

E – INSTITUTE

The Official Newsletter of IPA



The Institute of Plumbing
Australia Incorporated

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Promoting Consistency in all things Plumbing

The frustrations of a year past:

Well 2013 is over and what a frustrating year it was for those in the wider plumbing profession charged with seeking best practice to best protect the community and the environment through consistent training, standards and regulation of plumbers and plumbing.

In 2013 some hoped for the completion of the trilogy of nationally consistent training, standards and licensing/regulation to finally be completed:

Training – despite having a nationally accredited training package not all states or regulators are ensuring, through audit, that competencies being attested to are in fact consistent across providers or up to the standard required of modern plumbing regulation.

Standards – sanitisation of plumbing standards to meet government protocols has seen the removal of much of the general advice so important to newly graduated plumbers striking out in this complex profession, this process has also detracted from the real work of maintaining relevance with new materials and processes.

Licensing/regulation – The demise of national licensing for plumbers and gasfitters is generally seen as a relief from a system, once nationally endorsed by industry and regulators alike as sound technical regulation, to a self-perpetuating money pit that did not meet the technical requirements of existing regulators or those aspiring to improve regulations.

So what of 2014:

Training – With a robust national training package subject to continued improvement we have the basis of success, with the demise of NOLS regulators now have the tools to continue or to introduce industry assessment of competencies prior to issue of registration or license, this in turn will force the accountant/managers that have taken over from technical expertise to re-assess competency outcomes on understanding and technical merit rather than dollars.

Standards – with the decrease in general advice in

In this issue –

[So what of 2014](#)

[WA Review](#)

[World Plumbing Conference](#)

[World Plumbing Day](#)

[Training Package redesign](#)

[WaterMark review](#)

[Australian Standards for comment](#)

[For your Diary](#)

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standards there is a real need for hand books or similar to replace the missing common sense and assist those graduating to positions that require decisions of how to, when to and if to.

Licensing/regulation – Now that government has recognised its failing and is busy burying its multimillion dollar debacle of NOLS the wider plumbing industry must ensure a mutually recognised suite of “general” plumbing and gasfitting licenses and set up a mechanism to maintain their relevance and mutual acceptance. A good starting point would be the agreements reached in early 2012.

Stephen Movley
Editor

As always the IPA is more than willing to publish apposing and/or supporting views to its editorials.

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Review of Western Australia’s Plumbing Regulations:

As part of the review it has been recommended that the adoption of the Plumbing Code of Australia – Alternative Solutions be treated independently of and prior to public issue of the final review report. A discussion paper that proposes the enabling of alternative plumbing solutions in Western Australia has been released for consultation:

The [discussion paper](#) and [information on how to make a submission](#) can be viewed via the following link:

[Alternative Plumbing Solutions in Western Australia](#)

Written comments, queries and submissions should be forwarded no later than **close of business Friday 21 February 2014** as shown on the discussion paper.

IPA Member Bob Goodchild reports on the 2013 World Plumbing Conference:



INCREDIBLE INDIA

What an experience to attend the 10th World Plumbing Conference held in New Delhi, India November 2013. Over six hundred delegates from many countries attended the event that was held in the Hotel Grand.

I was privileged to have been invited to attend the committee meeting that was held the day before the conference commenced. The day consisted of voting in of committee members and the announcement of the new WPC chairman Mr Sudhakaran Nair. Also of note was the confirmation of Melbourne hosting the 2019 conference?

The two day conference was full of information on public health and environmental issues concerning plumbing work. Of note was a presentation on sanitary design in commercial

buildings and the dangers of dry traps (SARS outbreak 2003), a computer application has now been produced whereby a sonic wave is sent down the stack line at regular intervals, if a trap becomes dry the sonic wave changes, which alerts the system of a problem, so it can be quickly attended to. This development is a major advancement in the protection of public health and something I will be sharing when delivering the Plumbing Contractors License.

Environment, Health and Hygiene are the major concerns of all developing and underdeveloped countries, large or small. Among these, India is fast catching up with the developed countries in economic progress but in the areas of Environment, Health and Hygiene, India has a lot of catching-up still to do.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) estimates that 80 per cent of sicknesses in the world are attributable to waterborne diseases, which are preventable. Many other diseases are spread through poor hygienic practices. By improving sanitation and environmental conditions by conducting educational programmes and by creating awareness, healthcare bills can be substantially reduced.

Environment, water and sanitation on their own, do not result in improved health; but the correct utilisation of them does. Clean environment, safe drinking water and better sanitation practices are critical components of a comprehensive healthcare programme. An environment that enables and supports good hygiene should be ensured and promoted at all levels.

The mission of the World Plumbing Council is: 'To promote the role of plumbing in improving public health and safeguarding the environment, by uniting the World Plumbing Industry, for the benefit of all.

The next WPC venue is set for Cape Town in September 2016, put it in your diary, it's a memorable event.



WORLD PLUMBING DAY TWITTER CHALLENGE

It is just over a month to **World Plumbing Day, March 11, every year, everywhere**, and the World Plumbing Council is challenging all those involved in Plumbing to get on board supporting this day around the World. A great way of doing this is to get involved with Twitter, and let's see how many followers we can build for World Plumbing Day between now and March 11!

Follow the link to <https://twitter.com/#!/@WPlumbingDay>

Or on the web at www.worldplumbingday.org

CPSISC training packages redesign:

The Construction and Property Services Industry Skills Council (CPSISC) invites your feedback to redesign the training packages for Construction, Plumbing and Services; and Property Services, after new standards for training packages were introduced in 2012.

You can help determine how the redesign may impact on certifiers and related professions. Simply sign up to the CPSISC website to have your say

WaterMark Scheme Review:

Please be advised that the ABCB WaterMark Scheme Review Consultation Draft is now available for viewing online at <http://www.abcb.gov.au/product-certification/watermark/WaterMark-scheme-review>.

Feel free to provide any comments to the ABCB Office via email watermarkreview@abcb.gov.au

Please be advised that all comments are to be received by COB 14 February 2014.

Regards

Australian Building Codes Board

Standards Australia Drafts for comment:

[DR AS 2419.1](#)

Fire hydrant installations – Part 1: System design, installation and commissioning.

Public comments close 2 April 2014

[DR AS/NZS 3500.3](#)

Plumbing and drainage - Part 3: Stormwater drainage

Public comments close 7 February 2014

For your Diary:

Australian Healthcare Week – Design, Development and Technology

25 – 27 March 2014 – Sydney see www.austhealthweek.com.au

DesignBUILD 2014

2 – 4 April 2014 – Melbourne see www.designbuildexpo.com.au

The International Emerging Technology Symposium

The 4th International Emerging Technology Symposium (IETS) will be held in Arlington, Virginia, USA on April 23rd and 24th, 2014.

In addition to the WPC and IAPMO, the IETS is now also being co-convened by the American Society of Plumbing Engineers (ASPE), the Canadian Institute of Plumbing & Heating (CIPH), the Mechanical Contractors Association of America (MCAA), the Plumbing-Heating-Cooling Contractors National Association (PHCC), Plumbing Manufacturers International (PMI) and the United Association (UA). Peter DeMarco invited WPC members to attend and support this important WPC initiative. Additional information can be found at

http://www.iapmo.org/Pages/EmergingTechnologySymposium_NoPics.aspx

17th Buildexpo Africa 2014

May 2014 see www.exporttoafrica.net/bc

ISH China

Beijing China 13-16 May 2014 see www.ishc-cihe.com

WorldSkills Australia National Competition

18-20 September 2014 – Perth see www.worldskills.org.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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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.