

## The best yet!

### **WORLD PLUMBING DAY MARCH 11: every year, everywhere**

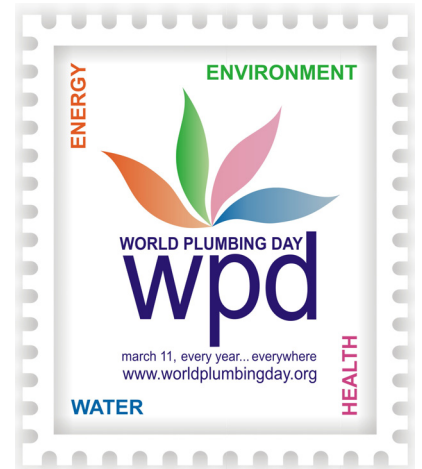
As March 11 every year, everywhere becomes a significant day supporting plumbing and plumbers around the world, there can be little doubt that the 2012 celebrations of World Plumbing Day will prove another great success.

The World Plumbing Council has received news of numerous celebrations, parliamentary and local government motions of support, with schools around the World supporting the Poster Competition, school presentations utilizing the very effective PowerPoint presentations available on the WPC website, radio and TV interviews all focusing on the very important work and role plumbers play in protecting public health, safety and the environment in global communities.



The 2011 World Plumbing Winning poster designed by Grace Wain of Cardross Primary School, Scotland

This year has seen a huge increase in the number of students from around the world submitting their representation of the day in poster format. Some innovative and energetic local plumbing companies and organizations like Plumbing Solutions in Trinidad generated this support.



Plumbing Solutions encouraged over 24 schools from Trinidad to participate in the poster competition by offering USD1500.00 worth of plumbing equipment and materials to the school producing the best poster. They visited each school and used the World Plumbing Council PowerPoint presentations to inform and educate the students on the value of plumbing, and then encouraged them to develop their posters.

Rich Prospal, WPC Executive Board Member and chief judge of the international World Plumbing Day poster competition has been invited to judge the best poster from the 24 Trinidad schools, a task that he is looking forward to with great enthusiasm. Once the winning entry is selected, that school's poster will then be eligible to receive the Plumbing Solutions award and to then compete with the many other posters from schools around the world that have been received.

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Entries close on 30 March 2012 with the winning entries to be announced after they have been judged. Check out [www.worldplumbingday.org](http://www.worldplumbingday.org) for the results.

Poster entries are limited to students in grades 1 through 5, or 10 years and under. The criteria for each poster include:

- Must have the words 'World Plumbing Day' and the date 'March 11, 2012'.
- The poster must be on A4 sized paper or US letterhead sized paper.
- Poster entries are judged on how well they relate to the presentation rather than on artistic merit alone.

Students who create the best posters in their class will receive a small prize determined by the teacher or presenter. The winning poster from each class will then be submitted to judge Rich Prospal to be considered in the World Plumbing Council's international World Plumbing Day poster competition where the following prizes will be awarded:

- 1st Prize: USD1,000 to the school and USD100 to the student;
- 2nd Prize: USD500 to the school and USD50 to the student;
- 3rd prize: USD250 to the school and USD25 to the student.

continued page 2

The World Plumbing Council is delighted with the enthusiasm and support it has received from schools, school principals, teachers and local plumbing companies and organizations for the 2012 World Plumbing Day poster competition and would like to sincerely thank all those involved.

This year also saw the introduction of the Twitter Challenge: how many followers could World Plumbing Day achieve by March 11 For those into social media it is a wonderful opportunity - we're still working on meeting the Challenge!

It is the World Plumbing Council's aim to get everybody celebrating World Plumbing Day, particularly those who will shape our future.

## The Plumber's Apprentice

The unveiling of the Plumber's Apprentice celebrating 400 years happened at Cannon Street Station in the middle of London, England on Thursday 6 October 2011.

The Plumber's Apprentice is a massive seven-foot bronze statue, commissioned by the Worshipful Company of Plumbers to celebrate the 400th anniversary of the company on receiving its Royal Charter from King James I in 1611. The statue also signifies plumbing's long-standing history with the City of London and the company's significant contribution to training plumbing apprentices.



From right to left:  
Christopher Sneath, the  
Master of the Worshipful  
Company of Plumbers,  
Charles Yuill the Renter  
Warden and Lt Col Antony  
Paterson-Fox the Upper  
Warden

Cannon Street Station was the site of the Worshipful Company's hall until 1863 when it was purchased to make way for the expansion of the railway station. The hall had been previously destroyed in the Great Fire of London in 1666 and was rebuilt in Cannon Street.

Mr. Chris Sneath Master of the Worshipful Company of Plumbers officiated and in his remarks noted, "The Plumber's Apprentice is as much about promoting plumbing as a worthy career for young people as it is about making our ancient connections with the City of London."

His Royal Highness The Duke of Gloucester was invited to unveil the bronze sculpture created by sculptor and artist Martin Jennings. There were some 130 in attendance, including immediate Past Chairman of WPC Robert Burgon, London Lord Mayor Michael Bear and his wife the Lady Mayoress, and past WPC Secretary Mr. Andy Watts.

Photographs in this article courtesy of Michael O'Sullivan Photography  
[www.michaelosullivan.co.uk](http://www.michaelosullivan.co.uk)



The Blessing of the statue was carried out by The Reverend Philip Warner, the Worshipful Company Chaplain. Watching from right to left Christopher Sneath, the Master of the Worshipful Company of Plumbers, HRH The Duke of Gloucester KG GCV, who unveiled the statue, Rt. Hon the Lord Mayor of London Michael Bear and the Lady Mayoress and behind them members of the Court of the Worshipful Company of Plumbers and their Ladies

## Plumbers without borders

Plumbers Without Borders, a grass-roots non-profit organization, was started by and for Plumbers and Pipefitters who felt a calling to "give back" to those in our world who suffer from the lack of access to safe water and hygienic sanitary systems. With the numerous world-wide organizations that are working daily to implement water and sanitation projects, many professional Plumbers and Pipefitters have a desire to be a part of the process in implementing safe and sustainable plumbing and sanitary systems, wherever this form of poverty is adversely impacting global health.

**Plumbers Without Borders mission: to support the work of persons and organizations that are striving to alleviate human suffering caused by the lack of access to safe water and hygienic sanitary systems**

Plumbers Without Borders is in the process of developing the first comprehensive databank of Volunteer Trade Professionals, specifically in the Plumbing & Mechanical field: Licensed/Certified Plumbers, Plumbing/Sanitary Engineers. This databank will function and serve as a tool and resource for other humanitarian organizations that are already working on this global dilemma of water and sanitation poverty. The general scope of services will include building teams that can be deployed in natural disaster situations, working under the auspices of other well-established disaster relief organizations. It also includes working in one's own local community and in various regions of the developing world, wherever water and sanitation poverty exist.

This database will also include a directory of manufacturers who may wish to donate materials or supplies to other organizations that are directly implementing water & sanitation projects that reflect and further the shared mission. Volunteers registered in this databank will be connected with the humanitarian organizations who are seeking their assistance, through a referral process operated by Plumbers Without Borders.

continued page 3

Training and education, in the prevention of water-borne diseases, and the implementation of safe and sustainable sanitary systems is critical to building and increasing local capacity which becomes the foundation for long term success.

Even though most of us take safe water for granted, one in eight of the world's population does not have access to it. Each year, two million people die from waterborne diseases and billions more suffer illness – most are children under five. Worldwide, 2.5 billion people live without hygienic sanitation, resulting in diarrheal diseases and death for thousands of people every day.<sup>1</sup>

Have you ever thought about using your plumbing skills to help people in need ? Plumbers Without Borders would like to hear from you.

Anyone seeking more information or wishing to offer their assistance in any capacity, please visit: [www.plumberswithoutborders.org](http://www.plumberswithoutborders.org) or phone: +1 206-390-5000

<sup>1</sup> WHO issues revised drinking-water guidelines to prevent waterborne disease. 4 July 2011 — Singapore/Geneva [http://www.who.int/water\\_sanitation\\_health/events/press\\_backgrounder/en/index.html](http://www.who.int/water_sanitation_health/events/press_backgrounder/en/index.html)

## Bid to boost industry shortages scores national training award

An innovative Perth, Australia, training program helping students become plumbers, gasfitters, painters and decorators has won a major Australian Training Award. Announced last November, MPA Skills won the School Pathways to VET Award in recognition of its training partnership with John Forrest Secondary College. These Australian Training Awards are the highest national awards for the vocational education and training (VET) sector.

With two state-of-the-art training campuses in Maylands and Bayswater, MPA Skills is a division of the MPA Group that includes the Master Plumbers and Gasfitters Association of Western Australia and Master Painters Australia (WA) Association.

MPA Group Chief Executive Murray Thomas said the programs on offer were designed to address industry shortages. "Through these programs, students begin the first stage of a mapped and highly supportive life cycle for employment," he said. "It begins by integrating school-based pre-apprenticeships and apprenticeships with the senior school curriculum. The pathway continues through to potential full-time employment with the MPA Skills apprentice employment division. "As employees of MPA Skills, students remain in a supportive and nurturing environment and have ongoing access to training expertise, industry mentors and a large range of employers and tradespeople within the MPA Group.

"Our aim is to provide a win-win arrangement for all stakeholders," Mr Thomas said. "Winning the School Pathways to VET Award gives national acclaim to the outstanding opportunities we are providing, along with many impressive outcomes. This is a sensational achievement that reflects our strong commitment to training high-quality apprentices because we want to ensure a bright future for this industry. It's important we promote professional and ethical business practices at the training stage and educate our apprentices on the required trade standards."

More information about MPA Skills is available at [www.mpaskills.com.au](http://www.mpaskills.com.au)



MPA Group CEO Murray Thomas and John Forrest Secondary College principal Dianne Turner receive the 2011 Australian Training Award for Best School Pathway to VET Programs

## Dealing with drain contamination

**A US study has found that plumbing systems may be a cause of human infection**

Examining the prevalence of the fungus *Fusarium* in bathroom sink drains, researchers in Penn State's College of Agricultural Sciences found that about 70 percent of *Fusarium* samples taken from drains belong to one of the six genetic types most often associated with human infections. This is not the only recent study to have found that contaminated drainlines can cause disease-based problems. A recent study in Hyderabad found that water used in a particular drainline was untreated and being used to irrigate vegetables.

As all in the plumbing and water fraternity know, our water supplies must be kept clean for the general health of the population. These two studies illustrate the importance of plumbing to global health.

The Penn State study sampled nearly 500 sink drains from 131 buildings, including businesses, homes, university dormitories and public facilities across Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida and California.



The study was published in December 2011 in the Journal of Clinical Microbiology. The abstract states: "It has been proposed that plumbing systems might serve as a significant environmental reservoir of human-pathogenic isolates of *Fusarium*. We tested this hypothesis by performing the first extensive multilocus sequence typing (MLST) survey of plumbing drain-associated *Fusarium* isolates and comparing the diversity observed to the known diversity of clinical *Fusarium* isolates. We sampled 471 drains, mostly in bathroom sinks, from 131 buildings in the United States using a swabbing method. We found that 66% of sinks and 80% of buildings surveyed yielded at least one *Fusarium* culture. A total of 297 isolates of *Fusarium* collected were subjected to MLST to identify the phylogenetic species and sequence types (STs) of these isolates. Our survey revealed that the six most common STs in sinks were identical to the six most frequently associated with human infections. We speculate that the most prevalent STs, by virtue of their ability to form and grow in biofilms, are well adapted to plumbing systems. Six major *Fusarium* STs were frequently isolated from plumbing drains within a broad geographic area and were identical to STs frequently associated with human infections."

Lead researcher Dylan Short said, "In the recent outbreaks of fungal keratitis in Southeast Asia and North America connected to contact-lens use, plumbing systems were the main environmental sources of the most frequent *Fusarium* species and sequence types associated with eye infections."

Another who worked on the project was David Geiser a professor of plant pathology who pointed out that serious infections were uncommon and that these fungi can play a positive role in plumbing systems. He told Infection Control Magazine, the study provides the strongest evidence to date supporting an epidemiological link between human fusarioses and plumbing systems.

"The species involved offer significant potential for studying host-microbe interactions, novel metabolic activities - including the production of mycotoxins and antibiotics — and the roles of microbes in indoor environments."

## The World Plumbing Council welcomes new members

*The World Plumbing Council is pleased to welcome the following organizations that have recently become Full and Affiliate Members:*

### Full Members:

Lagos State Association of Plumbing Contractors, Nigeria;  
APROCOF, Colombia;  
American Society of Plumbing Engineers, USA;  
CAIF, Argentina;  
Plumbers, Gasfitters and Drainlayers Board, New Zealand;  
Australian Building Codes Board, Australia;  
Master Plumbers Association of Queensland, Australia;  
Intertek Testing Services Shenzhen Ltd. China.

### Affiliate Members:

Keidel GmbH, Germany;  
Independent Plumbing & Heating Contractors Association, Canada;  
D'Plumbing Consultants, India;  
Aqua Global Consultants LLC, USA;  
Shandong Trustpipe Industry Group Co. Ltd, China;  
Shangtaijie Environmental Protection Technology Co. Ltd, China;  
Tianjin Haohang Composite Pipe Co Ltd, China;  
BINEX, Saudi Arabia.

As you can see there is important research going on all over the world with regards to plumbing systems. It is important keep abreast of all research and data so that we can better understand our systems and work hard to improve them.

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<http://www.worldplumbinginfo.com>

## WPC Past Chairman awarded for services to plumbing

Robert Burgon, Immediate Past Chairman of the World Plumbing Council, has been awarded Honorary Fel-



*Chris Northey, left, presents Robert Burgon with his Honorary Fellowship*

lowship of the UK's Society of Public Health Engineers (SoPHE). This award, which is the highest given by the Society, is in recognition of Robert's contribution to the plumbing industry over more than 30 years. The presentation, by SoPHE Chairman, Chris Northey, took place at the SoPHE Dinner in London, England on 3 November 2011.

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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. Its objective is to provide and share information regarding research projects, technology and training that may be applicable to the plumbing industry and the people it serves.*

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