



Backflow Group
WATER NEW ZEALAND

Backflow Group Newsletter

The Water New Zealand Backflow Group quarterly e-Newsletter

Kia Ora! To paraphrase the great Chuck Dickens: "It was the best of times, it was the worst of times. Well mainly the worst of times, to be honest...." And so, Covid continues to rampage through Aotearoa New Zealand to the point where we are actively hate it now. Before it was just an annoyance like wasps, sand flies or that person that mows their lawns at 7am on a Sunday morning, but now it's something else.

The committee is meeting every couple of months via online and hope to have a few face-to-face meetings during the year, especially as we will be starting to organise the 2023 conference and all the changes to the water industry coming.

Power and Water Mixer

It is a great idea to mix both electricity and water? Should Benjamin Franklin have been standing in a puddle while flying his kite with a key attached to it? Apparently, the answer is a resounding "no".

This set up had an RPZ right next to a power plinth and when the RPZ began to dump out the volume of water, splashing onto the parched soil, it began to overwhelm the base of the plinth and creep inside. The resulting fire was not very big but there was an almighty bang as the electrics shorted out.

So, I guess the lesson here is when positioning an RPZ, be mindful of just where that water will run if it cannot immediately get to a drain. Otherwise you may soon be meeting Benjamin Franklin in person.



WHAT'S NEW

POWER AND WATER
MIXER

SPOTLIGHT – GLEN
BURR

GROUP WORKPLAN
UPDATE

UPCOMING EVENT

MESSAGE FROM THE
CHAIR

SPOTLIGHT – GLEN BURR



Glen was born in Auckland and is a proud Jafa. The son of a plumber, he naturally gravitated towards the trade, completing his apprenticeship by working for DH Wright. Not long after this he started his own business and completed his Craftsman exams in Plumbing, Drainlaying, Gasfitting. From there he made the logical step to train for Backflow testing, becoming IQP registered and has held the qualification for nearly 25 years. It is in Backflow Prevention that Glen found his true passion in the trade, with this becoming an everyday item for him and his company, Wet N Wild Plumbing. This passion stems from the fact that he loves testing valves and doubly so because they are so important in protecting our most valuable natural asset; Water.

Early on, Glen discovered that the passion he had for the trade gave him an extra calling in life; to pass this on through training and education. He created two courses for the old Plumbers, Gasfitters and Drainlayers Board CPD program, which were offered free of charge to practitioners who came to NZPGDA events. He then moved onto the development of the Plumbing, Drainlaying and Gasfitting qualifications through Skills NZ and learned a lot from this experience. Later he was approached by Building Networks to run refresher courses for IQPs, notably as the average IQP can sometimes be overwhelmed from forms, red tape and being caught between Compliance companies and the Council. These were a great hit amongst practitioners because they were being taught by a fellow IQP person. In return Glen got a great buzz from seeing others learning, sharing ideas and building on their knowledge. Glen has stated that what makes him happy is to motivate others to complete their qualifications and to know that he has contributed to that. Training a new generation of competent and passionate testers is very important to him and he has just recently completed his Graduate Diploma in Tertiary Teaching which has helped him in both his teaching space and personal space.

His list of credentials is impressive: He is President of NZPGDB. He provides a Backflow IQP Registration course approved by WIPA, focused on helping Backflow IQPs navigate the minefield of forms, procedures and responsibilities for Auckland Council. He's a technical committee member of Association for Building Compliance for backflows and runs refresher courses for them. He is also a proud member of the Water New Zealand Backflow Group.

In his spare time (which given his work commitments, is very little!) he likes to hand out with this family and when he gets a long weekend he is often found at the family bach in Mangawahi. He also loves flying drones for recreation and taking photos where possible of our great country. If you are ever in Mangawahi and see a drone overhead, don't forget to wave to Glen.

Group Workplan Update

1. WS-014 / WS-023

Both Wayne Shields and Richard Aitken are inputting into these Committees along with our BPAA colleagues. Some of the key factors will be ensuring joint standards are reflective of the current market and making sure that a consistent approach is applied on both sides of the Tasman.

2. G12 Update

The group will be working with MBIE to go through proposed changes to G12 to be reflective of the current state of backflow prevention and in doing so make it more coordinated with the new Water Services Bill.

3. Backflow Training

Mumtaz Parker from Water New Zealand has picked the brains of the group (she had to use a magnifying glass on most us) to put together an entry level understanding of backflow prevention that can be used for staff training. Water New Zealand will launch Backflow 101 around mid-April.

4. Code of Practice

The Backflow CoP remains in a holding pattern until the Backflow Rules are finalized. The existing CoP has been updated to reflect the new Legislation.

5. Survey Unit Standards

A big part of the new regime will focus on property surveys to ensure that cross connections are addressed. Getting a properly accredited survey programme will be a challenge and survey experts Richard Aitken and Jon Lewis will be driving this forward.

6. Backflow Rules

The Rules laid down by Taumata Arowai are still in draft form and will need to be finalized. These Rules will underpin everything that the new Bill is trying to accomplish with regard to backflow prevention so we must make sure they are fair, effective and robust.

Upcoming Event

On 31st May at 11am there will be a webinar on Backflow Rules. Jim McGibbon, Brian Brown, Paul van den Berg will be joined by Taumata Arowai's Jim Graham in the first webinar run by the Backflow Group. To register click [here](#)

Update from the Chair

Paul van den Berg (Chair)

Kia ora and Hello Everyone,

The first few months of the year have raced by and everyone we talk to has a lot going on. This is true for the Backflow Group as well. We have just had another meeting online.

A lot of discussion is happening around backflow issues for water tanks – cross-connection management, alternate sources, testing on-site devices, surveys, standards and training. The Workplan sub-groups are working through the challenges and everyone is making steady progress.

There is a lot of work happening with Three Waters, Taumata Arowai and the Building Code/MBIE around new rules, regulation and legislation. I have no doubt this will require more submissions and conversations. Changes are certain for the industry.

One other item on our agenda will be next year's conference. A sub-committee will start organising this soon and we look forward to keeping you informed as details are confirmed.

We are hoping that the next meeting can be face to face, in some form or another as it has been a long time working on screens.

If you have any discussions or articles you would like included, please let us know. You can email Jim at jim.mcgibbon@water.co.nz or Katrina at Katrina.guy@waternz.org.nz with any submissions, questions or comments.

Nga mihi, Noho ora mai, | Kind regards

Paul van den Berg



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