

PLUMBINGS A

The Plumbing Industry Association of South Australia Inc.

November / December 2010





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Front Cover:

Adelaide Entertainment Centre - buried treasure.

Photograph by Marlia Williams

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Editorial

Northern Territory

Over the past six to twelve months, the PIA has been in contact with a number of plumbers in the Northern Territory who have voiced concerns over the lack of information on both a national and local front from their respective industry body. The PIA has made a trip to both Darwin and Alice Springs to raise the awareness of the activities within the plumbing industry and has developed a business plan to represent the NT plumbing sector. The PIA's proposal is to deliver similar services and benefits to any plumber that joins the association, with the main focus on ensuring compliance, regulation and safety. The PIA will also be liaising with the NT Government to ensure the industry has sound representation.

Tools for a more efficient business

- Contracts

The PIA now has available contracts specifically designed for plumbing companies that ensure a greater level of protection and cover. The PIA has spent many months developing the contract in conjunction with Fenwick Elliott Grace Lawyers and those plumbers who have been victims of fraud in the past can appreciate the need for this process.

- Hourly Rate Calculator

The PIA in conjunction with Philip Arnfield & Associates has developed a very user friendly Hourly Rate Calculator which can be accessed through the members section of the PIA website. The PIA will be referring all member enquiries to this tool, as it is based on true accounting calculations and is a very good guide. We will now only provide general guidance on the hourly rate. Members of the public when they call the PIA are advised that the average charge out rates vary between \$90.00 to \$120.00/hour.

- On the Spot Payment

The PIA have over 40 members on the Commonwealth Bank Mobile EFTPOS deal and this service has proven a real success for all sizes of business. One of the main areas that businesses struggle to manage is their cash flow. EFTPOS can improve cash management very efficiently and effectively, as well as reduce the problem of disputed charges.

World Plumbing Day

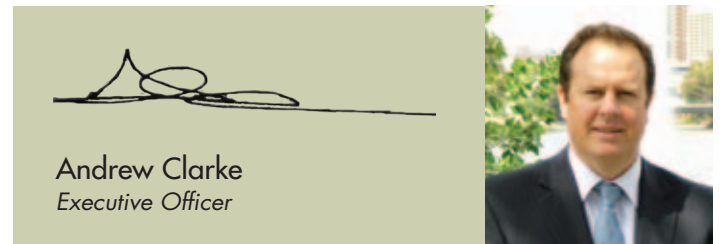
World Plumbing Day is an initiative of the World Plumbing Council. The inaugural World Plumbing Day was held on 11 March 2010. The aim of World Plumbing Day is to promote and educate the community that our ongoing health and well being is as much the result of good sanitation and safe drinking water as modern medicine.

In 2011 the South Australian WPD Committee which is comprised of SA Water, Department of Health, Office of the Technical Regulator, TAFE, AHSCA, PIA, manufacturer and merchant representatives has decided to promote WPD through a range of fund raising activities culminating in a series of BBQ's to be held at merchant stores.

Two projects will be supported:

The purchase of plumbing tool kits for young East Timorese being trained in basic plumbing. Most of East Timor was destroyed when the Indonesians withdrew from East Timor. The aim is to create jobs that enable locals to work and rebuild the country.

85 million people in Bangladesh are exposed to drinking from Arsenic contaminated bores. Fund raising will allow testing and marking of safe and unsafe bores and to provide simple locally made filters to make the water safe to drink. Just \$5000.00 will allow testing of over 900 bores. We encourage everyone in the industry to work together to promote WPD through this important work.



Andrew Clarke
Executive Officer

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Commercial Plumbing

Behind the Scenes

The Adelaide Entertainment Centre (AEC) embarked on a \$52M redevelopment of the facility, in February 2009, which included the construction of a new 2,500 person theatre with state-of-the-art soundproofing and 500 retractable seats. It also features bars within the venue and on the new terrace, a rarity for most larger-scale theatres in the state.

The redeveloped facility was launched in March 2010 and coincided with the extension of tram services from the city to the Adelaide Entertainment Centre. The Adelaide Entertainment Centre is now considered one of the most contemporary, flexible and accessible live entertainment venues in Australia. Its spectacular entry, which includes a large dome structure (The Orb) can be illuminated in more than 16.4 million colours and patterns, and a 67m x 2.4m LED Screen runs across the theatre frontage.

The venue has been designed as a multi-purpose venue, for events as diverse as those at the adjacent and much larger AEC auditorium, for comedy, music and theatre acts with a smaller capacity need than the larger auditorium.

RS Burbidge was awarded the plumbing tender by Hansen & Yuncken and Aurecon Australia formerly Connell Wagner provided the Hydraulic Design. Like many projects reported in Plumbing SA much of the plumbing work is both complex and hidden, the AEC is no exception.

Half the kitchen drainage is suspended beneath the floor in the underground car park in PVC for the toilets with the other half installed in HDPE which services the kitchen. The underground part is tied and

suspended from the onground slab with stainless steel brackets and rods. The drain is covered with 10mm screenings to just above the pipe with a foam void former filling the trench, to ensure if the ground moves there is no downward weight. This method of pipe support was used as the ground is very reactive fill.

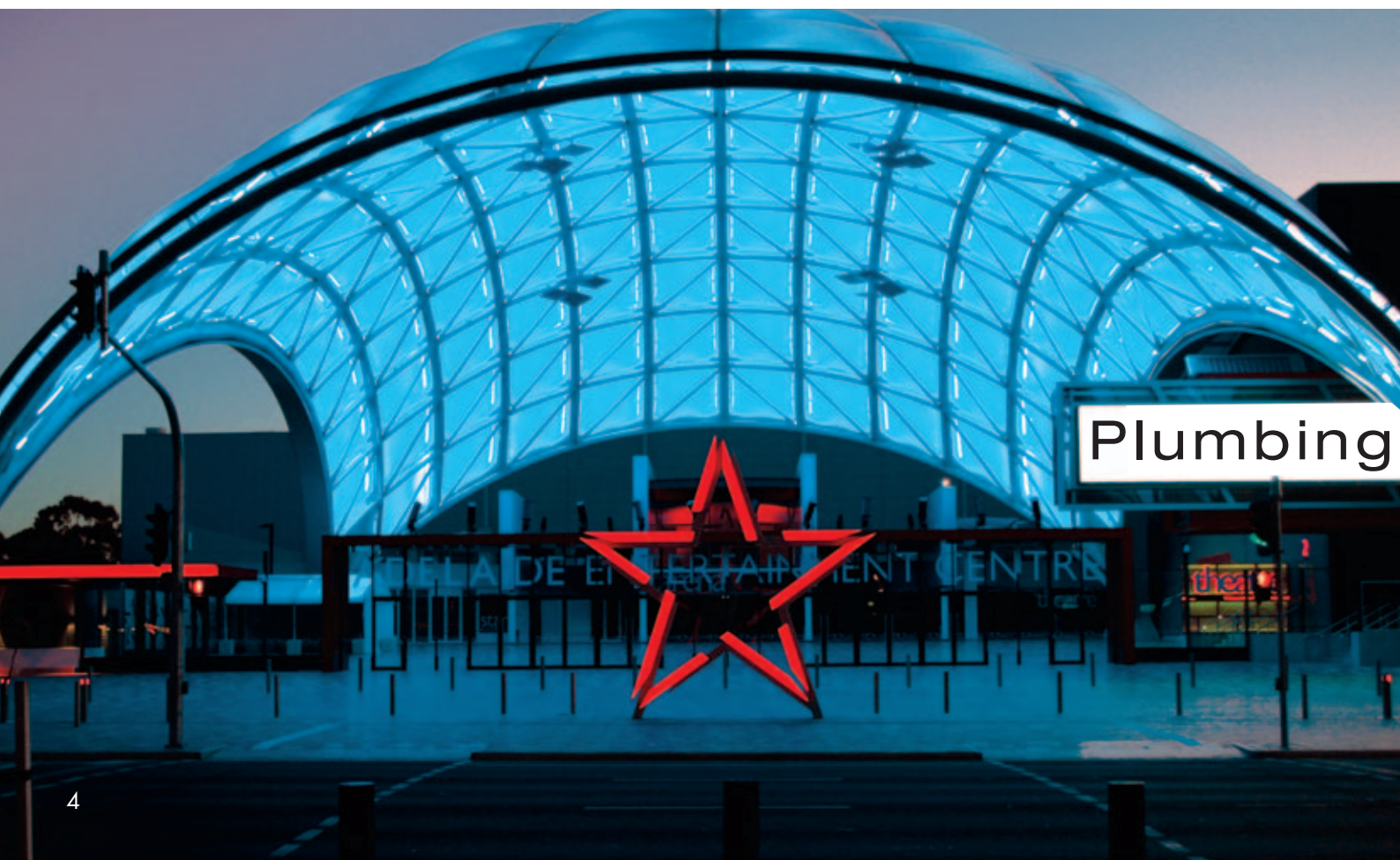
The project still has much more concealed from immediate view with an underground toilet block sited below the backstage area, Caromadorf Metro Invisi II suites, 4.5/1.5 litre flush toilets and a 14m Britex one piece urinal installed, which was assembled and welded on site, and is flushed with Caromadorf Invisi II cisterns.

A 10,000L storage chamber holds the toilet waste until it is pumped to ground level where it flows into the sewer main by gravity. Enware sensortouch taps are used throughout the front of house areas. There is also a mezzanine VIP area with a kitchen and two toilets fitted out to the same standard.

Two 55,000L Rocla Plastream HDPE tanks are buried in the car park to collect rainwater from the roof for use in the toilets. A Grundfos CRE 10-6 packaged pumpset with mains water back up extracts the water from the interconnected tanks and pumps it throughout the building to the toilets.

A siphonic (Syfonic) drainage system is used to harvest the rainwater from the roof. At each corner of The Orb, a 250mm HDPE bend had to be handmade, which required some complex and accurate fabrication, to form a shape reminiscent of a lobster tail, as it then became known.

A 315mm Blackmax and HDPE drain both suspended in the underground



Commercial Plumbing

Behind the Scenes



carpark and underground carries the water to the underground tanks via a gross pollutant trap. When the tank is full, all excess water flows to the AEC stormwater drain.

An ACO Polycrete 200mm x 200mm x 100m long stormwater drain was installed across the front of The Orb and all stormwater passes through an Ecosol Gross Pollutant Trap before it enters the council stormwater system.

Two water mains supply the AEC and Burbidge's were required to install a 100mm and 80mm testable double check valve to the existing

water meters and protect them with a vandal proof enclosure. A Rheem solar hot water system consisting of 28 solar panels, ten Rheem storage tanks, and 2 Rheem gas boosters serves the building. Back of house ensuite and showers are all fitted with Caromadorf sanitary ware and Hansa Tapware.

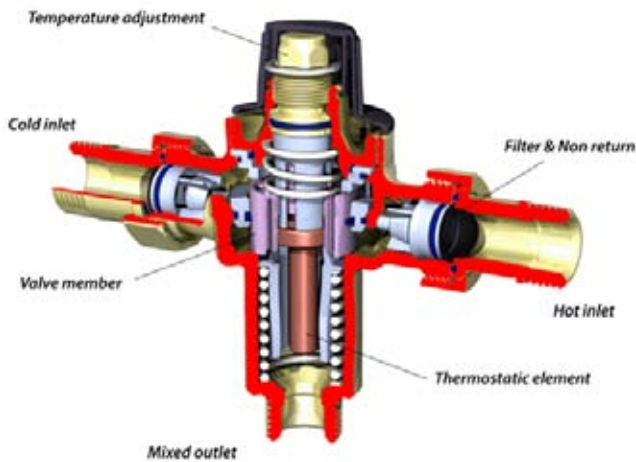
The actual kitchen fit out was undertaken by Curtin Food Services but Burbidge's undertook all the pipe installation work. A 100mm gas line was installed to the building with an 80mm gas line servicing the kitchen and a 65mm line servicing the gas boosted solar hot water services. An Accutest emergency shut off system with battery back up protects the gas service. In the kitchen a gas manifold was fabricated to supply 15 appliances. Two No.5 5000L grease arrestors were installed for the kitchen and SPS DBA'S or Dry Basket Arrestors were installed in the kitchen floor.

Ben Boehm led a team of 5 - 18 plumbers at the various stages of the 11 month long project and it was evident during our interview that he is a passionate project manager for R S Burbidge and takes great pride in his team's work. Without doubt the expansion to the AEC will significantly increase the range of events coming to SA and R S Burbidge is to be congratulated on their contribution to the project.



Maintenance Plumbing

The Domestic Tempering Valves Made Easy



Where do we start?

Let's unravel the confusion with Tempering Valves with domestic hot water installations. To do this, we can start with the statement in AS/NZS3500.4 and work through a series of frequently asked questions.

Compliance to AS/NZS3500.4

(fig 1) NEFA Tempering Valve
National Plumbing and Drainage Standard AS/NZS 3500.4: 2003 states - All new heated water installations shall deliver heated water not exceeding-

- (a) 45°C at the outlet of sanitary fixtures used primarily for personal hygiene purposes for the aged, sick, children or people with disabilities in healthcare and aged care buildings, early childhood centres, primary and secondary schools and nursing homes or similar facilities for the aged, sick, children or people with disabilities; and
- (b) 50°C at the outlet of sanitary fixtures used primarily for personal hygiene purposes for all other situations.

To comply with (a) above you must install a thermostatic mixing valve adjusted to an outlet temperature not exceeding 45C. To comply with (b) above you must install a thermostatic mixing valve, or a tempering valve or a pre-set water heater permanently disabled at 50C.

Frequently Asked Questions So what are they?

Tempering valves as illustrated in (fig 1) blend hot and cold water to deliver mixed water at a constant temperature. They incorporate a temperature sensitive element, which expands and contracts, depending on the temperature of the water flowing across it. This action of the element, in turn moves a piston which shuttles between the hot and cold ports. In doing so, the valve maintains an essentially constant outlet temperature.

Why are they fitted?

They are a fitted safety valve to reduce the risk of scalding accidents.

When are they fitted?

As above, on all new installations, and where an existing building is altered or extended, in such a way that sanitary fixtures used primarily for personal hygiene purposes, are installed in a location where, before the installation or extension, no such fixture existed, the delivery temperature at the fixture shall not exceed;

- (a) 45°C at the outlet of sanitary fixtures used primarily for personal hygiene purposes for the aged, sick, children or people with disabilities in healthcare and aged care buildings, early childhood centres, primary and secondary schools and nursing homes or similar facilities for the aged, sick, children or people with disabilities; and
- (b) 50°C at the outlet of sanitary fixtures used primarily for personal hygiene purposes for all other situations.

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Maintenance Plumbing

The Domestic Tempering Valves Made Easy

Important Note:

A duty of care should be exercised by installers to explain to the clients the merits of temperature control for hot water delivered to existing fixtures used primarily for personal hygiene purposes.

What about Replacement heaters?

Where a replacement heater is replaced, there is no mandatory requirement to install a temperature limitation device to control the temperature of water, delivered to sanitary fixtures used primarily for personal hygiene purposes, unless the replacement water heater is of a solar type, the heating source is uncontrolled or such a device was in place prior to the installation of the replacement water heater.

Do I have to install a tempering valve on solar installations?

Yes: As solar hot water systems are an uncontrolled heat source, temperatures in excess of 75°C are frequently experienced. To prevent accidental scalding, a tempering valve must be installed.

Do they have to be installed on continuous flow hot water units?

They must be installed on all continuous flow units, unless you choose the pre-set option, which is factory set at 50C. The heater must be marked with the following **"THIS APPLIANCE DELIVERS WATER NOT EXCEEDING 50C IN ACCORDANCE WITH AS 3498"**

Important Note:

Please be aware that unless the unit has this label on it and is permanently disabled, it does not comply with the temperature control requirements. It is not acceptable to alter the unit by simply adjusting the dip switches. Even though some types of units come with control pads set at a maximum of 50C this is not acceptable as a temperature control device.

Can the same valve be used on all hot water heater types?

Simply, NO. Check with the manufacturers to make sure you are using the appropriate valve for your specific installation. A specific category of valve is used for each of the different unit types; eg; mains pressure, electric, gas, solar, continuous flow, instantaneous, and low pressure heat pumps.

What if a client refuses to have a tempering valve installed?

As a licensed plumber it is your responsibility to ensure that you have complied with the standards listed above. Often customers may refuse to have temperature control installed, however, you must install the required device before completing your Certificate of Compliance.

It is not acceptable for you to obtain authority from the customer not to install temperature control. This will not disclaim you of responsibility if an

incident occurs. If you come across an installation that does not comply or your customer needs clarification of the temperature control requirements contact the Compliance Unit at SA Water on 1300 650 950.

How long do they last?

This valve is a safety valve and cannot be serviced. If the valve fails to operate it is to be replaced. A tempering valve has on average 5 year lifespan, and the manufacturers recommend replacement after 5 years.

What maintenance can be done on the valves?

The tempering valve must be accessible for service and maintenance, the valve should be checked at least annually and more frequently if water quality is poor. With the temperature, check it should be carried out on the tempered water tap nearest the water heater. Also the strainers should be thoroughly cleaned. If the valve fails it must be replaced.

Does the kitchen and laundry have to be 50C?

The supply of tempered water to the kitchen and laundry outlets is optional, as most consumers prefer to receive water at least 60°C from these fixtures. Hopefully this article has been helpful, to unravel the confusion with Tempering Valves in Domestic installations.

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SAFE WORK



How many people know that long-term worklessness is one of the greatest known risks to public health? Or that not working for long periods of time equates to a health risk of smoking 200 cigarettes a day?

A comprehensive and bold new position statement released by the Australasian Faculty of Occupational & Environmental Medicine, *Realising the health benefits of work*, was released in June 2010.

The position statement is designed for physicians and health professionals, employers and governments. In the foreword written by Dame Carol Black, National Director for Health and Work, UK, it states that "the message is that for most people work is good for their health and their wellbeing, and that loss of work, whether because of impaired health or for other reasons, is generally harmful."

"The results of worklessness are plain to see: loss of self esteem, standing and identity in the community besides, of course, a halt to material progress, social participation and fulfilment," writes Dame Black. Dame Black goes on to comment about unwarranted delays in returning to work delaying recovery.

"In most instances, we do not have to recover completely before returning to work, provided there is a will and there are means to accommodate the fullest possible restoration of function – physically, mentally and socially.

"Health providers have a clear duty and responsibility to make this happen, and key roles to play," she states.

An information sheet has been released that lists the two underpinning principles which have a strong international evidence base as:

1. Work, in general, is good for health and wellbeing.
2. Long-term work absence, work disability and unemployment have, in general, a negative impact on health and wellbeing.

"Until now, these principles have largely been unrecognised. To realise the benefits, it will require a paradigm shift in thinking, and indeed in practice. This will be to the advantage of workers, their families and to the many stakeholders who have an interest in helping people stay in work or return to work. Ultimately this is to the benefit of society as a whole," the information sheet says.

The main recommendations are:

1. The medical community develops a consensus statement regarding the positive relationship between health and work and the negative consequences of long-term work absence and unemployment.
2. Treating practitioners require education to incorporate training in workplace occupational health and vocational rehabilitation and sickness certification practices, and that the medical community needs to provide leadership on these issues.
3. Health professionals responsibly promote the health benefits of work to their patients.
4. Governments obtain and publicise accurate data about the level of work incapacity in Australia and New Zealand.
5. Governments launch public health campaigns, directed at employers, workers, medical practitioners and the general public, to promote the message that 'Work, in general, is good for health and wellbeing'.
6. Employers move beyond legislative requirements to embrace the spirit of inclusive employment practices, workplace safety, health and wellbeing, and best practice injury management.

To read the full position statement visit <http://afoem.racp.edu.au>

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Realising the health benefits of work – strong new evidence released

Health impacts of not working

- Increased rates of mortality
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 - cardiovascular disease
 - lung cancer
 - susceptibility to respiratory infections
- Poorer mental health and psychological well-being
- Somatic complaints
- Long-standing illness
- Disability
- Higher rates of medical consultation, medication consumption and hospital admission

Economic costs

The costs for the community are enormous, estimated to be many billions of dollars. The costs are born by employees, employers and the whole community.

Social costs

- Families, including the children of parents out of work, have decreased educational opportunities and reduced long-term employment prospects
- Individuals suffer a loss of social identity and status
- Exclusion from employment for vulnerable groups, including indigenous communities and people with disabilities. Long-term worklessness is one of the greatest known risks to public health

- Health risk = smoking 10 packs of cigarettes per day
- Suicide in young men who are out of work for longer than six months is increased by 40 times
- Suicide rate in general is increased by six times in longer-term worklessness
- Health risk and life expectancy greater than many 'killer diseases'
- Greater risk than most dangerous jobs (construction/forestry)



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SAFE WORK

Working hours code of practice takes effect

Does your workplace have shiftwork, night work, on-call or call-back arrangements? Have you discussed with your staff what constitutes 'reasonable' working hours?

If your staff work long hours, perform highly physical or mentally demanding tasks, or are involved in fatigue-critical tasks, such as operating machinery or driving vehicles, specific guidance on working hours is now available from SafeWork SA.

A new *Approved Code of Practice for Working Hours* (the Code) took effect on 1 July 2010, after being approved by the State Government under section 63 of the *Occupational Health, Safety and Welfare Act 1986*, following extensive consultation by SafeWork SA. Fatigue impacts on work performance. The Code has been developed in recognition of the significant risk that excessive working hours, and the resulting fatigue, may pose to the health, safety and welfare of South Australian workers and their families. Research shows that Australians now have an established culture of working long hours.

Fifty hours or more per week have become more common for full-time workers in the 20 years since 1985, particularly for men. Australian Bureau of Statistics figures show that unsociable hours have also increased, with 64% of Australian workers working nights or on weekends. Of the 37.3% of workers regularly clocking up overtime, nearly 40% are parents with children aged under 12.

As work periods become longer and sleep loss increases, the resultant impact of fatigue on work performance can be compared with the effects of alcohol. Research shows that being awake for 17 hours impairs performance to the same level as having a 0.05 blood alcohol content. Being awake for 20 hours is similar to having a 0.1 blood alcohol reading. Potential detrimental effects of fatigue on performance at work can include:

- sleepiness
- poor judgment
- lack of concentration
- impaired recollection of timing and events
- irritability and reduced capacity for effective interpersonal communication

- reduced hand-eye coordination and visual perception
- slower reaction times and reduced vigilance.

A best practice approach

The new *Approved Code of Practice for Working Hours* was developed as part of SafeWork SA's Work Life Balance Strategy, and brings South Australia into line with other States that have similar guidelines available. A code of practice explains how to comply with a specific law, but also allows employers flexibility where an equivalent or better standard of health and safety can be achieved by other means.

The new Code specifically addresses workplace issues that might arise, such as extended hours, shiftwork and on-call work. Importantly, it provides a best practice approach to formulating policy on rostering and hours of work, taking into account the diversity of South Australian workplaces.

The new Code can be downloaded from www.safework.sa.gov.au.

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2010
Gala Awards Dinner

Apprentice of the Year

A Wise Head on Young Shoulders



At 22 years of age Alex Kulikovsky shows a remarkable maturity and sense of direction in his career.

On Friday 3rd September, Alex won the South Australian Apprentice of the Year 2010, which is awarded by the State Government to the best apprentice across all trades.

The award is sponsored by One Steel Whyalla. Alex will now go on to the Australian Apprentice Awards later this year.

This is just one of a string of awards that Alex has won during his apprenticeship. Other awards include:

- Australian VET Student of the Year in Plumbing 2005
- TAFE Hot Water Apprentice of the Year 2007
- TAPS 2nd Year Apprentice of the Year Award
- TAPS 3rd Year Apprentice of the Year Award
- TAPS 4th Year Apprentice of the Year Award
- Silver Medal at the 2007 Regional World Skills Competition
- Gold Medal at the 2009 Regional World Skills Competition
- Silver Medal at the 2010 National World Skills Competition
- South Australian Apprentice of the Year 2010
- 2010 CITB Award for Training Excellence

Alex is very happy at Adelaide 5 Star Plumbing and sees Richard Jesse not just as his boss but as a friend and mentor. At this stage Alex



recognises that whilst he has finished his apprenticeship, he wants to acquire a greater level of experience and knowledge in the plumbing industry to be able to provide a quality service. He has started to undertake his Certificate IV and plans to eventually run his own business.

Richard involves Alex in all aspects of the business including estimating, quoting and business management. Alex describes Adelaide 5 Star Plumbing very much as a team working together.

In little under two years, Richard's business has gone from being a sole trader to a business that is growing and thriving; now employing four including Paul Nie, a qualified plumber, and Sam Sajj, a school based apprentice.

Richard has obviously thought deeply about the team work component needed in a modern business and has struck the right balance in operating a business and working collaboratively with his employees.

Job satisfaction, feeling valued, and having variety in work are what Alex values and gives him a sense of fulfilment in working for Richard.

Alex will make a very valuable contribution to plumbing and to the community. It is his passion for plumbing and for excellence that guarantees it.



(Advertorial)

Hard Water Scale Reduction

"Amazing maintenance free solution"

Mains water on Eyre Peninsular, South Australia is classified as moderately hard "with averages of the order of 290-320 mg/L" (source SA Water).

Keeping appliances clean and scale free requires regular maintenance and is costly. Ecovortek provides a solution to reduce maintenance and put profits back in your pocket.



Motel owner reports:

"I have owned and managed the First Landing Motel in Port Lincoln for 10 years and have had to constantly replace hot water elements, clean shower heads and replace parts in the toilet cisterns.

In August 2010, I installed an Ecovortek universal unit in the mains line which feeds all 8 units. I knew the water heater element was on its last legs after its normal 9 month period of dealing with the hard Port Lincoln water.

I expected the element to be completely encrusted with scale. To my absolute amazement the heater element was perfectly clean.

My plumber and I could not believe that the Ecovortek unit had achieved this in only 2 weeks. Further, in just those 2 weeks the shower head in my unit had de-scaled. I look forward to a reduced maintenance budget from now on for the Motel.

It is an amazing maintenance free solution to the long term problem hard water has caused for us on the Eyre Peninsular. The Ecovortek unit will pay for itself many times over.

Thank you Ecovortek, I strongly recommend your product."

Peter Tonkin
Proprietor
First Landing Motel
11 Shaen St
Port Lincoln SA 5606
Ph (08) 8682 2344

September 2010

For further information go to www.ecovortek.com.au



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green building council australia
MEMBER



Business Advice

Opting Out of the 21st Century

A small percentage of members tell us they don't have a computer, don't have an email address, leave all of the computer work to their wife or office administrator and often tell us they're just not interested in that stuff.

The question is. Are you really interested in having a profitable successful business or are you happy to just plod along and scrape by?

Information Technology is now an integral part of any successful business and its use will only increase. One of the challenges for the IT industry is to make the technology as integrated as other items like a washing machine which you use as a simple tool to wash your clothes.

So why should you join the 21st century?

You may have read about the Luddites which was a social movement of British textile artisans in the nineteenth century who protested – often by destroying mechanised looms against the changes produced by the Industrial Revolution, which they felt was leaving them without work and changing their way of life. It took its name from Ned Ludd.

While we're not suggesting plumbers who won't learn about computers are Luddites, the Luddites eventually disappeared because they were overtaken by inevitable change.

Plumbers will not disappear but plumbers unable to adapt to a more complex and compliance based regulatory environment probably have two choices:

1. Retire
2. Adapt and take your business operations into the 21st Century

Adaptation requires the ability to review the environment and change to meet challenges and exploit new opportunities. A recent example is the nine members who attended the Firecat Domestic Sprinkler Training. The next day one of the attendees was arranging a meeting with Firecat to discuss approaching his existing building clients to promote the use of domestic fire sprinklers in their homes.

That member has not only kept up to date with new technology but is going to proactively work to create new opportunities for his business. For some time now the PIA has encouraged members to evolve and exploit new opportunities.

Are you a business person who is plumber? Or are you a plumber who happens to be in business?

You might wonder if there is a difference and the answer is that it can be a huge difference. Most plumbers will readily admit that they started business with little real knowledge of what they were getting into.

Many plumbers love their work and the number of members who have fathers, grandfathers and even great grandfathers who were plumbers is quite significant.

So being a plumber is clearly a valued occupation by our members but is this love of plumbing sufficient reason to leave the running of the business to itself or others?

No business can run itself. Someone needs to be in control and driving it. What were your reasons for starting your own business? Are you achieving what you set out to do?

If you are not achieving what you wanted, by starting your own business, then it's time for a review.

Are you making enough money? Are your customers profitable? Do you have work life balance? If you are like most of us, you are time poor and need help to focus on reviewing your business. This year the PIA has run two courses subsidised by a grant to help plumbers do just that.

It's called Build a Better Business and the feedback from participants has been outstanding. Contact Crystal to register to attend the final two courses in 2011.

The PIA would like to run more but this will be dependent on our ability to win further funding. We received funding to train 80 plumbers. Why not be one of them?!



Safe Drinking Water for Australia Safe Drinking Water for Bangladesh



Support World Plumbing Day
11 March 2011



Gold Medal Winners

Can you help fill in the missing gaps?

GOLD MEDAL WINNERS

Rob Gilman from TAFE has been researching the history of the Plumbing Gold Medal for some time now and has identified a significant number of award winners from the PIA archives and some other sources but has now exhausted all known sources of information.

Can you help?

If you know anything that may help fill the gaps please email rob.gilman@tafesa.edu.au or call him on 8348 4289. A number of winners are now well known in the industry and have obviously carved successful careers in plumbing and reflects on why they won their medal. Some of the winners are less well known and may have left the industry or moved interstate. The PIA would love to do a follow up story on former winners so if you know anything please drop the PIA an email admin@piasa.com.au or give us a call on 8292 4000.

1 st	1935		37 th	1971	Alan C. Davis
2 nd	1936	Bertram Gordon Hollamby	38 th	1972	Stephen A. Radecki
3 rd	1937	William Bowden	39 th	1973	Robert B. Foreman
4 th	1938		40 th	1974	Garrick S Mott
5 th	1939		41 st	1975	Steven B. Hall
6 th	1940		42 nd	1976	John R. Blessing
7 th	1941		43 rd	1977	Peter J. Tirrell
8 th	1942		44 th	1978	Trevor R. Dorman
9 th	1943		45 th	1979	Mark Battams
10 th	1944		46 th	1980	Paul K. Matthews
11 th	1945		47 th	1981	Dale R. Anderton
12 th	1946		48 th	1982	David A. Nourse
13 th	1947		49 th	1983	Philip Daunt
14 th	1948		50 th	1984	David Steer?
15 th	1949		51 st	1985	
16 th	1950	Don Stanley ?	52 nd	1986	Christopher B. Smith
17 th	1951	Murray Cugley?	53 rd	1987	Brenton K. Johnson
18 th	1952		54 th	1988	Glen Naughton
19 th	1953		55 th	1989	Tim Woods
20 th	1954		56 th	1990	Tony Mansueto
21 st	1955		57 th	1991	
22 nd	1956	Robert J. Kerry	58 th	1992	
23 rd	1957	Ronald A. Turner	59 th	1993	
24 th	1958	John Willis	60 th	1994	
25 th	1959	Garry W. Schutt	61 st	1995	
26 th	1960	Neil James	62 nd	1996	
27 th	1961	Colin J. Rogers	63 rd	1997	
28 th	1962	Winston A. Roe	64 th	1998	Jarrett Farley
29 th	1963	Malcolm J. Greaves	65 th	1999	Terence Ricketts
30 th	1964	Ronald M. Parker	66 th	2000	
31 st	1965	Alfred A. Stratton	67 th	2001	Will Sawers
32 nd	1966	Robert H. Jenkins	68 th	2002	Troy Tirrell
33 rd	1967	Melvyn Barton-Ancliffe	69 th	2003	Benjamin Chambers
34 th	1968	Allan K. Priest	70 th	2004	Russell Wilson
35 th	1969	Francis B. J. Mordaunt	71 st	2005	Alexander Cossich
36 th	1970	Lindsay K. Rogers	72 nd	2006	Simon Donaldson
			73 rd	2007	Jarrod Smith
			74 th	2008	Nathaniel Runnalls
			75 th	2009	Adrian Siciliano

Gas Plumbing

Domestic/Leisure Gas Refrigerator CO Precautions

Victorian authorities recently received a report that concerned the Carbon Monoxide (CO) emissions from a gas refrigerator located in a holiday cabin. If it was not for the couple's dog that sounded the alarm, the circumstances could have been tragic.

Gas refrigerators were fairly common in homes some fifty plus years ago and many operated on town gas. Some were converted to Natural Gas. The advent of more efficient and streamlined electrical refrigerators saw the demise of the gas refrigerator, except in areas where a stable supply of electricity was not available. The main use of portable gas refrigerators today is in the camping and leisure markets. In many cases these not only operate on LP Gas (LPG) but on 240V and 12V electrical power.

What is not widely appreciated is that gas refrigerators like all gas appliances give off combustion products that can include CO. Most gas refrigerator flues terminate at the same height as the refrigerator itself. Which means any combustion products are discharged in the area of the refrigerator. In a well ventilated space this is not a problem, unfortunately in more confined areas such as caravans, tents and mobile homes etc this may become an unsafe situation.

Unlike a space heater using up to 36 MJ/h, a central heater using 120 MJ/h or even the standard gas cooker oven of 42 MJ/h, a portable refrigerator may only use 1.3 MJ/h but this can be enough to cause the generation of large quantities of CO under certain conditions.

The gas burner in a refrigerator is approximately the size of a man's thumbnail and the burner head is finished in a fine wire mesh where the combustion takes place. In a recent incident, a dirty and unserviced burner was emitting in excess of 11,000 Parts Per Million (PPM) Carbon Monoxide (CO) into the bedroom where it was operating. Compare this to the acceptable levels at the Australian Government website <http://www.environment.gov.au/atmosphere/airquality/standards.html>

I have personal experience of a gas refrigerator in a holiday home that was operating intermittently. The holiday home room temperatures in the day time could be as low as -3°C. This tended to cause condensation in the flue as it heated up, which in turn caused the fine rust scale on the surface of the flue. This scale would then break away and drop onto

the burner head and cause improper combustion, leading to higher CO emissions. The burner of the refrigerator needs to be cleaned at least every six months in this situation.

Certain precautions are required when using a gas refrigerator, the gas installation standard AS 5601-2004 Clause 5.12.18.3 ~ 5.12.18.4 in part states "A refrigerator shall not be located in a pantry, larder or bedroom unless installed in accordance with Clause 5.12.18.3 "Requirements where a refrigerator is to be in a sealed recess."

These clauses apply in all installations where a gas refrigerator is used in residences, caravans and mobile homes. The refrigerator must be built into a ventilated recess.

Just over a year ago, there were 2 deaths in Queensland as a result of operating gas refrigerators in a station wagon and in a van converted into a campervan. The victims were sleeping in these vehicles whilst the refrigerators were operating.

To assume that the gas burner in a portable refrigerator is only small and may not cause any problems is fraught with danger. There must be 2 openings of the correct size to provide flowing ventilation as for all Clause 5.4 buildings, Clause 6.2.7 for Caravans and Clause 6.3.8 for marine craft.

Additional caution must be taken when a portable refrigerator is located in a marine vessel as in Clause 6.3.7.2 There are restrictions on installation of an appliance on petrol-fuelled vessels. If an appliance with a continuously burning flame is to be installed below the upper deck of a petrol fuelled craft, the appliance shall be installed so the air intake to the continuously burning flame is at least 600mm above the deck on which the appliance is to be mounted.

A refrigerator when operating has a continuously burning flame, a portable refrigerator that is easily transported could inadvertently be placed in a critical area on a marine craft therefore an appliance of this type is subject to the safety requirements as detailed in Clause 6.3.7.2 and should be adhered to under all circumstances to prevent any incidents.

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ASBUILT

In Brief

Meticulous Record Keeping

The PIA has been advocating for three years now, for plumbers to photograph and electronically file against a project or customer all aspects of their work. It was nice to hear recently that plumbers are benefiting from this advice.

A drain in newly completed toilets of a commercial project began smelling after occupancy. The contracting plumber was called back to rectify the problem at his expense. A 600mm core was made through the slab to expose the joint which had been damaged during construction.

The time and date stamped photographs and SA Water Inspection documentation were able to prove that the damage was caused by another unknown party and as a result a member was paid to undertake the repairs and not pay the \$3,800.00 cost.

New First Aid Regulations

The new regulations on First Aid come into effect on 10 December 2010. The maximum fine for non compliance is \$600,000. If you haven't got up to speed on the changes yet go to the news section in the Member's Area at www.piasa.com.au to learn more.

AS/NZS 3500 and AS/NZS 5601

A number of members still appear to be unaware that both standards can now be found in the Members Area under the Standards tab. There are ten licences for both standards. They are Read Only versions but it is unlikely most members need to print a copy. We encourage you to use these standards and keep your money in your pocket.

Dear Editor,

The article on gutters in the last magazine was interesting. Once we didn't have these overflow problems as all gutters were lower at the front than the back. Also I am old enough to remember, when on Cottage work in the late 30's and early 40's, that when the walls of a house were about 4 or 5 courses from the top, the brick layers would ask the plumber where the downpipes were going, and then would gradually give the last few courses of bricks a slight fall towards those points.

Then the carpenter would do the same with the fascias and scotias thus giving the gutters a good fall which stopped the gutters rusting through by holding sediment. Then came decking roofs in the late 50's and early 60's where the gutters were pop riveted to the deck and had a high front to hide the end of the deck. This level gutter and high front were the start of the problem. One manufacturer had over flow slots in the front of the high fronted gutter slightly lower than the back to take surplus water.

The only answer that I can see to the problem is to have open ended gutters running into rain heads, then the high fronted gutters would empty straight into the rain head taking any debris with it. If the rain head then filled with leaves no water would flow over the back of the gutters to rot the fascias. Unfortunately, today the dollar is the God and no one is willing to lose the competitive edge by doing what is best for the client.

Jack Holder



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Receiving CITB Funding Assistance



Financial Advice

Why Should Customers Pick You?

Successful businesses clearly communicate why their business is the best choice. This is called your **Business Value Proposition (BVP)**. You should never stop promoting the benefits your business offers to potential customers.

What can **you** tell your customers about your business or product that will differentiate you from all the rest, and make your business the obvious choice for them? It is so important to be able to do this. If you cannot do it, there is no way your customers will be able to do it. But it is not always easy to differentiate yourself, so here are some tips to get you started along the way to creating your BVP.

- Make a list of why you are better than your competitors.
- Then make a list of the areas that, relative to your competitors, you need to improve upon.
- Among the factors that make you stand apart from the competition, which are the most important to your customers? Don't know, then ask them.
- Are there any aspects of your business that cannot be easily imitated or replicated by your competition?
- Now, write down in a concise and clear message, why your business is unique and a better choice.
- Next, write down how you intend to communicate this message to your existing and prospective customers. (*Hint, this message is best communicated through advertising, a referral campaign, media releases, on your packaging, and most importantly and effectively, by everyone who works for you!*)

Your points of difference may only be small: the way you greet each customer, a 2-ring phone answering policy, a sense of fun and humour in every customer interaction. Or the differences may be more significant such as your policy on returns, your extended warranty, your location, your experienced staff, your operating hours, your technological advantage, your range of products.



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Hot Products



Grundfos Assist – Selection Made Easy

A handy new online pump selection tool has recently been released by Grundfos Pumps.

The tool, called Grundfos Assist, has been developed to assist Plumbers and pump installers to easily select product for domestic water supply applications. It is designed to be easily viewed via a mobile phone browser, making it a handy and portable tool.

By simply following a series of questions and selecting the most appropriate answers, users will quickly and easily be guided to the most suitable Grundfos domestic water supply product for their requirements.

While Grundfos Assist is currently set up with a selection guide for domestic water supply product only, there are plans in place for additional functionality, including a selection tool for Grundfos domestic drainage products.

To view Grundfos Assist from a mobile phone browser, simply type in the URL - www.grundfos.com.au/assist

Grundfos Assist can also be viewed online at the same URL, or by visiting the Grundfos Australia website (www.grundfos.com.au) and following the link from the 'Products & Solutions' page.

NOTE: This tool has been developed as a guide only.



Submersible Solids Pump

Tsurumi submersible sewage pumps are super tough, reliable pumps, designed specifically for heavy duty sewage and waste water handling applications. Available from 50mm to 800mm discharge bores and with flows of up to 150,000 litres per minute. The largest pump in the range is driven by an enormous 110 kW motor.

A unique double mechanical seal with two seal faces containing silicon carbide, operate within an oil chamber to provide optimum seal life. The dual seal arrangement eliminates spring failure caused by corrosion, abrasion or fouling. Elimination of this problem extends seal life, and prevents the loss of cooling to the bottom seal faces during dry run conditions.



The motors are housed in a water tight casing and can be used in ambient temperatures of up to 40°C. Further information on the complete range of Tsurumi B series submersible pumps is available on the Australian Pump website (www.aussiepumps.com.au) and from Aussie Pump Distributors throughout Australia.

Left: "Tsurumi's B series sewage pumps are available from 50mm to 800mm discharge bores and with flows of up to 150,000 litres per minute"

Further information on this press release, please contact Helen Mahoney (02) 8865 3500.

Introducing the latest revolution in plumbing and kitchen design - Zip HydroTap All-In-One.

The name says it all – The new **Zip HydroTap All-In-One** dispenses instant boiling and chilled filtered water, PLUS hot, cold and warm water – all from the **one tap!**

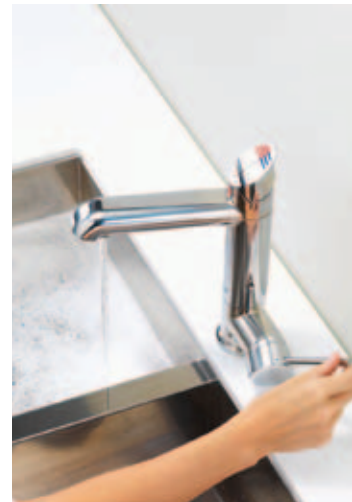
The range includes vented models which mix boiling and chilled water to create hot and warm water, meaning no hot water service connection is required.

There are also non-vented models for those installations where there is an existing mains pressure hot water service. These models connect directly to this existing system to provide hot and warm water.

Both the vented and non-vented models dispense instant boiling and chilled filtered drinking water from a compact under-sink unit.

The Zip HydroTap All-In-One is set to revolutionise kitchen design with architects, interior designers and home owners now able to de-clutter and simplify kitchen layouts by replacing existing hot and cold mixer taps with one single tap!

For a free brochure, call Zip on 1800 42 43 44. www.zipindustries.com



Pumped Discharges or Rising Mains Installation & Identification requirements

Plumbing Solutions – edition 14

Pumped discharges are only permitted where it is not possible to gravitate to the authorities' sewer connection. Connection of pumped discharge to SA Water's infrastructure requires assessment of the proposed discharge and authorisation to proceed. Application forms may be downloaded from SA Water's website in the "For Plumbers" section. [Private Pumping Installation Application](#)

Where authorised, installation of a private pumping system including discharge pipework shall comply with all relevant sections of AS/NZS 3500 series of Plumbing and drainage standards.

Materials selected for private pumping systems shall be in accordance with AS/NZS 3500.1 Plumbing and drainage standard – Appendix B – Acceptable Pipes and Fittings.

Common materials selected for pumped discharge pipework

- Polyethylene (PE) pipes and fittings in accordance with AS/NZS 4130 and AS/NZS 4129.
- Unplasticized polyvinyl chloride (PVC-U) pipes and fittings in accordance with AS/NZS 1477.

Note: Identification of pumped discharge pipework for pressure sewer applications shall be cream and include the marking "SEWAGE". Materials not appropriately identified are to be either sleeved or spirally wrapped with a material which appropriately identifies the pipe contents.

All plumbing work associated with the private pumping installation and its connection to the sewerage system shall be undertaken by a licensed plumbing contractor who is required to book the installation with SA Water for an audit inspection. A certificate of compliance and as constructed sanitary drainage drawing must also be issued by the licensed plumbing contractor within seven days of completing this work.

Bookings for inspection can be made via SA Water's Customer Contact Centre on 1300 884 055 or alternatively via the internet at <http://plumbooking.sawater.com.au>

If you have any questions about private pumping installations or AS/NZS 3500 Plumbing and drainage standards, please contact:

Ben Seal (08) 7424 1352

Alternatively, if you would like copies of this or previous editions of Plumbing Solutions, please contact Brenton Jenner on (08) 7424 1360 or email plumbooking@sawater.com.au

We welcome your feedback. If you have any comments about Plumbing Solutions, or wish to suggest some topics to be covered in future editions please send us an email to the above mail box.

SA Water

Mini-15mm Dual Check Valve installed in rainwater installations

It has been identified from SA Water's rainwater rebate auditing that a number of plumbing contractors have been installing Mini (15mm) Dual Check Valves on the drinking water supply where a rainwater systems has been installed.

All dual check valves irrespective of size are designed for a flow rate at a maximum head loss of 50kPa. Where an under size valve is installed the head loss will increase which may affect the performance of some downstream fittings, fixtures or appliances and their warranty. Whilst there are a number of manufacturers for these devices, it is apparent that at best, there design flow rate varies between $0.08\text{L/sec} = 4.8\text{L/min}$ to $0.15\text{L/sec} = 9\text{L/min}$ where this is exceeded the head loss across the valve increases.

Given the design flow rate of these valves they would suffice for the supply to either a toilet cistern or rain water tank top-up valve; however should they be used to supply multiple fittings, fixtures or appliances careful consideration should be given to the selection made. Contractors installing these valves should familiarise themselves with the minimum flow requirements of AS/NZS3500 Part 1 as specified in Table 3.1, to avoid potential water supply issues.

The following key sections ensure that the water service is adequately sized and meets the minimum flow and pressure requirements.

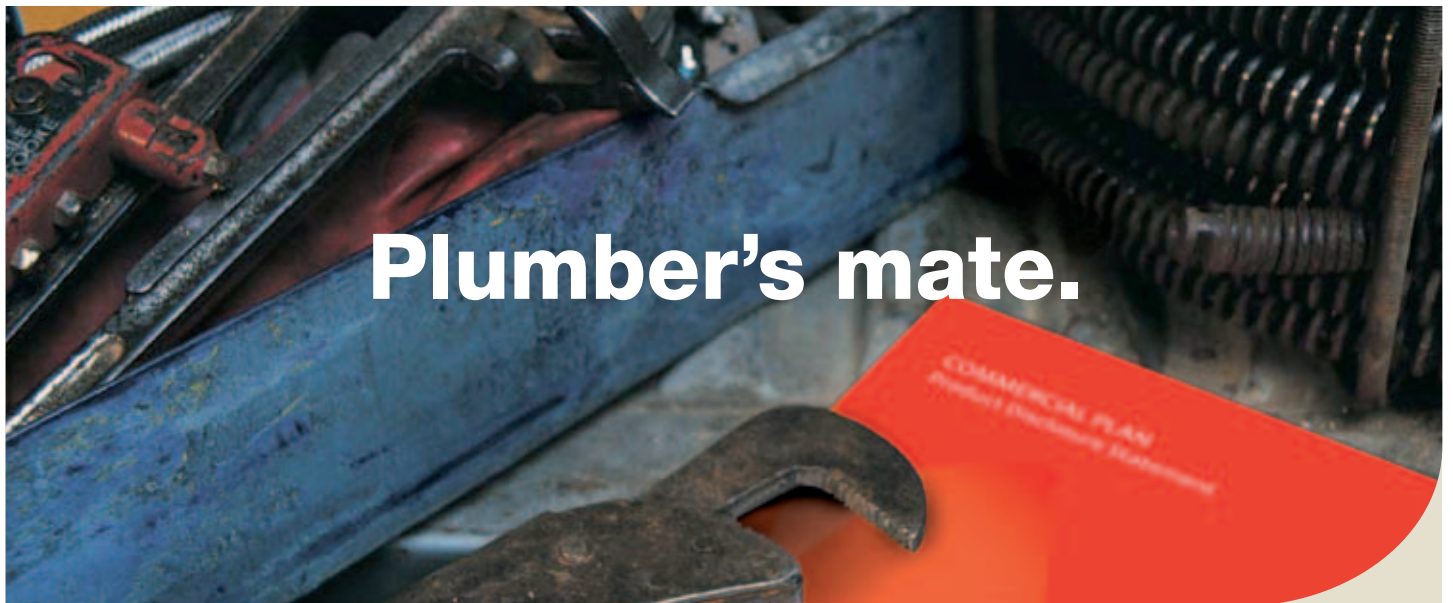
3.2.2 Loading units

Loading units are factors that take into account the flow rate, length of time in use, and frequency of use of the fixture or appliance.

When installed in a domestic situation, loading units for fixtures/appliances shall be as given in Table 3.1.


3.3.2 Pressure at outlets

The minimum working head at the furthestmost or most disadvantaged fixture or outlet shall not be less than 50 kPa (5m head), at the flow rate specified in Table 3.1.



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Plumbing Legends

Percy Priest Continued

PLUMBING INDUSTRY LEGENDS



Allan was no stranger to the industry when in December 1965, he joined the family business after successfully completing his Leaving Honours year (now year 12) at Norwood High School following his primary education at the former St Morris Primary School (now a retirement village!).

As a pre-school toddler, he had accompanied Ken on his rounds so often he could name the various tramlines then in use as they crossed them, and whilst still aged only two, they travelled together on a day trip to a job at Paratoo Homestead beyond the Broken Hill rail line. Later most years he assisted with stocktaking, worked during

many school holidays and, being at that time a keen photographer, recorded the progress of the erection of the Webbe Street building.

In 1968 he won the Master Plumbers' Association (MPA) Gold Medal and the Bronze Medallion at the Plumbing Trade School. In 1970 he received the Royal Society of Health Diploma for Public Health Inspection and represented SA in the Kembla and Iplex plumbing industry awards for final year apprentices (apprenticeships then lasted 5 years), generously provided through industry sponsorship and facilitated by key industry leaders.

The closeness of Ken and Allan's relationship grew even further and in 1978 Allan, who was already supervising most of the company's larger projects, was appointed Assistant Managing Director. Then in November 1980, aged 31, he became Managing Director.

Ken, whilst remaining Chairman of Directors, continued in a vital day-to-day support role through what were arguably some of the company's very best years until his formal retirement, aged nearly 75 years, in December 1990. During this period Allan also served for a time as an MPA Committee member.

The real estate boom of the late 1980's that followed the 1987 share market decline, dramatically increased the value of company's Webbe St property because of its close proximity to the centre of the Norwood shopping precinct.

This brought a steadily increasing level of initially unwelcome enquiries from potential purchasers but ultimately led to a sale being settled in June 1989. The same level of trust evidenced earlier between Ken and Percy was replicated between Allan and Ken as Allan negotiated the sale of the premises that so demonstrably represented Ken's life's work.

The move to the new purpose built facility at 41 Barnes Rd Glynde in December 1989, breathed new efficiencies and energy into the business

and the future looked bright. Indeed its new building was designed with an awareness that the business might endure into the fourth generation through at least one of Allan and Pam's three sons. But this was not to be.

Throughout its life the company's business success had been indisputably as much due to the high quality and longstanding loyalty of its staff (the twelve longest serving employees in the history of the company served for a total of 425 completed years - an average of over 35 years each!) as to the Priest family's own qualities.

The first few years of continuing successful operations at Glynde then led into a period during which the company suffered the loss in fairly quick succession through unforeseen serious illness, retirement and other causes of a significant proportion of its core and most experienced staff, presenting a new challenge.

At the time Allan initially saw this to have been more than a considerable inconvenience to be overcome as Priest's had for years been successfully training directly indentured apprentices and later participating in Group Apprenticeship Training with a view to ensuring ready in-house availability of a new generation of fine tradesmen.

But this loss of key staff also coincided with a period of significant industry change with the resulting climate increasingly advantaging sole traders, subcontractors and larger businesses able to fully harvest the resulting benefits of scale and this adversely impacted upon previous expectations.

Other challenges were flowing from the increasing use and diversity of more technologically advanced products and equipment, more onerous management responsibilities and processes related to work place safety and quality certification and changes in the prevailing regulatory environment.

The era of the multi-skilled do-everything high quality tradesperson working for wages in a mid-sized business that had previously been widespread was rapidly passing.

Contending with these challenges caused Allan to realise that continuing success demanded a radical rethink at a level requiring a complete reinvention of the business and that its longevity within his family would also inevitably be impacted by his sons' career choices.

Blessed with equally wonderful relationships with each of them that he had shared with his own father, he had told them from an early age "The



Plumbing Legends Percy Priest Continued

PLUMBING INDUSTRY LEGENDS



business will be available if that is your choice, but my advice is to first discover what you are good at and give it your very best shot. If that means you join the business - fantastic! But if not, then so be it."

By the late 1990's each had chosen and set in place alternative career directions. One even, after gaining his PhD at age 25, became a research scientist specialising in wet-ability at the nanoscopic level - an amusingly curious way to take his plumbing heritage into the next generation!

This mix of circumstances caused Allan several years of deep introspection and searching - the toughest of his life. From a child he had known an increasingly deep Christian faith that had found wonderful expression in his business experiences. But the challenges threatening continuance of the family's more than 70 years of proud plumbing heritage were impacting him very deeply.

Where, he anguished, was God in this? Humanly speaking, it seemed for at least three years that the best way forward would be to actively seek to sell to, or achieve amalgamation with, a suitable purchaser but every step he instigated towards achieving a sale always became thwarted in unexpected and surprising ways.

Then Priest's won the 1999 Messenger Press/BankSA/ETSA Eastern Region Small Business Trades & Services Award. What could this mean in the context in which it occurred?

Ultimately, despite the company never losing financial viability, Pam and Allan decided late in July 1999 to cease trading effective four weeks later as a faith response to an increasingly deeply sensed inner conviction that in part resulted from their awareness of the Biblical prophet Elisha being led to chop up his plough and sacrifice his ox in worship to God.

In almost every respect this action seemed outrageous. Certainly it represented ultimate humiliation through the loss of a wonderful family heritage. But from the moment of that decision, the flow of struggles that had commenced five years earlier immediately became miraculously and unexpectedly transformed into a flow of blessings.

Within 48 hours of the closure announcement being made to staff, a series of quite amazing beneficial 'chance' occurrences took place,



including one that led to the registered 'Priest Plumbers' name, client list and various other assets being sold to Hall and Baum.

This same faith step also activated a whole new journey that is its own story, one that ultimately led to Allan being appointed President of the Baptist Churches of SA from 2006 to 2009 and his continuing leadership as Board Chairman of Baptist Care (SA) Inc and as a Director of National Charitable Fund Baptist Financial Services Australia Ltd.

Perhaps, however, the Percy C Priest story is better completed using Ken's own words at the conclusion of his 1990 compilation of the company history, "We have been greatly honoured and privileged by our many and varied clientele over the years.

We have valued them all from the lowliest to the most titled and in all walks of life..... That this has been appreciated is shown by the fact that we have many second generation and even some third generation customers. We have often felt that some customers have treated us almost as a member of the family."



JB'S SOAP BOX

Plumbing Industry Matters 01/10/2010



Like many other plumbers of my vintage, the first trade school I attended was the "School of Mines" in the University of Adelaide grounds on Frome Road in the city. The principal was an ex army Colonel, George Tucker who, if I remember correctly, was fairly popular. I

finished my initial schooling at the Plumbing School on Grenfell Street, opposite what was then the East End Market. When the existing facility at Regency Park was opened the old school became "Tandanya," an Aboriginal Cultural Centre.

My memories of those early years consist heavily of leadwork wiping and bending with use of ladles, wiping cloths, bending "dummies" and mandrels. At the end of a school year, all (well most) of the students would take great delight in destroying their models! I eventually completed a two year course (at night) in Advanced Plumbing at Regency Park which is now I believe Certificate IV.

Many of the people I met along the way were mentors and shaped the way I viewed our industry. Trade school teachers such as Ralph Arny, Graham Cleghorn, Colin Leaves, David Furter, Murray Cugley, Dick Hewitson etc. and E&WS (now SA Water) Plumbing Inspectors John Blank, Doug White and Ray Rankine, who was to revolutionise plumbing in this state with the virtual abolition of gully traps, unnecessary venting and the two pipe system.

I travelled around Australia, the South Pacific and worked for 2½ years in WA, but had never travelled to Europe or the United States. In all this time I had laboured under the delusion that SA plumbing was up

there on the world stage with the best that the world could offer. How wrong and blinkered I was! Not that there was anything wrong with the workmanship or the plumbing codes and standards, simply the sheer number of choices of plumbing systems and materials available overseas.

In 1999, I was employed by a plumbing merchant as commercial estimator and I was fortunate to accompany him on a trip to Frankfurt Germany, to the Bi-Annual Plumbing Exhibition-ISH (International Sanitary & Heating Exhibition). It quite simply is enormous and mind-boggling! We were there for four days and didn't see it all! Not only were there endless quantities of mixers, tapware, sanitaryware, valves, fittings and tools, there were vast quantities of complete plumbing systems for hot and cold water, heating, sanitary drainage etc.

Most of the aforementioned materials have not been seen in Australia because our market is too small! What an eye-opener! On the way back we visited a town called Arona in Northern Italy, where a large percentage of the world's tapware is manufactured. One of the manufacturers showed us his large stock of brass billets of which a little was DZR Brass (different colour). He pointed out the DZR Brass and said that it was destined for Australia. The whole annual shipment was earmarked for two hours production!

So it appears that in SA, and maybe in the rest of Australia we have been suffering from **cultural arrogance**, there's a whole world outside of Australia and there is much to be gained from looking at the best and worst in the world and using that knowledge to our advantage.

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Fleet Advantage.... It's almost unfair!

Members who wish to move across from the Caltex deal organised through MPAQ are welcome to do so as the deal is 2.4 cents a litre better and the deal has been discussed with MPAQ who are interested in joining the partnership.

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"Fleet Advantage, it's almost unfair"



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PIA Report Card

This is a small sample of some of the activities the PIA has been involved with in 2010

Gas Technical Advisory Committee – 10th February

- New Energy Products Act being drafted that will deal with gas and electricity appliances.
- Safework Australia is drafting new safety regulations

Meeting with Minister O'Brien – 16th February

Update on the National Electric Heater Phase Out – Public and Industry Consultation Forum – 19th February

OCBA Meeting – 20th April

- PIA recommends that the meetings are held on a quarterly basis involving the same stakeholders
- PIA suggested these recommendations at the last meeting
- The latest change to the Solar Hot Water installations without any consultation
- DTEI / Federal training program
- MPAQ / QLD Govt have added a SHWS endorsement on the plumbing licence.
- Access to OCBA data base
- Licensing body for the future

DTEI Meeting – 28th April

- Working with DTEI to deliver a Solar HW and heat pump training course to the regional areas of SA. PIA and TAFE SA will work together to train the plumbers in SA with TAFE SA delivering to the metropolitan plumbers.

OAMPS Meeting – 11th May

- Discussed the Indemnity Insurance for work over \$12,000

Meeting QHSE (Quality, Health, Safety & Environment Integrated Solutions) – 19th May

- Discussed a model for the PIA Quality Approved Member (QAM) Program.

Launch of the Employment Broker Program (Blakes Crossing) – 21st May

Meeting with Work Cover – 3rd June

- Discussed the PIA QAM program and outlined how this program has the ability to retain historical data on the reduction on work injuries and rehabilitation costs.

World Plumbing Day Meeting (SA Water Building) – 3rd June

Meeting with DTEI – 4th June

- Discussed distributing a survey on the effectiveness of the DTEI website and the access to the relevant information on hot water systems etc. Survey was distributed Friday 2nd July.

Meeting with Keith Jasper (MBA SA) – 7th June

Meeting with SA Works Sub – Contractor Group – 11th

June

PIA QAM Meeting – 15th June

Meeting with Hon Michelle Lensink MLC (Deputy Leader in Legislative Council)

Shadow Minister of Consumer Affairs – 17th June

Mt. Gambier Regional Visit – 22nd June

Meeting with the Health Department – 25th June

- Discussed the issues surrounding legionella in hospitals and the required training mechanisms that need to be implemented.
- Discussed the PIA recommendations for the new regulator and licensing bodies

Plumbing Industry Reference Group Meeting (TAFE SA) – 29th June

- Key issues included the schedules for gasfitting, and plumbing for 2010 and the costs involved in attending these courses.

Meeting with the 'Plumbing Pathways in the North' committee – 1st July

MPA Meeting Brisbane – 16th July

Regional Visit to Barmera – 21st July

Northern Futures Evaluation – 23rd July

Meeting with Local Government Association – 26th July

OTR – Inspection of plumbing in regional areas. The PIA is lobbying for inspectors to be based throughout the state

PETAG Meeting – 5th August

Meeting with Work Cover SA (Rob Thompson) – 9th August

- Discussed the PIA QAM
- New CEO is looking to implement a new system in SA
- The CEO thought the program was a positive for the industry and he volunteered to meet with us to assist in the process.
- The program will help with levy discussions in the future, but without board approval there will be no firm commitment at this stage.

Gas Technical Advisory Committee – 10th August

- OTR activity report included;
 - 511 pro – active audits of residential and light commercial installations were completed
 - 30 warning letters for non – compliant work were issued to contractors as a result of the audits representing a 6% failure rate. These jobs are now being rectified.
 - 4 expiation notices were issued for serious non – compliances.
 - 25 pro – active heavy commercial & industrial audits were completed
 - 7 warning letters for non – compliant work were issued to owner / operators of gas installations where no gasfitters were involved. All work is now compliant.
 - 3 persons were referred to OCBA for carrying out gas installation work while unlicensed or working beyond the scope of their licence.

Meeting with DTEI – 11th August

- Discussed Star Rates – PIA need to be consulted in the future
- Discussed the problems associated with the new hot water legislation

CITB Combined Sectors Meeting – 11th August

Meeting with Commonwealth Bank – 12th August

Meeting with Boulderstone (Rory Sweeney) – 24th August and Hansen and Yuncken (Gary Burrows) – 26th August

- Discussed the PIA QAM program with the intention to gain support and guidance from two large building companies. Have a commitment from Boulderstone and Hansen and Yuncken to partake in the management committee.

Meeting with TAPS – 26th August

- Discussed the Skills Tracker Program
- Offered TAPS the opportunity to have their apprentices on the system.
- Discussed the PIA awards night with the opportunity to present two awards to their outstanding apprentices.

Meeting with David Coombe (SA Water) – 27th August

- Discussed the compliance of plumbing in the future, the number of inspectors, and the COC process.

Legal Matters

WHO HAS TO SIGN CERTIFICATES OF COMPLIANCE?

Who Has to Sign Certificates of Compliance?

The *Plumbers, Gas Fitters & Electricians Act* ("the Act") requires a person who is **carrying on business** as a plumbing contractor, to be **licensed**. The Act also requires any person who **performs plumbing work** to be **registered**.

The Sewerage Regulations requires the **licensed contractor** to sign a certificate of compliance and provide SA Water and the home owner with the completed certificate within 7 days of completion of the work. The Waterworks Regulations require the **licensed contractor or the registered plumber** to sign a certificate of compliance and provide SA Water and the home owner with the completed certificate within seven days of completion of the work.

Consequences of Bad Work

As well as the possibility of the owner taking legal action against the licenced contractor or the registered plumber, disciplinary action may be taken against any person who does plumbing work in the event that such work poses a risk to consumers.

Disciplinary action might result in:

- reprimands
- a maximum fine of \$20,000.00
- licence suspension or cancellation or imposition of licence conditions
- prohibition from being employed or engaged in a business providing plumbing services or from becoming the director of a company providing such services

Summary

Anyone who carries out plumbing work, whether for themselves, as an employee, as a registered plumber or as a licenced contractor, and whether they sign a certificate of compliance or not, is responsible for the quality of that work.

Anyone doing bad work or who doesn't provide a certificate of compliance or who provides an incorrect certificate of compliance, will face the possibility of legal action and/or disciplinary action.

On the other hand you should have nothing to worry about if you are licenced, registered, put your contract in writing, do the work properly and provide a completed certificate of compliance.

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