

# Flow Back



Newsletter from the Backflow Group

Issue 13, December 2014



**Backflow Group**

WATER NEW ZEALAND

The Backflow Group of Water New Zealand are looking to produce a monthly newsletter for you, the members – to keep you involved and informed on what is happening in the industry and the activities of the Backflow Group. For more information about the Backflow Group follow this link: <http://www.waternz.org.nz/backflow>

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## Take Note:

As the holiday season sets upon us some people may have too much time on their hands and could look to get creative in how to save money. Water theft is made easier when the bypass meters do not have locked ball valves. Water theft is certainly evident as recently noted by a Whangarei District Council staff member who sent us in the photo below. Theft of backflow devices and theft of the internals of backflow devices (as seen below) is also evident. The tester turned up to do the test only to learn the internals had been stolen. There are devices now being manufactured with black coating to make them less desirable for thieves.



## Season Greetings

The committee would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. We look forward to making further progress next year and hope to see you all at the April Training Seminar to update you on things like the survey standard, ABT register and our involvement with AS/NZS.



## Social Media

The Backflow SIG are now on Facebook and LinkedIn. If you haven't joined these groups already please do so now. The committee looks forward to the discussions the members will create through these channels.



[Facebook](#)



[LinkedIn](#)

Please note: you will need to be logged in to view the Facebook page.



**Approved Backflow Tester (ABT) register update**

A number of years ago, Water New Zealand Backflow Group started to set up a National Register for Backflow testers to move to a National system away from the current Building industry IQP system. Further work was undertaken with participation on the DBH “National IQP Working Group”, which managed to establish the framework for this to happen but funding was withdrawn as it reached roll out, we intend to take the work completed for the backflow component of this and push for the “Nationalisation of the Backflow Component of the IQP Framework”

This approach was to remove the need for an IQP to register with each Local Authority registration scheme, this is seen as a ‘cash cow’ for Local Authorities which drains further funds from the Building Industry and adds to the ever growing cost for testers to stay in business. Under the current registration system, a backflow tester can pay up to \$700 per year to be registered with each TA system, yet that tester is trained to a nationally recognised, NZQA registered module so should be able to test anywhere in New Zealand.

We are therefore going to revisit the National ABT registration system and make this an integral part of our draft work plan for 2015, part of our proposal is that this could be managed by Water New Zealand. It is proposed that the annual registration fee would be around \$30 and by being on the register, people can obtain a qualified tester no matter where in the country they are to test a device.

To be accepted on to the register, a tester would have to provide training competency from a recognised training provider which would also include any up skilling taken, provide evidence of calibration of their test gauge and confirm they have the required insurance as well as meeting the acceptance criteria.

Far too often, current registering organisations accept levels of expertise from testers that are years old and where testers have completed no up skilling. The health of our community is too important to let unskilled practitioners loose on devices that are intended to protect the potable water.

To support the development of a National backflow tester register contact [Amy Aldrich](#) at Water New Zealand.

### **For your information:**

The Water New Zealand Backflow Special Interest Group has had a slight name change and will now be referred to as the Water New Zealand Backflow Group.

## Backflow Training Seminar 2015

The Water New Zealand Backflow Training Seminar will be held 23rd-24th of April at the Mercure Resort in Queenstown. The Backflow Group committee are currently putting together a programme involving sessions, CPD points and an awards dinner.

A draft programme is available on the website. Registrations for the training seminar are now **open**.

[Visit the website for more information.](#)

## 2014/2015 Backflow Committee

The Committee are available to assist with all things backflow, find their contact details below. Alternatively contact the Water NZ Group Liaison Amy Aldrich for assistance: P: 04 495 0894 E: [amy.aldrich@waternz.org.nz](mailto:amy.aldrich@waternz.org.nz)

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**Do you have any queries? We would love to hear from you!**

Post a topic on the Backflow page of the Water New Zealand Forum  
<http://forum.waternz.org.nz>

**OR**

Email the Group Liaison Amy Aldrich  
[amy.aldrich@waternz.org.nz](mailto:amy.aldrich@waternz.org.nz)