



# E-Institute

Official Newsletter of IPA

## MULTI-SKILLED TEAMS EXCELLED IN PLUMBING AND SANITATION SOLUTIONS AT INAUGURAL WATER INNOVATION CHALLENGE 2014, SINGAPORE

Multi-skilled teams from USA and Australia excelled in designing and producing innovative plumbing and sanitation solutions for the communities in Nepal and Bangladesh who have been suffering from ongoing health issues caused by poor sanitation conditions at the inaugural Water Innovation Challenge 3-5 June 2014, Singapore. After competing neck and neck on the first Challenge Day, both teams were improving very fast in various tasks designed according to the actual conditions in the countries concerned. It was Team USA who emerged on top and scooped the first Water Innovation Challenge title.

The Water Innovation Challenge was led and organized by WorldSkills Foundation, Healthabitat, World Plumbing Council, RMIT University, and the Institute of Technical Education Singapore (ITE) to pioneer and demonstrate how young professionals with different skill sets – in this case, Plumbing, Engineering, and Graphic Design Technology – can be integrated and work together to generate real plumbing and sanitation solutions with the potential to make significant impact on public health in the targeted communities.

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**World Plumbing Day**

See attached Review for some of the action.

**Good news with a “but”**

Remote or City dwellers have equal needs for best practice plumbing.

**“but” Maybe there is a way**

**NCC to be freely available from 2015**

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Team Australia consisted of Babbar Ali Suleman - a third year Bachelor of Environmental Engineering student in RMIT University, David Duddy - an Apprentice Plumber and Gas Fitter in the fourth year of his course in RMIT University, Sean Mundy - a third year of his Plumbing Apprenticeship and is studying in RMIT University, Nurul Driver- a second year student in the Bachelor of Sustainable Systems Engineering (Honours).

For competing at the Challenge, Team USA brought together Nicholas Michalenko – a veteran of WorldSkills Competition 2013 in Leipzig, Germany and obtained a Massachusetts Journeyman plumber license in 2013, Timothy Murphy – an Apprentice Plumber with Boulanger’s Plumbing & Heating, Sarah Parker – an Advertising & Design student at Appalachian State University, North Carolina and also a veteran of WorldSkills Competition 2013 in Leipzig, Germany, Judith Torres – a Graduate Mechanical Engineer and currently works with Progressive AE in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Both teams had spent many hours before and during the event developing their project concepts. A body of work was created through this event, covering construction, planning, logistics, budgets, project management, and skills/knowledge transfer, which will be carried forward by the project partner Healthabitat into their Sanitation Studio programmes in communities in Nepal and Bangladesh. Team members will be given the opportunity of implementing their projects in these communities. Project documents will also be freely shared via WorldSkills Foundation. For more information about the project and backgrounds of participating teams, please visit [www.worldskillsfoundation.org](http://www.worldskillsfoundation.org)



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## **2014 World Plumbing Council Scholarship Program offers up to US\$20,000.00**

The World Plumbing Council Chairman, Mr. Sudhakaran Nair has launched the WPC Education and Training Scholarship Program for 2014.

He announced that, “2014 is the first year that two scholarship opportunities have been offered by the World Plumbing Council”, Mr. Nair said “The Scholarships provide an

opportunity to increase global awareness of the contribution that plumbing has made to global health and the environment and this year, 2014 sees the introduction of a scholarship program designed specifically for developing and least developed countries in addition to the WPC Scholarship introduced in 2003, which boasts many successful applicants, who having travelled to many parts of the world in their quest for knowledge.” Mr. Nair went on to say that he was particularly proud to announce the new scholarship program which would be known as WPC Scholarship for Least Developed and Developing Countries –Exclusively supported by IPA. He said that this was a great opportunity for WPC and IPA to assist people to access fresh water and sanitation in the least developed and developing countries through plumbing education and training and the creation of a plumbing knowledge base for future generations.

He invited personnel involved in the plumbing industry to make an application for these rewarding and educational industry scholarship programs. Each of the scholarships provides up to US\$10,000 in funding to travel to another country or countries to share innovative ideas and techniques. The scholarships are intended to provide for an educational exchange between countries focusing on plumbing industry training, while at the same time exposing the participants to new technologies and innovations in training systems. They also provide an opportunity to increase awareness of the contribution that plumbing has made to global health and the environment.

Mr. Nair stated “that the enhanced scholarship program now offered by the World Plumbing Council was a significant step towards achieving its mission, 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 WPC Scholarship program provides the opportunity to live and work within the culture of another country, providing the chance to learn another language and develop friendships. Successful applicants are encouraged to focus on the following areas during their scholarship program;

- Identification of emerging vocational training needs and trends
- Plumbing training & education to address the environment and sustainability issues
- The value of water efficiency to the community and the plumbing industry
- How does plumbing training or lack of training affect public health in a country or region?

Please visit [www.worldplumbing.org](http://www.worldplumbing.org) click on Communications then Education & Training Scholarship to see the reports of previous recipients and to download an application for the 2014 Scholarship. Applications close on the 31st July 2014.

For information on developing countries go to <http://www.isi-web.org/component/content/article/5-root/root/81-developing>

For information on least developed countries go to

[http://www.nationsonline.org/oneworld/least\\_developed\\_countries.htm](http://www.nationsonline.org/oneworld/least_developed_countries.htm)

*Please note that the IPA mentioned in above is the Indian Plumbing Association.*

**Water, Sanitation, Hygiene and Health  
Correction (2) - Newsletter N° 179 / 19 June 2014**



**Draft report on regulations and standards for drinking-water quality** is now available for review. The report documents the values specified in national standards for drinking-water parameters and how they compare to those set out in the fourth edition of the WHO Guidelines for Drinking-water Quality. The World Health Organisation's Guidelines for Drinking Water Quality are an international reference point for the establishment of national regulations and standards for water safety, and along with uptake of Water Safety Planning, the Regulatory Scan represents an important initial step in documenting their influence in the setting of these regulations and standards. Comments on the draft background document above should be sent before 25 July 2014 to [regnet@who.int](mailto:regnet@who.int).

[http://www.who.int/water\\_sanitation\\_health/regulations\\_and\\_standards\\_for\\_drinking-water\\_quality/en/](http://www.who.int/water_sanitation_health/regulations_and_standards_for_drinking-water_quality/en/)

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WSH participated in the **Singapore International Water Week, Singapore, 1-5 June 2014**. Discussions on the joint monitoring programme and post-2015 targets took place at a side event organised by the UN's secretary General Advisory Group of Water and Sanitation. WHO was involved in sessions on Water Safety Plans, Future Issues and discussions on potable reuse of treated wastewater and antimicrobial resistance and WASH. WSH with support from PUB Singapore convened a technical meeting on the Guidelines for Drinking-Water Quality (5-7 June 2014) to discuss post 4<sup>th</sup> edition activities.

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**Water Safety in Distribution Systems** publication was launched during the recently held Singapore International Water Week, Singapore, 1-5 June 2014. This reference tool has been developed to help water suppliers and regulators, familiar with the Water Safety Plan approach to enhance their risk assessment, management and investment planning for water distribution systems. Publication page:

[http://www.who.int/water\\_sanitation\\_health/publications/Water Safety in Distribution System/en/](http://www.who.int/water_sanitation_health/publications/Water_Safety_in_Distribution_System/en/)

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**International Water Association (an NGO in official relations)**

Please see vacancy announcements for three positions in the programmes group:

<http://www.iwahq.org/240/about-iwa/vacancies.html> circulate amongst your networks and

direct to any good potential candidates.

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## World Plumbing Day 2014

World Plumbing Day 11 March 2014 was well supported around the world and in Australia included hug-a-plumber and various training/education functions promoting the skills of the modern plumber and the reasons that plumbing is an essential service to the community.

See the attached World Plumbing Council Review for details

## Good news with a “but”

A good news story in the Western Australian Government Press Release below but with governments of all persuasions making moves to cut the protection to remote communities that is afforded to city dwellers through robust regulation of essential services such as Plumbing how will the government ensure and secure the water supplies, water quality and disposal of wastewater in these remote communities without regulatory oversight of properly trained and licensed plumbers.

An article “Clinic conditions outrage senior nurse” in the Weekend West Newspaper March 29-30 2014 highlighted the problems of non-compliant plumbing in a remote community in North West Western Australia with the quote “she had to shut the clinic after reeking effluent rose from the bathroom drain holes and flooded the floors”. As plumbers we all know that sewer relief is an essential part of a safe plumbing system and was obviously lacking or compromised in this situation.

### *Media Statement:*

Hon Bill Marmion BE MBA MLA

More support for Outback communities

Friday, 23 May 2014

Remote Aboriginal communities are set to benefit from an extra \$15million in State Government funding for essential services.

“The additional money for critical infrastructure will enable more secure water supplies, improvements in water quality and will ensure the safe supply of electricity and other essential services,” Housing Minister Bill Marmion said.

Mr Marmion said the funding, announced in the State Budget, was in addition to \$30million per annum provided by the State to maintain power, water and wastewater services through the Remote Area Essential Services Program.

“The Liberal National Government is committed to improving Aboriginal community and employment outcomes and fundamental to this is having access to quality services,” he said.

The Minister said both the State and Commonwealth had a shared responsibility to address the backlog of infrastructure needs in remote communities.

“Ongoing funding from the Commonwealth is essential to address the significant challenges

in achieving sustainable improvements in remote Aboriginal communities,” Mr Marmion said.

“More efficient delivery of essential and municipal services needs a long-term commitment from both the State and Commonwealth Governments, in co-operation with local government.”

There are more than 270 remote Aboriginal communities in Western Australia supported by the State and Federal governments, most located in the Pilbara and Kimberley.

#### Fact File

- Total State Government commitment to remote community essential services in the 2014-15 State Budget is \$45million

- The Commonwealth was a significant player in the establishment of almost all of the 274 remote communities in WA

Minister’s office - 6552 6800

“but” maybe NSW have the answer:

## New plumbing program flush with success

### 2 May 2014

A new program to improve health and wellbeing in remote Aboriginal communities, piloted recently in Walgett and Lightning Ridge, has been well-received by housing providers and tenants.

The new program offers annual plumbing health checks in communities with limited access to tradespeople to provide locals with a better understanding of and capacity to ensure optimal operation of plumbing and drainage systems.

Fair Trading Minister Stuart Ayres said agency specialists and Aboriginal housing providers, Barriekneal Community and Housing Ltd and MurdiPaaki Regional Housing Corporation Ltd, had worked well together to make the most of the new initiative.

“Fair Trading staff got a great deal of satisfaction from running this program,” he said.

“Officers said they really enjoyed the opportunity to make a difference in a remote community and to develop practical partnerships with housing providers whose services are so important for Aboriginal people.

“The plumbing health checks have been completed and the majority of properties inspected had only minor issues.

“Fair Trading is providing a full report to both housing providers and working closely with them on solutions.

“A common issue raised by tenants was septic holding tanks releasing foul odours.

“Fair Trading staff advised tenants this could be from the use of certain cleaning products like bleach. One fix was to try a septic friendly cleaning product or to try natural products such as vinegar and bicarbonate of soda. The housing providers have agreed to work with tenants on such simple solutions.

“Barriekneal and MurdiPaaki have also agreed to have licensed contractors rectify other issues including replacement of fittings and clearing of blocked drains.”

CEO of the Master Plumbers Association NSW Paul Naylor commended the NSW Government for taking what he described as a ‘very proactive approach and overdue initiative for Indigenous communities’.

“The health and safety of Indigenous communities through the provision of safe drinking water and safe sewerage services benefits all Australians,” he said.

“Master Plumbers encourages all remote Aboriginal communities to participate.”

Minister Ayres said Fair Trading had already been approached by another remote

community wanting to be involved in the program.

Remote NSW Aboriginal communities interested in the program should contact the Co-coordinator Aboriginal Programs Brett Cunningham on 02 4925 7012 or 0423 844 286, or [brett.cunningham@finance.nsw.gov.au](mailto:brett.cunningham@finance.nsw.gov.au) or the Director of the Home Building Service Lynelle Collins on 02 9895 0753 or 0477 310 257 or [lynelle.collins@finance.nsw.gov.au](mailto:lynelle.collins@finance.nsw.gov.au).

Friday 30 May 2014

**National Construction Code to be freely available from 2015:**

# **Matthew Mason-Cox MLC**

## **Minister for Fair Trading**

### **MEDIA RELEASE**

#### **FORUM ADDRESSES BUILDING REGULATION REFORMS**

Fair Trading Minister Matthew Mason-Cox today supported a move to make the National Construction Code freely available to business from 2015 onwards, marking a major step forward in the building regulation reform agenda.

State and Commonwealth Ministers met in Sydney this morning to attend the Australian Building Ministers' Forum meeting.

"The NSW Government wants a strong and vibrant building and construction industry with high levels of compliance against industry standards," Mr Mason-Cox said.

"The Code governs minimum requirements for the design, construction and performance of buildings throughout Australia.

"Currently, the Code is costly and putting a price on the Code limits its use and ultimately limits compliance. By promoting the Code and making it freely available, small to medium size business will have a well-defined standard to follow.

"Future editions will be available and online to promote greater use of the Code as we remove barriers to industry to access this information."

The National Construction Code provides model regulations for buildings and plumbing and is given effect through state and territory legislation.

The move will eliminate the Code's purchase price (almost \$400) and increase the number of building and plumbing practitioners using the Code across Australia.

Another initiative proposed by the forum including adopting a three year review cycle for the Code rather than the current annual review. It agreed to measures expected to lead to greater consistency in building regulations across the states and territories, by limiting variations to the Code.

“We are keen to continue working with the Commonwealth and other jurisdictions on ways we can reduce red tape for the industry to ensure builders and tradespeople meet high-standards for consumers,” Mr Mason-Cox said.

The National Construction Code is an initiative of the Council of Australian Governments developed to incorporate all on-site construction requirements into a single code.

**MEDIA: Virginia McKay 0427 269 172**

### **Standards open for comment:**

Please note that the following draft [is open for public comment](#):

Draft Number: AS/NZS 3500.2  
Title: Plumbing and drainage Part 2: Sanitary plumbing and drainage  
Project Committee: WS-014 Plumbing and Drainage  
Public Comment Closing Date: **15 Jul 2014 23:59**

### **Water efficient products - Rating and labelling**

Draft No: DR AS/NZS 6400:2014

Committee: WS-032

Date that comment closes: 30 July 2014

The full list of drafts for public comment, across all sectors, can also be found by visiting [www.standards.org.au](http://www.standards.org.au) then clicking on Drafts for Public Comment.

### **For your diary:**

2014 National Backflow Prevention Conference – 1 – 2 August 2014 Melbourne

[To Register](#)

[Programme](#)

### WorldSkills Australia National Competition

18-20 September 2014 – Perth see [www.worldskills.org.au/](http://www.worldskills.org.au/)

2014 Joint Industry Plumbing Conference – 13-14 November 2014; Queensland

[www.plumbingconference.com.au](http://www.plumbingconference.com.au)

**New Shopping Cart makes it easier to purchase and download the E-Book**

**Selection and Sizing of Copper Tubes for Water Piping Systems by Barrie Smith**

E-Book sales are now automated from 20 June 2014. Website address will remain as [www.plumbing.org.au](http://www.plumbing.org.au) and follow the links to Technical Books through to the shopping cart and pay by PayPal or Credit Card for immediate download.

Companion Spreadsheet files utilising the E-Book are still freely available as an additional download when you complete your shopping cart journey.

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.

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Comments on matters raised in E-INSTITUTE or suggestions for future issues are welcome and may be sent to the Editor at: The Institute of Plumbing Australia Inc. P O Box 2005 MARMION Western Australia 6020 FAX: 08 9448 0420 EMAIL: <a href="mailto:secretary@plumbing.org.au">secretary@plumbing.org.au</a> WEB: <a href="http://www.plumbing.org.au">www.plumbing.org.au</a>	 

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