

# BPAQ Newsletter

## BPAQ Newsletter

### **Backflow Prevention Association Queensland Inc. March 2007**

Welcome to this edition of the BPAQ Newsletter. This is my first edition since my election as Secretary of the association. Many thanks to David Cutler for his past newsletters and I feel the bar has been set fairly high by his efforts. I hope you enjoy this newsletter and all submissions or items of interest are welcomed for inclusion in future editions.

So, what can you expect from future editions? Our industry is continuing to grow so the newsletter must provide relevant information for the membership. To this end, you can expect a mix of editorial, Industry updates, details on regulation changes, new products, people movements etc etc.

I look forward to your comments! *Peter McLennan*

#### **A convenient water supply!!**



**This photograph shows that people will always look for the easy way to do things. As there was no hose tap close by, some clever person used the test cock as the hose tap. They also use the gate valve handles as a convenient hose reel.**

**When we encounter installations like this, as a licensed plumber, the cross connection should be removed and the owner advised of the seriousness of such an installation.**

The Backflow prevention Association Queensland Inc. is a volunteer organization made up from members across all aspects of the plumbing and water supply industry. Current members include Local Authority Employees, Manufacturers and Agents, Plumbing Contractors, Education and Training Officials etc. Membership is currently only \$30.00 per year. Get involved in your industry, become a part of your industry voice. Apply for membership to PO box 4205 Eight Mile Plains QLD 4113.

# Testable Single Detector Check Valves

‘Editorial’

Single Detector Check Valves have seen a huge surge in useage in the past few years. This is driven by the need to measure the use of fire water being used for reasons other than firefighting. The most common use is the fire hose being used for wash down purposes or in some cases a domestic service takeoff being installed.

The single detector check has its origins in the United States of America and is part of many Backflow Prevention programmes.



They are used both as testable and non-testable check valves. As the use has increased dramatically in Australia there is a growing concern over the effectiveness of the device if it is not testable as the 2 in the above picture shows. To be testable in service, the device must have test taps or test cocks and must be able to be isolated from the water supply as with any backflow preventor. OK you might think, just ensure it has the test cocks and isolating valves as part of the installation. Well yes that is partly there, but do we also include test taps and isolators on the by-pass line? Also, what about the check valve spring differentials? Most water meters have in built non-return valves, but what spring tension are they? And then when tested, if they fail the test how do you repair the check valve when it is part of the watermeter?

To make this a truly ‘testable’ device, we will need the spring differentials of the main check valve and the by-pass check valve to be far enough apart to ensure the by-pass works effectively at smaller flows and the main valve stays closed until it is needed. We will also need individual test taps on the main valve and by-pass plus a separate smaller check valve on the by-pass. Each assembly will need to be serial numbered and then registered as a testable device subject to annual testing by a licensed tester.

An amendment is currently being compiled for submission to AS2845 Part 3 to include all these aspects which will make the device a true testable backflow prevention device in it’s own right.

Once the amendment is submitted, and if after due consideration accepted, devices installed from that time will need to either bear the Standards Mark or equivalent approval.

Currently in Queensland, suppliers of these devices include Hydromet Pty, Ltd, Tyco Flow Control, AllFlow Supply Company Pty Ltd, LW Gemmell, Mack Valves and probably others.(my appologies if not mentioned) Although there will be some cost impost in bringing the devices ‘up’ to approval status, at least we will then have a product that can be relied upon to be effective and able to be tested / serviced / repaired periodically.

**Would you like to advertise here?**

**The newsletter goes to the membership plus select others every March, May, July, September and Nov/Dec.**

**This is a great way to get that message across to the market. Contact Peter McLennan for details on 07 33907166 or [petermcl@allflowsupply.com.au](mailto:petermcl@allflowsupply.com.au)**