

## WPC elects new Board, Chairman

*Shayne La Combre (Australia) is new WPC Chairman*

The World Plumbing Council (WPC) is pleased to announce that Shayne La Combre, CEO of Australia's Plumbing Industry Climate Action Centre (PICAC) and Deputy Chair of the WPC, has been elected unopposed to Chair of the WPC for the 2016 – 2019 term. The confirmation took place at the recent WPC Triennial Conference held in Cape Town, South Africa. The 11th Triennial Conference saw plumbing delegates from around the world gather to tackle key issues affecting the industry and the health and wellbeing of the international community.

This decision cements the important role that Mr. La Combre has played within the WPC and emphasises the role that Australia will play in the future of the WPC in achieving the organisation's objective of developing and promoting the image and standards of the plumbing Industry worldwide. For the next three years, the WPC will dedicate its efforts to further lifting standards of plumbing and improving access to fresh drinking water and sanitation globally.

The Council places a strong emphasis on the importance of education and training in reaching these key objectives. As CEO of PICAC, one of the world's most preeminent Plumbing Training Centres, Mr La Combre is perfectly positioned to drive this strategy in the years to come. PICAC is a global reference point and industry hub, and was recognised as National Small Training Provider of the Year in 2015 by the Australian Training Awards.

The WPC will continue to support vital projects around the world to promote education and training within the industry. PICAC was heavily involved in the Community Plumbing Challenge, a joint initiative between the WPC, IAPMO and WorldSkills, for both 2015 and 2016 - with a plan to further increase support and participation in the coming years. In this term, the WPC will use such projects to advance key messages, such as the importance of access to sanitation and clean drinking water, the dangers of asbestos and the disastrous effects of lead contamination in plumbing systems for the health and wellbeing of our communities.

Under the leadership of the Executive Board, the WPC will take on a range of new initiatives and objectives, with key portfolios being managed by the Board members around the world. The first of many strategic planning and program development sessions will occur in December this year, at the Executive Board Strategic Planning Meeting to be held in Hong Kong.

Since first being elected to the Board for the WPC in 2011, Mr La Combre has dedicated his efforts to promoting the message of the WPC. An example of this has been demonstrated through PICAC, by holding the largest World Plumbing Day (WPD) event in Australia every year. WPD is a key initiative of the WPC and highlights the important role plumbing plays in the health, safety and sustainability of our community. The 2016 event held at PICAC saw over 450 industry representatives in attendance and the plans for 2017 will see the biggest event yet, to be held at multiple PICAC campuses.

This current term will culminate in 2019, when Melbourne will be host to the 12th Triennial WPC Conference, which will run over 3 days at the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre. After working tirelessly to secure and coordinate the event, the newly appointed Chair promises that the 2019 Conference will be a truly significant gathering of the plumbing community. With what is already shaping up to be one of the most impressive schedules to



*Newly elected Chair of WPC, Shayne La Combre*



**World Plumbing Council review**  
wishes its readers a joyous  
festive season and a  
happy, healthy new year





date, the Melbourne Conference will no doubt be a testament to the dedication and efforts this Executive Board has shown to furthering the WPC and its causes.

In accepting his appointment, Mr La Combre said “I am honoured to accept the role as Chair of the World Plumbing Council and look forward to working with the newly appointed Executive Board to further promote and enhance the efforts of the WPC. As an international organisation we have the ability to encourage and facilitate the sharing of information and best practice from around the world. I believe the global plumbing community has an important role to play when it comes to education and innovation within the plumbing industry and I am excited to be able to represent Australia in this capacity and make a real difference to the industry globally.”

Pictured are the World Plumbing Council Executive Board for 2016—2019

*Left, from top:*

- Deputy Chair, Tom Bigley, USA
- Honorary Secretary/Treasurer, Ken Gardner, Australia
- Alberto Fossa, Director, Brazil
- Dave Viola, Director, USA;



*Right, from top:*

- Elmar Esser, Director, Germany
- Henry Hung, Director, China
- John Joseph, Director, India
- Kevin Wellman, Director, England



***There is more information and news about the Cape Town Conference, starting on page 5***

## US Senate passes Bill calling for WaterSense authorisation

The United States Senate has passed a USD9.4 billion Water Resources Development Act. The measures in the Act include a provision long supported by Plumbing Manufacturers International (PMI) calling for authorisation of the Environmental Protection Agency’s WaterSense programme, which encourages consumers to use water efficient toilets, taps and shower heads.

The Water Resources Development Act authorises nearly 30 infrastructure projects for navigation, port improvements, flood control and environmental restoration, as well as USD4.9 billion for drinking and clean water infrastructure over five years. It provides:

- USD220 million in emergency funding for communities such as Flint in Michigan which experiences lead contaminated water supplies
- USD70 million to finance costs for up to USD1 billion in secured loans for water infrastructure through the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act Fund at the US Environmental Protection Agency
- About USD17.5 million for a lead-exposure registry to monitor the effects on children
- USD2.5 million for an advisory committee to review ways to reduce lead exposure.

A 2015 study by PMI showed slow adoption of WaterSense products nationwide. “A recent study conducted by PMI shows that 75 percent of Americans are unfamiliar with the WaterSense programme,” said Barbara Higgins, PMI CEO/Executive Director. “Another survey we conducted showed concern among Americans regarding drinking water quality. We applaud the passage of this latest Senate bill which calls for the authorisation of the WaterSense programme and funding for needed infrastructural improvements.”



## Water saving product schemes across the world

Labelling water-using products is a growing practice across the globe, with many initiatives being implemented. The global map shows the varying schemes already in existence across the continents. Consumer labelling has a pivotal role to play in influencing behaviour change, a fact that is already evident. Labelling not only provides the consumer with sufficient information to make an informed choice at point of sale, it also provides the manufacturer with a competitive tool and aids research and development for greater sustainable products. Quality water efficient products, and by its association energy, is only part of the equation. A change in behaviour is primary to driving

efficiency measures. Consumers must be encouraged to undertake small changes such as:

- Turning taps (faucets) off when not in use
- Maintaining products in good working order
- Reducing shower times by one minute per shower
- Don't use the WC as a rubbish bin

There are an increasing number of approved products across the world which are recognised as being water efficient. The schemes recognised by the World Plumbing Council are shown in this table:

Ref:	Country/Area	Scheme	Scope	Website
1a	Australia	Water Efficiency Labelling Scheme (indoor)	Mandatory	<a href="http://goo.gl/MDRwqs">http://goo.gl/MDRwqs</a>
1b	Australia	Smart Approved Watermark (outdoor use)	Voluntary	<a href="http://goo.gl/dRxRxZ">http://goo.gl/dRxRxZ</a>
2	Canada	WaterSense	Voluntary	<a href="http://goo.gl/lhsiYV">http://goo.gl/lhsiYV</a>
3	China	Water Conservation Certification	Voluntary	<a href="http://goo.gl/cBw5i">http://goo.gl/cBw5i</a>
4	Europe	European Water Label	Voluntary	<a href="http://goo.gl/t4WUuU">http://goo.gl/t4WUuU</a>
5	Hong Kong	Voluntary Water Efficiency Labelling	Voluntary	<a href="http://goo.gl/v627RH">http://goo.gl/v627RH</a>
6	India	Water Efficient Products - India	Voluntary	<a href="http://goo.gl/sZdc08">http://goo.gl/sZdc08</a>
7	Malaysia	Guidelines Voluntary WEPLS	Voluntary	<a href="http://goo.gl/94i7ZZ">http://goo.gl/94i7ZZ</a>
8	New Zealand	Water Efficiency Labelling Scheme	Mandatory	<a href="http://goo.gl/hyPZu9">http://goo.gl/hyPZu9</a>
9	Portugal	National Plan for Efficient Water Use	Voluntary	<a href="http://goo.gl/pAs5zq">http://goo.gl/pAs5zq</a>
10	Singapore	Water Efficiency Labelling Scheme	Mandatory	<a href="http://goo.gl/iGkp9w">http://goo.gl/iGkp9w</a>
11	UAE	Emirates Authority for Standardisation and Metrology (ESMA)	Mandatory	<a href="http://goo.gl/jvoYT0">http://goo.gl/jvoYT0</a>
12	United King-	ECA Water Technology List	Voluntary	<a href="http://goo.gl/XJ8xps">http://goo.gl/XJ8xps</a>
13	United States	WaterSense	Mandatory	<a href="http://goo.gl/hp6WuR">http://goo.gl/hp6WuR</a>

### Water Efficiency Schemes Recognised by WPC



The introduction of effective product labelling promoting the value of using water wisely and demonstrating product efficiency is a positive proactive step to having consumers commit to water efficiency and energy conservation. The prime challenge and objective for water efficiency is in preserving the world's precious and finite water resources.

The World Plumbing Council supports the need to "Use Water Wisely and Save Water Safely" and recognises that "without water there is no life and without sanitation life is short".

To find out more about this subject, please contact [secretariat@worldplumbing.org](mailto:secretariat@worldplumbing.org)

# ISH 2017 focuses on health issues

## *Affordable and effective: the bathroom as a fountain of health*

For 84 percent of Germans, health counts as the most fundamental of all the things that contribute to quality of life. Such is the finding of a poll by the Bertelsmann Foundation. The desire for a healthy way of life has now led to a reconsideration of the natural healing power of water. 'Hydrotherapy' has been used since antiquity for the treatment of chronic pain, local inflammation and to improve the circulation. At the same time, it provides a natural way to reduce stress, one of the most common causes of the diseases of modern civilisation.

According to a poll conducted by a major German health insurance company, the Techniker Krankenkasse, in 2013, six out of every ten respondents were aware of being permanently tense. That represents a serious danger to health, for it frequently results in excessive production of adrenaline, increased levels of blood sugar and cholesterol and high blood pressure. It is, however, very difficult to make an impression on the vegetative nervous system, which is responsible for controlling the body's reactions to stress. Warm baths offer one possible therapeutic approach to reducing such reactions naturally. Their impact on blood pressure and individual overload is usually established by looking at heart-rate variability (HRV).

### **Scientific proof: baths reduce stress**

The measurement of HRV, saliva and skin conductivity, as well as verbal reports of mental states were recently all used in a study by the Institute of Sports Medicine in the University of Hamburg. Commissioned by the Association of the German Sanitation Industry (*Vereinigung Deutsche Sanitärwirtschaft - VDS*) and the industrial forum, IFS, (*IndustrieForum Sanitär*), they were asked to investigate whether warm baths really could relieve the pressures of stress in everyday life. Following a series of different tests, it became possible, in the spring of 2016, to show scientifically that taking a bath can bring about recovery from an acutely stressful situation more quickly than simply lying down and relaxing.



What is more, in the informational brochure 'For heart and soul' (*Für Herz und Seele*), the VDS documents that water can be used as therapy for pain, cardiovascular problems, rheumatism and blood-pressure anomalies just as effectively as it can for varicose veins and swelling during pregnancy. Alongside the bathtub, showers of all types – rain, fountain,

massage and steam – can also all transform the bathroom into a training area for vitality and fitness. With minimal investment of time, our metabolism and immune system can be stimulated into activity on a daily basis – and the spa in our own home is open 24/7.

### **ISH 2017 brings a natural medicine cabinet into the home**

Alongside relaxing bath tubs and hot / cold contrast showers, there is much to be said for saunas too. As research shows, regular sessions in a 'gentle sauna' can stabilise – even normalise – not only the immune system, but blood pressure too in a completely natural way. This is demonstrated in the findings of a study carried out by the Charité university hospital in Berlin. Doctors even advise people with low blood pressure to take regular saunas, in order to stabilise their blood pressure. To cool down, scientists recommend that patients with circulation problems use a rain shower with a temperature between 12 and 14 degrees centigrade.

A steam shower, as a gentler alternative to the 'sweat box' and with a temperature of between 45 and 60 degrees that stimulates the circulation, can even be used when you have a cold. Combined infra-red and steam showers open up the possibility of traditional light and heat treatment to complement the steam in therapeutic approaches to pain, colds, muscle tension and skin impurities.

ISH will take place in Frankfurt am Main from 14 to 18 March 2017. Alongside its display of many different sorts and kinds of plumbing and sanitation products, the leading world trade fair for the combination of water and energy will, to a large extent, be concerned with the topic of the 'Gesundbrunnen Bad' (*Health Fountain Bathroom*). Not least because of this, professionals in the field expect to find a host of new innovative products and ideas relating to wellness and well-being.

### **The ideal health-giving bathroom from a medical point of view**

This really ought also to include the shower WC or *bidet*, whose expected further development is set to be very much influenced by medical consideration. The toilet with a built-in shower-function promises a high level of hygiene

# ISH

## Frankfurt am Main 14 - 18 March 2017

and, according to many doctors, helps to reduce infections and fungal diseases and offers significantly improved ways of treating haemorrhoidal problems.

To the question of what his own personal ideal bathroom for optimum preventive healthcare would look like, Hamburg Professor and author of numerous scientific publications on preventive healthcare, Dr. Klaus-Michael Braumann, responded: "As a passionate advocate of exercise, I know that you can only really 'recover' properly after you have exercised beforehand. So I would wish for more people to install a fitness-cum wellness bathroom – perhaps in what was once the children's room. A bicycle ergometer next to the bathtub would be an ideal reflection of Yin and Yang. Energetic exercise followed by well-earned relaxation would be the best plan for maintaining health and, with it, quality of life."

You can find further information relating to the topics and products at ISH at: [www.ish.messefrankfurt.com](http://www.ish.messefrankfurt.com)

*Messe Frankfurt is one of the world's leading trade fair organisers, generating around 648 million euros (USD689 million) in sales and employing 2,244 people. The Messe Frankfurt Group has a global network of 30 subsidiaries and 55 international Sales Partners, allowing it to serve its customers on location in 175 countries. Messe Frankfurt events take place at approx. 50 locations around the globe. In 2015, Messe Frankfurt organised a total of 133 trade fairs, of which more than half took place outside Germany.*

## World Plumbing Council's Research Database

The World Plumbing Council's Research Database, originally launched in December of 2014, has now been operational for almost 2 years. For readers who may not be familiar with the database, it was created in order to provide users with the opportunity to learn about what is happening around the globe regarding research efforts pertaining to plumbing and water related issues. The concept is to provide a resource to all interested parties, not only WPC members, but all who are interested in plumbing and water, to help learn about research efforts that have already been completed or which are currently in progress. The database also allows users to submit their ideas and recommendations towards new research programs that support advancing the body of knowledge along those same topical areas. WPC hopes to reduce duplication of research efforts and facilitate a new level of collaboration among researchers through the utilization of the database.



To date, the database has 107 registered users, which is about where the WPC thought we would be in terms of users at this point in time. However, utilization of the database has so far been disappointing. Only sixteen (16) research efforts have been uploaded to the database and most of those have been by direct request from the database developers. The WPC seeks to increase the utilization of the database in 2017 and we're hoping that we can continue to count on you to help spread the word about the availability of the Research Database and how it can help to highlight advancements in the plumbing and water industries.

What can WPC members do to help improve utilization? Two things. To start, continue to discuss the database with peers and colleagues and point out the benefits that our industry can realize through increased utilization. We as WPC members need to do a better job at directly reaching out to researchers from both academia and industry and ask them to upload their projects to the database. Whenever we, in the course of our daily activities, see an interesting research paper or become aware of an ongoing research project that's applicable to the plumbing or water industries, make a point to personally reach out to the researchers, send them the link to the database and personally ask for their participation in support of the WPC. Secondly, we need to do a better job at utilizing the database ourselves. Sign in occasionally, see what's new. For each research project uploaded on the database, the submitter indicates if users of the database can contact them via email. So, if you have questions, comments or suggestions for the researchers, we encourage you to contact them. As an open source Wiki application, this is the best means by which utilization will expand. In short, the success of the database is up to us!

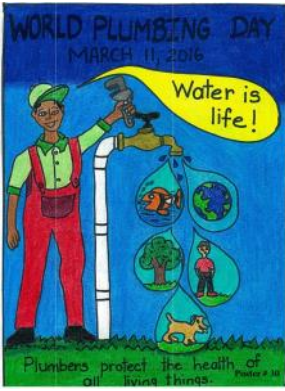
In closing, we are confident that increased utilization of the database will work to draw our plumbing and water communities closer, providing a means for increased collaboration and the identification of our industry's future research needs. Those are the exact outcomes that the WPC envisions through the use of the Research Database.

The WPC Research Database is at <http://research.worldplumbing.org/tiki-index.php>

*Note: If you experience any problems using the WPC database, please contact Pete DeMarco at [pete.demarco@iapmo.org](mailto:pete.demarco@iapmo.org)*

## Water is Life

That was one of the main themes for the 11th World Plumbing Council Conference held at the International Conference Centre (CTICC) Cape Town, South Africa, 14 – 16 September 2016. Delegates gathered from all around the world to attend this major event on the plumbing calendar, attracting first class keynote speakers.



WPD poster competition winning entry designed by Adrianna Allen

South Africa won the bid to host this event at the WPC conference in Edinburgh Scotland in 2011. The World Plumbing Council (WPC) aims to develop and promote the image and standards of the plumbing industry worldwide. Some of the key aims of the organisation are:

- To encourage, participate in and facilitate the exchange of information, research and technology applicable to the world plumbing industry
- To promote plumbing education and training worldwide
- To promote the plumbing industry's role in improving public health through the provision and protection of safe water and sanitation

The two-day conference was crammed full of information, with key presentations concerning regulations for sustainable plumbing and the promotion of international standards. Breakaway sessions were also included highlighting water, sanitation, energy and environmental aspects relevant to the plumbing industry.

A full WPC Trade Exhibition was held in conjunction with the conference which was represented by leading international brands as well as South Africa's local manufacturers.

Before the commencement of the main conference the Triennial General Meeting of the World Plumbing Council was held. Key matters for discussion and consideration by the delegates at the meeting included:

- The election of the WPC Executive Board for the 2016 - 2019 term
- Consideration of the bid to hold the 13th World Plumbing Conference in 2022
- Presentation on the Community Plumbing Challenge 2016

## The Community Plumbing Challenge 2016 (CPC 2016)

The conference also showcased this ground breaking initiative. The Community Plumbing Challenge combines multi-disciplined teams, with a cross-section of expertise expanding on the skills pathway and career options for plumbing apprentices and professionals in South Africa, and around the world. The international Community Plumbing Challenge aims to contribute to improvements to public health in regions where communities are still threatened by a lack of basic sanitation and safe drinking water systems.

The most recent project was in Diepsloot, Johannesburg, South Africa. Most Diepsloot residents must use communal facilities with 13 to 45 households sharing one toilet, tap and drain. To have access to clean, safe and in working order toilets, is a basic human right. Every year millions of people worldwide, most of them children, die from diseases associated with inadequate sanitation and hygiene. The importance of being able to use a functional, clean and safe toilet can't be underestimated.



JOHANNESBURG, SOUTH AFRICA Team Australia with Stacy Walker and Sarah Dippenaar from Australian High Commission at the 2016 Diepsloot Community Plumbing Project in July. Launched in India in 2015, the initiative aims to improve the living conditions of people in marginalized communities. (Photo by Gallo Images / Lefty Shivambu)

The role of plumbers and the contribution of modern plumbing systems are vital to the health, welfare and amenity of the community. The provision and access to safe and effective water supplies and sanitation systems is one of the great public health achievements of the last 150 years or so. Plumbers play a significant role in maintaining the integrity of water supplies and sanitation systems.

The Community Plumbing Challenge is organised by the International Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials, in association with the World Plumbing Council. You can follow progress on [www.facebook.com/communityPlumbingChallenge](http://www.facebook.com/communityPlumbingChallenge)



A keynote speaker at the Conference, Dr Doulaye Kone is Deputy Director, on the Water, Sanitation & Hygiene Programme at the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. He manages a program focusing on innovation in science and technology to Reinvent The Toilet and the birthing of the new sanitation industry to serve the vast majority of people in developing countries who don't have access to a toilet or to an adequate sanitation service



## Fact

The World Health Organisation (WHO) estimates that 80 per cent of sicknesses in the world are attributable to waterborne diseases, which are preventable. Many other diseases are spread through poor hygienic practices. By improving sanitation and environmental conditions by conducting educational programmes and creating awareness, healthcare costs can be substantially reduced.

There are serious challenges ahead for the plumber and the broader industry. We must continue to remain abreast of public health risks, including the impacts emerging diseases, new technologies and climate change.

Finally, the next WPC conference venue is set for Melbourne, Victoria and will be highlighting the Plumbing Industry Climate Action Centre (PICAC), in September 2019. Mark your diary; I assure you it will be an exciting, informative and unforgettable event.

## Plumbing meets Parliament

Fifty representatives from across the Australian plumbing sector attended the second 'Plumbing meets Parliament' day in the national capital, Canberra. Organised by the Plumbing Product Industry Group (PPIG), the leading organisation for manufacturers, importers and resellers of plumbing products, the event attracted representatives from contracting associations, the Plumbing Institute of Australia, product certification organisations and PPIG members.

The day featured presentations from MPs, Ministers and water industry bodies. A particular focus was on the plumbing industry's desire for changes to legislation covering the WaterMark scheme. The scheme covers the installation of approved plumbing products but if a non-conforming product is installed, currently the plumber is deemed to be the guilty party. The industry would like to see the legislation brought into line with that covering Water Efficiency Labelling (WELS) where the importer or retailer of non-approved items is responsible for ensuring conformity.

### Dates for Your Diary World Plumbing Day March 11 Every Year, Everywhere

**ISH India powered by IPA 2017**  
India Expo Centre, Greater Nodia, New Delhi 23 – 25 February 2017

**World Plumbing Council General Meeting**  
Frankfurt, Germany 13 March 2017

**ISH 2017**  
Messe Frankfurt Fairground, Frankfurt, Germany March 14 – 18, 2017

**ISH China & CIHE 2017**  
Beijing China 18 – 20 May 2017

**ISH Shanghai & CIHE 2017**  
Shanghai, China 5 – 7 September 2017

*Members if you have conferences or events that you would like listed here  
please send the details to [secretariat@worldplumbing.org](mailto:secretariat@worldplumbing.org)*

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***The World Plumbing Council aims to unite the world plumbing industry and promote the role of plumbing in improving public health and safeguarding the environment for the benefit of all***

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