

CONSTRUCTION & PLUMBING

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



Volume 56 - Issue 1. March 2012



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2012

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2012 Executive Committee



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2012 is off to a flying start!



BILL BUSBY
PRESIDENT

Welcome to my first report for 2012, already this year has kicked off to a flying start! On the 22 February I was lucky enough, along with other representatives of the MPGA, who travelled down to Albany for our first regional visit of the New Year.

Conducted at the Dog Rock Convention Centre, our first trade show and industry forum for the year saw a great turn out from our members who are based in Albany and surrounding suburbs.

As country members arrived they were greeted by an array of different sponsors displaying the latest and greatest from their companies. After taking their time to browse through all of what was on offer, our members were then asked if they wished, to make their way into the industry forum room for presentations.

Once seated, members were greeted by a panel forum, which included Kevin Hooper (Energy Safety) and Mike Read (Building Commission) who took turns explaining their roles and how they can assist our members. Both also presented individual discussions, which outlined the latest issues our industry is facing and what our members need to know in order to continue to do the right thing.

Members were very impressed with the presentation by the MPGA's Website and E-news Coordinator, Petra Wouters. Petra demonstrated to our members a detailed break down on exactly how to use the e-newsletter and how to log into our website and use all the features available on both. She explained in great detail how both can be accessed and used to the everyday plumber's advantage. It was clear our members learnt new things; I certainly learned a great deal more about both!

Overall it was clear all attendees had received a lot out of both the trade show and the forum. Not only was the night well presented, but our members were rapped with the generosity of the sponsors that was shown by the awesome prizes for our guests.

Albany was our first trade show for the New Year and a great success! Bunbury and Bussleton are the next stop and are sure to be high quality "must attend" events! Be sure to

keep an eye out for the dates of the MPGA trade shows and industry forums in your area throughout the year!

Regards,

Bill Busby

President

Master Plumber &
Gasfitters Association, WA

"...Our members were rapped with the generosity of the sponsors which was shown by the awesome prizes for our guests"

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Whats on the Agenda for 2012



MURRAY THOMAS
CEO

Firstly, I would like to welcome all existing and new members and sponsors back for another year working with the MPGA. I would also like to welcome our new Executive Committee Members for 2012, Peter Thompson from Sanwell Plumbing and Matt Johnson from Johnson & Co / Ace Plumbing. Congratulations also go out to all returning Executive Committee Members (see previous page) who were appointed at the recent election held late in 2011.

Well done to Geoff Kelly from Kelly's Hot Water, Gas and Air who was elected as the Vice President to support our current President, Bill Busby from Pride Plumbing and Gas and Immediate Past President, Kim Byrne from Altona Plumbing and Civil.

The Executive Committee Members dedicate a considerable amount of time to the MPGA and their input on behalf of the membership is greatly appreciated. They have a very big role to play on behalf of "you" our membership as custodians of our industry. The following highlights some of those.

Matters currently on the MPGA agenda include but not limited to:

- Working with the Minister and the Building Commissioner on matters concerning plumbing within the Commission.
- Assisting with the introduction of the Plumbing Code of Australia in its entirety throughout 2012.
- Dealing with matters concerning National Licensing and its proposed implementation for the plumbing and gasfitting industry.
- Assisting in the implementation of harmonised national OS&H policies.
- Participating in the review of the new Modern Plumbing Award
- Addressing the skill shortage needs for our industry.
- Ensuring that the pathway for migrants entering WA is controlled and that the training and assessments are compatible with the industry and West Australian employer requirements.
- Planning ways to increase apprentice numbers in the industry to meet growing demands.
- Ensuring national consistency across training delivery at all levels from Apprenticeships to Diploma training.
- Working with contractors in the mining sector to meet labour demands.
- Working with all regulators to ensure our industry issues and needs are well communicated, understood and addressed.
- Advancing sustainability measures concerning water, energy and re-use to even higher star ratings in a practical manner.
- Increasing community awareness of public health and safety matters, particularly involving backflow prevention and cross connection.
- Addressing the fire sprinkler needs in residential dwellings, in particular aged care facilities.
- Addressing consumer requirements.
- Ensuring matters concerning "greywater" and other sewerage distribution systems remain contained within the plumbing industry's regulations.
- Ensuring that WA training providers both from the public sector (TAFE) and the private sector (MPA Skills) are meeting and exceeding industry expectations in the delivery of training at all levels.
- Supporting "new technology" and innovation within our industry.
- Ensuring that all MPGA members' needs are met, particularly in regional WA on a continual basis.
- Continuing to improve our communication to members in all forms of media and social networking.
- Delivering considerable benefits to all members and sponsors.

"The Executive Committee Members dedicate a considerable amount of time to the MPGA and their input on behalf of the membership is greatly appreciated."

Members should be advised that the MPGA has representatives from the Executive Committee and staff on the following Boards and Committees:

- Master Plumbers Australia
- Plumbers' Licensing Board
- Australian Building Codes Board
- Construction Property Industry Skills Council (national plumbing reference group)
- Plumbing Industry Reference Group (sub-committee of the PLB)
- Plumbing Technical Advisory Group (sub-committee of the PLB)
- West Australian Construction Industry Redundancy Fund
- Mates in Construction (suicide prevention and awareness for the construction industry)
- Construction Training Fund (strategic, working and marketing committees)
- Greywater Industry Group
- Electrical, Utilities Public Administration
- Australian Standards

Considering the above, members are reminded that should you require any matters raised at the various Committee or Board level please contact our office as we want and need to talk to you to ensure that the MPGA continues to be the strong united voice of the plumbing industry in WA.

The 2012 Annual General Meeting will be held on Wednesday 21 March at the Rendezvous Observation City Hotel commencing at 6pm and I encourage you all to attend to discuss any industry issues affecting plumbers. I look forward to seeing you there. For more details please contact, Ashlee Phur on 9471 6667 or ashleep@mpawa.asn.au.

Regards

Murray Thomas

CEO MPA Group



RON SANDELL
DIRECTOR OF COMPLIANCE
& COMPLAINTS

Major plumbing work

The Building Commission reminds plumbing contractors licensed with the Plumbers Licensing Board of their obligations to lodge a Notice of Intention, pay the New Installation Fee, and complete the Certificate of Compliance in respect to major plumbing work under the Water Services Licensing (Plumbers Licensing and Plumbing Standards) Regulations 2000.

Notice of Intention

It is a legal requirement for a Notice of Intention and New Installation Fee (if applicable) to be lodged with the Plumbers Licensing Board / Building Commission at least 24 hours prior to any major plumbing work being undertaken, except in the case of emergency work.

A Notice of Intention can only be lodged by the licensed plumbing contractor to which the Notice/Certificate Booklet is issued and registered to. It must be filled out in its entirety in block letters. Partially filled or unreadable notices will not be accepted.

Where emergency plumbing work is carried out the Notice of Intention is to be lodged together with the

Certificate of Compliance

When major plumbing work is completed, the plumbing contractor who lodged the notice of intention for the work, must within 5 working days of completing the work give a copy of the Certificate of Compliance to the Board, a copy to the owner or occupier and a copy to the local government authority (when applicable). A copy of the certificate must also be kept by the plumbing contractor for at least 6 years.

If major plumbing work is not completed?

If for any reason a licensed plumbing contractor commences plumbing work but will not complete all of the work identified in the notice, or will not carry out any of the work, a Certificate of Compliance must be completed ensuring that a description of the change is documented on the reverse side of the certificate.

Penalties

A plumbing contractor who provides false or misleading information on a Notice of Intention or Certificate of Compliance commits an offence and a penalty of \$5 000 applies.

Failure to comply with the requirement to lodge a Notice of Intention will attract an infringement penalty of \$300 and failing to lodge a Certificate of Compliance is \$500.

To order Notice of Intention and Certificate of Compliance Forms download an order form from www.plumbers.wa.gov.au or telephone (08) 9476 1377.

Want to know more...?

website: www.buildingcommission.wa.gov.au

Phone: 1300 489 099 **Fax:** (08) 9476 1333

Email: info@buildingcommission.wa.gov.au

Certificate of Compliance following completion of the work.

New Installation Fee

A new installation fee is payable at the time of lodging the Notice of Intention for plumbing work carried out in relation to a new building or an extension to an existing building, where there is a change in the roofline that will include at least one new sanitary fixture. For example, adding an ensuite to an existing bedroom.

For this purpose a sanitary fixture means a receptacle designed to collect and discharge wastewater or other waste into sanitary or drainage plumbing, for example, a basin, water closet, bath, shower, sink, laundry trough, urinal or bidet. Note that water heating units, dishwashers and evaporative coolers are not considered to be sanitary fixtures.

The fee is \$63.50 for the first 9 fixtures. Each fixture thereafter is an additional \$10.50. Payment options are available on the reverse side of the Notice of Intention form.

**Building
Commission**



Government of Western Australia
Department of Commerce
Plumbers Licensing Board

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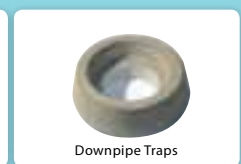
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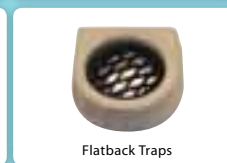
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Spoon Drain Channels



Flatback Traps



Sump Boxes

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Efficient product labeling makes saving water easier

The WELS Scheme (Water Efficiency Labelling and Standards) is a mandatory Australian labelling standard designed to encourage Australians to choose water efficient products and appliances while also helping reduce their water use and save money.



The WELS scheme has a rating system of six stars. This star rating standard gives people a quick comparative review of a products' water efficiency and a consumption figure that provides an estimate of likely water usage.

The number of product types in the WELS range may soon be expanded and minimum water efficiency standards may also be introduced for water-using products. A few of the products to be considered for WELS labelling are evaporative air conditioners, instantaneous gas hot water heaters, hot water recirculators and domestic irrigation controllers.

Plumbers can play a significant role with encouraging customers to use water more efficiently. They are often in a position to recommend or sell products to clients. If you would like to know whether the products you are recommending or selling meet labelling requirements, the WELS Standard will provide you this information.

The following products have been assessed using the minimum WELS star rating as a guide to determine what is waterwise.

- Showers – A minimum WELS star rating of 3 has a flow rate of no more than 9 litres/minute
- Bathroom taps – A minimum WELS star rating of 6 has a flow rate of no more than 4.5 litres/minute
- Kitchen/Laundry taps – A minimum WELS star rating of 4 has a flow rate of no more than 7.5 litres/minute
- Toilets – A minimum WELS star rating of 4 uses no more than 4.5 litres for a full flush and 3 litres for a half flush
- Dishwasher – A minimum WELS star rating of 4.5
- Washing machine – A minimum WELS star rating of 4.5

So when recommending or selling products keep a lookout for the label displaying a higher water rating. The more stars the more efficient the product is.



“Plumbers can play a significant role with encouraging customers to use water more efficiently”

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Melbourne man dies in van explosion on 12 December 2011

Witnesses heard a hissing sound in the lead up to a devastating van blast that killed a young tradesman on his way to work on the morning of the 12th of December. Twenty-five-year-old Guiseppe Cosentino, who worked for a plumbing firm, was near the van laden with up to seven gas cylinders when it exploded into pieces outside the house he shared with his parents in Mulgrave just before 7am.



Guiseppe was thrown five metres onto the grass, while the blast - heard up to five kilometres away - blew in windows in neighbouring homes and sent car parts flying 150 metres in every direction, authorities said. As many as 15 homes were damaged, some of them severely. Neighbours out for a morning walk heard a hissing noise before the van went up. A gas leak is the prime suspect but the ignition source is still unclear.

"It's very difficult to say whether it was a freak accident or whether [it was a result] of some sort of practices he has put in place," detective Senior Constable Cashman he said. "I'm amazed no one else was hurt. I'm amazed no one else was killed." Despite earlier reports, he said police had established Mr Cosentino had not been in the van at the time of the blast.

The van was a work vehicle and WorkSafe is investigating. A spokesman said inspectors would try to determine exactly what caused the explosion and how the gas tanks were stored in the vehicle.

Metropolitan Fire Brigade Commander Andrew O'Connell said a leak from a tank containing flammable gas was the likely cause of the explosion. "That's most likely the culprit. Our investigations are focusing heavily on the flammable

gas containers that are stored in the rear of the vehicle," he said. "What caused them to leak and what caused them to ignite, we're unaware of at the moment. That will have to come out as part of our investigation." Fire investigators were unsure if the leaking gas was sparked by the van's ignition or locking system. He said up to 15 houses in the street had been damaged by the force of the explosion.

Commander O'Connell said it was not the first time fire-fighters had encountered a van that had exploded because of a gas leak. Two years ago a van exploded outside a house in Chelsea Heights when a spark was triggered by the vehicle's remote locking system and ignited a leaking gas cylinder. Two young apprentices were lucky not to be injured. In that case, the owner of the van was this year convicted and fined \$25,000 at Frankston Magistrates Court for failing to ensure a safety cabinet was airtight and for failing to ensure his workers tested the gas cylinders before they were loaded into the van.

"I'm amazed no one else was hurt. I'm amazed no one else was killed."

Senior Constable
Cashman





KEVIN HOOPER
ENERGY SAFETY
CHIEF GAS INSPECTOR

Plumbers prevent tragedy By Kevin Hooper

The incident explained on the previous page again highlights the need for good housekeeping practices with enclosed vans.

Although there is a trend away from oxy/acetylene torches to the alternative oxy/propane (handgas) torches, the hazard still remains. Leaking gas either from acetylene or propane can accumulate within a locked van overnight and reach the lower explosive limits. For acetylene that is 2% gas in air and for propane that is 5% gas in air. Both gases are denser than air and tend to accumulate at lower levels especially in enclosed vans.

Most vehicles today have keyless entry so by operating the remote this enables electrically powered solenoids to operate, unlocking the doors. In the case of older vehicles the action of opening a door may actuate an interior light, all potential sources of ignition. If for some reason gas has not ignited and is present, it will

when you turn the ignition key to start the vehicle's engine.

Adequately maintained low level ventilation or a purpose designed gas cabinet to house the gas equipment and vented at low level are some alternatives previously adopted by some government and business agencies to address this safety issue. If you must transport gas cylinders in a vehicle ensure that they are secured in an upright position and the cylinder valves are turned off, don't rely on the handpiece valves.

Often overlooked are the smaller more portable oxy/propane cylinders fitted with a burner tip for those quick soldering jobs. These are manufactured from thinner material and again should be transported in an upright position, not left in the tool bag to roll around with the action of the van.



If transporting empty cylinders or reserve cylinders these too must be secured in an upright position, preferably placing a sealing plug in the outlet of the cylinder valve.

"If you must transport gas cylinders in a vehicle ensure that they are secured in an upright position and the cylinder valves are turned off, don't rely on the handpiece valves."

IMPORTANT INFORMATION
for building/construction
industry employers...

ARE YOU
AWARE OF THE
**'Mates In
Construction'**
program?



'Mates In Construction' is a program adopted from Queensland by the WA Construction Industry Redundancy Fund to provide a free counselling service to all workers in building and construction work activities.

This program is aimed at developing an awareness of the high incidence of suicide as a result of personal stress and provides specialist support for employees who may be having personal problems.

'Mates In Construction' is a problem solving concept, aimed at helping workers – helping to keep them on the job - keeping them in the building/ construction industry and helping them to perform at their best without personal distractions.

Tell your workers about the program – the longer we can help them to stay in the industry the better!

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For details phone 9481 0259

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Understanding Mark-ups

During the tender process, it is important to separately identify the true cost of construction, preliminary costs, overheads and target profit. Without this, it is difficult to successfully negotiate a tender price.



PAUL FUNNELL

The project cost, is the sum of the materials and labour hours multiplied by the cost of labour. This is also referred to as the First Cost. Mark-ups are the sum of the preliminaries, overheads and target profit expressed as a percentage. The percentage may vary, however it will be minimal.

Preliminary costs are those which the company incur due to the foreman's non productive time, such as organising workers, attending site meetings, ordering materials and recording time sheets. Other costs include the site shed, phone charges, deliveries, tools directly related to the project and maintenance costs. Preliminary costs are calculated as a fixed amount and converted to a percentage that forms part of the mark-up. During construction, these allowances are used as a budget for the foreman. It is anticipated preliminary costs will account for 3% to 5%.

Overheads are the cost of running the company. Such items include wages for administration staff, supervisors and directors, as well as, office phones and power, vehicle leases, fuel, oil, and servicing. Insurance, public liability, advertising, promotion, bank charges, accounting fees and the list goes on.

Too often contractors add the princely sum of 5% to 10% for overheads. Unless the company is turning over \$15m to \$50m a year, it is simply too low. The result is that the company will have to raise capital and increase debt, just to service the increasing bank overdraft limits, raising a personal loan or increase credit card limits are typical examples that can be detrimental to the company.

If turnover is \$1m a year and 10% was included for overheads, only

\$100,000 is available to cover all the items listed above, yet the director's salary should be greater than the 10%. Based on this example, there is no hope of meeting the company's obligations.

Overheads are individually calculated for each business, and will be affected by the structure of the business. After many years of observation, the following are provided as a guide only. They are a reasonable indication for subcontractors in the building and construction industry.

TURNOVER	OVERHEADS
\$0.5m to \$1.0m	28%
\$1m to \$3m	20%
\$3m to \$10m	16%
\$10m to \$30m	12%
\$30m to \$50m	8%
\$10m to \$30m	5%

The higher the turnover, the lower the percentage.

Within the free enterprise system a company must make a profit, lest it will fail. A company may base its profit on 'a return on investment', which is good if looking at a business that was purchased, or if it is a saleable item, many contracting businesses don't fit this criteria. In which case, it could be better to view profit as 'a return on the risk taken in running a business'. It may be a builder does not pay, which could place the family home at risk. A reasonable profit is required to build working capital and ensure suppliers are paid on time. A good credit rating is imperative to the company.

Profits can also be viewed as a return on the licensed contractor's time studying and gaining trade qualifications as well as the time

and effort in keeping up to date with the latest rules and regulations. Profit represents the quality of life we want.

Target profit is determined by supply and demand. How important is winning the tender? If it is not important a higher target profit would be appropriate. Conversely, a lower profit should apply if it is important. When work is in short supply, 8% may be realistic, while on other occasions 12% to 15% may be appropriate.

If preliminaries are set at 3%, overheads at 17% and profits at 12%, this equates to 32%, however, it actually represents 30.5% mark-up, due to the method of adding each percentage to the previous cost during the final summary of the estimating process.

In suggesting that mark-ups should be around 32% to 36%, it is often scoffed at, with the suggestion that by allowing such mark-ups one would never win a job. The difference is, we are learning to price tenders at cost and the suggested mark-ups are both realistic and keep the company profitable. By using the estimating principals, methods and procedures outlined in Estimating for Plumbers, contractors are finding that they have in fact been marking-up their projects by 40% without realising it. A company will become more competitive by using the cost plus mark-up method of estimating.

For what it is worth!

I'm Paul Funnell

"The result is that the company will have to raise capital and increase debt, just to service the increasing bank overdraft limits"

The MPGA sends its congratulations to Paul, as he recently named in the Australia Day honours list for his contribution to the community. Paul was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia for his services to the plumbing industry. Paul was honoured with the medal for more than four decades of service to the industry.

"It is wonderful to know that my industry peers believe I am worthy of such recognition," Paul said. "I never set out to gain an award, only to make a difference and improve a small section of the building and construction industry."

A few career highlights include publishing two technical books, winning the Asia Pacific Award for Excellence for his design of software in 2000 and 2001, receiving Life Membership of the Australian Hydraulic Services Consultants Association for his services to the building industry and last year he earned the Queensland Master Plumbers Industry, Leadership Award.

Congratulations Paul for such an amazing achievement!

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Movers & Shakers



Staff at the REHAU Perth office

Congratulations go out to the **REHAU Perth office** who recently took out 'Operation of the Year 2011' for Australia and New Zealand. The Sales Office Perth has been the outstanding success story of 2011 in a very difficult year and has defied the odds to achieve continued growth for REHAU in Western Australia. Well done to the team at the Perth office!

.....

Omar Raslan has been appointed as the new State Manager for Quantum. After sadly seeing the departure of Dean Hansen, Omar was appointed the West Coast Manager and become the primary contact for WA, NT and SA. Omar will personally travel to Perth once a month (as he is based in SA) where he will have contact with the State Assistant for WA a position currently being recruited for. His new role will allow WA to receive the shared benefits which will come from combining and monitoring each states performance.

Bosch welcomes **Russell Dryburgh** as their new WA Sales Representative. Russell previously worked for Reece for 8 years before he decided to make the change to come across and work for Bosch. Having been with them 6 months Russell is settling in well and has become a great new addition to the Bosch Perth team.

.....

Ben Edmondson the new edition to the Perth Scorchers has recently moved back to Perth after one season in South Australia. Ben is also back on another team, Mania National where he is a valued member of the team there too.

.....

Congratulations to **Paul Funnell** who was recently named in the Australia Day honours list for his contribution to the community. Paul was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia honours list for his contribution to the plumbing community for more than four decades.



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All work is carried out in accordance with Water Authority Guidelines.

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HANDY HINT

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2012 Autumn Golf Day

Friday 20 April 2012
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Praising Plumbers over the world



ASHLEE PHUR
EVENTS MANAGER

World Plumbing Day is celebrated on March 11, every year... everywhere.

For the past two years, the day has drawn attention on a global scale to the plumbing trade and has been celebrated and promoted by the Master Plumbers and Gasfitters Association of WA and by many throughout the global plumbing industry.

In 2012, the MPGA created awareness at a local level. Perth's hottest models dressed in their best plumbing outfits and headed to local shopping centres, distributing quirky bathroom hangers and altering the community to the day and its important underlying message.

3 Mercedes Benz Smart Cars towing 3-sided wedge trailers with large illuminated posters also drove through the Perth CBD giving World Plumbing Day the rock star reception it deserved ensuring the message was getting maximum community exposure!

The message was also broadcast across radio stations around Perth on Friday 9 March when Nathan, Nat & Shaun from Nova 93.7 interviewed Bryce Steele from the Association, in a special segment which encouraged all listeners to celebrate the day by having raising a glass of clean tap water!

Thank you to all that joined in the fun and we look forward to celebrating again in 2013!



Bryce Steele, with Nathan, Nat & Shaun from Nova 93.7



MPGA CEO Murray Thomas, Hon. Bill Marmion BE MBA MLA and MPGA President Bill Busby



Spreading the World Plumbing Day message across Perth!

The Master Plumbers & Gasfitters Association of WA would like to thank their major sponsors for World Plumbing Day. Their support for this international day and our event is much appreciated.



MARK YOUR DIARY

MARCH

Wednesday 21 March
MPGA Executive Meeting & Annual General Meeting
Time: 5.15pm registration and refreshments
Venue: Coral Room, Rendezvous Observation Hotel, The Esplanade, Scarborough

APRIL

Wednesday 18 April
MPGA Executive Meeting
Friday 20 April
Autumn Golf Day at The Vines

MAY

Tuesday 1 May
Geraldton Trade Show & Industry Forum
Thursday 10 May
Plumbing Industry Forum
Tuesday 29 May
Karratha Trade Show & Industry Forum
Thursday 31 May
Broome Trade Show & Industry Forum



STUART HENRY
WORLD PLUMBING COUNCIL
SECRETARIAT

Plumbing - vital to global health

Many people in developed countries throughout the world take plumbing for granted. They simply turn on a tap or faucet and obtain clean water. Flushing toilets are standard in many countries.

However, little thought is given to the engineering expertise provided by plumbers that ensures these systems operate as intended.

Equally, few people appreciate the consequences of bad plumbing systems. In developing countries on the other hand, plumbing is either non-existent or at best very basic. People suffer serious health consequences, and millions of people die as a result of lack of access to clean water and in effective sanitation. According to the World Health Organisation: 1.1 billion people do not have access to safe water supplies, 2.6 billion people do not have

access to improved sanitation and 3.1 million children die each year from water related diseases.

EFFECTIVE PLUMBING SYSTEMS WOULD IMPROVE ALL OF THESE STATISTICS

Plumbing deserves to be respected, and for that reason the World Plumbing Council (established in 1990 and recognised as a Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) in official relations with the World Health Organisation) has created World Plumbing Day (on 11 March each year) as a means of highlighting the important role played by today's plumbing industry. On World Plumbing Day, plumbing industry representatives from across the globe are encouraged to do something that draws attention to the role played by the industry. Previous World Plumbing Day activities have included:

- Bipartisan resolution formally designating March 11 as World Plumbing Day passed by the United States Senate
- Anglican bishop recognises World Plumbing Day during London sermon

- Parliamentary motion in the Scottish Parliament drawing attention to the role of the plumbing industry
- States, provinces, counties and cities worldwide pass resolutions and proclamations
- Industry-sponsored events in Australia, New Zealand, China, USA, UK and India
- Presentations about plumbing and health to school children in the UK, USA and India
- International poster competition for children
- Street theatre with a plumbing theme in India
- TV, radio, newspaper and online coverage across the globe

Each subsequent World Plumbing Day promises to be bigger and better than the last. Industry bodies throughout the world are actively engaged in organising activities that will help people to realise that

PLUMBING IS VITAL TO GLOBAL HEALTH!

Help improve our global health!

Energy

- Turning your air conditioning or heating up or down just a few degrees can save considerable energy.
- Prevent heat loss by insulating your water heater and pipes.

Environment

- Reduce your greenhouse gas emissions by installing a solar hot water heater.

Water

- Using a broom instead of a garden hose to clean your driveway will save 13 gallons every minute you clean.
- Putting food coloring in your toilet tank. If it seeps into the bowl, without flushing, you have a leak. Fixing it can save 1,000 gallons a month.
- Use a hose nozzle while you wash your car. You will save up to 100 gallons every time!

Health

- Every 15 seconds, a child dies from a water related disease. At any given time, half of the world's hospital beds are occupied by patients suffering from water-related diseases.



Learn more about activities, view a calendar, read about past World Plumbing Days, download fact sheets, view a video address by the World Plumbing Council Chairman and much more at: www.worldplumbingday.org

australasian international plumbing conference

Save the date: 24 – 26 October 2012

A date for the 2012 Plumbing Conference has been set! The conference will be held in Queensland and unlike previous years, will attract national and international delegates. Master Plumbers' Australia Limited, which represents the Master Plumbers' Associations from all other states and territories, will be supporting and attending the conference. The World Plumbing Council has also already confirmed their attendance, generating international interest in the event.

The program will be themed around “over consumption of our resources and the impact on the plumbing industry” and there will be opportunities to network at social functions and an indulgent partners program.

More details will be made available soon.



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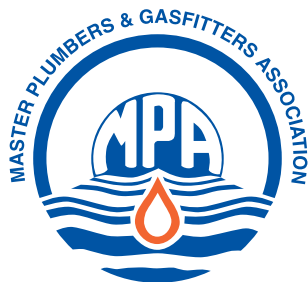
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Rheem 24/7 Star Equivalent is the year's best

Australia's most energy efficient continuous flow hot water system has been officially recognised for its energy efficiency capabilities. The Rheem 24/7 Star Equivalent was recently named 2011 Energy Saving Product of the Year at the annual MPGA & Plumbers Licensing Board Awards for Excellence in Western Australia.

John Wilkins, Rheem's Group Product Manager high efficiency gas says the award further highlights that Rheem is at the forefront of energy efficiency research and development. "Rheem 24/7 Star Equivalent ticks all the boxes. With its high efficiency design and reduced energy use. This product meets Rheem's environmental objectives in reducing home energy consumption and reducing water wastage – plus it's highly recyclable at end of life," states Wilkins.

Key energy saving and environmental features:

- Reduced water wastage – reduces water flow at the initial start-up, until the internal heat exchanger is up to full temperature and able to heat water most effectively (continuous flow water heaters can waste water at start-up, delivering below-temperature water until the water flowing through them is full temperature).

- Reduced 1 watt electricity usage when on stand-by (unlike some other continuous flow water heaters), for reduced electricity consumption
- 93% thermal efficiency
- Models capable of up to 75°C hot water delivery, enabling Rheem 24/7 to be used for selected commercial applications, thus extending its energy saving capabilities beyond just domestic installations
- Frost-protected to temperatures as low as -20°C
- The majority of components are recyclable metals – copper, brass and steel

About Rheem Australia - www.rheem.com.au

Rheem has operated in Australia since 1936 and is the largest manufacturer of water heaters in Australia. Its brands include Rheem, Solahart, Edwards, Vulcan, Raypak, Accent Air and Everhot. It employs in



excess of 1000 people in Australia in four manufacturing facilities in NSW, Victoria and Western Australia. It has additional subsidiary organisations in New Zealand, China and Europe. It is the worldwide market leader in Solar Thermal products.

For further information contact Belinda Hill on 0438206609

Methven Kiri Hi-Rise Shower wins major award

Recently the Methven Kiri Hi – Rise Shower was named the 2011 Water Saving Product of the Year at the 2011 MPGA & Plumbers Licensing Board annual Awards for Excellence. This further deepened the quality of this high class product which is already becoming popular and reflected in the excellent sales through from stores that stock our product.

A shifting global focus towards the conservation of resources has seen the emergence of the "low-Flow" or "eco" shower. This focus has also seen the passing of legislation in several countries limiting showers to around 9l/min of flow. Many manufacturers have struggled to produce showers that perform well at this low flow have often resorted to merely fitting flow restrictors to their standard handsets. This is where Methven's patented Satinjet technology has come to the forefront: multiple colliding jets produce thousand of droplets, resulting in a luxurious showering experience that far surpasses what would be expected from the flow-rates it uses.

1. The Kiri Hi- Rise utilises only 7.5; p/minute and can save 50+% water and energy consumption in the bathroom.

2. Satinjet saves a family of four over 100,00 litres of water and \$100* + off energy bills per year (based on a 5 minute shower for a family of 4). *Energy savings vary according to gas or electric water heaters.
3. There are no moving parts and the faceplate has an easy clean surface, resulting in increased durability, and reduced maintenance and service requirements.
4. To add to the quality, water saving head design in the Kiri Hi-rise shower utilise a premium quality height adjustable, never droop arm with a swivel mechanism that will not loose with use.
5. This is an easy DIY installation so a customer can easily upgrade to a Satinjet water saving shower and not have to pay for plumbers services.



The Kiri Hi-Rise Shower is seen as the benchmark for quality low- flow showers as it combines leading technology with contemporary design. Overall the Methven Kiri Hi-Rise Shower is a very low maintenance product with a lifetime domestic warranty.

For more information contact Guy Palmeri at gpalmeri@au.methven.com or phone 0437 241 494

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Gasfitters should use safety lockout tags

The MPGA recommends all gasfitters undertaking gasfitting work on gas installation or appliances that are either faulty, unsafe or have other compliance issues that constitute a hazard place suitable warning notices at visible locations on the gas supply and service indicating the faults with the gas installation or appliance.

It is suggested the use of tags such as a 'lock out tag' that clearly identify the unsafe equipment or gas installation be fitted at isolation valves and at a location visible to others. If immediate actions cannot be taken to repair/replace unsafe installations or appliances then it is vital the identified problem is isolated and a suitable warning 'lock out tag' installed.

Isolation valves to the equipment or service pipework are switched to the off position to avoid the likelihood of a person unwittingly using the unsafe equipment.

It is simply not acceptable to issue a verbal warning to an owner/occupier.

A reliable 'lock out tag' will eliminate a third person from reintroducing gas to a potential dangerous situation.

As a minimum the 'lock out tag' should describe clearly the fault, the date, name and contact details of the person issuing the lock out tag. Gasfitters should be aware that it can be easy to forget or skip the correct procedures to decommission an installation but it's important to remember that pipework must be purged and sealed before leaving unattended.

AS/NZS 5601 clearly makes references to this in section 3.4 Open ends to be sealed while work is in progress.

Where alteration, repair or extension to consumer piping necessitates the removal of a pipe fitting or a gas appliance or the cutting of an installed pipe, all open ends, other than those at the immediate work area, shall be sealed prior to, and for the duration of the work. When the work site is vacated all open ends shall be sealed.

NOTE: The closing of a shut-off valve will not satisfy this requirement unless the outlet of the valve is sealed.

Did You Know?

The word 'plumber' is derived from the Latin word for lead - Plumbum. Previously lead was the primary material used in the creation of pipe works used to carry water into cities and towns, before it was found to be a cumulative poison.

HAVE A QUESTION?

MPGA would like to help you find the answer.

Send your questions to Sarah Forrest:

sarahf@mpawa.asn.au

“Backflow” the water service provider’s requirements

Are you aware? The Water Corporation and other water service providers have adopted a “Boundary Containment Policy” to protect the drinking water that service providers supply.

What does this mean to the plumber?

- All new connections to the drinking water source require a backflow prevention device. It is required to be located as close as practicable to the boundary.

How is this requirement for backflow prevention defined by the water service provider?

- The water service provider assesses the risk of cross contamination to the drinking water source by the known land use (as defined by Landgates generic identifications). This then places a known level of risk that the intended use/practices on the land represent.

Can this be appealed?

- Yes, a licensed plumbing contractor can appeal the assigned risk rating. An appeal can be lodged (by a professional i.e. Hydraulic consultant, licensed plumbing contractor) if risk rating of the known activities and plumbing design are in fact lower than the assigned risk by the service provider.

Is boundary protection still required if the risk is low?

- Yes a device is still required. A Dual Check Valve (Dual CV) provides low hazard protection and is required on all services greater than DN 25

Note: All new DN20 and DN 25 water meters now have integral Dual CV fitted. The licensed plumber should check if this is true on the service connection they are undertaking work on.

Do fire services require backflow protection?

- All new services require medium level protection. Plumbers should note AS/NZS 3500 indicates fire services do not require strainers on the inlet to the testable valve. This may aid with pressure and flow issues that can be experienced with installation of backflow valves.



As the licensed plumbing contractor you are skilled to assess and determine the risk of cross contamination to the drinking water supply. You are also required to protect the internal risks of cross contamination by providing Zone or Individual protection to known levels of risk. Reference: AS/NZS 3500.1:2003 Part 1. Water services provides further information that identifies and assigns risk profiles.

All new devices require testing upon installation and commissioning. A test sheet completed by a permitted tester is required to be submitted to the water service provider as per current Water Corporation bylaws. It is the owner’s responsibility to ensure devices are tested after devices are commissioned.

Licensed water service providers do not regulate plumbing work and therefore, any containment device protection requirements specified by the water service provider are conditions of use of its services not a regulatory requirement. The Plumber’s Licensing Board regulates the work involved in the installation of devices. MPA Skills provides training on Backflow Prevention that enables the participant to gain qualifications to become a permitted tester.

Source documents:

Water Corporations “Plumbing Handbook” AS/NZS 3500.1:2003

A Guide to cross-connection control. Author Ian Cook

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rainwater







Older Workforce will increase OHS costs, says legal expert

A recent Safetyculture online article states that the older workforce could open up employers to a range of potential compensation lawsuits. The increase in the number of older workers in Australia is actually a legal liability.



Over the next few years, older workers will become much more of an issue as these days we have a population that is staying in the workforce beyond the ages they have done so in the past.

Employers should be aware this can open them up to potential compensation claims.

Businesses need to make sure that their workers are consistently able to perform their physical duties even as they age. The Australian Bureau of Statistics have recently released figures showing that the number of older workers in the country has doubled over the past ten years, with over 1.93 million workers aged over 55. SmartCompany reports that in 2011, 73% of people between the age of 55 and 59 were working. Twenty five percent of people between the age of 65 and 69 were still working. The majority of these workers were also working full time.

As workers age their ability to do the same tasks in their field of work may have deteriorated. It is suggested that regular health checks be undertaken by employers. At the moment however there is some opposition from unions which suggests regular health checks are private and inappropriate. However they may be necessary to protect people from injuring themselves.

This is something to think about in light of the recent changes to the Workers' Compensation and Injury Management Legislation in Western Australia. The removal of age limitations means that workers over the age of 64 years no longer have restrictions on weekly income payments and are entitled to access compensation entitlements on the same terms as all other workers. This came into effect on 1 October 2011.

MPA GROUP has moved!

MPA Group Head Office is pleased to announce that as of January 2012 we have relocated our offices

Please update your records to our new contact details:

PHYSICAL ADDRESS

353 Shepperton Road
East Victoria Park, WA 6101

POSTAL ADDRESS

PO BOX 5216
East Victoria Park, WA 6981



Training continues to be delivered at:

MAYLANDS CAMPUS

106-108 Caledonian Avenue
Maylands, WA 6051

BAYSWATER CAMPUS

27-29 Durham Road
Bayswater, WA 6053

Our business phone numbers, fax numbers, website address and email addresses all remain the same.

We look forward to being of continued service to you and look forward to welcoming you to our new home in East Victoria Park.

Regards,
Murray Thomas, CEO





DR. JOE KOSTERICH
www.drjoe.net.au

5 tips to keep your health on track

The universe goes in seasons and cycles. The earth goes around the sun, and the moon goes around the earth. The seasons follow in order; summer after spring and winter after autumn (fall). Night follows day and the month's click around to December, which is followed by January and the start of a new year.

People's behaviour also has cycles. Whilst the start of the year is typically the time when resolutions to change are made, you can resolve to make changes at any time of year. Birthdays are another time when the passing of a year can lead to reflection on how we do things and can we do them differently.

Our goal is indeed to do things differently than we have done them before. When smoking was more prevalent, quitting smoking was the most popular New Year's resolution. Today losing weight or getting fit are the most common. The problem is that after a week or two things are usually "back to normal". Why is this case? We all know what to do. There is no shortage of information available about eating and exercise. There is no shortage of products or programs available to help us.

The problem is that we are creatures of habit. We do things a certain way. When we focus we can go against our habits but as soon as our minds are on other things (e.g. work or the family) we subconsciously revert to our default behaviors – the ones we have been doing for years. We reach for the biscuit instead of the fruit; we drink the soda instead of water. Habits can be changed and the reversion to our default can become a positive not a negative. It is also known that it takes three months for new habits to become firmly established.

To help you achieve your health goals here are five tips.

1) Before you start - make a plan. Setting goals without having a plan is like trying to build a house without a plan. The bricks won't put themselves together and in the pattern you want. Neither will your new eating plan or exercise regimes just create itself. Write your plan down and consult it regularly. You can adjust it as you go too.

2) Do simple mathematics. Count and measure what you eat. With any change in eating patterns you need to measure calories and portion sizes till you start to intuitively "get" how many calories are in different foods. With exercise you need to count the minutes and do your exercise at set times so it becomes ingrained in your schedule and not something on the "to do" list. Find out how many minutes of exercise are needed to burn off a biscuit - you may be surprised and it will help you resist the temptation.

3) Enhance your willpower. It has been shown that those who believe they have willpower have more. It is not something that "other people have," it can be learned. Even simple affirmations can get you started. Things like "I exercise regularly". Believe you have willpower and you have more of it. As Henry Ford said, "whether you believe you can or you cannot – you will be right".

4) Focus and discipline. When aiming to change aspects of the body you need to train the brain too as it needs to develop new neural pathways for your new behaviors. Meditation helps people focus better.

5) When you fall off the horse get back on. Thomas Edison failed 10,000 times before inventing the light bulb. So what if you have a day when you overdid the chocolate. You will lapse. What matters is what you do next. Do you use this as an excuse to say I failed or do you see it as a temporary setback and a learning opportunity? Draw a line in the sand at midnight and start a new the next day.

This is not difficult. You do not require three tertiary degrees. You will not need thousands of dollars nor months worth of spare time. Changing our behavior is a matter of changing your mindset, creating a plan, actioning it and most importantly staying the course. Follow the five steps outlined above and you can turn your resolutions (new years or otherwise) into reality.

"Today losing weight or getting fit are the most common New Year's resolutions. The problem is that after a week or two things are usually back to normal"

The power of partnership!

Vision, passion and commitment to VET programs has seen the partnership of John Forrest Secondary College and MPA Skills win the 2011 School Pathways to VET Award at the Australian Training Awards.



SHARREN HOLT
MANAGER TRAINING & QA

At a prestigious ceremony at the Brisbane Convention Centre on November 25, the John Forrest/ MPA Skills Partnership was awarded the Federal Government's 2011 Australian Training Award for the best School Pathway to VET program in Australia! This sensational achievement gives national acclaim to the outstanding opportunities being provided and impressive outcomes being achieved through the John Forrest Trade Training Centre and the world class partnership that has been forged between John Forrest and the industry's plumbing and gasfitting and painting and decorating leaders in training - MPA Skills.

The journey to national recognition began in 2006, when John Forrest Secondary College and MPA Skills, the principal arm of the Master Plumbers and Gasfitters Association of WA (MPGA) and the Master Painters Association of WA (MPA) identified the need for closer cooperation. Addressing the need for a greater variety of VET pathways for students led to the development of a partnership which has developed and strengthened each year since.

The painting and decorating and plumbing and gasfitting programs offered through the MPA Skills/John Forrest partnership address industry shortages and provide a win-win arrangement for all stakeholders. Through these programs, students begin the first stage with the integration of the School-Based Pre-Apprenticeship and School-Based Apprenticeship training programs within the senior school curriculum. The pathway continues through to potential employment by the MPA Skills Apprentice Employment Division as full-time apprentices on completion of Year 12 or in lieu of finishing secondary schooling. As employees of MPA Skills, students have ongoing access to training expertise, industry mentors and the huge range of employers and tradespeople who

form the membership of Master Plumbers and Gasfitters Association of Western Australia and the Master Painters Australia (WA) Association.

"We were the first school based apprenticeship program in Plumbing and Gasfitting and Painting and Decorating in WA," said Murray Thomas, CEO MPA Skills. "We address the needs of industry, including WA skill shortages. It's all about taking students from high school into the workplace," explained Murray.

"The leadership and collaboration shown by John Forrest and MPA Skills has seen the successful development of a government endorsed model," said Di Turner, Principal of John Forrest. "We have seen so many positive outcomes. Our students are provided with a seamless transition from school into training. Students are more engaged in achieving, and are motivated to graduate. This program is still in a growth phase and many students in WA are still to benefit from it," concluded Di.

We hope to see you in at training soon.

Sharren Holt
Manager, Training & QA

"We address the needs of industry, including WA skill shortages. It's all about taking students from high school into the workplace,"



Training & Apprentice Employment
DIVISION OF MPA GROUP



Sharron Holt, Murray Thomas, Noel Abercromby, Di Turner & Kaye Pearson



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Prime Minister Julia Gillard watches on with impressed eyes, as the students utilise and practice at the John Forrest Secondary College/MPA Skills facility.



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Training & Apprentice Employment
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Are you one of the members that checked out our website and e-newsletters lately?

No? Why not? Running a plumbing business today is quite challenging!

- Do you understand your OS&H obligations?
- Do you work with JSA's and SWMS's?
- Are you paying your staff the right rates?
- Do you understand the Award you are under?
- Are you not dealing with sham contractors?
- Do you know what is required under the Plumbing Code of Australia?

The answers to these questions are available in our monthly e-newsletter and on our website: www.masterplumbers.asn.au.

Did you know that our "FIND A PLUMBER" featured on our website gets around 5000 views per month?



Did you know that this is how the consumer finds you?

Did you know that you as a member can upload your logo and/or advertisement on this feature.

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Not only our plumbing members benefit from the e-newsletter and the website.

For our Industry Partners and Sponsors it is a great tool to let the plumbers know about their newest products and specials!

Come on PLUMBING INDUSTRY, it is 2012, it is all about communication, these digital tools are the future, so lets start using them!

For more information and feedback with regard to the MPGA E-Newsletters and MPGA Website please contact:

Petra Wouters (E-Newsletter & Website Coordinator)

Ph: 08 9471 6669

E: petraw@mpawa.asn.au

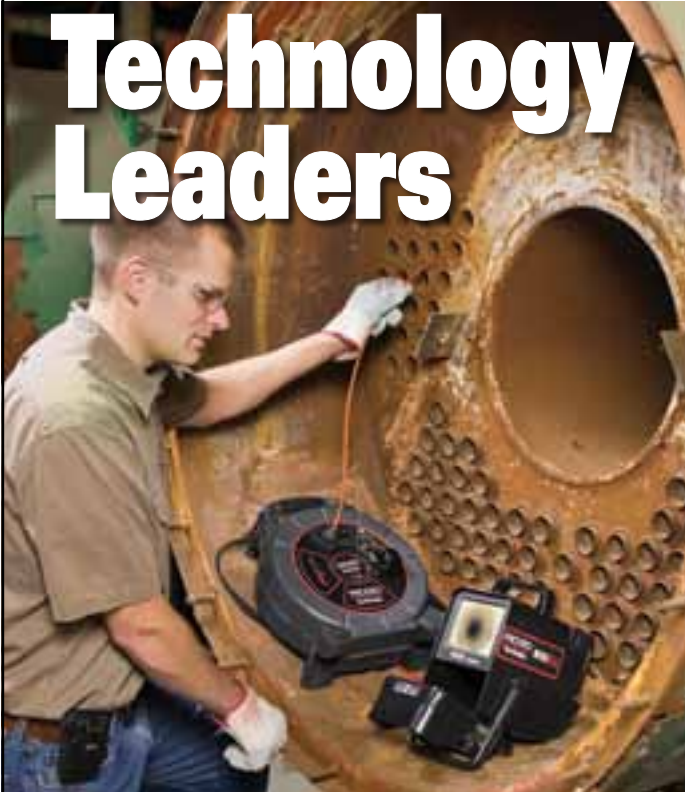
W: www.masterplumbers.asn.au

*This is an indicative pricing for Western Australian based plumbers and gasfitters, based on 1-2 employees and liability cover of \$5 million. These terms may vary due to such things as claims and criminal conviction histories. ABN: 31 009 179 640 AFSL No: 246986



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R1539WA



BRYCE STEELE
Business Development
Manager

How your association can help you in 2012!

In 2012 the MPGA continues to reach out across the state. With 20% of our members coming from the regional areas we continue to look at opportunities to meet with our country members.

So far in 2012 we have held trade shows in Albany, Bunbury & Busselton in addition to this we have also visited both Esperance and Kalgoorlie to hear from both members and non-members directly regarding the everyday issues they are currently facing. Plumbing business's in some of these areas continue to face the same issues that our metropolitan members experience. In some of these centre's there is only so much work to go around and unfortunately this has seen a decline in the number of plumbing businesses operating within them. I continue to hear stories of members who are finding it too hard to continue operating a small business.

We are continuing to assist in driving the message to the consumer to ensure that they consider using a Master Plumber. Our website receives well over 5000 hits per month to our "find a plumber" page and we are currently averaging more than 180,000 hits per month to the MPGA home page. Over the coming months we will continue our consumer campaign in both the regional and metropolitan areas. The Master Plumber guarantees offers, peace of mind, integrity and quality workmanship. We encourage all of our members whether big or small to use the MPGA logo wherever possible.

There are many issues that the MPGA Executive Committee is currently working on (see page 5) that will directly effect the future direction of the industry. If you are not currently a member and want to be informed, kept up to date and know that an industry body is working towards the future sustainability of your industry, then now is the time to become a member and involved with the Master Plumbers and Gasfitters Association. The more members we have the stronger our voice will become, and it is our aim in 2012 to exceed 700 members! The benefits on offer will assist you in your everyday business, all members who have received their membership packs will have the 2012 benefits book and we are confident that these and the resources available via the MPGA website can provide you with everything needed to help in your business. Throughout the year we will provide updates of any new benefits and resources that become available.

Your association is working for you, so whatever the issue we want to help! If you have any questions or require assistance please do not hesitate to contact myself or the membership services team.

Regards,

Bryce Steele

Business Development Manager



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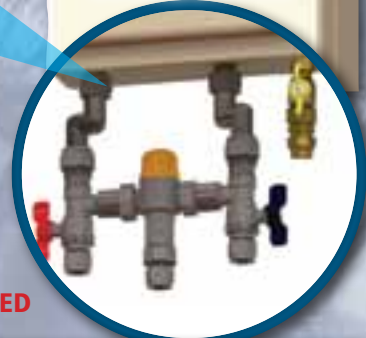
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HOT WATER HEATER CONNECTION, HEIGHT ADJUSTABLE BY 10MM



UNIVERSAL SWIVEL FITTINGS SUIT ALL INSTANTANEOUS HOT WATER SYSTEM CONNECTIONS



GAS VALVE INCLUDED

ALSO AVAILABLE

INSTANTANEOUS CONTINUOUS FLOW KIT
Quickie 506

20mm loose nut connections to Hot Water System
20mm compression to hot, cold & mixed water
Gas Valve 20mm loose nut x 20mm flare

SWIVELS FROM 83MM TO 223MM



AVG

Australian Valve Group

Tel: 1800 AVG AUS (284 287)

www.avg.net.au

Cut the Dead Wood...

Fire Some Customers



Not all customers, projects and industry sectors contribute equally to your profits.

Without a Job Management and Reporting System you won't know the full story of what is and isn't making you money.

simPRO Job Management Software gives you the reporting tools required to make informed decisions about your business.



simPRO
ENTERPRISE

CUT THE DEAD WOOD

Is it possible that your favourite customer is losing you money? Just because they give you lots of work, doesn't mean you make a good profit!

GO WHERE THE CASH IS

Move resources away from underperforming industry sectors and redeploy staff to focus on sectors that are performing strongly.

Start making informed business decisions today.
Call us on 1300 139 467 for an onsite demo nationwide.



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