

# Flow Back

Newsletter from the Backflow Group

Issue 4 October 2010

The Backflow Group of Water New Zealand are producing a bi-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: [www.waternz.org.nz/backflowprevention.html](http://www.waternz.org.nz/backflowprevention.html)

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## A word from the

### Chairman – Richard Aitken

From the AGM report held in Christchurch last month: Looking over the past year has been rewarding to see the progress made, it has been a mix of great success but also unfulfilled opportunities which the whole industry needs to reflect on, and ensure that the appropriate changes are made to continue the huge momentum gained over the last years. So I would like to welcome the new committee members onto the Backflow Group and look forward to working with you in the year ahead.

Richard Aitken



## Projects Update

– Diana Staveley

### Standards

The NZ Standard: field testing of testable backflow devices and verification of air gaps is ready for submission to NZ Standards. The document is very professional looking thanks to Eric Palmer. The content is up to date with inclusion of new device test methods for 5 valve test kits and spill resistant vacuum breaker. The inclusion and simplification of air gap verification with the field test of devices makes this standard more user friendly. The document is factually correct with the test methods being fully scrutinised by the training providers and the field checked. Currently we are waiting on funding applications to be able to proceed with lodgement with Standards New Zealand.

### IQP

The IQP entry criteria and representation is progressing slowly at a national level with the 30<sup>th</sup> of November deadline looming.

### Thank you to all those helping out on the various sub-groups:

Barry Beaurain  
Brendon Harkness  
Eric Palmer  
Nick Fleckney  
Murray Ellis  
Jono East  
Geoff Swainson  
Ray Galt  
Jonathan Mackay  
Derek Staines  
Fiona Gavriel  
Andrew Venmore  
Stewart Weddell  
George Little  
Jon Lewis  
Hugh Roscoe  
Arch Murray

## The Backflow Management Committee:

From left: Kevin Healy (Reliance Worldwide, Auckland), Diana Staveley (AWT Water, Auckland), Chairman: Richard Aitken (All About Plumbing, Christchurch), Hannah Dawson (SIG liaison - Water New Zealand, Wellington), Graeme Mills (Tauranga City Council, Tauranga), Aaron Buckley (Hydroflow, Christchurch).

## Publications co-ordinator

### – Aaron Buckley

Watch out for an article on Backflow in The Plumbers Journal this month on the importance of hydraulic design and surveying. The purpose of the publications roles on this committee is to get knowledge out to the industry and write up relevant articles on topics of interest across the board. We are always looking for ideas, so please contact us if you would like to contribute in any way.

## Conference

### – Graeme Mills

The committee decided that they would not hold a conference in 2010 but would look to hold one in 2011. This was initially proposed for November but due to the Rugby World Cup and the Annual Water New Zealand conference being held in November the committee has decided to move it to the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> of June 2011 in Nelson at the Rutherford Hotel. The programme is currently being drafted with a possible political keynote speaker. Other speakers are of a high quality and from areas of interest i.e. Auckland Super City and Environment Canterbury. Considering the current economic climate, we will be keeping the registration cost to a minimum.

#### 2011 Backflow Conference

The 2011 Backflow Conference will be held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> of June at the Rutherford Hotel in Nelson. So watch this space for more information to come.

## 2010 Backflow AGM

Thank you and welcome to those who indicated their interest in being apart of the Backflow Committee: Barry Beaurain, Brendan Harkness, Jonathan Lewis, Logan MacDonald, Nick Fleckney, Craig Bowie and Richard Aitken. The SIG Liaison, Hannah Dawson will get in touch with you on how you can help the group.

#### 2010 Backflow AGM Notice

The Committee held their 2010 backflow AGM on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of September at 3.30pm at the Christchurch Convention Centre. You can go to the Backflow Webpage for a copy of the AGM minutes.

**Diana Staveley was the recipient for the Water New Zealand Backflow Group Appreciation Award, for her service as a member on the Backflow Committee. The group would like to express their thanks to Diana for all her efforts over the last few years and wish her well with the move to Whangarei ☺**

## Training and Education

### – Kevin Healy

Several successful regional meetings have been held around the country this year including: Hokitika, Palmerston North and most recently Whangarei which had a very good turnout with Water Engineers, Inspectors and Drinking Water Assessors attending the meeting. Plans are underway for regional meetings to be held after Christmas in Auckland and Hamilton at this stage. Watch the Backflow webpage or Web Forum for more detail on this coming soon!

### 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  
[hannah.dawson@waternz.org.nz](mailto:hannah.dawson@waternz.org.nz)

#### COMPETITION:

**We want to see the worst installation you have seen! Send in your photo and be in to win a prize or the booby prize!**

Email the Group Liaison with your photo!  
[hannah.dawson@waternz.org.nz](mailto:hannah.dawson@waternz.org.nz)



Here is a picture of an interesting installation here in South Auckland. Picture supplied by Robb Stobie



This one is un-testable because it is almost touching the ceiling. No room for test nipples let alone test gauge hoses. Attached to this illegal installation were the test results for this RPZ as follows:  
1<sup>st</sup> check = 1.5kPa. 2<sup>nd</sup> check = 1.4kPa. 3<sup>rd</sup> check = 0.5kPa  
Mains pressure 496kPa. Go figure...the IQP who is the boss tested it himself. Picture supplied by Craig Bowie



This RPZ had to be dug up before we could find the top of it. No 300mm clearance from the relief valve, the relief is still underground. This installation includes the meter, then a double check, then an RPZ all in one line.

Picture supplied by Craig Bowie.

**Send in your pictures to the SIG Liaison!**