foreground belongs to the IPA) but in reality national licensing for plumbing and gasfitting requires, in the view of this Institute, adoption not just discussion of a number of points including:

- The adoption of a three tier system with the highest possible qualifications.
- Knowledge and experience to be prescribed in the National Law and its Regulations including that the qualifications for a tradesperson license/registration include that training (on the job and off the job) is delivered as part of a structured contract of employment and training.
- Business qualifications for a Contractor License.
- The inclusion of Roof Plumbing and Stormwater Drainage in Plumbing Licensing.

Adoption of the Plumbing Code of Australia continues to be a hotchpotch of full adoption through to some imposing small minded bureaucratic nonsense to some seemingly running scared of allowing emerging technologies to be taken up.

Western Australia’s Plumbing Legislation continues to be in limbo taken out of its rightful place in the Water Services Act and warehoused in the Building Act without any consultation with the plumbing industry! After intervention by industry the State Government agreed to a full review of Western Australia’s Plumbing Legislation but with a Commission still milking its cash cow there is every incentive for delay and an obvious reluctance to engage with the expertise and willingness of industry to set meaningful terms of reference and get the review underway.

The July 2012 Issue of E-Institute ran the headline “Building Commission’s – Bad News for Plumbers” and things have only gone downhill from there, in Victoria they appear to believe that the Building Commission is beyond redemption and are replacing it with a Building Authority, is it only a name change or will there be a culture and operational change? Presumably plumbing will be roped into the new Authority rather than being allowed to stand alone where it belongs. In Western Australia as for Victoria the Building Commission is also the subject of a damaging report by the State Auditor General but unlike Victoria where relatively swift action has been undertaken the Western Australian Plumbers are still waiting for a Parliamentary Committee to look into the report. With State Parliament now in recess and moving towards caretaker mode for a state election in March 2013 these delaying tactics have relegated the report to shelf ware and industry must be mindful of this during the proposed review of plumbing legislature.

**The year to come:**

Unfortunately 2013 will commence with much the same list as for 2012 and no doubt new issues will be added so it is imperative that the prior year's issues are brought to conclusion to obviate the continuing and emerging dangers to public health and the environment. But this is the season of good will and as governments and their bureaucrats appear willing to carry the risks, plumbers may take a break and come back in 2013 rejuvenated and encouraged to make a stand that only consistent and best practice regulation, training and standards will allow plumbers to fully fulfil their role as protectors of public health and the environment.

**IPA Office closure:**

The IPA Office will be closed from Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> December 2012 to Monday 14<sup>th</sup> January 2013. Our Email and PO Box will be checked periodically during that time.

**For your Diary next year:****Plumbing Code of Australia Awareness Seminars –**

Canberra – 19 Feb

Adelaide – 21 Feb

Melbourne – 25 Feb

Hobart – 28 Feb

Brisbane – 11 March

Darwin – 14 March

Perth – 19 March

Sydney – 26 March

Email [NCCawareness@abcb.gov.au](mailto:NCCawareness@abcb.gov.au) to be put on a mailing list.

**Building Australia's Future 2013 Conference:**

The Australian Building Codes Board and Master Plumbers Australia will bring you the pre-eminent national construction industry conference of 2013 at Sofitel Brisbane 15 – 18 September. Lodge your details at [BAF2013@abcb.gov.au](mailto:BAF2013@abcb.gov.au) to receive further information.

**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****

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.