

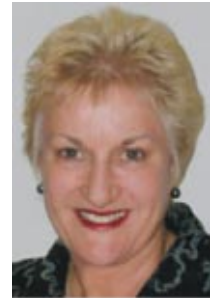
Successful 7th Conference

WPC's 7th triennial Conference, held in Auckland, New Zealand, has been hailed a success by its organisers. Hosted by the Master Plumbers, Gasfitters and Drainlayers NZ Inc, the event attracted over 500 delegates from 15 countries who heard presentations from world experts on plumbing and plumbing-related matters.

Held at the beginning of March in Auckland's Sky City Convention Centre, the four-day conference was officially opened by New Zealand's Health Minister, Annette King. Speaking to delegates, Ms King referred to the important role that professions like plumbing can play following international disasters like the December tsunami in the Indian Ocean. "While countries right around the world have responded with unprecedented levels of aid," she said, "it is important to acknowledge that practical responses in terms of rebuilding the infrastructure in the worst affected areas often come down to the trades represented by this important conference."

Speakers at the conference included world experts like Professor Charles Watson, from Curtin University of Technology in Perth, Professor John Swaffield, of Heriot Watt University in Scotland and Jose Hueb, Coordinator of the World Health Organisation/UNICEF joint monitoring programme for water supply and sanitation. WPC Board members Henry Hung (China) and Russ Chaney (USA) gave delegates a comprehensive explanation of the reasons for the SARS outbreak in Hong Kong in 2003, as well as details of how WPC is helping to prevent further occurrences.

There was also much interest in the paper presented by Sean O'Ryan, an influential labour specialist in the United States who is involved particularly in developing strategic planning for future workforce needs.



*Annette King,
New Zealand's
Health Minister,
opened the WPC
Conference in
Auckland*

WPC Distinguished Service Award

The conference in New Zealand saw the presentation of the first WPC Distinguished Service Award, designed to recognise individuals who had given exemplary service to the plumbing industry both nationally and internationally. Recipients of the Award are required to meet a minimum of four out of six key achievements which are:

- Longstanding promotion of the profession, art and science of plumbing
- Continuously strive for both the advancement and adoption of uniform plumbing codes and standards within his or her nation and/or throughout the world
- Champion of legislation improving existing plumbing laws and regulations in order to improve the health and welfare of communities throughout the world
- Lifelong promotion of goodwill within the plumbing industry
- Responsible for the education of the public and industry in the value and need for approved plumbing standards and improve the stature of the plumbing industry throughout society
- Responsible for fostering cooperation.

WPC Chairman George Bliss announced that the first recipient of the Award was to be Geoffrey Marsh, from the UK who, said Mr Bliss, "has made an outstanding contribution in all six areas of activity."

Before the presentation, George Bliss outlined Geoffrey Marsh's outstanding career in the plumbing industry which started as an apprentice and has subsequently included:

- Technical Director of Marley Extrusions Ltd where he was a prime mover in the development of the company's innovative plastic plumbing products
- Past President of the UK's Institute of Plumbing (now the Institute of Plumbing & Heating Engineering)



*Geoffrey Marsh addresses
conference delegates after
being presented with
the first WPC Distinguished
Service Award*

- Past Master of the Worshipful Company of Plumbers, founded in 1365
- Chairman of the organising committee for the second World Plumbing Conference, held in London in 1990
- Inaugural Chairman of the World Plumbing Council
- Member of the UK Government's Water Regulations Advisory Committee.

In 1988 he was invested by the Queen at Buckingham Palace as a Member of the Order of the British Empire for services to the plumbing industry and today, at the age of 73, still serves the industry in many ways, including as Director, Industry Liaison at the Institute of Plumbing and Heating Engineering, the UK's professional body for the plumbing industry.

WPC Secretary Andy Watts, who has worked with Geoffrey Marsh for almost 40 years, said, "Geoff has an amazing brain which I think is getting quicker! Indeed he never stops thinking or writing or talking about plumbing."

Geoffrey Marsh himself commented, "Many things have happened to me during my lifetime in plumbing, but none can compare with the honour of receiving recognition from my peers represented throughout the world by the World Plumbing Council. I will treasure my Award, with my wife Ann who works closely with me, as a shared symbol of thanks for the pleasure we have and do derive from serving plumbing."

World Plumbing Council meets in Auckland

The triennial meeting of the World Plumbing Council took place in Auckland, following the conference. Full member organisations were represented by 20 delegates while a further 20 came from Affiliate members and observers.

Delegates heard a number of presentations and reports, including one from retiring Executive Board member Russ Chaney who reviewed details of a discussion paper circulated to all members before the event. The paper was designed to provide a basis for action during the next three years and included details of a membership recruitment plan, which would lead to the provision of enough funds to allow the Council in the future to employ a Technical Marketing Manager/Co-ordinator. It was felt this was necessary to provide the required support needed to advance the mission and objectives of the WPC. The paper also explored the possibility of WPC initiating regional forums during the 2005-2008 period.

Professor John Swaffield, an observer from Heriot Watt University in Scotland, tabled a paper describing CARDIS, the Consortium to Address the Risk of Drainage Infection Spread, which was established by the International Symposium on Water Supply and Drainage for Buildings in conjunction with WPC in Paris in September 2004. The primary aim of CARDIS was to address the World Health Organisation's concern that inadequate plumbing is likely to have contributed to the spread of SARS.

Professor Swaffield said there was no point in undertaking complex academic research without the results being applied in the field. He was enthusiastic that the links being established between WHO and WPC would address this issue for the benefit of public health. It was important to raise the profile of this work and to get all interested parties involved, he said.

The New Zealand chapter of the Register of Engineers for Disaster Relief (RedR) was represented at the meeting by Neil Mander. He explained that RedR is a non-profit organisation which provides technical and administrative experts in disaster and emergency situations anywhere in the world. He had been invited to describe RedR's work following its mention on the WPC's website after last December's Asian tsunami disaster.

Neil Mander outlined the skills needed on the RedR Register, how participants were selected for assignments and the training they received. He felt it was mutually beneficial to RedR and WPC to work together to identify plumbing professionals who were prepared to help those affected by natural and man made disasters. He suggested WPC members should contact the RedR office nearest to them to take matters further.

More details of RedR and addresses of local offices are at www.redr.org.uk

In response to suggestions from delegates, the WPC Board is to explore the possibility of a plumber-specific disaster relief team.

John McBride of the Plumbing Industry Commission of Victoria, Australia gave delegates an extensive presentation that clearly demonstrated the importance of the plumbing industry to the sustainability of the world's finite resources of water and fossil fuel energy sources. He said that the global population demand for improved living standards, coupled with the need to conserve water, fuel and power presented members of the World Plumbing Council with challenges, opportunities and responsibilities. The global plumbing community needs to step up and inform governments around the world that it can deliver sustainable outcomes to meet the increasing world environmental standards, he said.



Statistics provided by the Plumbing Industry Commission of Victoria, Australia should prove invaluable in shaping future WPC policy

In thanking John McBride for his presentation, Stuart Henry added that the statistics provided would prove invaluable in helping the Executive Board in shaping the next three years of WPC activity.

At the close of the meeting, Don Morin who chaired WPC from 1999 to 2002, congratulated retiring Chairman Stuart Henry on the progress WPC has made during his term of office. WPC was "coming of age", he said and much of this was due to the personal contribution by Stuart Henry.

Executive Board 2005 - 2008

Our photograph shows the new World Plumbing Council Executive Board, elected at the Council meeting in New Zealand. They are from left: Robert Burgon (Scotland) - Deputy Chairman; Andy Watts (United Kingdom) - Secretary; Sudhakaran Nair (India) - Board Member; Steve Movley (Australia) - Board Member; George Bliss (USA) - Chairman; Henry Hung (China) - Board Member; Hans Tiedemann (Canada) - Treasurer.



World Toilet Summit 2005

The 2005 World Toilet Summit will be the first held in the West. Scheduled for 26-29 September, the event will take place in Belfast, Northern Ireland. Further details are at www.2005worldtoiletsummit.com

IAPMO Conference

WPC member IAPMO will hold its 76th Annual Education & Business Conference in Albuquerque, New Mexico from September 25 to 29, 2005. Take the opportunity to sharpen your skills at our educational workshops, seminars and presentations. More information is at www.iapmo.org/iapmo/conference05.html

4th World Water Forum

The 4th World Water Forum will take place in Mexico City, Mexico in March 2006. The organisers say it is the main international event on water, "seeking to enable multi-stakeholder participation and dialogue to influence water policy making at a global level, thus assuring better living standards for people all over the world and a more responsible social behavior towards water issues in-line with the pursuit of sustainable development." See www.worldwaterforum4.org.mx for more details.

ISH International Trade Fairs



China International Trade Fair for Sanitation, Heating, Air Conditioning, Kitchen & Bath China, China World Trade Center, Beijing March 14-17 2006 Web: <http://www.ish.messefrankfurt.com>

ISH North America – biennial International Trade Show for Kitchen & Bath, Plumbing, PVF, Heating and Air Conditioning Chicago, Illinois, September 28-30 2006

Web: <http://www.ish-na.com>

Nearly 120,000 visitors at WorldSkills 2005



Winner of the 2005 WorldSkills Plumbing Section, Henri Koskiner from Finland

The annual WorldSkills Competition attracted 118,044 visitors to this year's event, held in Helsinki, Finland. Over 650 young people, drawn from 39 countries, tested themselves against tough international standards in key trades and technologies. In the plumbing section, the host country Finland took the Gold Medal with Denmark second and Germany third.

In recognition of its Memorandum of Understanding with WorldSkills, the World Plumbing Council presented engraved medallions to plumbing competitors and experts at the competition.

The Council is delighted that John Smartt, winner of the first WPC Scholarship, has been reappointed as Chief Plumbing Expert for WorldSkills 2007, to be held in Japan. See www.worldskills.org for results of the 2005 competition.

8WPC

The 8th World Plumbing Conference will be held in Calgary, Alberta, Canada from 25th to 28th September 2008. The event will be hosted by the Mechanical Contractors Association of Canada, the Mechanical Contractors Association of Alberta and the Canadian Institute of Plumbing and Heating.

WPC Board meets in India

The WPC Board's most recent meeting was scheduled so that it coincided with the Plumbing Seminar and Expo held in Kochi, southern India in June. The seminar, jointly organised by WPC member the Indian Plumbing Association and CJI Forum, gave WPC the opportunity to tell many plumbing experts and practitioners from all over India about the work of the Council.



Members of the WPC Executive Board, including its Chairman George Bliss, above, addressed the Indian Plumbing seminar

At the Board meeting itself, a wide-ranging agenda saw discussion on a number of topics concerning the WPC's structure and future activities. It was agreed that membership fees will remain unchanged at US\$500 for Full Members and US\$200 for Affiliates while a new committee, chaired by Steve Movley was established to review all aspects of WPC membership.

Russ Chaney and Andy Watts reported to the Board on their meetings with the World Health Organisation (WHO), stating that WPC's application to be recognised as a Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) by WHO will be submitted shortly. They also said that WHO is keen to publish the new *Guidelines on Health Aspects of Plumbing*, which is being revised in cooperation with WPC on World Water Day on 22 March 2006.

Disaster Relief Committee

Following suggestions by delegates at the World Plumbing Conference in New Zealand, the WPC Board discussed the possibility of establishing a team of expert plumbers who could respond in the event of a disaster such as last December's Asian tsunami. It was agreed that such a project would require careful consideration and a committee, chaired by Sudhakaran Nair was established to take the idea forward. Any WPC members interested in being involved should contact Sudhakaran Nair at Indian Plumbing Association: Phone: +91 80 28476286 / 7 / 8 Fax: +91 80 28476283 essenco@bgl.vsnl.net.in

New Members

WPC is delighted to welcome these new members who have joined since the last edition of the REVIEW

Full Members

AMICUS - England
Fiji Institute of Plumbing - Fiji Islands
Joint Industry Board for Plumbing Mechanical Engineering Services - England

Affiliate Members

Alaska Central Chapter, IAPMO - USA
Apprentice & Journeyman Training Trust Fund - USA
Buteline NZ Ltd - New Zealand
Connections Magazines Pty Ltd - Australia
Enware Australia Pty Ltd - Australia
IAPMO Canada
IAPMO Central Pacific - Indonesia
Illinois Pipe Trades Association - USA
Plumbers & Pipefitters Training Center USA Louisville, KY
Plumbing Industry Apprenticeship Non-Profit Corp USA San Jose, CA
Studor Inc USA
Studor Ltd - England
The Worshipful Company of Plumbers - England
UAC/PHCC Union Affiliated Contractors - USA
LU 67 JATC Canada - Canada

The following are affiliated to the United Association in the USA, but have joined WPC in their own right:

LU 125 Plumbers & Pipefitters, Cedar Rapids, IA
LU 130 Chicago Journeymen Plumbers, Chicago, IL
LU 137 Plumbers & Steamfitters, Springfield, IL
LU 16 Sthn California Pipe Trades, Los Angeles, CA
LU 210 Plumbers JATC, Merrillville, IN
LU 230 Plumbers & Pipefitters, San Diego, CA
LU 246 Plumbers, Pipefitters & Refrigeration Fitters, Fresno, CA
LU 274 Pipefitters, Ridgefield, NJ
LU 290 Plumbers & Steamfitters, Tualatin, OR
LU 33 Plumbers & Steamfitting, Des Moines, IA
LU 354 JATC Education Fund, Youngwood, PA
LU 375 Plumbers & Pipefitters JATC, Fairbanks, AK
LU 38 Plumbing & Pipefitting, San Francisco, CA
LU 398 Plumbers & Steamfitters, Montclair, CA
LU 409 Plumbers & Steamfitters, San Luis Obispo, CA
LU 412 JATC Plumbers & Pipefitters Training Centre, Albuquerque, NM
LU 412 Plumbing & Pipefitters, Albuquerque, NM
LU 43 Plumbers & Steamfitters, JATC Chattanooga, TN
LU 430 Plumbers & Pipefitters, Tulsa, OK
LU 447 Plumbers & Pipefitters, Sacramento, CA
LU 467 Plumbers, Steamfitters & Refrigeration Fitters, Burlingame, CA
LU 484 Plumbers & Pipefitters, Ventura, CA
LU 519 United Association, Miami Lakes, FL
LU 525 Pipe Trades Training Centre, Las Vegas, NV
LU 565 Parkersburg Plumbers & Steamfitters, Parkersburg, W.VA
LU 582 Plumbers & Steamfitters, Santa Ana, CA
LU 75 Education Fund, Milwaukee, WI
LU 760 Plumbers & Pipefitters, Muscle Shoals, AL
LU 761 Plumbers & Steamfitters, Burbank, CA

WPC members are urged to ensure that the information provided to the Secretariat is up to date. Details currently held for your organisation can be checked by visiting the WPC website and selecting the 'Countries represented' tab. Follow the instructions to find your entry. If any details are incorrect, email or fax correct information to: secretariat@worldplumbing.org or +44 (0)1708 448987

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The mission of the World Plumbing Council is to unite the world plumbing industry to safeguard and protect the environment and the health of nations, for the benefit of all. Its objective is to provide and share information regarding research projects and technology that may be applicable to the Plumbing Industry and the people they serve

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