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Western Australia



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

World Plumbing Day



March 11
Every Year, Everywhere!

Issue 1 March 2013

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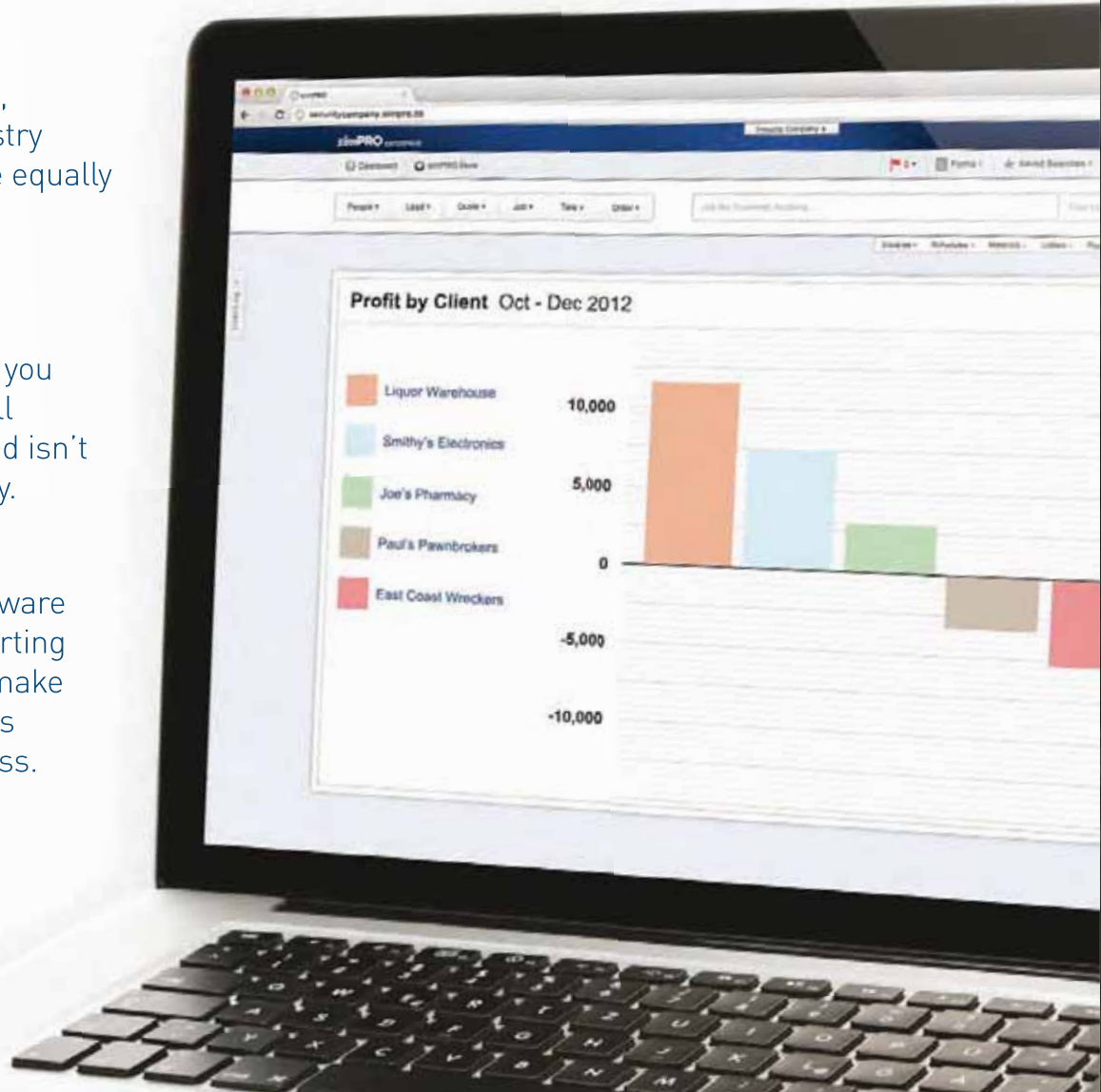
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From the editor

Welcome to the most informative and funky plumbing magazine in Western Australia.

A new year, a new look and a new name!

In this edition we shine the spotlight on World Plumbing Day, 11 March, Every Year, Everywhere. How lucky are we to live in a developed country where professional plumbing, clean water, and effective sanitation is accepted as a given. It is easy for us to take this for granted. However 1.1 billion people in this world don't have access to safe water supplies, 2.6 people don't have effective sanitation systems and as a result 3.1 million children die each year of diseases that could have been avoided, if only they had access to basic plumbing facilities.

Read about the amazing Andy Farrell on pages 4 and 5, a blast from the past with Stephen Movley on page 13 and meet a few of the newly elected 2013 MPGA Executive Committee Members on pages 10 and 11!

Do you know what plumbing really means and has anything changed in 30 years? Go to page 17 and learn all about it.

Of course we have our regular reports from the Water Corporation, Plumbers' Licensing Board, Energy Safety and the International Copper Association Australia to keep you informed.

What's on in the rest of the world with regard to plumbing events? Would you like to take a trip to India and be involved in the World Plumbing Conference? See page 29.

This edition introduces two new regular features, a membership page with the latest news on membership benefits, discounts and features and also the Ray Hodge – Ignite Business Consulting page with handy tips on how to run your business!

If you are still hungry to learn more about what is going on in the plumbing world in Western Australia, please read our e-newsletters every month to keep you in the loop, visit our website and last but not least, follow us on Facebook!

A big thank you to all of our advertisers and contributors to this issue!

Happy reading and feedback is always welcome!

Petra Wouters

Communications Coordinator
Master Plumbers & Gasfitters Association of WA



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Design:
DANDY Ph: 0457 594 089

Printed by:
Snap Osborne Park Ph: (08) 9444 0755

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Paul O'Leary, Lee Johnson, Bob Goodchild,
Ron Grant, Paul Manifis, Peter Thompson
and Tim Swift.

Master Plumber WA trade magazine is produced by the Master Plumbers & Gasfitters Association of WA.

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.

COVER STORY

WORLD PLUMBING DAY
MARCH 11TH

Hien and his children washing their hands – full coverage of this story page 7.



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MPGA President's report



**Geoff Kelly,
President**

Having been a member of the MPGA for 15 years, it wasn't until I was elected onto the Executive Committee that I experienced the full range of services and commitment the MPGA offers its members and the plumbing industry of Western Australia.

It also became clear that our industry's reputation of providing a clean and safe water supply to the community at large is testament to the membership and those who have come before me in this Association, including our Immediate Past President, Bill Busby and his outstanding commitment of 3 years as President - an achievement that only a few people can claim. On behalf of the members and the Executive Committee of the MPGA, I congratulate Bill on this outstanding achievement.

2013 will be another exciting and challenging year and the following 5 key points will be the focus of the Executive Committee along with key industry stakeholders who will be working closely with the Plumbers' Licensing Board (PLB) to achieve the best outcome for the plumbing industry and the wider community of Western Australia.

1. The adoption of the Plumbing Code of Australia (PCA) in its entirety to align the state with the rest of Australia and to broaden the scope of plumbing work.
2. Ensuring that the PLB Board is maintained in its current form and for its relationship with the Building Commission to be clearly defined.
3. Policy formulation to ensure that industry consultation and ongoing communication levels on all industry issues with key industry stakeholders and the PLB are maintained.

My message in this first President's report is for the industry to stay united and continue to improve our communication with Government and all key industry stakeholders.

4. The commencement of the plumbing regulation review including the terms of reference and a full review of the migrant policy and current licensing and compliance gaps.

5. Ensuring a response to industry in relation to the misappropriation of funds from the PLB is received including the guarantee that all funds are for use by the plumbing industry as outlined in the recent Auditor Generals Report (AOG).

My message in this first President's report is for the industry to stay united and continue to improve our communication with Government and all key industry stakeholders. I have great confidence in working with the Executive Committee Members re-elected for 2013 including Bob Goodchild, Derek Rowe, Geoff Cook, Shane Calegari, Peter Thompson, Paul O'Leary, Paul Manifis, Lee Johnson, Kim Byrne and Tim Swift. I also welcome Ron Grant as the 2013 Vice President and look forward to working closely with him to achieve the industry's goals.

I would also like to thank Matt Johnson for his contribution to the Association in 2012 as an Executive Committee Member and I look forward to meeting as many members and Association partners over the coming year.

Geoff Kelly

President, Master Plumbers & Gasfitters Association of WA

The MPGA's strong regional presence in 2013



Murray Thomas

The Executive Committee of the MPGA has decided to increase its presence in regional WA in 2013. The areas of Bunbury, Albany, Broome and Geraldton are establishing Regional Committees of the Association to ensure that regional plumbers have a stronger voice and that their issues, views and input are taken to the table.

With National Licensing set to be implemented in the near future and the

Building Commission's presence throughout the state it has become increasingly obvious that Regional Committees of the MPGA are a necessity.

The first meetings of the proposed committees will be held over the next 4 weeks and will discuss;

- The purpose of the committees
- The schedule of meetings for 2013
- The reporting process to the MPGA Executive Committee
- The regional priorities for each committee

The MPGA looks forward to hearing from all regional members of their concerns and

encourages participation by members on these committees.

Should you want to hear more about the Regional Committees role and function, go to our website www.masterplumbers.asn.au or give myself or Bryce Steele, Business Development Manager a call on 9471 6661.

We look forward to working with all members in 2013 and we want your feedback!

Murray Thomas

CEO

Country WA facing dry times

Derek Rowe, Executive Committee Member and regional plumber recently informed the MPGA of the tough times being experienced in the smaller regional centres of WA. This progressive downturn in work can be attributed to the farming industry suffering badly from high input costs and low prices.

Unfortunately, this downturn is not looking like a quick fix with a flow on effect likely to be felt in the metropolitan area over time in addition to the immediate affects in regional towns.

The MPGA encourages any members struggling as a result of the downturn to speak up as you are not alone!

Communication with those in a similar position may help in seeing out the bad times. We also encourage any members that know of any work in regional areas to contact us so that we can spread the word.

In the meantime, please spare a thought for your fellow plumbers doing it tough and pray for a wet winter!

True tradie grit

A water skiing accident left Andy Farrell a quadriplegic, but that hasn't stopped the plumbing estimator from making a huge contribution to the building industry.

By Nathan Sykes

Every tradie's worst nightmare is suffering a serious physical injury that prevents him from earning a living. For Andy Farrell, 33 this horror scenario became reality when he suffered a spinal cord injury whilst water skiing on Sydney's Hawkesbury River.

The apprentice plumber's injuries were so grave that he wasn't expected to live. Doctors told his family to prepare for the worst as a priest read him his last rites.

But Andy gradually improved. With his life now turned upside-down, he shaped a newfound motto: Impossibility is the limitation of one's mind.

Unwilling to give up all he learnt in his apprenticeship and determined not to be a burden, Andy eventually retrained as a plumbing estimator.

His courage and skills have enabled him to build his own web business with an exclusive product designed to help make a plumber's life easier. Now Andy wants to become a motivational speaker to share with construction industry workers his outlook on life. Here's what he told us:

Take us through your life-changing experience, Andy.

I was water skiing in the 'Bridge-to-Bridge' race at around 165km/h. Some say I hit a submerged object, others say I lost control. I woke from a coma about 10 days later in ICU at the Prince of Wales Hospital at Randwick. It was extremely scary because I couldn't move a muscle. I couldn't talk because of tubes down my throat. I was in excruciating pain. I had blurred and double vision and massive head pressure because I had a halo brace – a metal ring that goes round your head and moulds into your skull to completely immobilise your neck.

How did you cope?

It was quite weird because I had a lot of support from my friends,



Andy Farrell, tradie legend

family and my girlfriend – now my wife. It didn't really get me down because I showed a lot of improvement. But I was in denial.

I thought I'd just go back to plumbing and my normal sort of life. I was in a weird sort of dream state.

How long did it take you to adjust?

After I was discharged I did a lot of rehab. Also, I was getting a bit bored so I went back to TAFE around 2002 and did my advanced plumbing course. My plan was to be involved in the plumbing industry one way or another. I didn't quite know at that time how, I just thought



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Andy's ultimate aspiration is to become a motivational speaker and spinal cord injury awareness advocate

that I didn't want to waste the four years that I'd already put into my apprenticeship. And I enjoyed plumbing: I loved it!

You hadn't finished yet, though?

No, after that one-and-a-half year course at GyMEA TAFE, I spoke to a couple of friends of mine who were plumbers. One of the

guys suggested going into his office and pricing up a few jobs for him. I jumped at the opportunity, so to speak. Then my friend suggested I do an estimating course, which is put on by Paul Funnell from CavSoft and when I went to his seminar I got to meet him and he offered to become my mentor. If I was prepared to put in the effort, he was prepared to support me in whichever form I needed.

I became good friends with him and flew up to Brisbane where he lives for some one-on-one training and a couple of estimating jobs.

The industry hasn't been shy in lending a hand then?

No. I also had a lot of help from Peter West, my old boss when I was an apprentice. He showed me support throughout my injury – especially in the initial stages. He also got me to work in his office for a couple of months to sort me out financially and helped me get some training and things like that.

To this day he's given me a lot of work and he's still a very good mate.

Do you get out to work sites?

I'm kind of steering away from the estimating. Physically, I lost the use of my good hand so if I'm trying to flip large plans whilst reading documents and trying to write at the same time it becomes a bit too difficult to control.

Now I'm concentrating more on quoting and I'm getting more into my 'Plumbing Pack' business and motivational speaking.

Tell us about the Plumbing Pack.

A couple of years back I started to deteriorate and I thought I didn't want to waste all my knowledge and experience. I thought that I'd learn how to create websites whilst I was doing some more rehab. I thought with the internet I could earn a few dollars making available all the knowledge and experience that I've accumulated. I've developed a library of standard rates for plumbing, which is the basis of pricing projects. I've also created a set of documents to help tender projects – standard letter templates and calculation sheets that are useful in pricing and managing a job. They would benefit any plumber no matter what size or stage they're at.

Plumbers can cut out pricing headaches with Andy's time-saving Plumbing Pack. Go to: www.plumbingpack.com.au.

This article was originally published in the Tradie Magazine, February 2013 issue.



Andy's water skiing accident on 7th May 2000, he broke his neck which resulted in becoming a quadriplegic



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A clean start

Hygienic toilet facilities help villagers in northern Vietnam answer nature's calls with good health, privacy and a clean environment.



By Laura Hawting

"My family has lived here for over 25 years but we only just built a proper toilet three months ago," says Hien, a farmer from the north of Vietnam. "My wife and I spent close to a week completing the work. We should have made the toilet long ago."

Prior to constructing their new toilet, a makeshift pit in the corner of the yard was the only option for Hien's family when nature called.

A NEW LOO

Hien decided to build their new toilet after he and other members of his village participated in a water and sanitation group discussion facilitated by World Vision with the support of StarKids.

"Our eyes were opened to see the detrimental effects that unhygienic water and sanitation practices have had on our health," he says. "I was one of the first to register to construct a new toilet for my family."

"Only four families had a proper toilet when World Vision first arrived in our village," recalls Cu, the leader of Hien's village.

"Now, six months from the day that the village participated in the water and sanitation discussions, 82 families have made themselves a hygienic toilet. We continue to encourage the remainder to make their own toilets with support from our village water and sanitation team," Cu explains.

HELPING THE CAUSE

In addition to assisting community members to construct hygienic toilet facilities, the World Vision water, sanitation and hygiene project in Hien's village also strengthens water and sanitation networks, training them to raise awareness on the importance of clean water and sanitation.

Calendars with picture messages about water and sanitation have been distributed to every family in the village as a daily reminder about good hygiene practices that protect the environment and water sources.



Hien and his children wash their hands with clean water

For Hien's 14 year old daughter, Phuong water and sanitation improvements in her village have made a world of difference.

"I felt really scared and uncomfortable to use our previous toilet, especially at night and on rainy days," recalls Phuong. "Now I can tell my friends that my family has a hygienic toilet. Through the water and sanitation training I've gained from my teachers and shared with friends at school, I've also learned how to practise good personal hygiene and protect the environment."

This article was originally published in Jetstar Magazine October 2012 edition.

Photos: Le Thiem Xuan/World Vision



Fifth graders drink safe water at school thanks to the drinking water treatment system provided by World Vision

MPA Skills' first female plumbing & gasfitting apprentice is working up north!

Emma Watson Brown, 21 and the oldest of 3 girls arrived with her family in Perth late last year from Queensland to work in WA as a plumbing apprentice.



Emma Watson-Brown visiting the MPGA office in East Victoria Park

She started her third apprenticeship year with MPA Skills for host employer OTOC Australia. OTOC designs and builds critical support infrastructure on remote areas for most of the major players in the mining and resources industry.

When I asked her why she chose to do a plumbing apprenticeship she said, "After I finished Year 12 in 2008 I really didn't know what I wanted to do. Travelling was my main goal and I thought that I could make a living in hospitality whilst travelling. After a

while I figured out that that wasn't really what I was after, so I went to University. Because I needed money, I started helping my dad who is a plumber by trade. We worked together on some projects but I was just helping him out, not thinking of a career in plumbing and all.'

When her dad signed up for a contract that involved solar panning/powering from Brisbane to the Gold Coast and Sunshine Coast, Emma helped him again for 7 months and it was during that time that she really started to like the trade. She applied for an apprenticeship and gave it a go! However finding a host employer in Queensland was not that easy as it turned out that a lot of companies did not want to hire a female apprentice.

Plumbing work in Queensland was very slow at the time and that is why the whole family, except for one of Emma's sisters, also a plumbing apprentice, left and tried their luck in WA.

OTOC Australia was very interested in hiring Emma through MPA Skills and after a few weeks following her induction and the completion of courses required for living and working in a remote mining area, she left in December 2012 for 4 weeks on, 1 week off! If all goes to plan Emma will finish her plumbing and gasfitting apprenticeship early in 2014.

It is fantastic to see Emma gaining both skills and confidence whilst working in such a male dominated world! In 2008, only 11% of trade workforces were made up of women. The Government is now taking steps to balance out these numbers. Learning a trade through an apprenticeship is a rewarding and valuable

career option and it is important that girls feel they can attempt one if they wish to.

There are many organisations like MPA Skills that encourage trade occupations for women, so there is no reason they won't feel welcome in a trade. Hopefully this story will encourage more girls to start a career in plumbing and gasfitting!

For more information please call MPA Skills on (08) 9471 6600 or visit their website www.mpaskills.com.au.

By Petra Wouters

Communications Coordinator Master Plumbers & Gasfitters Association of WA



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Which direction does toilet water swirl at the equator?

As boring as it may sound, the direction that toilet bowl water swirls at the equator has more to do with the toilet's manufacturer than it does any physics phenomena.

It is a commonly held misconception that toilet water always drains counterclockwise in the Northern Hemisphere and clockwise in the Southern Hemisphere because of the Coriolis force – an acceleration imparted by the earth's rotation. The influence of the Coriolis force on spin direction is real, but it is generally only observable on very large scales, such as trade winds and hurricanes.

The affect that Coriolis force has on a toilet bowl is much too small to actually see in a flushing toilet — but that doesn't mean that it doesn't exist.

In 1962, Ascher Shapiro, an expert in fluid mechanics at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology who died in 2004, ran an experiment showing that the Coriolis force does affect water drainage, but the rotational effect is so small that it's overshadowed by other factors such as the direction that water enters a basin or the shape of the basin (which is a function of how the toilet-maker designs the bowl and flush mechanism).

Shapiro began his experiment by filling a large, shallow dish with water, making sure that the water entered the dish with a clockwise swirl, the opposite direction you'd expect it to turn in the Northern Hemisphere. He covered the dish with a plastic sheet, which removed any air drag, and let the water stand for 24 hours to negate its initial spin. When Shapiro first unplugged a drain at the bottom of the dish, he didn't notice any rotation to the water as it drained. However, after some time the water eventually began to swirl counterclockwise, though at a slow rate.

A few years later, another research team at the University of Sydney showed the opposite to be true in the Southern Hemisphere.

But when it comes to which direction flushed toilet water drains, only one thing matters — do your flush jets point to the left or the right?

By Joseph Castro
Life's Little Mysteries Staff Writer



Gone in a flush: motorised toilet sets land speed record

Who knew toilets could reach such speeds — or such glory?



Jolene van Vugt in action

Canadian stunt woman Jolene Van Vugt set a world record by reaching the highest speed ever attained on a motorised toilet.

The wheeled lavatory contraption hit a maximum speed of 75km/h within 100m, blowing the previous record of 68 km/h set last year in Italy by Edd China, out of the water.

Van Vugt, a motocross athlete who holds several other world records, went to Sydney to give the motorised toilet a whirl. Her ride launched the 2012 Nitro Circus Live Australian Capital City Tour, a stunt show and world-record-setting extravaganza.

Though Guinness World Records (GWR) hasn't yet issued a formal certificate of recognition, Van Vugt seems to have satisfied the record-keeping organisation's requirements for breaking the toilet speed record. GWR guidelines specify that the maximum speeds of two 100m rides must be averaged together.



Edd China rides the 'Bog Standard'

As for what qualifies as a 'motorised toilet' the definition is somewhat loose. Edd China's contraption, called the 'Bog Standard' was a motorcycle and sidecar replete with a full bathroom set, including a bathtub, sink, toilet and laundry bin. The go-cart-like mechanised toilet ridden by Van Vugt was hand built by Nitro Circus Live engineers.

By Life's Little Mysteries Staff



MPGA representation on boards and committees in 2013

Whilst all Executive Committee Members meet for approximately four hours a month, MPGA Executive Committee Members and staff also play major roles on a number of boards and committees at both state and national levels to ensure that the Western Australian plumbing industry has its say!

The below highlights the commitment on behalf of all MPGA members.



Geoff Kelly, President of the MPGA Executive Committee and Member of **PTAG**, **PIRG**, **Electrical Licensing Board** and **MPA Skills Board Director**.

PTAG: *Plumbing Technical Advisory Group reporting to the Plumbers' Licensing Board as part of the governance procedures for the implementation of national plumbing standards in the national construction code. PTAG meets as required throughout the year and industry input is sought on technical issues associated with the plumbing industry in Western Australia.*

PIRG: *Plumbing Industry Reference Group providing expert advice to the Plumbers' Licensing Board on a range of matters including the impact of plumbing regulations, licensing and compliance and the future direction of the plumbing industry. These meetings are held monthly or as required.*

MPA Skills Board: *Bi-monthly meetings assisting in the strategic direction to work with MPA Group stakeholders to deliver sustainable levels to both plumbers and painters through training for the industry in Western Australia. The meetings ensure input is received from a broad selection of industry operatives to assist in the solutions of the MPA Skills primary function of training and apprentice group hire for plumbing and painting as well as assisting in the undertaking of any associated development activity such as marketing industry related products or services, pursuing industry related opportunities and also ensuring a safe and environmentally friendly working environment.*

Electrical Licensing Board: *Representing the plumbing industry Geoff provides industry information to the Board with a focus on electrical workers with restricted licenses.*



Ron Grant, Vice President of the MPGA Executive Committee and Member of the **MBA Safety Committee** and **PTAG**.



Bill Busby, Immediate Past President of the MPGA Executive Committee and **MPA Skills Board Director**.



Kim Byrne, Member of the MPGA Executive Committee and **MPA Skills Board Director**.

Bob Goodchild, Member of the MPGA Executive Committee and **Sessional member of the State Administrative Tribunal**

Bob was appointed as a sessional member for plumbing and gasfitting issues for a five year term commencing January 2013.

Sessional members primarily contribute to the decision making process through their knowledge and experience relevant to the particular matters under consideration.

The State Administrative Tribunal is an independent body established under the State Administrative Tribunal Act 2004 (WA), which commenced operations on 1 January 2005. It performs a vital function in making original administrative decisions and reviewing administrative decisions made by WA Government Ministers, public officials, vocational regulatory bodies and local governments.



Tim Swift, Member of the MPGA Executive Committee, **MPGA representative on the Plumbers' Licensing Board**, **PIRG Member** and **MPA Skills Board Director**

The Plumbers' Licensing Board has been operating since 2000 and comprises of seven members appointed by the Minister for Commerce.



Lee Johnson, Member of the MPGA Executive Committee and **PTAG**.

Noel Abercromby, Co-opted Member of the MPGA Executive Committee, **Chairman of Master Plumbers Australia** and **MPA**



Skills Board Director.

The MPGA has developed a strong connection with all Master Plumber Associations throughout Australia. This connection benefits members of all relevant Associations with the ability to work with government, both state and federal on a national basis.

The issues affecting MPGA members in WA are common around Australia. National Licensing, Plumbing Code of Australia, the importance of well a trained workforce and the continued focus on training apprentices are all important.

Noel represents the MPGA on a national level, having the opportunity to form close working relationships with plumbers from across Australia.



Murray Thomas, MPGA WA CEO and Member of **ABCB**, **Master Plumbers Australia**, **CPSISC**, **MPA Skills Board**, **Group Training Australia**, **WACIRF**, **JFSC**, **CISG** and **PIRG**.

Australian Building Codes Board. Murray was appointed in 2011 by the Federal Minister for Innovation, Industry, Science and Research is the plumbing industry

representative on the Board of the Australian Building Codes Board (ABCB) which consists of 16 members. The Board reports to the Australian Government Ministers and State and Territory Ministers on building related matters. This Board provides a vital link for industry between building and plumbing practice and government and plumbing regulatory policy.

Master Plumbers Australia Ltd. Murray represents WA as an Alternate Director with Noel Abercromby from Samson Plumbing who is the current Chairman and WA Director of MPA Ltd. MPA Ltd is the 'united voice' for Master Plumbers Association organisations throughout Australia consisting of all Australian States and Territories.

CPSISC National Plumbing and Services Continuous Improvement Reference Group (NPSCIRG) Murray currently represents private Registered Training Organisations on the National Plumbing and Services Continuous Improvement Reference Group. The Construction and Property Services Industry Skills Council (CPSISC) is the official skills development voice of the construction industry in Australia which manages and distributes training packages for the industry. This reference group reviews and monitors these packages to ensure training is meeting the needs of industry.

MPA Skills. As the CEO of the MPA Group, Murray is the Company Secretary of the very successful industry owned

and industry operated Registered Training Organisation, MPA Skills. MPA Skills is the leading provider of training and apprentice employment within WA.

Group Training Australia (WA). Murray has been a member of the GTA(WA) Management Committee for the past 5 years which is a representative committee of 6 industries. Group Training Organisations (GTOs) employ the largest number of apprentices and trainees in WA and across Australia. GTOs currently work with more than 100,000 enterprises, employing over 35,000 apprentices and trainees Australia wide.

West Australian Construction Industry Redundancy Fund (WACIRF). Murray is a Board Director of WACIRF, consisting of 6 industry representatives and has held this appointment since 2007. WACIRF has been operating for over 20 years and provides a financial facility into which employers may deposit employee redundancy entitlements. This gives building and construction workers throughout WA the confidence in knowing their entitlements are secure.

John Forrest Secondary College Board and Building Fund Management Committee. Murray is a board member of John Forrest Secondary College (JFSC) which won the both the national and state training awards in 2011 and 2012 for its innovation and best practice in the delivery of Vocational Education and Training. This program has seen students commence their apprenticeship whilst in high school and the results and outcomes have been exceptional and the program is setting the standard for all industry sectors to follow.

CTF Construction Training Fund Strategic Group The Construction Training Fund's goal is to improve the quality of training and increase the number of skilled tradespersons in the building and construction industry. The Construction Training Fund's Strategic Group develops the strategic direction of the fund of which Murray is a member of.



Andrew Okines, Plumbing & Gasfitting Technical Liaison Officer of MPGA and Member of **PIRG**, **PTAG**, **Standards Australia's AS/NZS 3500 and AS 8800 Sub-Committees** and **GWIG**.

AS/NZS 3500: Part 3 Storm Water sub-committee. Currently a review of this section of the suite of AS/NZS 3500 series is underway and includes review of Part 5 domestic installation. The MPGA has a

national voice providing relevant industry experience in line with the requirements of the Plumbing Code of Australia.

AS 8800: A new developing standards committee for Ground Source heat. Enabling the MPGA to have input to developing technology that essentially is heated water in line with current plumbing practices and regulations that control plumbing work.

Grey Water Industry Group (GWIG) providing industry position and broader knowledge on grey water. Our position is to maintain alignment with current standards, legislation and regulation that is plumbing work.



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What all young plumbing apprentices should know, what it was like back in the day....

If I was asked to use one word to describe plumbing through my 5 year apprenticeship with my father in the late 50's – early 60's I would say HEAVY.

In housing each house had a set of concrete wash troughs and a thick walled cast iron bath. Drainage was in cement jointed earthenware. Concrete septic tanks and segmented soak wells or leach drains, all installed by a shovel and a strong back, in sand, rock gravel or clay (with the help of the odd stick of gelignite for the hard stuff). Waste pipes (fixture discharge pipes) were in galvanised wrought iron (GWI). Pipe with threaded joints screwed by hand. Cold water services were also in GWI but relatively easier to work in the smaller sizes, but rising to 4 and 6 inch in commercial buildings. Soil stacks were installed in heavy walled cast iron pipe and fittings with hemp and lead calked joints.

There were very few power tools used, as temporary power was very rarely available on smaller sites with hammers and chisels used to chase internal walls made of hard burnt wire cut bricks and lime mortar.

In 1962 that changed when we were plumbing a number of houses in the British Empire Games Village in City Beach. We took delivery of one of the early portable power plants, a 240 volt DC generator with



"The lady was brought back from Europe and we installed her in a house renovation in Swanbourne in the late 80's, needed special approval from the plumbing inspector. I do not know how old the basin was but I remember being under the threat of death if I damaged it hence I did the final installation myself rather than ask one of my plumbers to take the risk", said Stephen.



Master Plumber Journal, January 1978 edition –Stephen Movley, left, receives his Past President's badge at the annual dinner from the Honourable Ian Thompson, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly.

a ton of copper wire and magnets and belt driven from a cantankerous petrol engine driving power saws and chasing hammers to chase the solid lime/silica bricks. This was the forerunner of the lightweight alternator AC power plant that we ended up with in every truck and which showed me the pros and cons of being an early adopter of emerging technology.

I still think that the pros outweigh the cons, a view not always shared in the family business when things did not work out. In the early 70's, I purchased a mini excavator before they

were really developed. It was little more than a tiny agricultural tractor with a 17hp single pot engine and a backhoe bolted on the back and a push blade on the front. Although purchased for and pretty well paid for on a particular job on the Pierce RAAF Base (where I managed to black out half the base, hitting a high voltage cable but managed to prove no fault as the cable snaked outside its protective slabs, so I came out ok apart from starting what seemed like WW3 at the time and losing half a tooth off the bucket).

A word of advice to the young apprentices this article is supposedly aimed at – if you are in the right, stick to your guns, if you have done the wrong thing or made a mistake, fix it, pay up and move on as quickly as possible.

The 'machine' was never much good for excavating in sand and after towing it around on the back of a land rover for a few years, it ended up languishing in the back of the shed.

Moving away from the heavy side and one for the smart phone / tablet brigade, once again my early adoption bent saw a computer with two five inch disc drives and several 10MB external drives stacked on top of each other making up a computer system with probably 1/100 of the power of your mobile smart phone, but I managed to massage and adapt what was a rudimentary estimating system into a system to run project

housing, something that with the technology sitting on my desk now would have been a piece of cake.

When asked to write about the 'old days' at first I thought that my journey did not start early enough but I guess 55 years is a fair way back and I have enjoyed writing this short article as it has brought back memories of a journey that I have enjoyed and I am still enjoying and one that I would not change for quids!

In closing I would like to remind you that as plumbers practising the art, craft and profession of plumbing we are the first line of defence in protecting public health, a position recognised by medical professionals around the world.

By Stephen J Movley *Hon.FIPA MAHSCA*
Life Member Master Plumbers & Gasfitters Association of WA



Stephen Movley at apprentice age.



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Featured product: **BlueLine**

Nuflow and City Care join forces to help rebuild Christchurch drainage systems

City Care, New Zealand's leading water and wastewater maintenance service provider has joined Nuflow's expanding network of licensed installers.

Nuflow's director Ed Ahern said it is a natural alignment. Throughout Australia and New Zealand, Nuflow provide a cost effective solution to sewerage, stormwater, potable water, fire systems and pressure pipe repairs. City Care provides water, wastewater and stormwater network services to over one million New Zealanders.

"We believe Nuflow's non-invasive pipe rehabilitation technology is the most versatile in the world. City Care's belief in our product reinforces this," said Mr Ahern.

In becoming a licensed installer and utilising Nuflow's Blueline technology, City Care will add another permanent cost effective solution to its sewerage, stormwater and potable water pipe repairs work.

Nuflow's unique pipe rehabilitation technology, Blueline is utilised to line and protect underground pipes from forming cracks, build up or root intrusion. Once the problem has been identified, a Blueline liner is pulled into place and inflated with an internal rubber bladder. It is left to cure and when the bladder is removed, the pipe is structurally rehabilitated and functions as new.

This pull-in-place solution is accomplished by utilising existing access points which prevents any destruction to architecture, messy construction sites and disruption to normal operations.

Mr Ahern said whilst this is incredibly exciting time for all parties, including City Care, our company and our other Licensees in New Zealand, we are all too aware of the devastation caused by the earthquakes in Christchurch.



"Blueline has a proven track record in rehabilitating pipes back to their original condition without the need to excavate. This increases pipe longevity, reduces disruption to the community and effects on the environment which is exactly what we need to help rebuild the earthquake damaged city of Christchurch."

Nuflow's Australian headquarters in Ashmore, on Queensland's Gold Coast will manufacture and supply all custom-made materials to City Care.



"We have seen mass failings of networks throughout the region. It gives us great pride to have been chosen as the company to provide the technology that will assist in rehabilitating the drainage network in Christchurch."

City Care's Chief Executive Officer, Onno Mulder said the partnership with Nuflow is an ideal fit for City Care.

For more information, please contact:

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Email: ed@nuflowtech.com.au
www.nuflowtech.com.au

Bjorn Triplow, Divisional Manager, City Care
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Has plumbing really changed that much in 30 years?

Plumbing is the system of water service pipes, drain fittings, valves, valve assemblies and devices installed in buildings, ships, trains, planes, caravans, etc for the safe and efficient distribution of water for washing and the removal of water-borne wastes. The word 'plumbing' comes from the Latin word '*plumbum*' meaning lead, as pipes were once made from lead.

In modern days, as in the past, plumbers must be skilled and licensed to practice these disciplines and undertake the skilled trade of working with pipes, tubing and plumbing fixtures in such systems. The plumber is someone who can efficiently install or compliantly repair piping systems, plumbing fixtures and all plumbing associated equipment.

Complex regulatory requirements determine strict outcomes for the installation and repair of all plumbing work, including but not limited to: water heaters, backflow preventers, taps and valves. All plumbing work must be maintained in accordance with Australian Standards as well as specific state and territory legislative and regulatory requirements including plumbing related codes.

The plumbing industry is a vital component of every developed economy through out the world, due to the human population's need for clean drinking water and the proper collection and transport of wastes for treatment.

So has there really been any change since 1973? Essentially no, nothing has really changed about the practical aspects of the industry. Water still has to be treated to a level fit for human consumption. Waterborne wastes require transport, treatment and compliance with numerous state and federal regulations. Water service providers still have the same obligations to adhere to bylaws and regulatory requirements. These rules and regulations still exist today and are still in force under the control of complex legislation administered by high level government agencies.

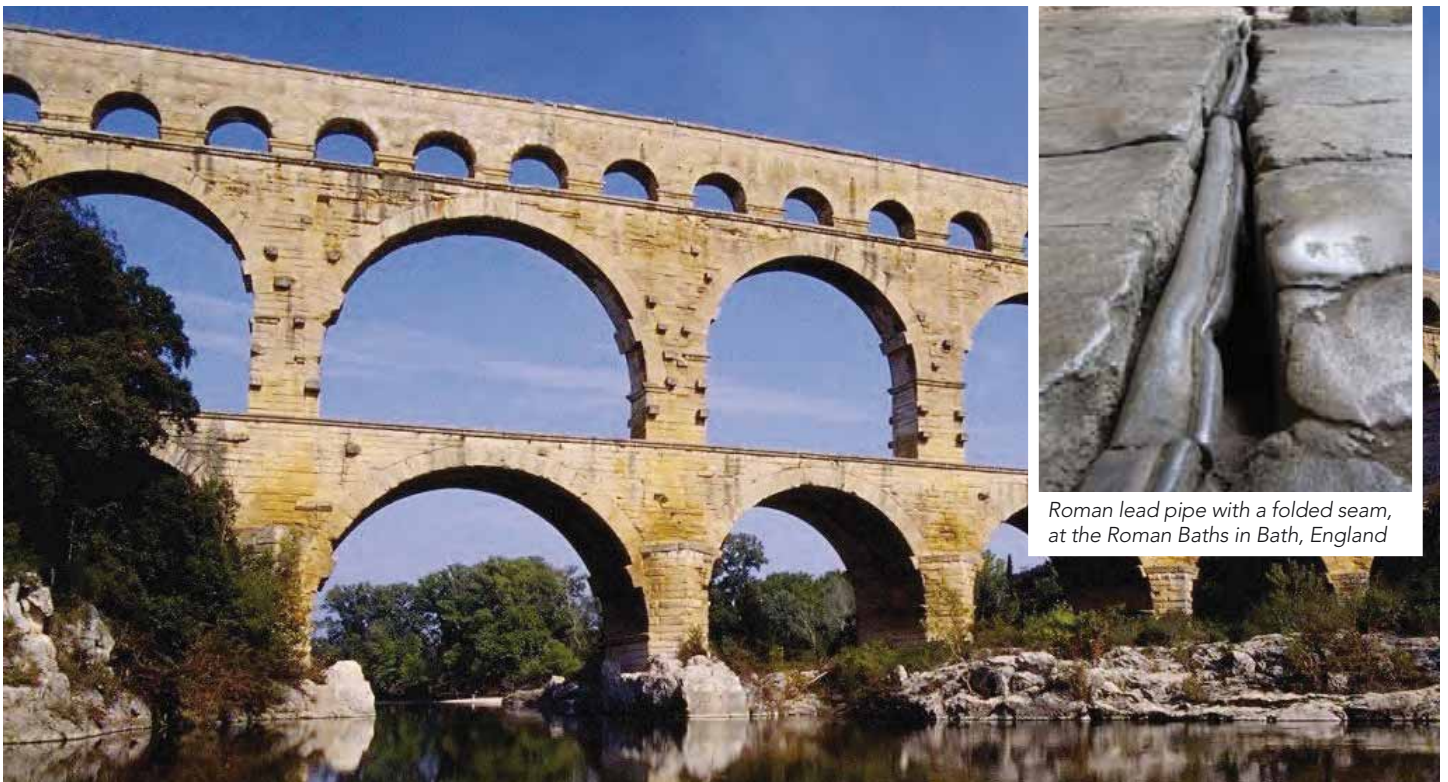
The plumbing performances outcomes of hydraulic designs are still ever present and demand for product innovation and design now push the boundaries of all compliance monitoring jurisdictions, as the plumbing industry is expected to develop and change with efficiency requirements, driven from population growth and public perceptions. These same outcomes are expected of the plumbing systems we are so fond of in the modern world. We all expect the toilet to flush our waste away, the taps still deliver the same water and the treatment of waste hasn't changed much at all.

To coin an old phrase so familiar to the working plumber 'pay day is Thursday, it all goes down hill and don't chew your finger nails.'

Plumbing has not only a distinguished past, but a bright future. Anyone engaged in its pursuit can be justifiably proud to be called a plumber. So is there anything wrong with the word 'plumbing'?

Many associated industry specialists engaged in the plumbing profession have consistently bemoaned the low esteem in which they are held by the public and the engineering community. They seem to think all their woes stem from the word 'plumbing' itself and thus are constantly proposing that we dream up some new exciting and exotic word as a replacement.

Plumbing is an ancient and honoured profession. It was in full bloom long before most of the present-day engineering disciplines were even born. It was plumbing engineers who conceived and built the great aqueducts that permitted Rome to flourish in all its ancient power and glory. The hot baths of Greece and Italy were the accomplishment of plumbing engineers. All the world renowned fountains are testimonials to the plumbing engineers of the time. The streets in the world's first cities, owned their night-time illumination to the plumbing engineers who designed the systems to provide gas for the lamplights.



Roman lead pipe with a folded seam, at the Roman Baths in Bath, England

The Roman aqueduct, who knew plumbing could be so beautiful?



A touch of fame struck Albany in late February as the Green Machine himself, Danny Green joined the MPGA to share his story on how he became the first boxer to win 4

World Titles in Australian boxing history.

In what was arguably our best Albany event to date, Green chatted with the locals, took plenty of happy snaps and signed autographs for the masses!

With a crowd of over 100 at the striking Albany Entertainment Centre, local plumbers also got to see the latest products their industry has to offer with displays by 20 of the best suppliers in WA.

With 1 down and 4 regions to go, Danny Green will be travelling the state with us this year so you can hear about his incredible journey as a knockout puncher. Don't miss out, mark these dates in your calendar.

Ashlee Phur

Events Manager

Master Plumbers & Gasfitters Association of WA



Danny Green

MARK YOUR DIARY

APRIL

12 Autumn Golf Day

MAY

9 Geraldton Showcase with Danny Green

24 Past Presidents Luncheon

30 Broome Showcase with Danny Green

JUNE

26 Mandurah Showcase with Danny Green

JULY

4 Bunbury Showcase with Danny Green



The Green Machine with Darin & Merv Hockley of Denmark Plumbing Service



Danny and Des Day of Tradelink



261 people joined the chain to support World Plumbing Day



On March 11, the world celebrates World Plumbing Day. Over the past four years World Plumbing Day has lifted its profile and is now celebrated all over the world. This year, the MPGA decided to celebrate this day in Perth with an attempt at the Guinness World Record for the Longest Human Towel Chain.

With the current record set at 250 people, the MPGA was up for the challenge ahead.

In the week leading up to the big day, Nova 93.7 broadcast a variety of adverts to get the message across about the attempt and to raise community awareness of this important day.

With our adverts flooding the airways, Monday 11 March arrived and the show was on, with CEO Murray Thomas kicking off the day with a prime-time interview on 6PR with Steve Mills.

The people of Perth were eager and began to line up from 11:30am and when the gates opened at 12 a rush of 40 people were ready to break the world record. Each participant received an embroidered towel and an "I'm a world record holder" badge. Nova and the Water Corporation had lots of goodies to give away to the crowd too and three lucky participants also scored an iPad Mini to take home.

Zap Circus entertained the crowd with fire juggling while Nova and MPGA staff gathered the final numbers needed to break the world record. Channel 10 and Community News were also there covering the action of the day.

With all participants in place and ready to go, the countdown started as everyone nervously waited for the attempt to begin. While the participants held their towels tightly, the timer commenced and everyone waited patiently for one minute until history was made.

At approximately 12:50pm on Monday 11 March, World Plumbing Day 2013, the MPGA broke the Guinness World Record for the Longest Human Towel Chain with 261 participants.

Through this event, World Plumbing Day was heavily promoted to the community outside of the plumbing industry. Hopefully attendees will talk about how they made history and spread the word about World Plumbing Day.

Thank you to all that participated on the day. I look forward to celebrating World Plumbing Day again in 2014!

Lucy Clement

Events Assistant

Master Plumbers & Gasfitters Association of WA



Attendees starting to come in and preparing to make history



We broke the record with 261 people!



MPGA President Geoff Kelly (left) and MPGA CEO Murray Thomas (right) after the attempt

Thanks to our World Plumbing Day Sponsors:



Waterwise Specialist Plumbers



As the community becomes more aware of the long-term costs of water leaks and wastage, the demand for Waterwise Specialist Plumbers is expected to rise.

Plumbers who become members of the Waterwise Program not only expand the scope of their services, they help customers shave dollars off their water bills and save litres of precious water per day.

A massive water leak recently detected at a Karratha hotel serves as a timely reminder of the importance of water efficiency and the Waterwise Specialist Plumbers who help promote this message. A smart meter installed on the water meter at the Karratha International Hotel identified a constant overnight draw of approximately 15 litres of water per minute, when generally water consumption should be very low. This indicated there was a leak in the hotel's internal plumbing. 15 litres of water a minute would equate to nearly eight million litres wasted water per year. The damaged pipe was immediately detected and repaired which will save the hotel a huge \$54,000 a year.

Waterwise Specialist Plumbers not only help their customers make big financial savings, they are given access to well-recognised Waterwise branding. Waterwise Specialist Plumbers can then use this branding to promote their business and remain competitive.

Kelly's Hot Water Gas and Air owner, Geoff Kelly has been a member of the Waterwise Program since its inception in 2003.

Mr Kelly said being a Waterwise Plumber has led to an increase in new customers. "We have certainly gained through being a Waterwise Plumber – we are often contacted by customers who want us to provide advice on how their homes may be made more water efficient." Mr Kelly also said his business' involvement with the program meant he could spread the water efficiency message. "On-going training and keeping up with waterwise trends helps us differentiate ourselves from our competitors and assists our customers in making informed choices on many water and energy efficient products, assisting them in not only saving big dollars but also doing their bit for the environment."

To find out how you can become a Waterwise Specialist Plumber visit www.watercorporation.com.au



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Government of **Western Australia**
 Department of Commerce
 Plumbers Licensing Board

Contractors should conduct a licence check

Being a plumbing contractor means that not only are you responsible for the work you carry out, but also for ensuring the tradespeople you employ are licensed to do the work you instruct them to.

Two potential pitfalls in this area are when a contractor fails to check an employee's tradesperson's licence for conditions placed on it by the Plumbers' Licensing Board (PLB); or when an employee continues to work without a licence once their apprenticeship ends.

"Just because a person holds a tradesperson's licence, does not mean they are authorised to carry out all types of plumbing work in Western Australia," said PLB Chair Howard Croxon, OAM.

"The PLB can put conditions on licences that restrict the types of plumbing work that can be carried out by the holder. Drainage work in WA, for instance requires particular experience and qualifications that not all plumbers have. Plumbers who are not licensed to carry out drainage work or any other type of plumbing work will have limiting conditions placed by the PLB on their licences.

"We recommend that plumbing contractors check the licence card of their employees for any conditions and ask them only to carry out work that their licence allows them to."

"In the case of apprentices, once their apprenticeship ends and they are no longer 'indentured', they must apply for and be issued with a tradesperson's licence before they can carry out plumbing work."

"While apprentices are made aware of this requirement by their training organisations, we recommend that plumbing contractors ensure their employees follow through with their applications and do not allow them to carry out plumbing work until they receive their licence."

Mr Croxon said the requirement for licensing was in place not only to protect consumers and the community from the risks of certain waterborne diseases, but also to maintain the integrity of the WA plumbing industry.

"I encourage graduating apprentices to apply for their licences with pride in their achievements. The Board does not want to have to take disciplinary action against employers or the next generation of plumbers that are being welcomed into the industry," Mr Croxon said.

"Licensing exists for important reasons and is a legislative requirement for plumbers in our state, so we ask contractors to help us ensure their workers comply."

More information on applying for a tradesperson's licence is available in the 'Licensing' section of the PLB website www.plumbers.wa.gov.au.

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Two new staff members at REHAU Pty. Ltd.



Shane Ross – Area Sales Manager Construction (Northern Region)

Shane is well known in the WA plumbing and gas industry.

After spending many years, predominantly specialising in the hot water market segment, Shane's responsibilities include support to merchants, plumbers and gasfitters and training of apprentices in hot and cold water and gas services. In addition Shane liaises with consultants for specification of REHAU's quality range of water, gas, acoustic and trade waste drainage products.



Travis Barkla – Area Sales Manager Construction (Southern Region)

Travis completed his apprenticeship through MPA Skills and after successfully earning his trade certificate he started his own business which he operated for approximately 11 years. Travis brings years of experience in plumbing and gas and is particularly enthusiastic about REHAU's products. Travis is looking forward to 'giving back' to the industry that has been so good to him and his family over the years. Travis' work includes support to merchants, plumbers and gasfitters as well as training within the suite of products of REHAU's Building Technology division.



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Commissioning and servicing gas appliances



Kevin Hooper

It is the responsibility of the gas fitter/plumber installing a gas installation and appliances to commission gas appliances and demonstrate to the owner the operation of those appliances. There is clearly a lack of knowledge or experience creeping into the industry which is disappointing from a regulator's point of view.

On a similar note there is a large number of mining camps in Western Australia with integral kitchens providing meals continuously to the workforce. Many of these camps contain gas fired commercial catering appliances. Without a preventative maintenance program on these appliances they do eventually breakdown. Reports are filtering through to Energy Safety of inappropriate fixes by not only the catering staff but also repairs being undertaken by persons not holding a gas permit.

Ad hoc repairs in these instances have led to gas leaks and in extreme cases fires, placing catering staff in a hazardous environment.

As a gas fitter/plumber if you are unfamiliar with the service and maintenance of a particular piece of equipment and it has become unserviceable it is strongly recommended that an out of service tag be placed on the faulty catering equipment and a call be placed to the manufacturer's service agent to undertake the repairs.



Under the Gas Standards (Gasfitting and Consumer Gas Installations) Regulations 1999,

Regulation 23 Servicing of a consumer's gas installation

- (1) When a gas fitter services a consumer's gas installation the gas fitter must record the service information.
- (2) The service information must be-
 - (a) clearly and legibly displayed in a permanent form on a badge or label attached to the consumer's gas installation; or
 - (b) recorded in accordance with the approval under subregulation (3).
- (3) The Director may, in a particular case or class of case, approve in writing another means of recording service information for a consumer's gas installation.
- (4) In this regulation –

Service information, in relation to the servicing of a consumer's gas installation means –

 - (a) the date servicing took place; and
 - (b) the identification number endorsed on the permit or authorisation held by the registered gas fitter who did or supervised the servicing.

Servicing gas appliances is a major component of gasfitting. Commercial gas equipment is somewhat more expensive to purchase than domestic gas appliances. It is essential that if you have commercial clients you recommend that they be encouraged to have a regular preventative maintenance agreement for the gas appliances installed.

By Kevin Hooper
Energy Safety Chief Gas Inspector

It's your business to register.

If you employ workers in the construction industry you may be required by law to register in the Construction Industry Long Service Leave Scheme.
Find out by visiting www.myleave.wa.gov.au or by calling **08 9476 5400**.

CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY LONG SERVICE LEAVE SCHEME

Home hot spots

“Solar Thermal Energy is emerging as one of the greenest and most cost efficient ways to heat and even cool our homes,” says **John Fennell**.

For most people solar tends to mean electricity from photovoltaics, but Solar Thermal Energy (STE) technologies also use the sun to heat water, air and even floors at home.

Using the sun for hot water has been around a long time and with approximately 100,000 solar hot water systems sold each year in Australia, it's clearly the most well known. And it's not hard to see why solar hot water is estimated to provide up to 80% of the annual energy to heat water at home, it generates savings per household of between \$300 and \$700 a year and makes a sizable contribution to reducing carbon emissions.

However, it's still a fairly small market and has a lot of room to grow especially as the Government continues to push for lower energy use at home. Industry innovation is also likely to help and I'm happy to say the International Copper Association has been working with research groups and manufacturers, especially in China and the US to find more efficient ways for STE type technologies to work.

Most solar technologies already rely on copper pipes, plates, panels or manufactured components to work effectively. One of the most common for instance is the use of glazed or unglazed solar collectors and evacuated tubes based on a copper absorber plate and copper tubing to route the water.

The Asia Pacific region is likely to be one of the globe's hot spots when it comes to STE's, due to a combination of big populations and rapidly growing cities. China is already a leader and at last estimate had 30 million homes with solar thermal hot water systems, a trend the Chinese Government says it wants to accelerate by pouring billions of dollars into solar technology uptake.

But solar thermal energy is showing signs of bursting out of the purely hot water box. Northern Europe for example, has led the way in the installation of the 'combisystem' where solar is used for water and space heating as well as cooling. Naturally enough these systems are more complicated and are usually backed up by an auxiliary non solar heat source, but can provide anywhere from 10 to 60% of a building's space heating needs. On the other hand, the US and Canada have been more active when it comes to using the sun to heat rooms via 'solar air heating' collectors installed on the sides of homes to warm circulating air.

Using STE's in combination with other renewable technologies is also on the move and geothermal pumps for closed loop direct-



exchange (DX) heating and cooling from the earth is one of the biggest. DX systems consist of a heat exchanger connected to a network of small-diameter copper pipes buried into the ground. The ambient, constant warmth of the earth is transferred to a heat transfer fluid that circulates through the tubing then back into the building via heating coils and air handlers.

The bottom line is that Solar Thermal Energy is finding exciting new uses at home and has the potential for plumbers to extend their businesses. And that's a sunny idea all round.

More information at www.solarthermalworld.org

John Fennell heads the International Copper Association Australia and can be contacted at john.fennell@copperalliance.asia



Introducing H&H Business Services

The Master Plumbers Association of WA ("MPGA") is proud to introduce a new business partner, H&H Business Services ("H&H").

H&H is a unique and professional accounting practice committed to assisting their clients in achieving their goals whilst building meaningful business relationships. H&H has a client base ranging from industry associations, small and medium businesses, self-managed superannuation funds and individuals.

H&H will provide a forum for MPGA members to submit tax, accounting and general business queries. A representative from H&H will then contact members directly to discuss their query in more detail with them. As a matter of topical interest, the question which is most relevant to the industry will be run in the magazine or e-news. Please submit your queries/questions to michael.hinsley@hhbiz.com.au.



“What The...?”





Wayne Kennedy joins the MPA Group as the new Occupational Safety and Health Manager responsible for managing OSH compliance. He works closely with the management team to ensure the safety of our staff, apprentices and host employers is the number one priority for our organisation.



Wayne has been involved in the building and construction industry for over 30 years and is a qualified electrician and electrical contractor. With a genuine passion for workplace safety, Wayne holds a Diploma of Occupational Safety & Health and a Cert IV in Training & Assessment. He has been a lead OSH trainer for a large government organisation and has managed safety compliance for several well known residential building companies prior to joining the MPA Group.

"Firstly, I would like to say how excited I am in joining such a dynamic industry focused organisation, committed to improving all aspects of training, assessment and skills.

For my first article, I would like to take the opportunity to remind all plumbers of the dangers associated with digging trenches and excavation work.

A number of incidents have occurred where workers have been seriously injured after being engulfed while working in trenches that have collapsed.

Any number of external factors can create a higher risk of ground slippage and engulfment.

Trenches greater than a metre deep can pose a significant risk to workers, especially those who are installing pipes or other services. The risk of serious injuries or fatalities also considerably increases with depth.

To reduce these risks - before trenching work starts, ensure:

- work is planned so it can be done safely, including determining appropriate engulfment protection and site security requirements.
- a Safe Work Method Statement (SWMS) is developed for 'High Risk' work that involves mobile plant or if the trench depth is 1.5m or more (this is a WorkSafe WA mandatory requirement).
- an Emergency Response Plan (ERP) is developed to deal with potential incidents (eg; worker rescue, ground slip or flood).

When undertaking trenching work, ensure:

- You have suitable barriers around the excavation.
- Signage is erected warning of the risk (eg; DANGER – DEEP EXCAVATION).
- You have at least one other person present where any excavation is more than 1.5m deep.
- You 'Dial Before You Dig' to locate any underground services (especially electrical or gas).
- You have an up to date Safe Work Method Statement for 'High Risk' Construction Work (excavation work where the depth is more than 1.5m).
- You have provided sufficient information, instruction and training to any workers involved – including plant and equipment.
- You have provided correct PPE to any workers and ensured it is worn.

Some sites or estates may be subject to an 'Asbestos Management Plan' which needs to be followed when excavation work is undertaken.

Where there is a risk of children or other members of the public accessing the works area, suitable site fencing should be erected to prevent access.

For the duration a trench remains open, the contractor should ensure the trench and site security is inspected regularly and as

soon as possible after any event that could affect the safety of the trench (eg; a storm or ground slip).

Workers must also be protected whilst undertaking any work where they are required to enter a trench and there is a risk of engulfment. When appropriately used, the following methods can provide the required protection:

- batter the walls to a safe angle.
- bench the walls to form one or a series of steps.
- shore up the walls to support the sides.
- work inside trench shields.

It is important to understand trench shields do not support the ground - they provide protection to workers within the shield, therefore workers must stay within the confines of the shield at all times.

A safe method to enter and exit the trench or shield must also be provided (eg a sufficiently long, secured ladder and landing platform)."

Further information

More information on trench safety can be found on the WorkSafe WA website, OSH Regulations 1996 or in the Code of Practice; Safety precautions in trenching operations.

Wayne Kennedy

Occupational Safety and Health Manager MPA Group



MPA Skills apprentices working in trenches

Rethinking prostate cancer screening



Dr Joe Kosterich

Always be wary of a call to do a 'simple blood test' as there is no such thing. Whilst taking blood out of a vein is simple, the results are never simple and a 'simple blood test' can start a chain of complex events.

After looking at data over 20 years the US Preventative Services Task Force (USPTF) last year formalised its previous advice that there was no benefit for routine PSA (Prostate Specific Antigen) testing on healthy men. On the surface this sounds counterintuitive, surely finding more cancer early means saving lives.

Except that the facts do not show that the routine PSA screening does this.

- 1) The test is not diagnostic of prostate cancer and can be raised for other reasons. The inventor of the test described it as a 'toss of a coin'. It was originally devised as a tracking test for established cancer.
- 2) Many men will die with, not of prostate cancer. Some 70% of seventy year old men have prostate cancer cells on autopsy. Even for men aged between 40 and 60 the figure is 33%.
- 3) This highlights the point that we do not actually know what an abnormal test result means!
- 4) In turn a raised PSA generally leads to further invasive procedures such as a biopsy. In this there are risks of bleeding and infection and even then the results may be vague.
- 5) Thus leading to treatment of many cancers, which if left alone would not shorten life or impair function. The problem being we do not know which is which.

All this might be justifiable if there was a significant likelihood of men undergoing testing having a good chance of living longer than those who do not. Previous large European trials have not shown this to be the case. And the USPTF figures show the following -

- 1) For every 1000 men having routine testing, one man will have life saving surgery.
- 2) For every 3000 men having routine testing, one will die prematurely due to complications of treatment.
- 3) For every 1000 men tested, up to 43 will suffer serious harm. Some 30-40 will become impotent or incontinent or both. Two will have a serious cardiovascular event (like a heart attack) due to treatment and another may get a blood clot in the legs or lungs.

For every three lives 'saved' one will be lost and over 100 will suffer serious complications!

The recommendations will attract criticism, much of which will come from those who earn a living treating and testing for prostate cancer and their representative organisations. Some will put a political spin on this and call it rationing. This is complete nonsense as nobody is barred from having the test.

Ideas in medicine change. The PSA as a screening test was never actually trialed to see if was beneficial. Now, in hindsight we can see that it is not. Worse than that more men are harmed than helped.

Each man must make a decision about testing based on his individual circumstances. One day there may be a way of detecting prostate cancers, which would be a threat to life without so much collateral damage. Until then, we need to rethink routine testing on all men just because they are male and have reached a certain age.

Dr Joe Kosterich M.B.B.S.
www.drjoe.net.au

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<p>APRIL 8-10 April 2013</p>	<p>ISH Beijing China www.chinaexhibition.com/Official_Site/11-2098-ISH_China_and_CIHE_2013.html</p>
<p>7-10 April 2013</p>	<p>AWWA Sustainable Water Management Conference Nashville, Tennessee USA www.sourcewatercollaborative.org/events/sustainable-water-management-conference</p>
<p>19-21 April 2013</p>	<p>Kitchen/Bathroom Industry Show New Orleans, Louisiana USA www.kbis.com</p>
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<p>JULY 2-7 July 2013</p>	<p>WorldSkills World Championships Leipzig Germany www.worldskills.org</p>
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<p>SEP-OCT 29 September – 3 October 2013</p>	<p>IAPMO 84th Annual Education & Business Conference Kansas City, Missouri USA www.iapmo.org</p>
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Tyco Flow Control became Pentair Valves and Controls

As of January 2013, Tyco Flow Control became Pentair Valves and Controls and the Australian made Tyco Backflow Valves were named ValvCheQ (the name derived from the backflow check valves they make in their Queensland factory).

ValvCheQ backflow valves and Backflow Test kits are carried in their Wangara warehouse and available for distribution in Western Australia.

Customers all over the state call 1300 790 583 for all your backflow requirements and advice.



Bosch Blue's new 4.0Ah Lithium-Ion Battery with 'Cool Pack'

Australian tradesmen will be amongst the first in the world to experience the power of Bosch Blue's new 4.0Ah Lithium-Ion Battery with 'Cool Pack' technology.

The pioneering battery from Bosch Blue boasts a number of features, including:

- Bosch's innovative 'Cool Pack' technology for active temperature control
- Up to 65% more run time than standard 3.0Ah batteries and up to 100% longer life span compared to batteries without 'Cool Pack' technology
- It's the lightest battery in its class on the market

Professional tradesmen need tools that are not only powerful, but can also go the distance – durable and robust batteries are essential to effective and efficient work, which is why Bosch has developed the pioneering 4.0Ah battery.

Bosch Blue's 4.0 Ah battery, is built to last – it boasts up to 65% more run time than standard 3.0Ah batteries and up to 100% longer life span compared to batteries without 'Cool Pack' technology. It's also tough enough to survive a 2 metre drop.

The innovative 'Cool Pack' technology ensures optimum battery performance. The 'Cool Pack' is housed on the battery pack and works by reducing heat build up during use.

The radiator located outside the battery pack allows for optimal heat emission from inside the pack and heat-balancing technology ensures an equal temperature level is maintained within the battery at all times.

The result is a battery with higher energy density and improved internal resistance, which allows for a significantly longer run time without the risk of overheating.

The battery is also exceptionally lightweight – in fact, despite its robust and compact design, it's the lightest battery on the market! It also features an LED indicator for each charge level.

Bosch's new 4.0Ah battery is compatible with all Bosch 18V professional cordless tools and is available now as a stand-alone battery for RRP \$149. It will be sold in standard kits later in 2013.



Bosch Blue's 4.0Ah Lithium-Ion Battery with 'Cool Pack' RRP \$149.

Hot water expertise at your fingertips



Rheem Australia launches its new continuous flow selector app

With Australia's love affair with the latest smart phones and mobile devices, Rheem Australia has gone mobile with the launch of its new Rheem continuous flow selector app, free to download on your iPhone or Android. Expertise at your fingertips!

Based on several easy inputs, the new Rheem continuous flow selector app – the first of its kind for the industry – recommends the best Rheem continuous flow model options to suit a customer's hot water needs.

John Wilkins, Rheem's group product manager says: "With Australia's love of smart phones and tablets in today's technologically advanced society, we really needed to offer mobile solutions for our customers to ensure they are easily informed and able to make quick and easy decisions."

"The selector app is designed to ensure the whole decision making process for our customers is as streamlined as possible. Expertise at your fingertips, which means customers get the best advice right there and then on the job."

"In addition, the app provides extra product features and benefits to reinforce each Rheem model's suitability to the customer, plus clear dimensions and technical specifications to make installation easier and faster."

The Rheem continuous flow selector app is also compatible with iPod touch. It requires iOS 4.2 or a later version.

At the forefront

Rheem continues to be a leader in innovative continuous flow hot water systems following its recent launch of the new Rheem 27 6 Star. This system offers customers – even those with larger families – the surety of an extra litre of hot water when they need it, together with 6.1 star savings. The Rheem 27 6 Star is the only 27 litre continuous flow system on the Australian market.

"Rheem 27 6 Star ticks all the boxes," Wilkins says. "With its additional water capacity, high efficiency design and reduced energy use, it raises the stakes in the continuous flow market. As with the regular Rheem 27, the 6 Star is easy to install and there's no new technology to learn, so it's fast in and out, without having to worry about a call back."

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Training & Apprentice Employment

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It's just not that complicated



One of the tendencies we as business owners and managers have is that we over complicate things. There is often a myriad of concerns, issues and inefficiencies that we're up against on a daily basis and when identified, can be quite debilitating. The more analytical of us draw up charts, graphs, strategic plans etc with timelines for the correcting of such. With great fanfare we roll out our improvement plan, often consuming precious

resources in the process. The other extreme of course is to see things as too complicated and submit to the maxim, 'why fix it if it's not fully broke?'

Case Study 1

A trade services company was faced with inefficiencies and complaints coming from all directions. Bottlenecks were happening by way of ordering, delivery, workflow and invoicing time frames; complaints from workers, management, staff and clients were occurring almost on a daily basis. Job error costs were mounting. When looking at the situation, there were probably about twenty issues arising in any given week. (The owner would probably say one hundred). It was complicated, or so it seemed.

Upon closer inspection we realised that all of the issues were derived from one source. One team member. Then, upon assessing the person in the given role with the corresponding job requirements, we understood that they would be better suited in a role more conducive to their particular behaviour, personality and passion in their field of expertise. They simply weren't cut out for the position. A great human being, just an ill fit.

Keeping it simple. Find and deal with the one core issue and you'll potentially nail twenty at the same time.

Case Study 2

I visited a company who gave me a list on the first visit of everything that needed changing in their business. They had also completed a business analysis outlining where the weak spots were. All seemed relevant. As we talked through these areas it was obvious that job profitability was the key to all others. After all, if you're not profitable you have no business. That was their 'one thing.'

Keeping it simple. Find the area that is foundational to all others and get to work on that first.

In summary – keep it simple, look for the one or two contributing factors and begin improving your condition one step at a time. You will likely find that it's just not that complicated.

Ray Hodge 'The Efficiency Driver'

Director-Consultant Ignite Business Consulting

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w www.ignitebusinessconsulting.com.au
e ray@ignitebusinessconsulting.com.au



Welcome to our new members who joined the MPGA WA Association in December 2012, January, February & March 2013!

- All Sorts Plumbing & Gas Pty. Ltd.
- Connect Plumbing & Gas
- Curulli Plumbing
- Deluxe Plumbing and Gas
- Liquid Allsorts Plumbing Solutions
- Mascot Engineering Group
- Mudge Plumbing and Gas Pty. Ltd.
- Plumbset Pty. Ltd.
- Pride Industries
- Smart Gas and Plumbing
- Streamline Plumbing Pty. Ltd.
- Ureco Solar Hot Water
- Viega Pty. Ltd.
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MPA Skills Update



Wayne Morling

We are delighted to announce that the MPA Group has acquired a property at Jandakot from which we will be delivering plumbing, painting and advanced training. The property, at 7 Chullora Bend, is a five minute walk from the Cockburn Central train station, making it very accessible for pre-apprentices and apprentices using public transport.

The building comprises a large, at present vacant warehouse area with generous space upstairs to configure two classrooms, an office and a reception area. It is intended to fit out the warehouse area to enable delivery of plumbing and painting training and we expect to commence delivery at the facility in April.

A southern campus has been part of MPA Skills' strategic plan for a couple of years now and with the growth that has occurred in the southern corridor and the increasing numbers of students travelling from Mandurah, Rockingham and surrounding areas, this positions us well to meet the growing demand.

There has been considerable demand for the reintroduction of the Certificate II in Drainage. Consequently, a course has been scheduled to commence in March. The course will be of 3 weeks duration; first week classroom based, week 2 workplace assessment and week 3 being a capstone assessment. Enrolments for the course have been strong.

We are also pleased to advise that we will be delivering Backflow Prevention and Envirowest training in Albany, Karratha and

Geraldton throughout 2013. As part of our commitment to training delivery in regional areas we will continue to schedule courses in these and other areas and should amore immediate demand arise, respond in a timely manner.

During 2013, we will be exploring alternative course delivery methodologies, particularly for advanced training so as to meet the need of tradespeople in regional areas or the metropolitan area who are unable to attend face to face training. We are expecting to pilot a program in the second half of 2013.

Apprentice Employment faced considerable challenges in the second half of 2012, with apprentice numbers decreasing to concerning levels. While this was reflective of the downturn in the industry, it still caused concern. Pleasingly, numbers are now tracking in a positive direction and we expect to see continued growth in this area.

We have two new additions to MPA Skills staff; Wayne Kennedy has joined us as the Occupational Safety and Health Manager and Brett Peake has joined us as a Plumbing Apprentice Employment Field Officer. Both Wayne and Brett are welcome additions to our staff and their experience and enthusiasm will be of great value to us as well as to MPGA members.

Wayne Morling
General Manager MPA Skills



Training & Apprentice Employment
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Registered Training Organisation (RTO)	Select an RTO for your apprentice	AMA ATS (08) 9273 3042
Training Plan	Arrange the set up of the training plan	TAFE or private RTO
Industrial Law Obligations	Familiarise yourself with the conditions of employment including sick and holiday pay	Fair Work 13 13 94
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Workers' Compensation	Set up workers' compensation insurance and an injury management plan	WorkCover 1300 794 744
Tax and Superannuation Obligations	Find out information regarding superannuation and income tax payments	ATO 13 28 66
Induction process	Introduce your apprentice to the workplace through an induction	AMA ATS (08) 9273 3042

If you would like more information about employing an apprentice or want to receive our comprehensive guide to starting and completing apprentices: 'A Smart Move,' please contact us on (08) 9273 3042 or email amaats@amawa.com.au.

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Regional membership



Bryce Steele

Throughout the history of the MPGA we have at times received feedback from our country members questioning what the Association is doing for them. It's no secret that Western Australia is a big state, covering over 2.5 million square kilometers and our country members consist of business's all the way up in Kununurra in the north of the state right down past Esperance in the south east. Every single member whether they are metro, teaching, retired, associate, life or country are of equal importance to us. 2013 will see the implementation of our first Regional Committees.

With the support of some of our members we are endeavoring to have committees up and running in Albany, Bunbury, Geraldton and Broome over the coming months. The Regional Committees will provide MPGA members with a purposeful committee specific and relevant to the area to ensure that issues facing our country members in these regions are heard. This information will feed into the issues discussed and addressed by the Executive Committee and will provide valuable input into the issues being addressed with the industry regulators.

We are excited about taking our Trade Showcases throughout the state in 2013 and have already visited Albany with Bunbury, Mandurah, Geraldton and Broome to go. It is a great opportunity to see what products are on offer and not

to mention the opportunity to get up close and personal with 'The Green Machine', Danny Green.

There has never been a better time to be a part of the MPGA as we continue to address industry issues and support our members, ensuring the strength and future of the plumbing industry in WA is maintained. For as little as 86 cents per day you can be a country member, this is a small price to pay to ensure that the voice of the plumbing community in your town is being heard. There are various ways to pay your membership including Direct Debit and EFTPOS, you can even pay online on the MPGA website.

We are here to help you with ensuring the business you run is successful so whatever it is you need help with we are only a phone call away. As part of the 2013 membership pack you will receive a Digital Toolbox reference card with your login, password information and QR Code. Accessing the "Digital Toolbox" has never been easier and will ensure that you are being kept informed about what is happening in your industry.

I look forward to speaking with you throughout the year as we travel around this great state.

Regards,

Bryce Steele

Business Development Manager

MPGA membership

The MPGA supports the interests of plumbing businesses in Western Australia.

Our goal is to make a valuable contribution to our members, both professionally and in their personal development within the industry.

Our principle objectives are to:

- Help our members with their businesses
- Ensure the professional standards of our industry are maintained and improved

Our two newest benefits are:

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- OS&H regulations, updates and several Safe Work Method Statement templates
- Cautionary notes
- Staff and employees rules and regulations updates
- Apprentice rates and Award updates
- Tax updates specifically for plumbers



and also:

- Update your profile and details and include logos or photos
- Pay your flimsies, membership fees, event tickets
- Request a flimsy/as-constructed drawing

The MPGA Jobs Board

The job vacancies board on the MPGA website is ready to role. Advertising a job is free to our members. Any job in plumbing and gasfitting that you would like to advertise, please email Petra and she will put it up on the website for you to recruit the ideal candidate.

<http://www.masterplumbers.asn.au/job-vacancies/default.aspx>



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