



## **WORLD PLUMBING COUNCIL GENERAL MEETING**

**10 SEPTEMBER 2019**

### **MINUTES**

#### **1. MEETING OPENING**

##### **1.1 Attendance**

##### **PRESENT**

##### **Executive Board and Secretariat**

Chair, Shayne La Combre, Plumbing Industry Climate Action Centre (PICAC) (Australia); Deputy Chair, Tom Bigley, United Association (USA); Honorary Secretary & Treasurer Ken Gardner, Master Plumbers (Australia); Director, Dave Viola, IAPMO (USA); Director, Kevin Wellman, Chartered Institute of Plumbing & Heating Engineering (United Kingdom); Director, BSA Narayan, Indian Plumbing Association (India); Director, Peter Jackson, Plumbers, Gasfitters & Drainlayers Registration Board (New Zealand); Director, Alberto Fossa, ABRINSTAL (Brazil); Director, Jean Claude Twagirimana (Rwanda); Director, Qin Yongxin, Plumbing Facilities Committee of China Construction Metal Structure Association (China) and Ms Lily Li; Secretariat, Emily Hardwick, PICAC (Australia).

##### **Member representatives, Individual Members and Guests**

Hans-Peter Kaufmann, suissetec (Switzerland); René Mächler, Chief Executive Officer, RMC Consultants (Switzerland); Russ Chaney, CEO, IAPMO (USA); Stuart Henry, Plumbing Products Industry Group (Australia); Billy Smith, ASPE; Jeff Patchell, Plumbing Connection (Australia); Carmel Coate, Chair – PICAC Board (Australia); Adam Fisher Charles, Australian Plumbing Gas and Solar; David Otterstein, NITC; Stephen Morley, IPA; Nick Fleckney, PLDB; Rene Maechler, RMC Consulting AG; Swathi Saralaya, IAPMO; Hans Daniel, suissetec; Komfmann Hanspek, suissetec; Grant Stewart, IAPMO; Noel Abercromby, MPA Skills; Trevor Wilson, MPA Skills; Elmar Esser, Germany; Martin Sawyers, PGDB; Claudia Spagnolo, IAPMO; Gaby Davis, IAPMO; David Gasn, IAPMO; Jim Majerowicz, Plumbers LU130 Chicago; Liu Fengman, Shanghai Karon Valves Co; Peter DeMarco, IAPMO; M Dickrose, Singapore Plumbing Society; Minyi Zhoney, Sheizhen Machinery; Allan Dumlax, Nampap (Philippines); Gary Cook, PSCIA; Paul Fenton, Swinburne; Ernie Kretschmer, MPAQ; Lieu George, Singapore Plumbing Society; Tan Wee Teck, Singapore Plumbing Society; Wan Lan, Shen Zhe Ya Chang.

##### **Apologies**

Director, Liu Jian, Plumbing Facilities Committee of China Construction Metal Structure Association (China); Robert Burgon, WPC Individual Member (United Kingdom); Richard Prosal, Erwin Reisch.



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## Welcome

Mr La Combre, Chair, welcomed all to the WPC General Meeting. He also extended a warm welcome to representatives from member and non-member organisations.

## 2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING AND BUSINESS ARISING

The Chair sought and received confirmation that the Minutes from the meeting held on 25 October 2018 at the ITC Grand Central Hotel, Mumbai, were a true and accurate record.

**Moved:** Mr Chaney

**Seconded:** Mr Narayan.

## Business Arising

The Chair invited Members to raise any matters or items of business arising from the Minutes not listed on the Agenda. No matters were raised.

## 3. CHAIR'S REPORT

Mr La Combre presented the Chair's Report, advising:

### 3.1 Overview of the 2016-2019 Executive Board Term

- The election process for the 2019 – 2022 period, had been undertaken, with the following results:
  - Tom Bigley, Chair
  - Dave Viola, Deputy Chair
  - Shayne La Combre, Secretary/Treasurer
  - BSA Narayan, Director
  - Peter Jackson, Director
  - Kevin Wellman, Director
  - Alberto Fossa, Director
  - Qin Yongxin, Director
  - Jean Claude Twagirimana, Director.

The Chair thanked his 2016-2019 Executive Board for their efforts throughout the term. He advised that both Mr Ken Gardner and Mr Liu Jian had resigned from the Board and wished his sincere gratitude to both be acknowledged.

- EB Meetings have been convened via teleconference on a regular basis
- Communication with the EB, Members and interested supporters has improved due to the active use of social media from the WPC
- Accessibility for Members has improved with the live streaming of the WPC General Meetings



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- The scholarships program has strengthened with the addition of a third scholarship provided by the United Association. These Scholarships have become more sought after and more applications are being received than previously.
- World Plumbing Day has become a much larger event due to a dedicated online campaign to spread the message
- The Four Pillars of Plumbing has assisted in creating a framework for the WPC. The Four Pillars of Plumbing are applicable to every jurisdiction, making it relevant for all WPC Members and communities around the world.

### 4. PORTFOLIO REPORTS

#### 4.1 Education and Training

Mr Bigley provided an update on the Education and Training portfolio, advising:

- A third scholarship has been incorporated and sponsored by the United Association (UA), inviting the winner to participate in the UA's Instructor Training Program for Plumbers, Pipefitters, Welders, Sprinkler Fitters and Service Technicians.
- The 2018-19 scholarship winners include:
  - Mr Lansing, who visited England, will soon send his final report through to the Secretariat
  - Mr Das had a successful trip to the USA. He visited 5-6 Training Centres and took part in the UA's Instructor Training Program
  - Ms Saralaya arrived in Melbourne, Australia on 9 September 2019 to begin her scholarship
- Manufacturing companies have expressed interest in sponsoring WPC scholarships in future.

#### 4.2 Finance and Governance

Mr Gardner provided an update on the Finance and Governance portfolio for the period 1 January 2018 – 31 December 2018, advising:

- KPMG had been engaged to review the financial statements of the WPC for the year ended 31 December 2018. The accounts were deemed to comply. The Treasurer tabled the Financial Statements for the period 1 January 2018 – 31 December 2018.

Mr Gardner sought and received confirmation that the Financial Statements for the period 1 January 2018 to 31 December 2018 be accepted.

**Moved: Mr Henry**  
**Seconded: Mr Chaney.**

Mr Gardner provided an update on the Finance and Governance portfolio for the period 1 January 2019 – 6 September 2019, advising:

- The year to date surplus was \$US73,600
- The net assets are \$US791,000

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- Exploration has been underway regarding the investment of the six-month term deposit that matured on 25 January 2019
- Mr Gardner suggested investigating locations other than Switzerland for hosting the WPC bank account.

### **4.3 Community and Economic Development**

Mr Narayan provided an update on the Community and Economic Development Report, advising:

- There has been much activity in the Indian Plumbing Community to embrace the Four Pillars of Plumbing framework
- The Indian Plumbing Conference held in October 2018 utilised the Four Pillars of Plumbing as the theme
- There has been an emphasis on skills development in India with the setting up of the National Skill Development Mission
- The Swaach Bharat Mission has led to over 95 million toilets being installed since October 2014 to try to eradicate the practice of open defecation
- A GreenPro Rating System has been launched in India under the stewardship of the Green Product and Material Council, for certification of green building products
- Mr Narayan advised of the many opportunities for the Community and Economic Development Portfolio going forward.

### **4.4 Marketing and Communications**

Mr Viola provided an update on the Marketing and Communications Report, advising:

- WPC marketing has greatly improved due to the work of IAPMO and PICAC marketing teams
- Amplifying the other Pillars (as the Participation is amplified by the WPC Scholarships) could be developed as a future strategy
- WPC medallions were given to Experts and Competitors at WorldSkills Kazan 2019
- The confusion around the ISH contract is a concern as it is an important relationship
- The strategic use of the WPC's financial resources and a well-developed strategy are areas to develop in future.

### **4.5 Research and Innovation**

Mr Jackson provided an update on the Research and Innovation Report, advising:

- Legionella has been under-reported in New Zealand. This was recognized following the WPC General Meeting and Four Pillars of Plumbing Forum held in Ontario, California in May 2018
- The Insurance Council in New Zealand may share figures on claims made due to incorrect plumbing carried out by unregistered plumbers.

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### **4.6 World Plumbing Day - China**

Mr Qin and Ms Lily Kai provided an update on the World Plumbing Day China Report, advising:

- World Plumbing Day has become well-supported in China
- The Plumbing Facilities Committee of China Construction Metal Structure Association has been working to have more members involved from plumbing-related companies
- Mr La Combre advised that the World Plumbing Day celebration in China was very professionally run and is an example for others in the future.

### **4.7 World Plumbing Day - Europe**

Mr Wellman provided an update on the World Plumbing Day Europe Report, advising:

- There has been an increase in the number of colleges running skills contests to mark World Plumbing Day
- Many companies have utilised the 'proud to be a professional' tagline
- More engagement with Europe is required
- A worldwide database of instances of legionella would be a useful tool to drive interest.

### **4.8 World Plumbing Day – Latin America**

Mr Fossa provided an update on the World Plumbing Day Report, advising:

- World Plumbing Day has grown stronger over the last three years, with celebrations held in many countries
- Many people have been motivated to think about the essential function of bringing clean water to communities because of World Plumbing Day
- There has been greater acknowledgement of World Plumbing Day on social media with the WPC and the plumbing community creating and sharing information.

### **4.9 Planning, Organisation, Membership and Resources**

Mr La Combre provided an update on the Planning, Organisation, Membership and Resources Report, advising:

- Work on the WPC policy statements (lead, asbestos, waterborne disease – legionella, water scalding and leaking) is underway. There will be more work completed on these following WPC 2019
- Membership for 2019 is now at 66 Full Members, 58 Affiliate Members and 151 Individual Members. Membership administration will be handled by IAPMO's dedicated Membership team going forward



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- The 12th Triennial World Plumbing Conference will provide delegates with access to over 20 guest speakers from ten different countries and provide the opportunity to network with WPC Members and non-members from all over the world
- An email has been circulated regarding holding a Planning Meeting in March 2020 in Milan, Italy to coincide with Expo Bango.

The Chair sought and received confirmation that the Portfolio Reports be accepted.

**Moved:** Mr Patchell

**Seconded:** Mr Smith.

### 5. BYLAW AND POLICY CHANGES

There were no WPC bylaw or policy changes for this meeting.

### 6. WPC HIGHLIGHT REPORTS

#### 6.1 Community Plumbing Challenge (CPC)

Mr Grant Stewart, WorldSkills, was introduced to all and invited to present an update on the activities being undertaken:

- The latest Community Plumbing Challenge was held in Russia in early September 2019 and culminated in an initiative where all competitors worked together to complete bathrooms in an Orphanage
- The Navaho Nation was again assisted with the focus on getting water to their homes – installing a waste water system and fixing plumbing in their homes
- Indonesia – a pilot project (toilet and hand washing facility) has been undertaken and CPC has been invited to complete another project in Sulawesi in November 2020.

#### 6.2 World Plumbing Conference 2022

The EB received and accepted a proposal from the Plumbing Facilities Committee of China to move the planned 2022 Conference to Shanghai instead of Beijing.

Mr Qin presented and spoke to a PowerPoint presentation which outlined the attributes of Shanghai as the venue for the next Triennial Conference and invited all to attend this Conference in 2022.

### 7. GENERAL BUSINESS

#### 7.1 Vale – George Bliss

Mr Chaney advised of the passing of former WPC Director, George Bliss.



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### 7.2 World Health Organisation (WHO)

Mr Chaney provided an update on the Water Hygiene Conference currently being run by the WHO in Zambia to address the problems of Legionella.

### 8. CLOSE OF WPC GENERAL MEETING

The Chair advised that it was proposed to hold the next Triennial General Meeting in Shanghai, China in 2022.

He thanked his fellow EB Directors for the work which had been undertaken over the last three years and advised of his excitement in hosting the upcoming Triennial Conference in Melbourne.

He thanked former Secretariat, Haydn Wood for his work on the Four Pillars of Plumbing and current Secretariat, Emily Hardwick, for her efforts in the organisation of the Conference.

Mr La Combre wished the incoming Chair, Mr Bigley, every success for his term.

There being no further business, the Chair thanked everybody for their attendance and contribution and closed the meeting.

**Meeting closed: 10.25**