

FLOW BACK

Newsletter from the Backflow Group

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/backflowprevention.html>

A word from the Chairman – Richard Aitken

Welcome to 2010, a year that is going to define the backflow Industry for years to come. With the upcoming IQP National register and Standard for Testing to create, this year is pivotal in the further development of the Back Flow Industry. I look forward to engaging with you all as we pave the way forward.

Richard Aitken



Your committee: (From right to left) Kevin Healy, Diana Staveley, Richard Aitken, Hannah Dawson, Graeme Mills and Aaron Buckley

Projects update – Diana Staveley

Standards

Possibly the biggest thing in backflow for a long time a New Zealand National Standard is being developed to replace AS/NZS 2845 parts 2&3. Brought about by the changes to the testing procedure in part 3 wanted by the Aussies, which differ considerably from the new Unit Standards being taught here. With Part 2 for Air Gaps this never aligned to the minimum air gap in G12. So if you get as excited about standards as we do and want to be involved please post a comment on the web forum above or contact me directly.

IQP

Another huge leap forward for backflow will be the formation of a national register for IQPs. The Backflow Group has been lobbying the DBH to set the standard for the backflow industry and to manage the register for backflow IQPs. As with the Standard please add your support where possible.

Publications co-ordinator – Aaron Buckley

With a newly structured committee for 2010, the Backflow Group of Water New Zealand will be keeping people up to date with articles in all the main publications in our industry. It is important to let people know what is happening and to make them aware of any changes or events coming up. All of the key industry publications have been contacted and are very excited at having our committee submit articles to them. Several topics have already been chosen for our first few editorials, however should anyone feel they would like anything covered please post a comment on our forum or contact me directly.

Training and Education – Kevin Healy

The Plumbers Distributors Association (PDA) will be having a road show expo, while the dates are still to be finalised, the Backflow Group will be having a stand.

Regional Forums are in the planning stages for Southland, Greymouth, Palmerston North, Napier/Hastings, Hamilton and Whangarei. These will be held in conjunction with Master Plumbers and the local inspectors from councils and water engineers will be invited along as well. Once Master Plumbers have informed us of these dates we will be able to start organising.

Keep an eye out in the future newsletters and on the Backflow webpage for more information.

Conference – Graeme Mills

The backflow group held a successful conference late last year in Wellington in November. The participant feedback survey gave some valuable information to your committee and we are encouraged by the results. It is acknowledged that there are improvements that can be made.

No conference is planned for 2010 and will be looking to hold another conference in 2011. Preliminary planning is under way with two locations being considered, Nelson and Invercargill. Consideration is also being given to a partner/spouse program for the Saturday. Dates will be similar to the 2009 conference in late October early November 2011.

However, we are investigating making short presentations/workshops to other industry conferences. Groups like Ingenium, NZ institute of Architects, BOINZ and Master Plumbers to name a few. Further updates will be provided once approval has been given by the WNZ Board.



If you would like to put forward an agenda item for the next committee meeting or have any queries please contact the SIG liaison Hannah Dawson on hannah.dawson@waternz.org.nz