

# Flow Back

Newsletter from the Backflow Group

Issue 7, October 2011

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: [www.waternz.org.nz/backflowprevention.html](http://www.waternz.org.nz/backflowprevention.html)

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## A word from the Chairman – Nick Fleckney

Well we are fast approaching the end of another busy but rewarding year for the Backflow Group with many projects on the go and a successful conference in Nelson earlier this year.

At the time this newsletter goes to print the *New Zealand Industry Standard Field*

*testing of Backflow Prevention Devices and Verification of Air Gaps* will have been gazetted through the Department of Building and Housing with the document ready to be referenced in G12 as the source document for Field Testing in New Zealand. This standard was the outcome of a lot of hard work by the committee in 2010-2011. I would like to thank everyone involved.

The committee is also in the process of updating the Code of Practice and developing a short course around Backflow awareness and compliance. It is intended for this course to be rolled out nationwide.

Lastly I would like to welcome the new committee members and thank outgoing committee members for all their input into the group.

## 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)

## 2011 Backflow AGM

The Backflow AGM was held on the 4<sup>th</sup> June at the Backflow Conference in Nelson. The minutes from the AGM are available on the backflow webpage.

### The 2011 Backflow Committee:

Chair: Nick Fleckney,  
Diana Staveley,  
George Little,  
Graeme Mills,  
Jon Lewis,  
Kevin Healy,  
Logan MacDonald,  
Murray Cockburn,  
Richard Aitken,  
Wayne Shields



## The Backflow Management Committee:

From left: Logan MacDonald (MacDonald Industries Limited, Auckland), Jon Lewis (Backflow Prevention Ltd, Rotorua), Chairman: Nick Fleckney (Manukau Institute of Technology, Auckland), Murray Cockburn (M Cockburn Plumbing, Auckland), Kevin Healy (Reliance Worldwide Ltd, Auckland), Graeme Mills (Tauranga City Council, Tauranga), Wayne Shields (Hydroflow Distributors, Auckland)  
Absent: Richard Aitken (All About Plumbing, Christchurch), Diana Staveley (Whangarei District Council), George Little (Auckland Council)

**COMPETITION:**

We asked for pictures of the worst installations you have seen. The Competition has been extended.



Picture supplied Arch Murray

Entries Close October 30 2011  
Send your entries to:  
[amy.aldrich@waternz.org.nz](mailto:amy.aldrich@waternz.org.nz)

## 2013 Conference

- Graeme Mills

The conference 2011 at Nelson was a success with a wide variety of presenters and topics. Some of these were relevant and some not so. The Conference assessment forms returned by delegates did provide information that can be used to enhance future conferences however; the number of returns was small.

We are now starting to plan for Conference 2013 and Auckland has been chosen as the location. There are many options in respect to venues and there is a strong preference for a venue close to the airport. Again, we will be looking to provide a program that suits the cross section of our industry so if you have a specific topic or subject you feel would be on interest to the wider backflow industry, pass this through to the Backflow SIG for consideration.

We will be seriously considering having an International speaker but this will depend on sponsorship and budget. The economy is tight and we have to take this into account when planning Conference 2013.

Mark the date in your diary now - Friday 22nd and Saturday 23rd March 2013 and set some funds aside into your budget.

## Backflow Testing Industry Standard – September 2011 Update

To view the Backflow Testing Industry Standard update and test reports visit the Water New Zealand Backflow page.

[http://www.waternz.org.nz/backflow\\_testing\\_industry\\_standard.html](http://www.waternz.org.nz/backflow_testing_industry_standard.html)



Left: Kevin Healy awarded Golden Tap award  
Below left to right: Brad Winkel awarded highest achiever in Backflow Testers course, Murray Cockburn awarded Golden Tap award, Murray Ellis awarded Golden Tap award



### Flow for thought...

A gentleman named Alexander Allen Allowishus has called with a dilemma. He has a tank sitting on the ground level with the pump that is 5.8m tall and filled with water. The tank volume is kept at a constant 5.8m level with a modulating float valve. At the bottom of the tank, he has a line coming out to which he has attached a 25mm RPZ. 1.5m downstream of the RPZ, he has a booster pump installed in order to push water up a hill to the point of use. The problem he is incurring is that he just can't get any water through the pump.

*In this case, at the bottom of the tank, a pressure of 56.75 Kpa is exhibited. The minimum cracking pressure for his RPZ is approx 82.74 Kpa. He does not have sufficient pressure to open the RPZ. In this application, he needs to move the RPZ downstream of the booster pump so that he is pushing water through the RPZ.*

A gentleman by the name of Dr. Dentin Molar, DDS, has called with a problem he is experiencing with his 15mm RPZ device. He recently had the assembly installed on a dental chair in his new office. His complaint is that every time his hygienist, Ms. Amalgamella Capps, uses the rest room and flushes the toilet, the RPZ discharges water through the relief valve. Dr. Molar feels that the RP is defective and he wants to have it replaced.

*In this case, any use of water, in advance of the RP, will cause a drop of system pressure. To the RP, this is a backflow condition and Relief Valve discharge is normal and to be expected. There is nothing wrong with the RP. In order to correct the situation, a soft-seated, spring-loaded check valve should be installed in advance of the RP. When Ms. Capps flushes a toilet and causes a drop of system pressure, the check valve will close tight. This will prevent the RP from sensing the drop of pressure, and discharge will not occur.*