



World Plumbing Council Concludes International Conference

The World Plumbing Council (WPC) recently concluded its 9th Triennial Conference, September 7-11 2011, in Edinburgh, Scotland. Conference host the Scottish and Northern Ireland Plumbing Employers Federation (SNIPEF) reports that 363 registered delegates and companions attended.

The WPC held its business meeting on Wednesday, September 7th, with a full agenda addressing issues including the WPC's ongoing relationship with the World Health Organization (WHO), continued support of the World Skills Plumbing Competition and a new agreement to be signed October 2nd with the World Green Building Council.

The business meeting concluded with the election of the 2011-13 WPC Executive Board. GP Russ Chaney, CEO of The IAPMO Group, United States, is the new chairman and Sudhakaran Nair, Indian Plumbing Association (IPA), India, is the deputy chairman.

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New Chair appointed to the ABCB

Minister Carr announced the appointment of the Hon John Thwaites as the new chair of the Australian Building Codes Board on 4th November 2011.

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WELSAG

The WELS Advisory Group met in Melbourne on 26th October 2011 and as the stakeholder advisory group to the WELS scheme, with representative membership from across a range of industry sectors and consumers, finalised the collective views on the WELS strategic plan (2012-15) which is to be considered by Standing Council in November 2011 and the joint governments' final response to the independent review. When the outcomes are finalised, they will be made available to members.

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[PPI Group Calendar of meetings, click here.](#)

Workforce Education News - Issue 6/2011

For employers:

- some advice for employers
- taking the sting out of super calculations
- common mistakes made by employers

For employees:

- save money - keep track of your super
- pre-filing equals easier and more accurate tax returns
- do not pay more tax than you need to

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The use of Bonding Straps

The use of Bonding Straps to prevent electrocution or electric shock when plumbers are going about their daily chores has been covered in the past. Still these incidents keep happening not only to plumbers but electricians and others in the building and maintenance industry.

The method of overcoming stray electrical currents and gas piping is covered in Australian Standard 5601-2004 (2.11.4) that promotes the use of a metallic bridging device commonly known as a Bonding Strap.

AS3500.1-2003 also describes the use of Bonding Straps and that they should have an electrical current rating of not less than 70 amps.

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Compliance Certificates - Plumbing Industry Commission, Victoria

Licensed plumbing practitioners self-certify their plumbing work by issuing Compliance Certificates. Issuing a Compliance Certificate means that you, the licensed plumbing practitioner, certify that your work complies with all relevant regulatory requirements. Only licensed plumbing practitioners may purchase and issue Compliance Certificates.

Registered plumbing practitioners are not able to issue Compliance Certificates and must either work under the supervision of a licensed practitioner or limit themselves to plumbing work that does not require a Compliance Certificate.

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Upcoming Events

**8 November 2011,
Heythrop Park, Oxfordshire
UK**

Bathroom Industry Charity
Golf Day

www.bathroom-association.org

**9-11 November 2011,
Rotorua, NZ**

NZ Annual Conference &
Expo

www.waternz.org.nz

**9 November 2011,
Enstone, Oxfordshire UK**

Annual Bathroom
Conference

www.bathroom-association.org

**9-12 November 2011,
New Orleans, USA**

ASSE 2011 Annual Meeting

www.asse-plumbing.org

**14-16 November 2011,
Sydney, Australia**

AIRAH's Building Simulation
2011

www.airah.org.au

**30 April - 2 May 2012,
Silver Legacy Resort,
Reno, Nevada, USA**

2012 ABPA Education
Conference & Trade Show

www.abpa.org

**1-2 May 2012,
Washington, D.C. USA**

International Emerging
Technology Symposium
2012

www.worldplumbing.org

Plumbing Products Industry Group

PO Box 2466
Werribee Vic 3030
Phone: 03 9742 8805
03 9742 8815

Plumbing Industry Training Awards - Open 1 September to 15 December 2011

The Plumbing Industry Commission is pleased to announce that the entries for the 2012 Plumbing Industry Training Awards (PITAs) are now open. The Awards recognise and reward Licensed and Registered Plumbing Practitioners who have contributed to their professional development by participating in industry-related training and development during the past 12 months.

You are encouraged to nominate a practitioner (it can be yourself) whose further training is a good example to others of what is available in the plumbing industry. In addition to industry recognition, each of the category winners will receive a valuable prize and an award to commemorate the achievement.

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Drainage Inspections

To ensure that below ground sanitary drainage work meets the relevant regulations, standards and codes, PIC conduct random inspections of plumbing work conducted on below ground sanitary drains. Each year a minimum of five per cent of all below ground drainage inspections are randomly chosen for inspection.

You, the licensed plumbing practitioner, must book an inspection for all below ground drainage work, regardless of the cost, for the construction, installation or alteration of any below ground drain or associated gully.

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Holding onto Gen Y

No matter where you come from, the division between the generations seems to be growing. What can plumbers do to stop this gulf from widening?

From an employer's perspective, the ambitious, technology-savvy, individualistic and head-strong 'Generation Y' (born 1980-1994) can be intimidating. However, they are likely to be the future of your business, so a well-rounded understanding of their characteristics can help break down the communication barriers and maximise your collaboration.

With such different minds, it's not surprising that intergenerational working relationships can be a challenge. That is why Youth Connect, a not-for-profit, community focused organisation was hatched. By providing young people with skills, the team aims to support Gen Y in their journey from education to employment, and through forging relationships with members of various industries, the organisation helps employers attract and retain young employees.

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Standards Australia Updates

Recently Published Standards:

AS/NZS 4087 Metallic flanges for waterworks purposes

AS/NZS 2638.1 Gate valves for waterworks purposes - Part 1:
Metal seated

AS/NZS 2638.2 Gate valves for waterworks purposes - Part 2:
Resilient seated

AS 4795.1 Butterfly valves for waterworks purposes - Part 1:
Water and lugged

ATS 5200.501 Technical Specification for plumbing and
drainage products - Part 501: Anti-infiltration overflow-relief
device

AS/NZS 2041.1 Buried corrugated metal structures - Part 1:
Design methods

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BCA Energy Efficiency Provision Handbooks

The Australian Building Codes Board (ABCB) has introduced two new handbooks related to the energy efficiency provisions of BCA 2010. Both, as linked below, are available to download from the ABCB website.

- [Energy Efficiency Provisions for Electricians and Plumbers](#)
- [BCA Section J - Assessment and Verification of an Alternative Solution](#)

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