

# Flow Back

Newsletter from the Backflow Group

Issue 11, February 2014



**Backflow**

WATER NEW ZEALAND | SPECIAL INTEREST 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>

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## A Word from the Chairman

Welcome to 2014 and to what is shaping up to be a watershed year for the Backflow SIG, with several important projects underway including the survey standard and revisit of a national important register (back flow).

I encourage everyone who is part of the group to participate in the future of the industry, having a voice makes a difference.

## Survey Standard

Following on from the [New Zealand Industry Standard for Field testing of backflow prevention devices and verification of air gaps](#) the committee has commenced with the development of a survey standard which is the final document around the installation, locating and testing of Backflow devices. The committee believes the survey standard to be of the highest importance as it will ensure correct backflow devices in the correct locations. The project group is liaising with BOINZ, Master Plumbers, DBH to name but a few to ensure that all industry stakeholders participate in this very important document.

## Conference 2015

Conference 2015: whilst we are still searching for a suitable venue planning is underway for the 2015 Conference in Christchurch. Please lock in 16-17 April 2015 in Christchurch. The committee are planning an exciting and informative event with the programme to be revealed. The conference committee would like your input into what you would like to see at the conference please send any suggestions to [amy.aldrich@waternz.org.nz](mailto:amy.aldrich@waternz.org.nz).

## 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.

## Code of Practice Update

In 2013 the Backflow Committee updated the Code of Practice.

View the updated Code of Practice [here!](#)

## Chemigation

At the last committee meeting chemigation was discussed thoroughly with the committee concerned about the non-compliant use of chemigators in and around the rural sectors. These are in effect a single check with an alarm. The concern of the committee is that these devices will allow contaminated water backflowing into the aquifer and it could take up to 50 years for this to show, when it is too late. We are actively investigating the legalities of the use and installation of currently non-compliant single check backflow devices known as chemigation valves.



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

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

or email the SIG Liaison  
[amy.aldrich@waternz.org.nz](mailto:amy.aldrich@waternz.org.nz)

## “Tech Tip”

### Detector Assembly Testing

Please be mindful that not all backflow manufactures design their detector assembly valves the same. Some choose to change the second check of the main valve to a higher spring tension while others change the first check. Some even modify the springs in the bypass assembly backflow to encourage low flows through it. When it comes to an RPZ DA, in order to prove the bypass is operating as intended it may be necessary to test the differential across the second check of both valves. This is not an RPZ test procedure requirement that our local testers will be familiar with. However, it is important to record and calculate it for the total sum differential across each valve. The total sum of the bypass valve must be lower than the total sum of the main valve. It is considered that an approx 20kpa total sum differential between the two valves is satisfactory. Test reports that don't produce such readings should be highlighted to your TA and the valve considered non-compliant.

### Committee Nominations

2014 sees the committee re-election timed to match the implementation of the draft work plan. Keep an eye on your inbox for more information.

View the Backflow SIG draft Work Plan [here](#).

## Introducing Committee Member..

### Aaron Buckley



I am a plumber by trade and sat my apprenticeship from 1995-1998, working mainly on new housing and light commercial.

Having lived in the UK for 4 years intermittently, I returned to NZ permanently and decided to get into the sales side of the industry. I spent 5 years as a Technical representative at Hydroflow Distributors focusing primarily on backflow prevention.

I was involved with the NZWWA Backflow SIG Group in 2009-10. I am also an IQP but not actively testing. I currently work for Reliance Worldwide and am involved in various areas of training in the plumbing industry.