

Plumber of the Year and Plumbing Business of the Year 2006

Congratulations to **Jim Rando** of Charter Plumbing and Gas. Jim won the 2006 Plumber of the Year award in recognition of his exceptional skills and workmanship along with high levels of reliability and commendable customer focus.

Congratulations also to **Kelly's Hot Water, Gas and Air** winner of the 2006 Plumbing Business of the Year award. Kelly's Hot Water, Gas and Air won this award in recognition of their: customer service quality; compliance with regulatory requirements; commitment to training and development; high standards of workmanship; and general practices and/or community involvement.

Both Plumber of the Year and Plumbing Business of the Year received a luxury holiday prize package for two people to Hamilton Island, valued in excess of \$2,500.

Both were presented their awards by the Hon Norm Marlborough MLA, Minister for Small Business, at the Master Plumbers and Gasfitters Association Awards for Excellence Gala Dinner on 28 October 2006.

The Board would also like to acknowledge the efforts and high standards displayed by all finalists in both award categories:

Plumbing Business of the Year Award

- Pride Plumbing and Gas
- Rawsons Plumbing Services

Plumber of the Year Award

- Clinton Goldfinch
- John Richards
- John Spaanderman



Jim Rando Plumber of the Year 2006

Front Page - Scenes from the Trade Skills Test for the 2006 Plumber of the Year.

Strategic Plan 2006 - 2009

Working towards a competent and professional plumbing industry in Western Australia

The Plumbers Licensing Board Strategic Plan for 2006 - 2009 builds on the momentum of the previous three-year plan, fostering innovation and proficiency in the way the plumbing industry is regulated in this state.

The Strategic Plan for the period to 2009 sets out the areas of focus for the Board including:

- plumbing industry education and training;
- stakeholder relations; and
- setting standards in the key areas of:
 - licensing;
 - compliance; and
 - legislative review.

A copy of the Strategic Plan 2006 - 2009 is enclosed with this issue of the Plumbers Licensing Board News. Further copies can be obtained by downloading the plan from the Boards website www.plumbers.wa.gov.au or by calling 9282 0478.

Your input and feedback is important to the Board and could highlight matters that should be included in future editions of the Plumbers Licensing Board News or the Board's website. To provide feedback please contact:

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SEASONS GREETINGS

The Plumbers Licensing Board and Department of Consumer and Employment Protection (DOCEP) offices will be closed during the holiday season on:

- Monday 25 December 2006;
- Tuesday 26 December 2006; and
- Monday 1 January 2007.

The members of the Plumbers Licensing Board and its support staff wish all a happy and save festive season.

Reporting of lost sewer junctions

Licensed plumbing contractors need to undertake a thorough search for sewer connection points before reporting that they cannot be found to the Water Corporation. The Corporation provides plans showing the location of sewer connection points (junctions) at the time a Sewer Connection Application is made. Prior to calling the Water Corporation for assistance the plumber needs to:

- excavate at least 1 metre either side of the location shown on the Water Corporation sewer plan and at least 600 millimetres deeper than the depth shown for the connection point;
- have a valid and current application to connect to sewer; and
- have a sewer plan, provided by the Corporation, on site.

The Water Corporation will seek to recover costs from plumbers in circumstances where the Corporation attends the site and the connection point is found to be in the location shown on the Corporation's plans.

A licensed plumber can make a report by contacting the Water Corporation on 13 13 95.

As constructed diagrams

Where major drainage plumbing work has been undertaken, it is the responsibility of the licensed plumbing contractor to ensure that an 'as constructed diagram' is provided to the relevant authority.

'As constructed diagrams' are required to be provided to the relevant licensed water services provider in sewer areas and the local government authority in non-sewered areas.

Penalties exist for non-compliance with this requirement.

In Water Corporation serviced areas contractors can forward 'as constructed diagrams' directly to the Board. The Board will then forward the diagrams onto the Water Corporation. In all other areas, the 'as constructed diagram' should be forwarded directly to the relevant water services provider.

In non-sewered areas the white copy of the certificate of compliance should also be provided to the local government authority.

Booking and changing drainage audit requests

As part of the self-certification scheme all drainage plumbing work must be tested and certified by the responsible licensed plumbing contractor.

For all major drainage plumbing work licensed plumbing contractors are responsible for ensuring that requests for audit are made by 5pm on the day prior to the day the drain will be ready.

If you need to cancel, or change the time of an audit **you must** notify the Board by calling 9282 0478, and state the reason for the change. Changes can be made up to one hour prior to the nominated audit time.

Board Appointments

The following appointments to the Plumbers Licensing Board have recently been confirmed:

- **Tom Hall** has been re-appointed as the Chair of the Plumbers Licensing Board;
- **Joanne Parnell** has been re-appointed as a Board member; and
- **Rob Hampson** has been appointed as a Board member.

Rob Hampson is a licensed plumber with 35 years plumbing industry experience and represents members of the Communications, Electrical & Plumbing Union (CEPU) Plumbing Division, WA Branch. Rob has replaced Seamus Doherty. Thank you to Seamus for his contribution to the plumbing industry as a Board member.

Cancellation of a Notice of Intention

From 1 January 2007 any Notice of Intention submitted but later cancelled by the responsible licensed plumbing contractor will not be replaced.

To assist the plumbing industry in understanding the new compliance and inspection framework, during the transition period, the Board allowed replacement forms to be issued in circumstances where the responsible plumber had made an error or the work was no longer going to be undertaken by that plumber.

As the compliance framework has been operational for more than two years and the administrative cost associated with this practice is significant it is no longer appropriate for the Board to allow such concessions.

Replacement forms may still be issued in exceptional circumstances however requests will be determined on a merit basis.

Further information regarding the replacement of compliance forms can be obtained by contacting the Board's Administration team on 9282 0478.

Certifying work that will not be completed

Recently the Board received a number of enquiries from Plumbers wanting to know what to do when they have lodged a Notice of Intention, but will no longer carry out the work or not all of the work will be completed. The Certificate of Compliance has been specifically designed to enable plumbers to notify the Board of such changes to their situation.

On the back of the Certificate of Compliance, under the heading 'Alteration or Withdrawal', is a section titled 'Work will no longer be undertaken'. This section allows the Plumber to cancel a Notice of Intention and list the reason(s) for not carrying out the work originally cited. The next section is titled 'Work has commenced but will not be completed' and allows the Plumber to list what parts of the job have been completed and what parts they are certifying.

Further information or assistance can be obtained from the Board's Administration team on 9282 0478.

EMERGENCY WORK
If emergency plumbing work was carried out please indicate why the work was considered to be emergency work.
.....
.....

ALTERATION OR WITHDRAWAL
This section is to be completed by licensees ONLY where the Notice of Intention to commence work requires alteration or requires withdrawal.

Work will no longer be Undertaken
If the notice of intention to commence work has been submitted but the licensee that submitted the notice of intention will not carry out the work please complete this section.

I wish to withdraw the notice of intention to which this certificate of compliance relates due to the following reasons (please indicate the reasons the licensee will no longer be carrying out the work).
.....
.....
.....

Licensed Plumbing Contractor/
Permit Holder Signature: _____ Licence No: PL/RP _____
Date: / /

Work has Commenced but will not be Completed
If the work has commenced but the notice of intention to carry out the work requires alteration because not all of the work will be completed by the licensee please complete this section.

1. Description of any completed work:
.....
.....
.....

2. I wish to advise that the work subject to previous notification is not fully completed and hereby certify that only the plumbing work specified above has been completed in accordance with the requirements of the Water Services Licensing (Plumbers Licensing and Plumbing Standards) Regulations 2000 and that all tests required have been carried out and proved satisfactory.

Licensed Plumbing Contractor/
Permit Holder Signature: _____ Licence No: PL/RP _____
Date: / /

The Board is currently targeting:

- **Hot water unit installations**
- **Sewer Conversions**

Applying for a plumbing contractors licence?

Applicants are reminded about the importance of providing the correct supporting documentation when submitting a plumbing contractor's licence application. The application process requires all applicants to provide the Board with a National Police Clearance certificate (less than a month old at the time of lodging the application) and two passport-sized photographs.

The application process requires applicants - who gained their qualifications in Western Australia - to provide the Board with certified copies of their **Statement of Competency** as a water supply plumber, sanitary plumber, or drainer. Note that the Board will not accept copies of the **Statement of Results**, which are issued by training providers at the end of each academic semester, when submitting a licence application.

Applicants with qualifications that were not obtained in Western Australia are advised to contact the Board's Licensing Officer, Chris Morgan on 9282 0478 for further information on the application process.

A national approach to apprenticeships, training and skills recognition

As licensing and skills recognition issues are nationally consistent, in February 2006 the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) agreed to new measures to enable people with trade qualifications to move more freely around Australia with a view to eliminating additional testing and registration processes.

The Plumbers Licensing Board has been working with other plumbing regulators from around Australia to put in place more effective mutual recognition arrangements for plumbers. The new arrangements will ensure that a streamlined, nationally consistent system is achieved without increased regulation while maintaining quality standards. The new mutual recognition arrangements are to be effective from 30 June 2007.

Installation of temporary toilets

The installation of temporary toilets connected to the main water supply and/or sewage system, regardless of the intended period of use, is considered to be plumbing work. Any installation of a temporary toilet must therefore comply with the relevant plumbing regulations including the National Plumbing and Drainage Code (AS/NZS 3500). Where the installation of a temporary toilet does not comply with the Regulations a rectification notice will be issued to the person who undertook the installation.

Future Directions ANZRA 24th Biennial Conference

The Plumbers Licensing Board is pleased to be hosting the 24th Biennial ANZRA Conference over the period 27 November - 1 December 2006.

The conference will provide licensing authorities, technical regulators, training providers, and industry from all Australian States and Territories and New Zealand with the opportunity to advance issues relating to the:

- recognition of certificates and qualifications to provide mobility in the industry;
- assessment of overseas qualifications and skills to assist the integration of overseas tradespersons into the workforce; and
- adoption of uniformly high standards of qualifications and practices within the industry to ensure protection of public health and safety, and the environment.

The Board extends a warm welcome to all involved in this year's conference.

For further information go to the Board's website on www.plumbers.wa.gov.au

Action to protect our industry

The tables below provide a summary of compliance investigations and disciplinary action taken by the Plumbers Licensing Board under the *Water Services Licensing (Plumbers Licensing and Plumbing Standards) Regulations 2000*. Disciplinary inquiries are conducted in the case of licensed plumbers and tradesmen who have been accused of failing in their duties. These are referred to the State Administrative Tribunal for determination. Magistrates' Court prosecutions are instituted against unlicensed persons.

Summary of Complaints May 2006 - October 2006

Type	Carryover complaints (April 2006)	Complaints received in period	Complaints finalised	Current complaints under investigation
Alleged Unsatisfactory Workmanship	15	44	42	17
Alleged Unlicensed Plumbing	9	17	18	8
Other Regulation Breaches	1	39	36	4

NOTES

- During this six-month period 96 complaints were finalised and 101 new complaints were received.
- Other breaches of the Regulations included failure to submit the required Notice of Intention and Certificate of Compliance to the Board; carrying out plumbing work whilst not under the general direction and control of a licensed plumbing contractor; installation and supply of unapproved plumbing products; and not quoting a license number on business documents.
- A number of complaints involved multiple concerns, for example, alleged unsatisfactory workmanship and failure to submit required documentation.

Prosecutions for Breaches May 2006 - October 2006

Name	Date	Lic. No.	Fine	Cost	Breach
Wayne Vicary	15 - May - 2006	Unlicensed	\$1,500.00	\$85.00	Unlicensed plumbing work.
Graham Collins	16 - Jun - 2006	Unlicensed	N/A	\$200.00	Unlicensed plumbing work.
Mark Fairbrother	21 - Jun - 2006	Unlicensed	\$200.00	\$827.50	Unlicensed plumbing work.
Lewis Sevick	09 - Aug - 2006	Unlicensed	\$2,000.00	\$350.00	Unlicensed plumbing work.
Angelo Fonte	27 - Oct - 2006	Unlicensed	\$400.00	\$290.00	Unlicensed plumbing work.
Stuart Ridgers	27 - Oct - 2006	Unlicensed	\$200.00	\$99.00	Unlicensed plumbing work.

Disciplinary Inquiries referred to the State Administrative Tribunal May 2006 - October 2006

Name	Date	Lic. No.	Fine	Cost	Breach
Wallace Knott	05 - May - 2006	TL 8722	\$1,500.00	\$500.00	Not working under the general direction and control of a licensed plumbing contractor.

NOTES

- Where the Board deems it in the public interest, or needed to inform the plumbing industry, the website www.plumbers.wa.gov.au will contain media statements on plumbing related matters such as decisions of the State Administrative Tribunal.



Plumbers Licensing Board
Government of Western Australia



PLUMBERS

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