

BPAQ Newsletter

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Backflow Prevention Association Queensland Inc. October 2007

Welcome to this edition of the BPAQ Newsletter. I hope you enjoy this newsletter and all submissions or items of interest are welcomed for inclusion in future editions.

What's in this Issue?

- ***Your new 2008 Committee***
- ***Product News***
- ***Editorial: Electric Shock – The unseen danger***
- ***Membership renewal***
- ***The Latest Backflow News from the USA***
- ***Membership Drive***

Your Committee for 2008

President:	Jim Mahon
Vice President:	Rob Brouwers
Secretary:	Peter McLennan
Treasurer:	David Cutler
Education Officer:	Steve Ross
Member:	Ian MacDonald

Memberships are now due!

Renewal forms are attached to this newsletter. Note the new member categories.

Individual Member

Corporate Member

(upto 5 members)

(5 to 10 members)

(over 10 members)

Ensure you get them back quickly to stay in touch with your industry.

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 starts at only \$45.00 per year. Get involved in your industry, become a part of your industry voice. Apply for membership to PO box 416 Bulimba QLD 4171.

Editorial Comment: Electric Shock – The unseen danger



I recently came across a plumbing safety notice issued by Sydney Water regarding the risk of electric shock from metallic water service pipes.

A quick Google search revealed many reported cases worldwide where people working on metallic plumbing systems have been killed or seriously injured from electric shock received whilst dismantling the system.

The Sydney bulletin refers mainly to water meter replacement, but a backflow preventor is just as subject to the possibility of electrical current transfer.

To quote the bulletin; Electric shocks from water pipes have been reported by a number of water and electrical authorities both nationally and internationally. The risk and severity of electric shock from a water pipe (due to an electrical fault at the premises, neighbouring premises or in the street) depends on a number of factors including;

- The type of electrical fault at the premises
- Effectiveness of the earthing system
- How much electrical energy is passing through the water pipes, determined by what appliances are operating
- Whether the water pipe is physically separated or the meter removed without the application of an electrical bridging cable to join the two sections.

“ a metallic water pipe can be energized to cause fatal electrical shock, if appropriate safe work procedures are not implemented. These risks apply both before starting and during any work on the water pipe”

So what can be done to protect the unsuspecting plumber from becoming a workcover statistic? My research has identified a number of different bridging cable suppliers as well as a product called ‘ Life Bar’. These products attach to the metallic pipes either side of the valve / meter so that the current flow is not broken when the item is removed.

For further information visit the Sydney Water Web Site and follow the links to plumbing safety. Also information on electrical hazards associated with water pipes is available in the Australian Standard AS/NZS3500 Part 1 Section 5.2.

Advertise here!

\$75.00 per issue or \$500.00 per year*.

(Contact Editor Peter McLennan 0413604434)

*** artwork ready**

Much prettier than garden gnomes!!



The perfect way to finish the landscaping.

The Latest Backflow News from The USA

New York City – the place to be for backflow?

The New York Times reported recently that about 85,000 large buildings throughout the city do not have backflow valves installed.

According to New York law set in 1981, the valves are required in certain categories of buildings. The EPA will attempt to conduct more building inspections to make sure they are properly equipped.

City officials say the water is safe, but admit that the compliance goals set by the city's backflow prevention task force in 2000 have not been met.

(how long would it take to inspect 85,000 large buildings for cross connections? The mind boggles! Editor)

Product News

ARI Flow Control Accessories have released their plastic RPZ and DCV models in Australia. The Watermarked products are available in 20mm and 25mm sizes. Suitable for water pressures upto 10 bar and temperatures of 45 degrees C.

**BACKFLOW PREVENTION ASSOCIATION
QUEENSLAND INC.**

PO Box 416, Bulimba, QLD 4171

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION / MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

TAX INVOICE

I hereby apply for membership of the B.P.A.Q. for the financial year 2007/2008.

NOTE: This document becomes a TAX INVOICE on payment of the annual membership fee.

Membership Qualifications: Licensed Plumbers, Qualified Backflow Prevention Testers, and persons who, in their employment are involved in Backflow Prevention.

Membership approval is determined by the Association Committee.

Membership Categories	- Individual Member:	Fee - \$45.00
	- Corporate Member (up to 5 members)	Fee - \$150.00
	- (5-10 members)	Fee - \$250.00
	- (over 10 Members)	Fee - \$350.00

Note: GST is not applicable to fee.

Please make cheques payable to **Backflow Prevention Association of Queensland Inc.**

Member Details (attach details of additional members if Corporate application)

Name.....

Company.....

Postal Address.....

Email Address.....

Phone (mobile).....**Phone (work)**.....

Phone (AH).....**Fax**.....

I hereby apply for membership of the Association for the current financial year. I undertake, if accepted, to observe and be governed by the Association rules, regulations and by-laws.

I declare the information herein supplied is true in every particular.

Signed.....Date.....