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The Official
Magazine of the
Master Plumbers
& Gasfitters
Association of WA



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Volume 55 - Issue 2. June 2011



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Saving a Life
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Statements and information appearing in the publication must not be interpreted as having the endorsement or being the opinion of the Association, which takes no responsibility for the correctness of statements or comment made in the publication.



Bill Busby
President

Membership growth is strong

Our team at the Master Plumbers & Gasfitters continues to perform at a high level. Membership growth is strong, and a particular milestone was celebrated recently with Kerry Thomas, MPGA Membership Services, achieving 15 years of service. I'm sure all of our members will have been in contact with Kerry over her 15 Years of service. Kerry congratulations for a job well done.

The Apprentice of the Year and Business of the Year nominees are now

in the pipeline and I look forward to the witnessing the keen competition for this years prestigious awards not to mention the social event of the year, MPGA Awards for Excellence Gala Dinner at the Burswood in November, book now!

The 2011 ninth World Plumbing Conference in Edinburgh, Scotland provides an opportunity for delegates to meet the global challenge and listen to Bob Goodchild, our own Executive Committee member and MPA Skills trainer, at the conference talk about his World Plumbing Council Education and Trainer award and his visit to South Africa.

We continue to work towards better relationships with the government

agencies, the Office of Energy, the Water Corporation and the Plumbers Licensing Board with over 80 plumbers attending our recent Plumbing Industry forum.

I commend our CEO Mr Murray Thomas and our Technical Officer Andrew Okines, for working in bringing the Plumbing Industry together.

I am very pleased with the progress of our team with the many issues that are being dealt with by the Executive and staff at the MPGA.

Regards,

Bill Busby

MPGA President



Murray Thomas
CEO

The importance of Plumbers

How important are you, plumbers and gasfitters, to our communities? With all the recent disasters happening in our own backyard, being earthquakes, fires, cyclones and flooding, we are reminded of the very important role we play everyday.

Like it or not plumbers are health workers and possibly the most important health workers in our community as without safe, regulated plumbing practices where would we be?

Those of us who have travelled to third world countries have experienced what it is like to be exposed to unsafe drinking water and poor sanitation and the number of water borne diseases and viruses are increasing around the world. As recent as 2003 the SARS virus quickly spread around the world as a result of poor plumbing installations in Hong Kong. Other viruses such as Dengue Fever, Ross River Virus

and Cryptosporidium are all potential killers. An alarming fact is that 80% of gastroenteritis viruses emanate from poor quality water.

.....
“PLUMBERS ARE THE CURRENT DAY CUSTODIANS OF SAFE SANITATION AND QUALITY WATER, WE ARE ALSO PLAYING A MAJOR ROLE CONCERNING THE CONTROL OF GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS AND CLIMATE CHANGE”
.....

The potential for disease outbreaks for to occur after a flood event are considerable, Japan, Queensland and our own backyard in Carnarvon all experienced sewage mixing with floodwaters issue and damage to drinking supplies

Plumbers are very passionate about what they do. Plumbers also know the importance of 'safe protected plumbing systems' and the impact that things such as 'backflow and cross contamination' that can occur due to disasters or the 'Do it Yourself guy' getting it wrong.

We have a duty to the public and to our water suppliers including the Water Corporation, to keep re-enforcing our message because they are either turning a blind eye or are not educated about the dangers to World Health that lie beneath.

When you hear the term "Just a plumber and Gasfitter" stand up and reply "hang on Plumbers are the current day custodians of safe sanitation and quality water, we are also playing a major role concerning the control of greenhouse gas emissions and climate change to a level that the world has not experienced before"

So please 'spread the word'.

Regards,

Murray Thomas

MPA Group CEO



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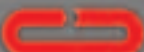
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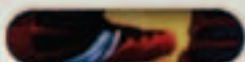
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Rheem 27

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News from the Building Commission



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Department of Commerce

Building
Commission



Peter Gow
Building Commission
Executive Director

Western Australia's building and plumbing industry is on the move...

I am pleased to welcome you to the June issue of your industry magazine Construction & Plumbing, a valuable resource linking you with information and services relating to the developing building industry of Western Australia.

The Government's building industry reforms overhaul current legislation that has often been burdened with delays, outdated laws and cumbersome dispute resolution for over 50 years.

The new framework integrates building practitioner licensing, building standards and building complaints into a single organisation, the Building Commission, and comes into effect from 1 July this year.

This will modernise Western Australia's building industry to create a fair and innovative environment for builders and consumers, while providing a range of modern services to

fast-track building applications and reduce red tape. The plumbing industry and licensed plumbers in particular, will play an important role in creating and maintaining stable and quality services that are good for business, customers and the environment.

Within our evolving building industry generally, plumbers in particular are benefiting by developing technology which now allows them to book a drainage audit with the Plumbers Licensing Board by simply sending an SMS or an email.

The plumbing industry is embracing this modern communications technology to make it easier for plumbers to comply with Western Australia's high water safety standards.

To take advantage of this new system, SMS 0417 209 818 or email plumbingaudits@commerce.wa.gov.au with the normally required information and you will get a response back by the method of communication you use.

The Plumbers Licensing Board Newsletter, published in partnership with the Building Commission, is a good vehicle to communicate technical, regulatory and industry information. As part of the ongoing process to improve building and plumbing support services to industry, this newsletter is earmarked for quarterly publication and I welcome any input you would like to provide. Email bcmedia@commerce.wa.gov.au or post to Locked Bag 12 West Perth 6872.

Some other useful contacts for plumbers seeking information and advice are:

Plumbers technical advice:

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Plumbers general information:

9476 1377

Email:

plumbers@commerce.wa.gov.au

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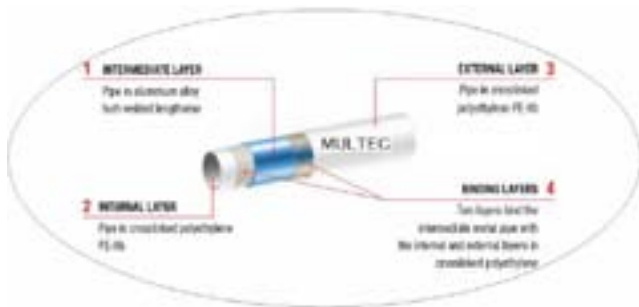
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The Gas Industry roadshow heads north

by Kevin Hooper

The Gas Industry EXPO held 16 March 2011 at the Ascot Racecourse, launched the updated Australian Standards AS/NZS 5601.2010 Gas Installations, an update on National Licensing and recent changes to gas industry legislation to industry participants.



Gas Industry Roadshow attendees Kalgoorlie



The Gas Industry Tradeshow – A strong turn out for the Perth leg

The Gas Industry Roadshow that followed visited the major town centres in the Southern portion of Western Australia during April and May this year.

In July the Roadshow will head north to the towns of Karratha, Pt Hedland and Broome. The locations, dates and times are as follows:

Karratha 19 July 2011 (Karratha Country Club, Searipple Drive)

Pt Hedland 20 July 2011 (All Seasons Resort, Lukis Street Pt Hedland)

Broome 21 July 2011 (Roebuck Bay Hotel, Carnarvon Street Broome)

All venues will open at 5:30pm for registration, the presentation commencing at 6:00pm concluding with light refreshments around 8:00pm.

Invitation flyers will be in the mail to gas fitters/plumbers residing in these areas, together with an SMS reminder a week leading up to the events.

Gas industry sponsors will also accompany the EnergySafety gas inspectors to make these events worthwhile attending.

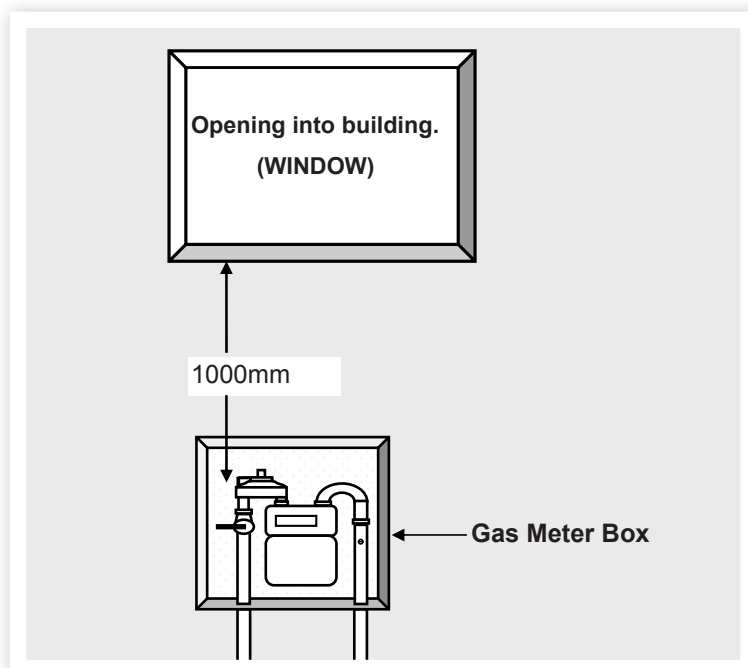
Gas meter locations

Openings into a building above a gas meter box

A gas fitter/plumber at the Gas Industry Roadshow in Bunbury queried the distance a window is to be above a gas meter box. There is no mention of this in Australian Standards, AS/NZS5601. 2010 gas installations.

The reference to this is: The Gas Distribution Networks AS/NZS 4645. 2008 Part 1: Network Management, Appendix K figure (1) requires an opening into a building to be greater than 1000mm above the gas service regulators relief vent contained in the gas meter box (see diagram below).

Gas service regulators are now required to have an internal relief. In the unlikely event that the relief valve discharges gas to atmosphere, there is a possibility of gas entering a building if an opening is less than that as detailed in this code.



Working with the Water Corporation – the Plumbing Handbook

Following consultation with representatives from the plumbing and building industries the Water Corporation has prepared and published the: Plumbing Handbook – A guide for working with the Water Corporation.



The handbook fills the gap between plumbing standards, regulations and the Corporation's servicing requirements. It contains information ranging from disconnection and connection of services, to backflow prevention, electrical risks and legal requirements.

It's important to note that the Corporation's policies on backflow prevention and sewer maintenance have recently been updated. Additional information is contained within the plumbing handbook.

Over many years the existing sewer maintenance policy has been misinterpreted, so with the publication of the new handbook the Water Corporation is defining the responsibilities as they are found in Section 63 of the Metropolitan Water Supply, Sewerage and Drainage Act 1909.

As per the diagram, the internal property sewer (property connection) is shown as being all the way from the building to the sewer junction and is the responsibility of the owner/occupier to keep clean and clear. Previously plumbing companies have called the Water Corporation to clear a sewer blockage when they have rodded down the inspection shaft to a depth of just 2.5metres.

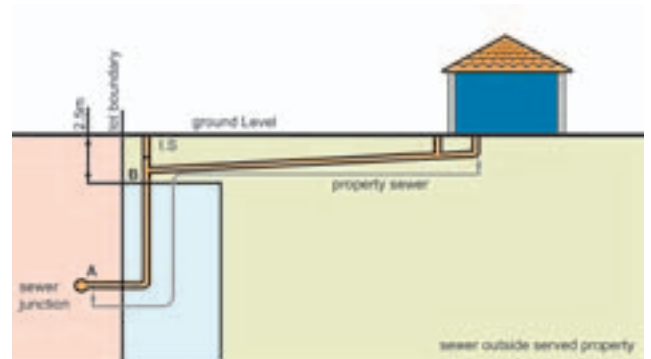
When the Water Corporation is called to clear a sewer blockage and finds that the manholes are running clear, no reimbursement is made

for the plumber's callout fee. There will also be no reimbursement of a callout fee where the Water Corporation is able to clear the blockage in the property connection by plunging from the inspection shaft. The property connection is the responsibility of the owner/occupier and as such should be cleared by the plumber engaged to do the work and the customer billed for the work.

If the Water Corporation determines that excavation is required to repair the sewer property connection, the Corporation will assume responsibility for the repair if:

- the depth of the required excavation is 2.5 meters or more; and/or
- excavation is required outside the property.

With the great working relationship between the Water Corporation and the plumbing industry, the Corporation is hoping to get this message out to as many as possible so that plumbing contractors better understand the



responsibilities of the sewer maintenance policy and not find themselves out of pocket. When the Corporation is called on 131375 to clear a blockage, it expects that no costs will be borne by the property owner.

A copy of the handbook can be obtained by visiting www.watercorporation.com.au and following the 'Your business' links.

To be notified of updates and to provide feedback/suggested improvements to the handbook email building.services@watercorporation.com.au with Plumbing Handbook Updates in the subject line.



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Acknowledgement of loyalty and dedication

On May 6th 2011 Kerry Thomas, Business Development Assistant, marked the 15 years of service with Master Plumbers and Gasfitters Association, 15 years of hard work and commitment to assisting our members .

Holding many varied positions, Kerry has contributed greatly to the MPGA.

To commemorate Kerry's long-term service, all MPA Group staff gathered to enjoy a morning tea at which MPA Group CEO Murray Thomas presented Kerry with a framed certificate to mark her achievement along with a bouquet of flowers which represented only a small sense of the gratitude the MPGA feel for her loyalty through the years.



Kerry Thomas' first day
May 6 1996



Kerry Thomas May 6 2011, 15 year anniversary of service
with Murray Thomas (no relation)

John Forrest Secondary College new trade training centre has officially opened



The Honorable Prime Minister Julia Gillard, the Honorable Minister for School Education Peter Garrett and the Honorable Federal Member for Perth Stephen Smith (Pictured here with MPA WA CEO Murray Thomas)



Students Anton and Reece MPA Skills Trainer Lachy Marr, The Honourable Peter Garrett and The Honourable Julia Gillard



Who is that with MPA Skills Apprentice Employment Manager Brad Cecins?

Prime Minister Julia Gillard, Minister for School Education Peter Garrett and Federal Member for Perth Stephen Smith with MPA WA CEO Murray Thomas, joined together on March 26th 2011 to officially open the new John Forrest Trade Training Centre.

The new Trade Training Centre received more than \$2.5 million as part of the Trade Training Centres in Schools Program. The Trade Training Centre, partnered with MPA Skills - the principal training arm of the Master Plumbers & Gasfitters Association, like others around Australia, will provide students with the training opportunities and experience they

.....
THE TRADE TRAINING CENTRE WILL ALSO BE USED FOR TRY A TRADE PROGRAMS THAT ALLOW STUDENTS IN YEAR 10 TO TAKE PART IN A TWO-DAY PROGRAM FOCUSING ON EITHER PLUMBING OR PAINTING AND DECORATING.
 :.....:

need to take the next step towards further education and employment.

The facility will provide training directly relevant to various local industries, including plumbing.

The Trade Training Centre will also be used for Try a Trade programs that allow students in Year 10 to take part in a two-day program focussing on either plumbing or painting and decorating. At full capacity, the centre will train 60 pre-apprentices each year and 1500 Try a Trade students each year. All of these programs are being made available to all schools in the Perth Metropolitan region and beyond.



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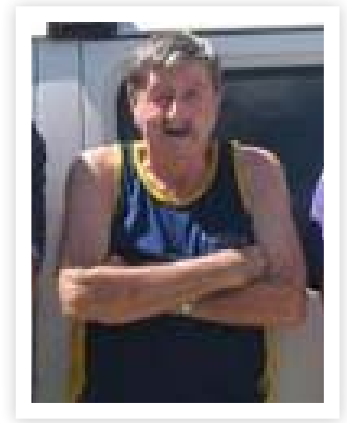


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Construction
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Beach bum that was born to plumb....



MPGA Member Aaron Altinier from Last Drop Plumbing Company contacted the association recently to share a story about Roger Twight, a well thought member of the Jurien Bay (a small coastal town two hours north of Perth) community and a Plumber and Gasfitter.

Aaron, a plumber for more than 20 years, moved to Jurien 5 years ago and quickly came to realise that Plumbing in a country town has some unique challenges. Roger Twight understood this and as a experienced plumber for more than 50 years himself, 30 years of which spent servicing the Jurien Bay town and surrounds, consequently took it upon himself to assist Aaron in finding his way through the country plumbing maze. Sadly 2011 marks the first year to which Roger has not renewed his Licence since 1959 due to ill health. His wisdom and passion for the industry will be missed but fortunately Roger was good enough to pass on his invaluable knowledge.

.....
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**THE NAME TWIGHT
AND PLUMBING IN WA
GO HAND IN HAND.
ROGER IS ONE OF THE
WELL RESPECTED
AND INFLUENTIAL
IDENTITIES WITHIN
THE INDUSTRY**
.....

The name Twight and Plumbing in WA go hand in hand. Roger, among others, is one of the well respected and influential identities within the Industry and its worth to mention that Roger's brother, two sons and grandson are all in the trade.

Roger Twight entered the West Australian plumbing Industry in 1959 after which was supposed to be a trip west with his surf club and became a marked beginning of a WA plumbing family institution with his brother, two sons and grandson also in the trade.

Roger has seen many changes with this industry over the years...

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Three generations of TwiGhts Plumbing Steve, Roger, Mitch and grandson Ben

Did you know?

the word "plumber" dates all the way back to the Roman Empire. In Rome, pipes were originally made from lead, which is "plumbum" in Latin. People who worked with lead were called Plumbarius, which was eventually shortened to the word we use today.

imagine only being paid \$8 per week - \$6 of which went to your mum for board! Roger recollects at the time you could earn \$15 a week more to make milkshakes at the local milk bar! Apprenticeships consisted of a 5 year term when Roger started out, which predominately was spent doing hard labour on top of two nights a week of night school and one day a fortnight of tech college. None of which, unlike today, focussed on the operating section of operating a business. This was one of the issues that Roger came up against when starting his own business in Jurien, the lack of business knowledge left him with loses of thousands of dollars with many unpaid invoices and bounced cheques over the years.

It takes a lot of personalities to make the plumbing industry in WA what it is.

Do you know someone who has had an impact on your career within our Industry?

In 2011 the MPGA will introduce the Plumbing Industry Hall of fame. If you would like to nominate a person who has significant impact in the plumbing industry who should be recognised with this honour we want to hear about it. Contact Bryce Steele at the Association for more information. Bryces@mpawa.asn.au or 9471 6661

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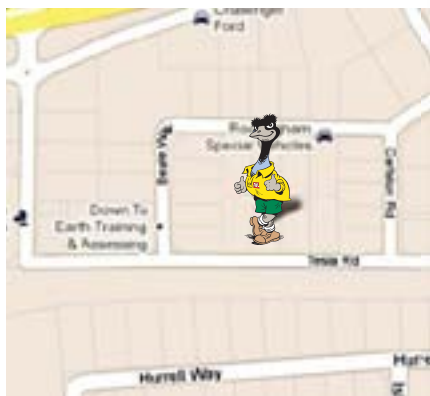
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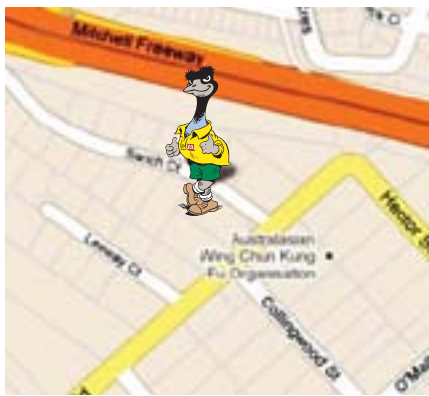
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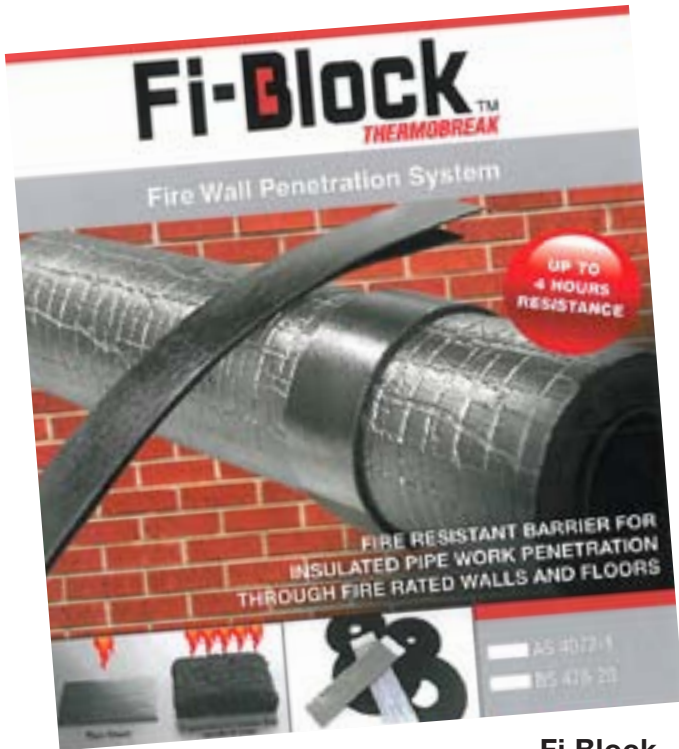
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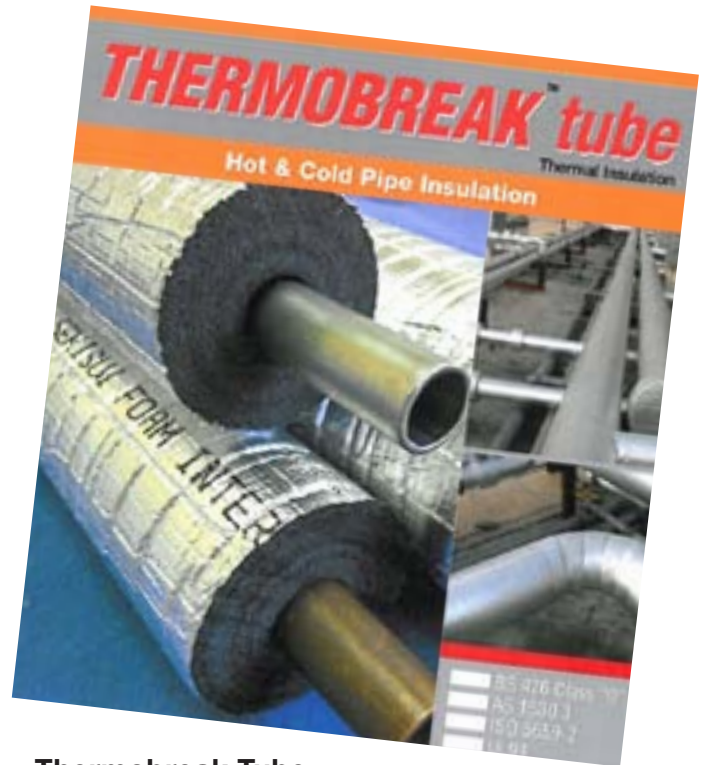
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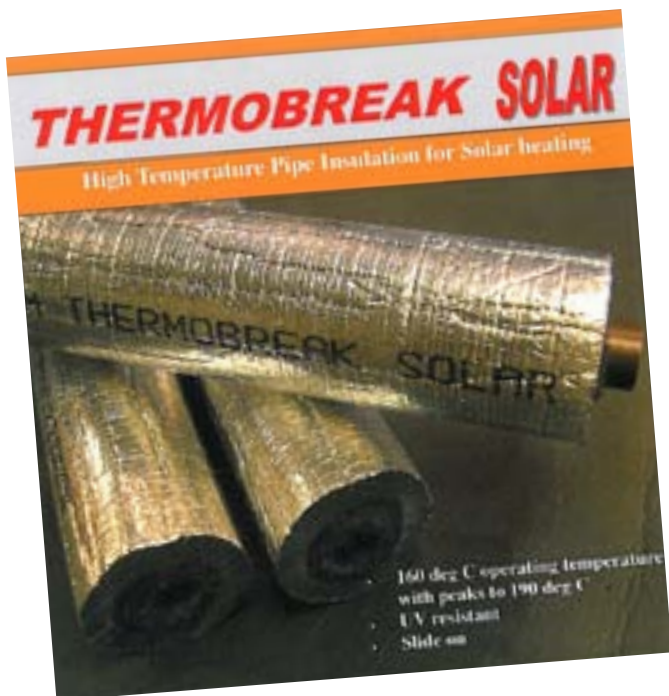
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In the pursuit of excellence

Over the last year the focus for MPA Skills Apprentice Employment Field Officers has been to encourage their respective apprentices to develop an even greater willingness to openly buy into the ownership of their apprenticeship.

Each apprentice is personally accountable for being the best they can be by demonstrating the 'MPA Skills Apprentice Qualities' on site and at Training. It is this pursuit of individual excellence that Apprentice Employment Manager Brad Cecins encourages and expects to be delivered by apprentices, not just for Host Employers, but for themselves.

Before arriving at MPA Skills AE, Brad was the Media Director for what is now known as the Telstra Drug Aware Margaret River Pro for four years. In this role he witnessed first hand young professional male and female surfers setting goals and doing whatever it took mentally and physically to carve out a career in their chosen field.

"In 1999 I created the WA Surfers of the Year Awards. The purpose of the awards was to show an appreciation of those who have contributed to the sport while recognising the elite current performances to encourage the next generation of surfers.

The awards were named after some of Western Australia's greats; Ian Cairns (WA Male Surfer of the Year), Jodie Cooper (Female), Murray Smith (Junior), Mike McAuliffe (Exceptional Performance) and Len Dibben (Service to WA Surfing)."



Brad Cecins (AE Manager), Creed McTaggart (Smith Medallist), Taj Burrow (Cairns Medallist), Felicity Palmateer (Cooper Medallist), Ian Cairns, Jodie Cooper and Murray Smith

The 2010 awards were presented during the Margaret River Pro April 9 with MPA Skills AE being a sponsor.

"AE's association with the concept of the awards and our values go hand in hand. The promotion of these values are a small part in the development of greater community awareness of who MPA Skills AE are and the opportunities we offer young West Australians. In addition to this, AE is having

a greater presence in schools talking with kids, parents, VET teachers and Principals about painting and plumbing being first choice career options. This compliments our highly successful Construction Training Fund sponsored 'Try a Trade' schools program."

First year plumbing apprentice Shaun Green (Augusta Margaret River Plumbing and Gas and Enviroflow) was recognised on the night as a 2010 Surfing WA Junior State Champion.

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2010 WA Male Surfer of the Year and world number 7 Taj Burrow with legend Ian Cairns



Shaun Green

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RT578WA

Saving a life or chatting with the PM... All in a days work for Callum Eiffler

Callum Eiffler's time as an MPA Skills Apprenticeship Employment apprentice has been far from mundane.

In August 2009, and only just into his second year, Callum was working with highly respected and valued host employer Lupica Plumbing and Drainage. The former John Forrest Senior High School Pre Apprenticeship called on his natural instincts when his supervising tradesman, Mick Head, collapsed on the floor of a job they were working on.

Initially the eighteen year old thought Mick was fooling about but when he noticed blood pouring from his nose he rolled him into the 'coma position' and covered him with a tarp to keep him dry from the falling rain. Callum then called for an ambulance and the fire brigade.

Mick was diagnosed as a brain aneurism. His Grade 4 bleed from the Basal artery was severe and Mick was given a 5% chance of surviving.

"There's no question that Callum's instincts and quick reactions had a huge influence on where I am today," Mick said recently. "For a kid to do what he so quickly - it's amazing. There was only so much time available before permanent damage is unavoidable."

Mick's recovery in itself has been amazing. He was back on light duties within six months and is now back to four days a week.

"Ben Lupica has been a terrific boss helping with work through this period. Callum and I work together and he's got such a great work ethic - I'm lucky," Mick added.

As a graduate of the JFSH School Based Pre Apprenticeship inaugural course in 2007, Callum was fortunate enough to be invited to the official opening of the school's award winning trade centre in March.

Along with fellow graduates Anton Anteric (Falcetta Plumbing and Gas) and Reece Hocking (Sanwell), Callum had the opportunity to impress Prime Minister Julia Gillard, Minister for School Education Peter Garrett and Federal Member for Perth Steven Smith with their skills and appreciation of the opportunity the course has provided them in establishing a career.



Mick Head and Callum Eiffler



Callum and Friends

Callum drew plenty of laughs from the dignitaries when he invited Minister Garrett to "swing on a shovel" in the pre lay sandpit but the smiling former Midnight Oil front man declined the offer.



Ashlee Phur
Events Manager

Celebrating World Plumbing Day

Take a crack at guessing what profession had an international day of celebration on Friday 11 March... Yep, you guessed it – plumbers!

All jokes aside, Friday 11 March was World Plumbing Day – a day dedicated to raising awareness of the important role played by today's plumbing industry in protecting public health and safety. An initiative of the World Plumbing Council, this is the second year World Plumbing Day has been celebrated.

To show our appreciation for our trade, the Master Plumbers and Gasfitters Association of WA hosted a morning of BBQ breakfasts at our local Perth trade stores. We had a fantastic turn out and not only did we recognise the importance of plumbing, but we also raised over \$2,200 for the Lord Mayor's Distress Relief Fund which goes directly to the Perth Hills Fires and the Gascoyne and Mid West Floods appeal.

Thank you so all who joined us on the morning and we look forward to celebrating again in 2012.



Samios Myaree breakfast



Joondalup Reece



Parkwood Hardware customers

MARK YOUR DIARY



JUL

Tuesday 5th July
Industry Trade Show – MANDURAH

Wednesday 20th July
MPGA Executive Meeting

Friday 29th July
Awards for Excellence Close of Entries

AUG

Thursday 4th August
Industry Trade Show – PERTH

Wednesday 17th August
MPGA Executive Meeting

Wednesday 17th August
Ordinary General Meeting and
Minimum Employment Conditions Workshop

SEP

7 – 11th September
World Plumbing Conference (Scotland)

Friday 23rd September
Spring Golf Day – Burswood

Entries are now open for the 2011 MPGA and PLB Awards for Excellence

The Master Plumbers & Gasfitters Association of WA (MPGA) and Plumbers Licensing Board Awards for Excellence is an annual event initiated by the MPGA to recognise and reward outstanding achievements among registered plumbers and gasfitting contractors and plumbing and gasfitting manufacturers throughout Western Australia across a number of different categories. The awards program provides all plumbers, gasfitters and manufacturers in Western Australia with the opportunity to showcase their skills and receive the rewards and recognition they deserve.

Success in the form of a winning entry in this competition means recognition of quality tradesmanship, exceptional business practice and increased profile within the industry, creating valuable publicity opportunities.

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Tyco leads the way in flow control by being the first to receive WaterMark approval for our testable single check and testable single check detector assemblies to complement our existing approved double check and double detector check assemblies for all your fire system installations.

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Hot Topics

Current industry issues and hot topics the Master Plumbers and Gasfitters Association of Western Australia represent industry on with Plumbers Licensing Board.

- **Plumbing Code of Australia (PCA) implementation**
- **Backflow Prevention** - Water Corporation adoption of "Boundary Containment Policy" Plumbers Licensing Board currently only covers new installation of backflow prevention devices. Issues surrounding ongoing compliance monitoring of known internal devices.
- **Plumbers Licensing Board for clarification** on reticulation cutting with backflow valves (Testable and Non-testable). The differences between testable and non-testable devices and requirement to submit major work permit.
- **Water Corporation's Shower Rose Exchange Program** – pending correspondence from the Plumbers Licensing Board.
- **PIRG (Plumbing Industry Reference Group) Meetings** were held on a regular basis- establish importance of these meetings.
- **Tempering valves on retro fit hot water heater installations.** Currently published technical note applies.
- **Numbers and figures on compliance statistics** of the tickets received for 2010-2011 financial year.
- **Plumbers Licensing Board related issues should be included within the magazine** as they are the issues that are affecting plumbers everyday.
- **Compliance duties around implementing audits of tempering valves.** Performance issues of the Plumbing Licensing Board and the staff members.
- **Investigations statistics.** How many investigation are undertaken and completed for the last year 2010 vs number of notices of completion
- **Grey water industry participation** of Plumbers Licensing Board.
- **New AS/NZS 3500 amendments** introduction and implementation timelines.
- **Time lines for responses to questions** that are presented to the Plumbers Licensing Board. What is a fair timeline.
- **Complaints** - how many complaints a year does Plumbers Licensing Board receive in relation to plumbing issues and what communications are there to support industry..
- **MPGAWA is seeking clear information on specific complaints and disputes processes** to promote to the membership base as opposed to current complaints system. Seeking permission from the PLB to publish the letter on the MPGAWA website relating to the grievance process.

The MPGAWA encourages all of our members to have **YOUR SAY** regarding these issues, log onto the Master Plumbers Website www.masterplumbers.asn.au '**Hot topics**' section and share your views knowledge and feedback.

Plumbing Contractors & Gas Courses

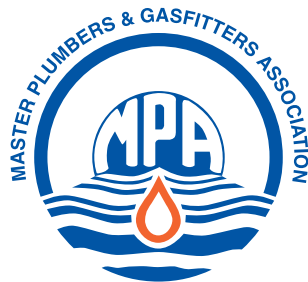
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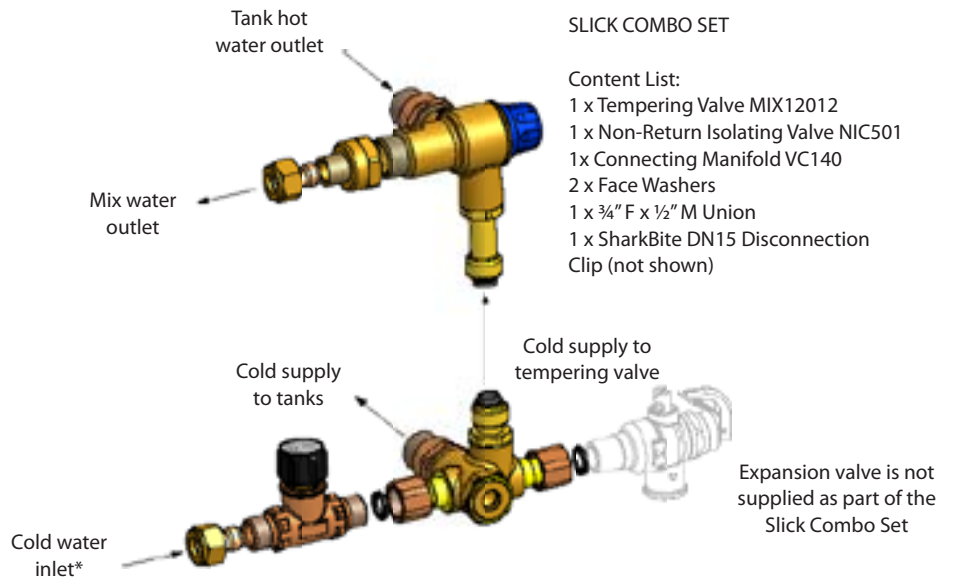
ENSURE YOU RECEIVE THE HIGHEST QUALITY TRAINING

SLICK COMBO SET

MIX12013



DIAGRAM 1 - INSTALLATION CONFIGURATION



SLICK COMBO SET

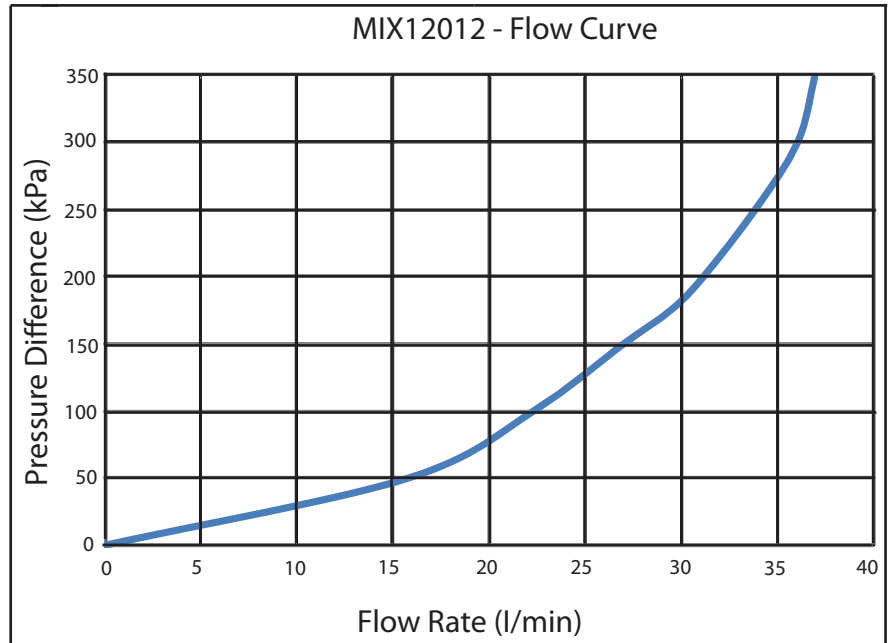
- Content List:**
- 1 x Tempering Valve MIX12012
 - 1 x Non-Return Isolating Valve NIC501
 - 1 x Connecting Manifold VC140
 - 2 x Face Washers
 - 1 x 3/4" F x 1/2" M Union
 - 1 x SharkBite DN15 Disconnection Clip (not shown)

* Installing a pressure reducing valve at the boundary is recommended to regulate down stream pressure and is mandated in some states. Consult local water authorities for further information.

Product Specifications

Installation Conditions	
Hot temperature Supply Range	60°C - 90°C
Cold temperature Supply Range	5°C - 30°C
Maximum Supply Pressure:	1600kPa
Permitted supply pressure variation:	2:1 (max)

Operating Specifications	
Operating Temperature Range:	40°C - 50°C
Factory Set temperature Range:	47.5°C±2.5°C
Minimum Temperature differential: (between hot supply and outlet temperature)	15°C
Flow rate, minimum	4 L/min
Flow rate, maximum:	50 L/min



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The why and what of financial year end record keeping for small business

In today's day and age, small businesses continue to feel the heat of delivering on every day customer needs with little time left over to do anything else. End of Financial Year End adds a whole new set of pressures to the small business owner in the form of getting their financial records up to date. Get it wrong and the penalties can be stiff, but get it right and the benefits can be immense.

WHY KEEP GOOD RECORDS?

The mere mention of the phrase 'record keeping' is enough to bring on an immediate and severe migraine. So what's the big deal, why should keeping good financial records be something that hits my radar?

1. Hands on the Steering Wheel

Having proper financial records ensures you know where your business is at, where it is going and what pitfalls or opportunities may be coming up.

2. The Government Stick

By law, the ATO requires you to keep certain business records and big penalties apply if you do not comply. You are required to keep financial records for a minimum of five years.

3. Bang for your Buck – maintaining good financial records means easier and faster completion of BAS and other tax obligations when they are due. Additionally, good financial record keeping gives you the best chance of maximizing your refund come Tax Time.

WHAT ARE YOUR RECORD KEEPING OBLIGATIONS?

ATO requires businesses to maintain certain business records for tax purposes. To small business this list can seem both daunting and confusing. So to keep it simple here is a 'Top 3' that should provide some Year End clarity

1. What goes into your Income Tax and GST Returns must be kept

- Sales records e.g. sales invoices, credit card statements, bank deposit books

- Purchase records e.g. tax invoices, bank account and credit card statements

- Year-end income tax records e.g. vehicle expenses, stock-take sheets, depreciation schedules

2. Employing Staff comes with record keeping obligations such as TFN declarations, worker payment records, PAYG payment summaries, and superannuation and FBT details.

3. Do you have suppliers who do not quote an ABN Number? If so then you will need to keep records of amounts withheld from supplier payments, PAYG withholding voluntary agreements, Payment summaries and annual reports.

TOOLS TO HELP

The ATO provides some great tools (they actually do!). Here's 2 favourites regarding records you need to keep:

1. A great guide: "Record keeping for small business". Everything you need to know in one brochure. Go the ATO website www.ato.gov.au and type in "NAT3029" and it will take you straight to the guide. It's worth reading before June 30.

2. Online evaluation tool: What records do you need to keep? ATO provides an online tool that takes 15 minutes to complete and provides small business with a great snapshot of the records they need to keep for year end. The link to this tool is as follows: <http://www.ato.gov.au/businesses/content.aspx?doc=/content/40542.htm>.



DO'S

- Comply with the ATO requirements in full – you will have peace of mind and if you ever want to sell your business, potential buyers will have more confidence.
- Stay organised – get records into files and a system that works for you. Make it routine so you don't get swamped at tax time. See if your accountant can help here.
- Keep your fuel receipts if you intend to claim fuel tax credits – speak to your accountant about the best method for you.

DONT'S!

- Don't put it off. You can't, so just find the tools and the system that works for you – or ask your accountant for guidance.
- Don't throw away potentially important records. If in doubt keep it – it's no big deal.
- Mix up your business and personal records. Keep them separate and save a headache later.

For more details and to get your books up to date for Financial Year end contact

Andrew Hanna

Smartbeans Accounting

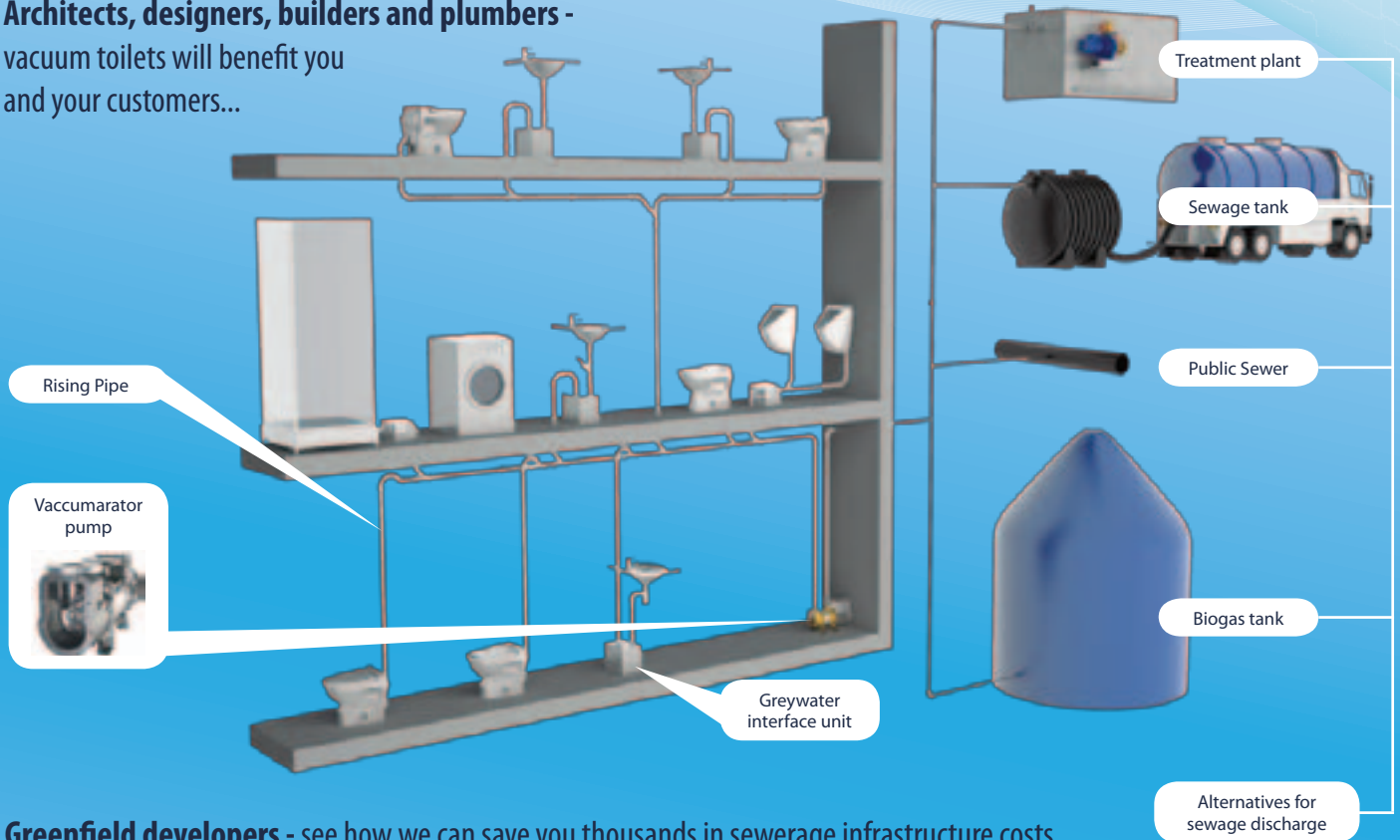
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What the?



Not sure I would like that parsley on my plate ..



Ingenious!

Ahh the many uses of duct tape



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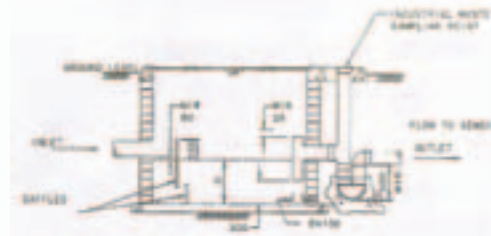
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HANDY HINT

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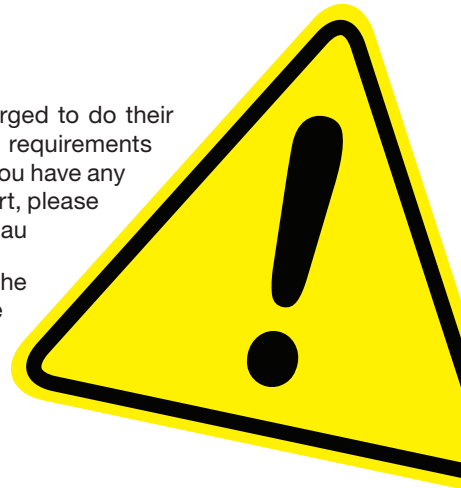
Safety signage alert

Safe Work Australia has received a number of queries from stakeholders relating to mandatory safety signage to meet the requirements of the model work health and safety legislation. Safe Work Australia understands that there is at least one company selling posters at around \$60 for a set through their website, stating that the posters are a requirement under the new model work health and safety laws.

Safe Work Australia is not affiliated with any companies that sell these signs. It is not a requirement that organisations or individuals purchase a set of posters from any specific company to comply with the new model work health and safety laws.

Organisations and individuals are urged to do their own checks about the safety signs requirements in their individual circumstances. If you have any concerns or questions about this alert, please contact info@safeworkaustralia.gov.au

With regard to Asbestos in the Construction Industry please be aware that an inspection campaign by WorkSafe began from 1 March 2011. An article on this campaign, the requirements etc can be found www.commerce.wa.gov.au



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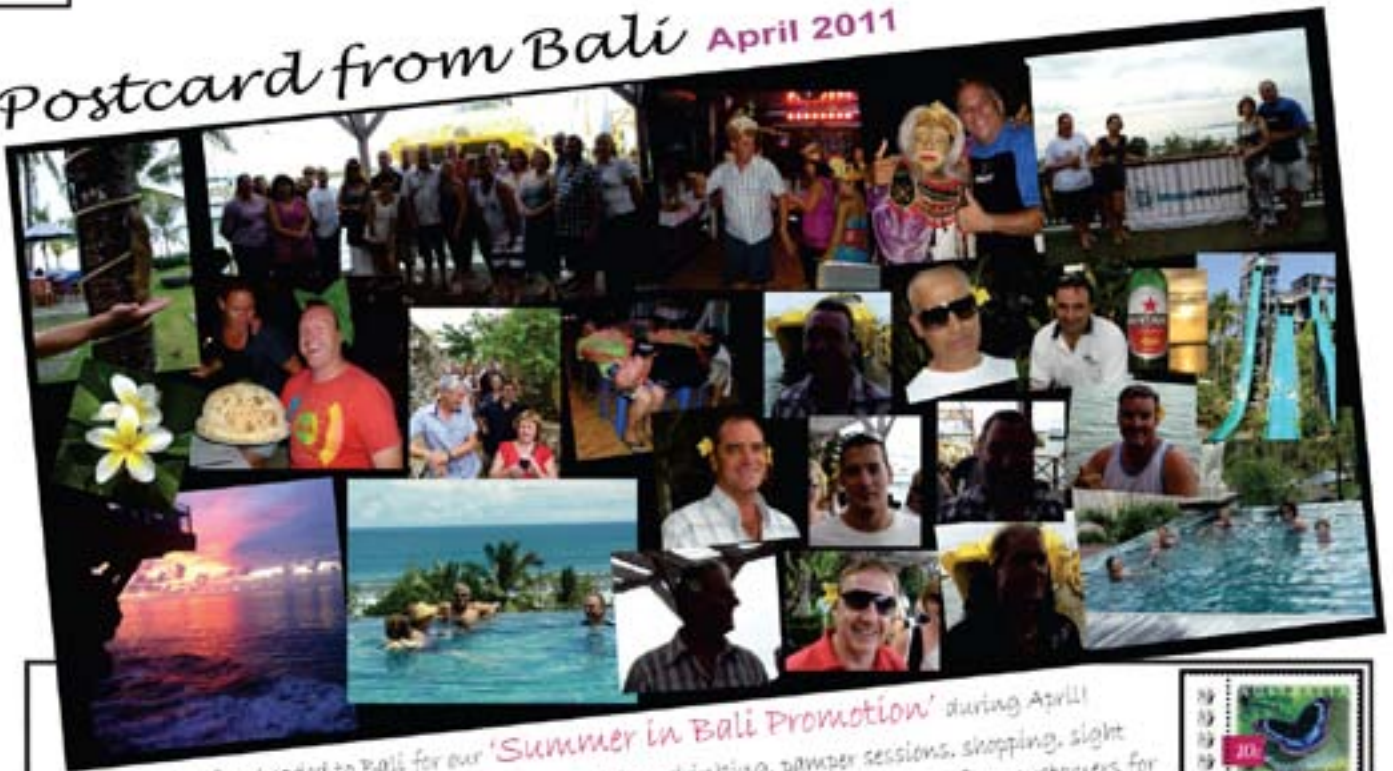
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*This is an indicative pricing for Western Australian based plumbers and gasfitters, based on an annual turnover of \$250,000, 3-4 employees and liability cover of \$5million. These terms may vary due to such things as claims and criminal conviction histories. ABN: 31 009 179 640 AFSL No: 246986



ManiaNational SUMMER IN BALI PROMOTION

Postcard from Bali April 2011



Twenty-eight of us headed to Bali for our 'Summer in Bali Promotion' during April! We did it all - from relaxing, dining, drinking, cruising, drinking, pamper sessions, shopping, sight seeing, drinking, swimming.....did I mention drinking? We would like to thank all of our customers for their support and hope those who didn't make it to Bali enjoyed their Dinner for 2 at Witches Cauldron, night at Fourwood Resort or stay at Abbey Beach Resort Busselton.

Peter Mizen National Sales & Marketing Manager

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We are currently looking for Plumbers to join our group. Interested? Give us a call!

For more information on these opportunities contact Peter Mizen on 0430 345 299

Managing Work Trauma

Did you see the images of destruction in the recent Queensland, Victorian and Japanese disasters? Seeing the grief on the faces of those who lost family, livestock and homes as well as their struggles for food, power and water was difficult. Equally tragic are the results of traumatic building incidents. WACIRF (Western Australian Construction Industry Redundancy Fund) employs a psychologist, Sergio Del Borrello, to deal with these incidents and he provides tips on managing them.



When does it occur?

- Use of plant leading to impact, electrocution, amputation, burns, crushing etc.
- Falls from a height, trips and slips
- Work vehicle, plane, train, or shipping accidents
- Natural disasters – cyclone (remember Cyclone George in 2007?), floods and bushfires

How common is it? Worksafe figures indicate that the number of lost time injuries (LTI's) in building have been increasing; closing 2008-09 at a five year high and above the average.

- On average a person is killed in WA every 19 days due to a traumatic work-related incident
- Nine traumatic work-related fatalities were recorded in WA during 2009-10

How do I handle an emergency?

- Act calmly while assessing the scene
- Ensure safety for yourself and others
- Provide first aid to casualties
- Contact emergency services
- Gather and share important information
- Arrange for immediate workforce psychological assessment via WACIRF

After the emergency

- Monitor stress levels and recovery of the work group
- Keep the work group fully informed on the welfare of casualties

We don't often think about what happens after a trauma. Things may seem to go back to normal, but only while cleaning up, correcting unsafe conditions and making reports do we consider what more we could have done. The more serious the trauma, the more we think about it.

When this thinking goes on for weeks and affects day to day functioning,

professional help is required. It needs to be dealt with as it can affect relationships, concentration and peace of mind.

These stress reactions can occur in those who experience or watch traumas and may develop into Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD).

Evidence suggests early detection of stressed workers and referral for help can decrease LTI's, the severity of symptoms and overall suffering.

The Australian Centre for Post Traumatic Mental Health suggest around 5% of the population will experience PTSD. Acute PTSD symptoms can last from 1 – 3 months; chronic symptoms can last from 3 months to years.

Employers insure against trauma and complications arising from LTI's by contracting in support services to provide counselling and debrief workers.

What signs of stress do I look for?

WORK

- Not attending or anxious about work
- Loss of motivation
- Increases in work hours or effort, at times to cover troubling emotions or so they are too exhausted to think about anything

HABITS

- Self Medication - Alcohol, cigarettes and marijuana are used to reduce anxiety, get to sleep and 'forget' worries. But the issue is still there in the morning! Using drugs doesn't change the symptoms, it only masks them.
- Less interest in usual activities
- Avoiding places, people or things that remind them of the incident

SOCIAL

- Isolates from others
- Easily irritated by small and petty issues
- Seems disinterested in others

How can I help?

- Don't ignore the person
- Don't give workers complex work, dangerous equipment or situations requiring concentration
- Don't try to console or give advice e.g. "you'll get over it", "pull yourself together", "forget about it" or "it gets better with time". This makes things worse as workers will see you don't understand what they are going through.
- Do spend time with them and ask them how they are
- Do offer support or to listen, even if they don't ask for help
- Do recognise most men feel weak when reacting emotionally – reassure them it is not a weakness but indicates strength of character

If your company is a WACIRF member, you are eligible for free expert help to deal with work trauma, as well as journey accident, ambulance and funeral cover. For more information call CEO Murray Rzepecki, 9481 0259. If not, make enquiries about how your company can contract in expertise to deal with incidents for you.

Call Converge International on 1800 337 068 or www.convergeinternational.com.au

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Question & Answer

Have a question?

MPGA WA would like to help you find the answer.

Send your questions to Andrea Gilmore:

andreag@mpawa.asn.au

Q.What is a tempering valve?

ANSWER: A tempering valve is a device that can deliver a blend of hot and cold water mixed to a constant temperature. Inside the device is a temperature sensitive element that expands and contracts depending on the temperature of the water flow across it. The elements action will move a piston between the hot and cold ports inside the device. This allows the device to maintain a constant temperature at the outlet of the device.

Q. When to temper and when not to temper hot water lines Domestic?

Exerts from current PLB Tech Notes March 2010

New installations

(1)For **new installations** heated water shall be tempered to 50°C to prevent scalding at the outlets of sanitary fixtures used primarily for personal hygiene (basins, baths and showers).

(2)For **specialised facilities** a temperature limit of 45°C using a Thermostatic Mixing Valve is required at the outlet of all sanitary fixtures used primarily for personal hygiene purposes for early childhood centres, primary and secondary schools, nursing homes or similar facilities.

Best Practice Advice for Replacement water heaters

The Board looks to the relevant Licensed Plumbing Contractor to apply his/her technical qualifications and professional judgement to ensure that any heated water installation that is certified under the Regulations presents no risk of injury to customers.

The Board **recommends** tempering of heated water services wherever there is a risk of scalding. For outlets of sanitary fixtures used primarily for personal hygiene, that temperature should not exceed 50°C (in other than specialised facilities).

Other plumbing work situations that may require a Licensed Plumbing Contractor to

consider tempering include:

- a direct replacement (like for like) of any existing type of water heater;
- the maintenance, repair or replacement of existing heated water pipe work that is covered under the Regulations (A Multi-Entry Compliance Certificate is required for this Minor Plumbing Work); or
- a direct replacement (like for like) of an existing solar water heater where the new solar heater is fitted with one of the following devices:
 - (i) a thermosiphon arrester;
 - (ii) a heat dump valve; or
 - (iii) a differential pump controller/high limit cut-out.

To temper or not to temper... hot water

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New Products

Vacuum Toilets

Jets Vacuum toilets use less than one litre per flush, require no gravity fall in the pipe work and can be installed at a much later stage in the build process than normal gravity systems, due to no slab penetrations or earth works requirements.

For more information please contact www.vacuumtoiletsaustralia.com.au



Typical Piping



Jets™ Vacuum Toilet



Jets™ Vacuum Pump Station



Single pump



Ansell Hyflex Glove

HyFlex® 11-630 glove released by Ansell has been designed to boost productivity by tradesmen who are required to handle sharp objects or components. The PU formulation also increases abrasion resistance on the gloves' work surface to improve grip. For more information go to www.ansell.com.au or www.ansellasiapacific.com



Irwin Tape Measure

IRWIN Tools has introduced twelve tape measures with three different quality options which meet with IRWIN Tools' usual high levels of quality and durability and will suit all professional contractors. IRWIN's tape measures are available in metric and metric / imperial graduations and come in five, eight and ten metre lengths. For further information please visit www.irwin.com.au

New Products



Dux Sunpro Gas Continuous Boosted Solar

Efficient, flexible & easier to handle

The Dux Sunpro Gas Continuous Boosted Solar improvements:

- Now with flexible continuous flow mounting options – on a wall or a tank allowing for greater installation flexibility
- Ability to install the tank internally while still having the continuous flow unit mounted externally (distance restrictions apply)
- Reduced footprint for better side access, particularly for smaller blocks which provides easier manual handling on site
- Still available in Natural Gas or LPG



KingGee Nubuck

KingGee have gotten serious about boots, designing their new range to provide stability and support, without compromising comfort. To protect tradies when on their feet. All new KingGee boots can be found online at www.kingee.com.au

Did you know?

In Japan, some urinals have voice-activated flushing mechanisms. The urinals respond to several commands, including “fire.”



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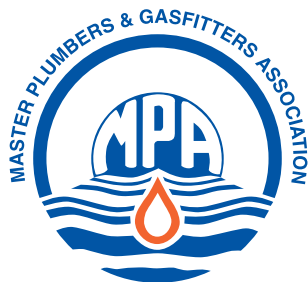
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Stage 6 Completion Presentations



Sharren Holt
Manager Training & QA

On 18 April and 23 May 2011 MPA Skills' conducted a presentation to Stage 6 apprentices who had successfully completed the off-the-job training component of their apprenticeship.

On 18 April 2011 Bryce Steele and on 23 May 2011 Andrew Okines from the Master Plumbers & Gasfitters Association of Western Australia presented each apprentice with a Certificate from the Association acknowledging their achievement in successfully completing the off-the-job component of their apprenticeship. David Galvin from Galvins presented each apprentice with a Drill Bit Kit which were very kindly donated by Galvins.

The apprentices will be completing their apprenticeship in 2011.

Congratulations to:

Blake Ashworth
Byron Castel
Matison Dalwood
Kurt Davey
Michael Dee
Adam Hollings
Justin James
Pablo Kilgren
Alec Marijanich
Paul Miller
Robert Miller
Graham Morrey
Sean O'Connor
Nick Ridge
Connor Simpson
Layton Warner
William Wevers

Dylan Boswood
Curtis Brodie
Harley Chapman
Cameron DuBois
Calum Eiffler
David Fonceca
Jack Garrett
Travis Johns
Timothy Moore
Dylan Nettleton
Laurence Robinson
Ashley Smith
Thomas Storer
Christopher Thomson
Damian Thomson
Ryan Williams



Stage 6 Students April 18th presentation



Stage 6 Students May 23rd presentation

MPA Skills Annual Apprentice Awards 2011

On Thursday, 28 April and Friday, 29 April 2011 MPA Skills conducted its inaugural Annual Apprentice Awards. The MPA Skills Annual Apprentice Awards incorporated an Apprentice Employment Award and a Training Award for First, Second and Third Year Apprentice Painting and First, Second, Third and Fourth Year Apprentice Plumbing.

It is hoped that apprentices competing in the MPA Skills Annual Apprentice Awards will go on and enter the Master Plumbers & Gasfitters Association of Western Australia Apprentice of the Year Competitions which are conducted on an annual basis in August.

The awards were introduced to encourage apprentices to participate in award competitions where they can demonstrate their skills. It also gives them a taste of competing under pressure.

All Award winners were presented with a certificate, a trophy and the sum of \$500. Congratulations to all of the apprentices who competed in the Annual Apprentice Awards. They were prepared to put themselves forward and compete against their peers and performed very well under pressure.

The apprentices who participated in the Awards were:

Plumbing: - First Year:

Jordan Ossy-Orley, Luke Minchinton, Rodney Pellizzari, Blake Slatter, Andrew Lucano, Abraham Berkelaar, Troy Moore.

Plumbing - Second Year:

Paul Temov, Laurence Robinson, Christopher Miles, Andrew Doyle, Ryan Worth, Ben Devenish-Mearns, Brayden Sims

Plumbing - Third Year:

Cameron DuBois, Callum Eiffler, Leon Poutsma, Rhys Kholer, Guilio Balla, Michael Fredericks, Ryan Rafferty.

Plumbing Fourth Year:

Nathan Halliwell, Scott Turnley.

A big congratulations to the following Award Winners:

Apprentice Employment:

First Year - Luke Minchinton
Second Year - Andrew Doyle
Third Year - Giulio Balla
Fourth Year - Nathan Halliwell

Overall Training Award:

First Year - Luke Minchinton
Second Year - Brayden Sims
Third Year - Michael Fredericks
Fourth Year - Scott Turnley



Sharren Holt, Second year overall training award winner Brayden Sims with Lachie Marr



Apprentice employment second year award winner Andrew Doyle with MPA Skills Plumbing (Assessor) Field Officer Chris Proctor

Nomination forms for the 2011 MPGA Annual Apprentice of the Year Awards are available now.



BRYCE STEELE
BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT
MANAGER

Have you visited the MPGA Website lately?

With over 3,500 visits to the “Find a Plumber“ page per month, MPGA members are starting to see the real benefit of the decision undertaken in 2010 to re-launch the MPGA website.



The MPGA website receives over 18,000 visits per month and is fast becoming a useful tool for members, most recently we have added the “Hot Topics” (as promoted on page 21) page, this is an area where members can view the current issues that the Executive Committee are addressing, there is even the opportunity where members can comment and have input.

Apart from this the website also provides the latest information regarding Wage rates, OH&S, Industrial Relations and much more. We encourage our members to logon at www.masterplumbers.com.au and ensure details are correct, update your member profile and look at the Hot Topics your Executive Committee are addressing on your behalf.

Another exciting development has been our Consumer Awareness program, during the month of July the MPGA are embarking on advertising on both the radio and in the trades section in all 17 Community Newspapers, this is done to promote our members and promote the

message “Is your Plumber a Master Plumber?” It is vital that we remind the community of the importance of the plumbing industry and that we are a professional trade that is supported by an association that requires professionalism and quality workmanship.

.....
**WE ENCOURAGE
OUR MEMBERS TO
LOGON AT
www.masterplumbers.com.au
AND ENSURE
YOUR DETAILS ARE
CORRECT**
.....

We’d love to hear our members thoughts on this campaign and what feedback your clients give you.

Finally on the 11th March the MPGA celebrated World Plumbing Day, this gave us a great opportunity for the

industry to come together, an annual event that recognizes the importance of plumbing to protect both the health of our people, our planet and that the role of our industry in often taken for granted.

We look forward to making the celebrations of World Plumbing Day even bigger in 2012, thank you to the sponsors of World Plumbing Day 2011 for making our activities possible.



The MPGA website

2011 World Plumbing Day Sponsors



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