

Covers and enclosures



The enclosed pool in Cambridge, NZ

There are a number of different ways residential and commercial swimming pools and spas can be covered and enclosed – here we look at a few examples.

Indoor or outdoor in minutes

South Pacific Pool Enclosures recently installed a Laguna Grande enclosure for a residential pool in Cambridge, New Zealand. It is almost 10m wide by 17m long and varying from 2.5m to 3m high.

It has seven telescopic segments, enabling the pool to operate as either an indoor or an outdoor pool – and it can be closed or opened up in minutes. The enclosure saves on running costs year round, and makes the pool much more pleasant for swimming in the winter and shoulder seasons.

This enclosure arrived disassembled from Europe and installation was completed in seven days on-site. Three different types of polycarbonate were used; 4mm compact clear on the sides and faces up to 2100mm on the arch, 8mm twin wall clear on the roof and at the clients request the attached equipment room was in 3mm embossed.

All the polycarbonate is UV protected, profiles are aluminium and it's fixed to a unique aluminium flat track system which is recessed to the same level as the tiles.



The pool also includes a pool blanket for further heat retention

The Canberra Olympic Swimming Pool

The Canberra Olympic Swimming Pool development was an ACT Government funded initiative to remove, replace and recycle the existing 22-year-old air-supported membrane enclosure in order to upgrade the look, feel and functionality of the facility.

Universal Fabric Structures (UFS) was awarded the contract to complete the extensive \$1m refurbishment.

The replacement structure was required

to be a clear-span design with curved roofing in the shape of a dome. PVC tensile fabric with a blue and white colour scheme was specified to match the existing structure design.

Key design criteria included the need to improve the functionality and visual appearance compared to existing structure; it had to be easy to clean, maintain and repair, with the ability to replace side panels if necessary; it had to provide a comfortable, light and airy internal atmosphere



Showing the new Canberra enclosure with its open sides

without excessive heat or humidity through all seasons of the year; and they needed the ability to open the sides in summer for weather control.

It also had to incorporate a hanging framework for flags, ropes and other equipment; a mechanical ventilation system and a suspended internal ceiling liner within the roof space to aid internal environmental

control; had to be capable of supporting heavy duty roof fans, artificial lighting and electrical cabling; and have corrosion protected structural steel framing suitable for an indoor chlorinated pool.

They also needed to remove the existing air-supported membrane and recycle it in accordance with the ACT No Waste Strategy.

Universal Fabric Structures customised

their standard Supa-Span-C design to incorporate the key project requirements. The steel truss framing was engineered to integrate the required electrical and fire detection systems, and was manufactured with a special three-coat high build paint to avoid erosion. Ferrari 702s membrane was chosen to clad the structure with the 502s range selected for an internal liner.

Telescopic Pool Enclosures & Spa Domes



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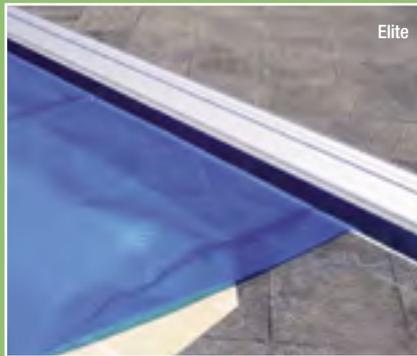


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Guiding light for pool covers

SMART Approved WaterMark is a voluntary, not-for-profit program that helps consumers make informed choices about saving water around the home, garden and pool. Products and services with the Smart Approved WaterMark label have been assessed by an independent technical expert panel.

Last year, Smart Approved WaterMark and the Pool and Spa Cover Association of Australia (PASCAA), worked together on developing a set of guidelines for swimming



pool and spa covers, to ensure they are fit for purpose.

You can view the draft guidelines which have been put out for consultation by going to www.smartwatermark.info or by using a QuickLink at www.splashmagazine.com.au.

If you have any questions or comments about the guidelines, contact the Smart WaterMark by calling (02) 9223 3322 or by email at info@smartwatermark.info.



SWIMMING POOL AND SPA ASSOCIATION OF NEW SOUTH WALES LIMITED

2011 Trade expo

The SPASA Industry Trade Expo is now recognised as a 'must attend' item on the industry calendar.

The 2011 Trade Expo will be held at
Rosehill Gardens, Sydney
10.00am - 6.00pm Friday 17th June.

All the Industry is invited to attend.
Builders can obtain 3 CPD points by simply attending.



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2008 2009 **2010** **2011**



The new UFS enclosure



The old inflatable membrane at the Canberra pool



Inside the Canberra pool with its old membrane

With the use of translucent membranes allowing natural transmission of sunlight, the requirement for daytime lighting was significantly reduced. To support and regulate climate control, a mechanical ventilation system operates between the external membrane and interior liner creating an insulation air gap, and mesh vents along the sides of the structure provide the required air and moisture release. A retractable curtain walling system has also been implemented to allow cross ventilation during warmer weather.

In an Australian first, the existing air supported structure was dismantled and

recycled using the Ferrari Taxyloop process. Until the arrival of Taxyloop, these composites were not fully recyclable due to the difficulty in separating the PVC from polyester fibres. Now these textiles can be separated, minimising the impact of raw material consumption and landfill or pollution through incineration.

Installation of the structure was very difficult due to the limited site access and construction over the existing in-ground swimming pool. Steel assembly was completed in the adjoining car park with the completed arches crane-lifted onto the site. The fabric was also crane lifted from the car



Pinz spa covers have the Smart Approved WaterMark

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park to the top of the completed frame and then spread out over the steel frame, fixed, and then tensioned. The installation was completed in approximately four weeks.

Keeping the warmth in spas

Pinz has recently carried out research and testing into evaporation in spa pools with a focus on spa covers as a water saving device.

During their testing they found that one of their properly fitted spa covers could save more than 52,000 litres of water per year. Pinz says this is almost the same as the amount of water the average person uses in the shower each year. It was also interesting to note that water loss through evaporation was virtually nil when the spa was fitted with the spa cover.

There are a number of government supported programs available to encourage consumers to achieve greater water savings inside and outside the home and to support products that help to reduce domestic water use. Up until the end of March the South Australian government through SA Water and the H2ome program was offering rebates of \$200 off the purchase of an approved pool or spa cover. A Pinz representative said they are disappointed that this fantastic program has been discontinued, and can only hope that it may be revisited again in the future or considered by other states as a great consumer motivation towards the purchase of effective water saving devices for pools and spas.

The Smart Approved WaterMark website has a list of rebates for water saving measures in each of the states.

Vinyl gets recycled to reduce greenhouse emissions

A comparison of greenhouse gas emissions from common products in Europe has revealed that the consumption of lamb and cheese can result in higher CO2 emissions than from the production of a common plastic, PVC.

The greenhouse emissions from virgin PVC resins are comparatively low compared to other materials such as cheese and aluminium products, as can be seen below.

However, data from the University of Manchester's carbon footprint tool calculator shows that recycling PVC can reduce emissions to one sixth those of virgin PVC.

Equivalent footprints per Kg of manufactured products:

Lamb = 14Kg CO2

Cheese = 11kg CO2

Aluminium = 10Kg CO2

Frosties (cereal) = 1.9Kg CO2

PVC = 1.9Kg CO2

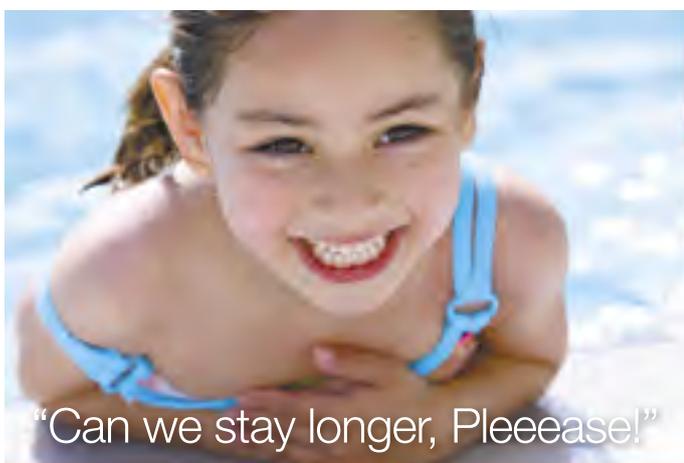
Recycled PVC = 0.3Kg CO2

The Vinyl Council of Australia (VCA) is working to advance the sustainability of the vinyl, or PVC, industry in Australia. Its members are drawn across the supply chain of the vinyl industry.

"Recycling PVC offers a great opportunity to produce low carbon products," says Sophi MacMillian, Chief Executive of the VCA. "Most PVC is used in building products such as pipes, walls, floor coverings, cabling and window frames. Improving recovery of PVC waste and identifying where recycled PVC can increasingly be used in such applications will help improve the carbon footprint of buildings and our lifestyles."

The VCA convened a summit specifically focused on advancing PVC recycling in May. The 2011 ReSource Summit used an interactive workshop approach to identify strategies to address current challenges in recycling PVC products within Australia.

Through engaging a wide range of stakeholders – not just the PVC industry – it is hoped opportunities will be discovered in product design and new markets for recycled PVC.



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For more information visit zodiac.com.au or call Zodiac on **1800 688 552**



ZODIAC



Don't leave the loading

Annual leave loading now applies to back-pay, creating a potential headache for businesses in the pool and spa industry. Adrienne Unkovich of Workforce Guardian discusses.

The Fair Work Ombudsman's (FWO) approach to leave loading has the potential to leave many businesses facing significant back-pay claims.

The new approach being endorsed by the FWO requires annual leave loading on accrued annual leave balances be paid out when employment ends – even if a Modern Award does not require the loading to be paid. Essentially, the reasoning behind this is that employees should be not disadvantaged for not taking their accrued annual leave before their employment ends.

This new approach has come about after the Commonwealth Government sought advice from the Australian Government Solicitor. The advice states that the National Employment Standards (NES) – which guarantee minimum work entitlements – provide that upon termination any accrued annual leave entitlements must be paid at the rate they would have been paid had they taken the annual leave whilst still employed.

With multiple Modern Awards applying to occupations in the pool industry, it's vital to understand which Modern Awards apply to your employees, for example:

Architects Award 2010

Annual Leave Loading on Termination: You are required to pay annual leave loading

when an employee takes any annual leave. This Modern Award does not require annual leave loading to be paid to an employee if their employment ends.

However, the NES require that any unused annual leave (including annual leave loading), is paid to an employee if their employment ends.

Action Required: You are required to pay any unused annual leave in addition to annual leave loading when employment ends.

Any former employees who left your business from 1 January 2010 onwards are also required to receive annual leave loading in addition to any unused annual leave they received when their employment ended.

Review whether your former employees received payment for annual leave loading – if not, they are required to receive this payment. Set up a contingency fund to cover unpaid annual leave loading in this year's accounts.

Concrete Products Award 2010

Annual Leave Loading on Termination: You are required to pay annual leave loading when an employee takes any annual leave. This Modern Award does not require annual leave loading to be paid to an employee if their employment ends.

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Further steps

You also need to be careful if you have implemented an annualised salary letter, agreed to an Individual Flexibility Agreement (IFA) or are paying an over-Award wage that includes annual leave loading which has not been expressly detailed into the contract.

For help on what to do in these instances you can go to the Workforce Guardian website for more information.

So, to be clear, if your Modern Award provides for leave loading on accrued annual leave, then you must pay leave loading

“To be clear, if your Modern Award provides for leave loading on accrued annual leave, then you must pay leave loading on termination or resignation whether the Modern Award stipulates this or not. This applies retrospectively to January 1, 2010”

on termination or resignation whether the Modern Award stipulates this or not.

Also, the FWO has indicated that employer’s should pay out leave loading retrospectively to January 1, 2010. It’s this retrospective nature of the ruling that has the potential to hit employers hard and I think it’s simply neither fair nor reasonable for employers.

Just consider the number of employees who have left your business whether via resignation, redundancy or otherwise over the past 15 months. If you have not paid them leave loading on accrued holiday pay (because the Modern Award provisions indicated otherwise) then you are now exposed to back-pay claims from every one of those employees who wants to recover the unpaid annual leave loading.

Of course there’s nothing you could have done to prepare your business for this and while it may be reassuring to know that the FWO is unlikely to penalise your business for this underpayment, you will still be required to pay the loadings.

It’s vital that you understand which Modern Awards apply to your employees and that you also ensure that your business is compliant with the NES. After all, with this degree of complexity (it took the Australian Government Solicitor to sort this one out!) – is it any wonder that so many businesses get it wrong?

So, what steps should you take right now? Well, if your employees are covered by the Architects Award 2010 or Concrete Products Award 2010, you must ensure that you include leave loading when calculating

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termination payments. Furthermore, any ex-employees who left your business from January 1, 2010 are eligible for any unpaid leave loading so it would be wise to set up a contingency fund to cover these entitlements.

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How to be successful with tenders and quotes

If you rely on winning tenders or quotes for your business, this information shared by some CFO On-Call partners, who have helped their clients win some very large jobs, could be extremely valuable.

Responding to tenders requires more effort than some may imagine. The information required can be time-consuming and needs to be presented in specific ways. Start early and aim to finish a week ahead of the deadline. If possible investigate previous winners and their bids to check if it's an appropriate tender for you.

Requirements of the customer

The key requirement is your ability to do the job, to do it well and within budget.

Government and large business requirements often include compliance with OH&S, the Fair Work Act, taxes due, quality assurance, environmental, legal and unions to name just some. Your organisation structure may be scrutinised, i.e. your employee job descriptions, training, prior experience, recruitment, induction, documentation etc. Your risk management plan may be required and your systems may need to link in with your customers. As a contractor you will be representing them, so they want to be sure your business is run efficiently.

You are helping them to meet their customer focus and requirements, plus their ability to be a good corporate citizen. In the delivery process you have to be good at what you do – for customer satisfaction and secondly to drive your cost structure down. "Economies Of" is a term used in contracting. It means your experience saves wasted time and you have learnt the traps to avoid.

Tender process

"Open tenders", where you are running with all comers are the least desirable, as most bidders try to compete on price. If you can get a prospect to issue a "closed tender" you have a better chance of competing on merit. Most tenders are won by those who stack the cards in their favour, by writing and sending the quote or influencing the client before the tender process even starts.

Rather than waiting for the bid document to arrive, target clients with a compelling value proposition in an area where you have a "right to win", i.e. you have experience and strong referrals. Even if the prospect has to tender the work, there is the chance only one firm will meet the spec – yours.

Remember when tendering that not everyone reading your bid may be technically informed. It's important to communicate and explain well and don't assume everyone understands your terminology and methods.

Government, large and small business

Government and large business may allow you to check who won previous tenders. It's worthwhile to speak with the relevant officer to learn what were the key points that got the winner over the line and what were seen as the strong and weak points of your bid.

You may not get all the answers, but it's worth being patient and following through.

Tenders for large business tend to be more commercially driven, whereas government tenders can be impacted by political influences. The processes are similar, although in the experience of one partner, a larger corporate – if they truly want the goods or services, they can make a decision quickly.

Tenders for small organisations can be more rewarding, as you can usually obtain more information. This makes the decision to bid or not easier, saving time on bids that are unlikely to be successful.

The financial side

Costing and pricing is a key area in tenders and it must be correct and commercially attractive. A prevalent problem is getting simple mathematics wrong.

When pricing a tender, companies start with quantities and costs for materials and labour, (e.g. construction, tradespeople, concrete etc.) A mark-up is added to the cost, e.g. for a cost base of \$1000, add 40 per cent – equals a sell price of \$1400.

Question – Where does this fall down?

Answer – The Gross Margin is 28.6 per cent!

You should divide the added cost by sell price, not the base cost to determine the real mark-up.

It falls down in the language and assumptions. The boss says the Job Margin target is 15 per cent (common in construction and related industries); staff use this figure and slot it into the markup percentage.

When this happens, the actual margin then drops to 13.1%.

With actual cost blowouts in job delivery, the margin often ends up less than 10 per cent; sometimes down to low single digit percentages. You then have to pay overheads and hopefully end up with a profit for shareholders.

After you've won a tender it's vital to keep track of all activity and costs on the job to ensure things go to plan and the costs come in as expected. This is an often overlooked aspect of job management. There are some terrific systems available to assist with this that can add much more onto your bottom line than they cost.

In a nutshell

1. Don't waste time tendering for jobs you are not likely to win.
2. Understand your customers' requirements really well.
3. Understand the tender process and use it to your advantage.
4. Don't use a 'cookie cutter' solution for different organisations – appeal to how they operate.
5. Spend time and money getting the financials right – it's an investment – not a cost.

CFO On-Call is happy to discuss tendering with SPLASH! readers including questions about quoting, pricing and costing, with no obligation. In Australia call 1300 36 24 36, in New Zealand call 0800 180 400 or visit www.cfooncall.biz. 📞



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Sprinter's road manners are exceptional

Better by degrees

With new concessions on their way, small businesses such as pool shops and service technicians will be able to claim up to \$5000 as an immediate tax deduction for any car purchased during the 2012-13 financial year. Maybe a green-credentialed van will be the way to go? Diesel editor-in-chief Steve Brooks looks at the new Mercedes Sprinter.

Time has the ability to dampen memory and so, it was perhaps understandable that in the two or three years since last driving a Mercedes-Benz Sprinter van I'd forget just how smooth and comfortable these machines are to drive. And not just smooth and comfortable, but solid!

There's the distinct sense you're sitting in a strong, supremely well-built and safe unit; typically, a trait characteristic of the Mercedes marque.

Despite a short drive program in and around Canberra which had next to nothing in common with the typical work environ of a commercial van – like, there wasn't even a partial load in the Sprinter test vehicles – there could be no denying the fundamental quality and superb road manners of the Benz vans.

The Sprinter is a true commercial boasting attributes in performance, efficiency and safety that have made it the first choice of such demanding customers as ambulance services across the country, Australia Post, leading camper hire companies and numerous smaller outfits in everything from courier work to service vehicles. And now, the Benz vans are even more appealing.

The biggest development of all though is that all Sprinters now comply with Euro 5 emissions standards, well ahead of the January 2011 introduction of Australia's ADR 80/03 (Euro 5) emissions regulation and becoming the first commercial van to reach the new standard. And the foundation for this compliance is completely new 2.2 litre four cylinder and a redesigned 3.0 litre V6 diesel engines which, says Benz, also

deliver notable gains in both performance and fuel efficiency.

Along with major developments in fuel injection and air management systems, both four and V6 engines use an advanced exhaust gas recirculation (EGR) system and diesel particulate filter to achieve the high level of emissions compliance.

Four cylinder versions are available in two ratings: The 313 CDI model with 95 kW of power at 3800 rpm and 305 Nm of torque from 1200 to 2400 rpm, and the 316, 416 and 516 CDI units pumping out a healthy 120 kW at 3800 rpm and 360 Nm between 1400 and 2400 rpm. Meanwhile, the upgraded V6 diesel in 319, 419 and 519 CDI models produces an impressive 140 kW at 3800 rpm and top torque of 440 Nm from 1400 to 2400 rpm.

Significantly, the new four cylinder engine uses series turbocharging with a small high-pressure turbo working in concert with a larger low-pressure turbine. Benz explains, "At low engine speeds only the high-pressure unit is active, which means that a high charge pressure can be built up at very low engine speeds" Both turbos use wastegate valves to control pressure build-up but the critical result is performance and efficiency are maximised across the entire engine speed range. Importantly, there's also a 20 percent larger intercooler assembly.

The wire-controlled gearshift system has an easy-shift joystick lever mounted on the dash and uses electronics to make the actual shift movements at the transmission. It is a remarkably smooth and slick shifter but to further enhance fuel-saving potential there's now an optional ECO start/stop function on four cylinder manual models.

As Benz puts it, "If the vehicle is standing at idling speed, the engine is automatically shut off. The savings potential is nothing to sneeze at: on average, the Sprinter with ECO start/stop function makes do with up to eight percent less fuel in urban operation."

The natural gas option

In the prelude to the launch of the new Sprinter range, Mercedes-Benz Australia/Pacific was keen to promote availability of the Sprinter NGT (natural gas technology) dual-fuel version but as the event unfolded it became blatantly clear that locally, Benz is putting a tentative toe in the water rather than engaging in a full-scale push of an alternative fuel model.

In fact, as this report was being written there was only one NGT demo unit in the country, with no suggestion of any more arriving unless orders are taken for the 1.8



Everything where it should be, extremely comfortable and inherently safe

litre model fuelled by either petrol or compressed natural gas (CNG).

It is, however, easy to understand Mercedes-Benz's reluctance to run hard down the alternative fuel road in this country. Back in 2001, a couple of CNG-fuelled models were imported and subsequently evaluated by a wide range of van customers, yet despite token interest by several major fleets, the gas-fuelled alternative failed to turn interest into inventory. Today, those same demonstrators languish in Benz's backyard in Melbourne.

Then, like now, the lack of CNG refuelling outlets made the natural gas alternative a commendable but largely impractical option for the vast bulk of users. Indeed, Mercedes-Benz general manager of vans, Campbell York, admits the lack of refuelling points remains "a significant issue" for the natural gas cause in Australia. Fuel suppliers are

largely unwilling to invest in refuelling outlets without strong support of the gas option by users, and users are loathe to invest in vehicles fuelled by natural gas without greater availability of refuelling facilities. A classic case of which comes first, the chicken or the egg!

By comparison, European gas filling stations are plentiful with around 800 in Germany alone and approximately 2500 throughout Europe. Furthermore, according to EU plans, alternative fuels are to account for just under one quarter of the fuel market by the year 2020 and natural gas alone is expected to gain a 10 percent market share.

Yet the refuelling issue is only part of the problem, albeit a major one. While governments and even some commercial bodies in other countries, particularly several in the European Union, offer worthwhile incentives or subsidies to users of natural

gas vehicles, Australian governments of most persuasions have repeatedly dismissed the economic and environmental potential of natural gas despite our vast reserves. However, with what can only be seen as blatant ignorance and a distinct lack of vision, our political leaders appear content with the current situation where we import vast quantities of petroleum fuels while massive volumes of natural gas are sold to overseas users who have switched on to the accepted benefits of natural gas. Makes no sense!

Despite the drawbacks, Campbell York insists Mercedes-Benz is committed to at least offering the natural gas option and from initial appearances it seems Benz has done a fine job with the Sprinter NGT. While there's currently only one demo unit in this country, two models are officially offered, the 316 NGT and 516 NGT with respective gross weight ratings of 3.55 tonnes and up to five tonnes.

The four cylinder engine develops 115 kW and maximum torque of 240 Nm whether running on gas or petrol and in standard form is attached to a six-speed manual transmission with an automatic optional.

Yet despite the suggested benefits, selling the Sprinter NGT won't be easy, particularly given the shortage of refuelling outlets. Still, Mercedes-Benz's Campbell York says it wasn't just an internal company credo that brought the NGT to Australia. There has been, he insists, requests for the model from fleet customers keen to evaluate the cost-saving potential of the dual-fuel NGT.

Whether those evaluations deliver signatures on an order form ... well, only time will tell. 

Clean and green but Sprinter NGT will be a hard sell in this country. Europe offers subsidies and incentives for natural gas vehicles yet Australian governments fail to see the potential benefits despite our vast reserves



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SPLASH!

Commercial

Image shows the pool at the splendidly relaxing Bali Viceroy in Ubud

In **SPLASH! Commercial** we focus on big and small commercial swimming pools including resort pools and spas, water parks, competition pools and municipal projects. We examine issues of importance to commercial pool builders, designers, management and staff, while taking a look at some of the latest aquatic happenings around the region and the world.

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Swim Australia Awards

The 13th annual Swim Australia Dinner was held recently on the Gold Coast, with Awards handed out for excellence, support and community service.

Outstanding Supporters Awards went to Australian Unity, Zodiac Group Australia, Vorgee Australia, Chris Smith, Cameron Speechley and Dave DuBois. Outstanding Community Service Awards went to: Cook & Phillip Park, YMCA, Sydney NSW; Paul Sadler Swimland, Greater Melbourne, VIC; Craig Tobin Aquatics, Brisbane, QLD.

National Excellence Awards went to:

Best Swim School Uniform: Fairfield City Leisure Centre, Fairfield, NSW

Best Swim School Print Material:

Aquatic Achievers, greater Brisbane, QLD

Best Swim School Advertisement: Just Like Fish

Best Swim School Promotion: Dolphins Aquatic Centre, Redcliffe, QLD

Best Swim School: SwimSAFER Pro-

motion McKeon Swim School, Wollongong, NSW

Best Swim School Pathway Promotion: Fairholme Aquatics Swim School, Toowoomba, QLD

Best Swim School Newsletter: Shawn's Swim School, Hoppers Crossing, VIC

Best Swim School Team Builder:

Blue Dolphin Swim Centre, Adelaide, SA

Best Swim School Marketing: Paul Sadler Swimland, Narre Warren VIC

Most Environmentally Friendly Swim School: Aqualogan, Logan, QLD



Libby Trickett with Paul Sadler, Best Swim School Marketing - Swimland; and Hayley Lewis

Wet'n'Wild's new dry ride

WET'N'WILD has launched a new thrill ride – the SkyCoaster. Riders are strapped into a harness attached to a massive cable and are then raised more than 50 metres off the ground. Then the riders pull their own ripcords before plummeting face first towards the ground. They are then catapulted towards the giant wave pool on a suspended cable at up to 100kmh.



Lightning Ridge finally gets its pool

LIGHTNING Ridge has finally got its new swimming and diving pool. The pool was built with funds raised by the community. The fundraising effort began 23 years ago after Walgett council said the Ridge didn't want or need a pool. Five young women were responsible for

the initial fundraising, and they were present to cut the ribbon: Kelly Mahoney, Simone Gibson, Crystal Mahoney, Tammy Jakitsch and Lily Sisa. The pool took its inspiration from the SOPAC diving pool in Sydney and is heated by water from the artesian basin.



The Lightning Ride pool during construction

John Fowlie named ASCTA coach of the year

ALICIA COUTTS' COACH GETS TOP HONOUR

JOHN Fowlie, the man who coached Alicia Coutts to five gold medals at last year's Commonwealth Games in Delhi, has been named the Speedo Australian Swimming Coaches and Teachers Association (ASCTA) 2011 Coach of the Year.

Fowlie joins an impressive list of names who've won the award including the late John Carew, Bill Nelson, Scott Volkers, Doug Frost, Shannon Rollason, Ian Pope, Denis Cotterell and Stephan Widmer.

A packed ballroom at the Sofitel Hotel on the Gold Coast acknowledged the announcement made by ASCTA president, Olympian and coach Ron McKeon during the 40th anniversary celebrations of the association. Fowlie was on an altitude training camp with Coutts and his AIS-based squad in North America as they prepare for this year's FINA World Championships in Shanghai in July.

Australia's National Head Coach Leigh Nugent accepted the award on Fowlie's behalf and likened the innovative young coach to a young Forbes Carlile. Carlile, who was in the room with wife Ursula, turned 90 in June, an extraordinary milestone for one of Swimming's real pioneers.

"There is no doubt in my mind that John Fowlie is one of the most exciting young coaches in the world of swimming, who has the ability to be up here again accepting this award in the future," said Nugent.

"His work with Alicia Coutts to win gold medals in two individual strokes (butterfly and freestyle) and the 200 IM, as well as her part in Australia's gold medal medal-winning relays was nothing short of fantastic."



Other coaches awarded last night, included Craig Jackson (Melbourne Vic Centre) who won the Age Group Coach of the Year; Ken Wood (Redcliffe Leagues) the Open Water Coach of the Year; Graeme Carroll (AIS) the Multi-Class Coach of the Year; while Francis Godden (Doncaster Dolphins) was named the Masters Coach of the Year and Matt Brown (Brothers Qld) received his Platinum Licence certificate.

The National club awards went to Melbourne Vic Centre led by Ian Pope and Craig Jackson (Go Club and JX Coach of the Year Awards) and Carlile Cherrybrook led by Greg McWhirter (JX Gold Coach of the Year Award).

Siria Thomas was awarded the Meritorious Service to the Teaching of Swimming for her work in the Swim Australia

drowning awareness campaign hosted by Sarah Murdoch.

The Outstanding Contributions to Swimming in Australia were presented to long standing Australian selector and statistician Tony Woodhouse; former coach, ASCTA CEO and researcher Dr Ralph Richards; ASCTA Insurance broker Marsh and long-standing sponsor and supporters Speedo.

Popular television producer and presenter Jon Harker (Harkattack Productions) was awarded the major Media Award for his work in the Foxtel production – The Spirit of Australian Sport: Swimming, hosted by Ian Thorpe.

Two of Australia's finest sports photographers, Delly Carr (Sportshoot) and Gregg Porteous (Daily Telegraph) won the annual photographic awards.

Malaysia and Australia sign sports cooperation agreement

THE Malaysian government has signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the Federal Government to cooperate in the field of sport. The MOU is intended to assist both countries to strengthen, promote and further develop cooperation in sports on the basis of equality, reciprocity and mutual

benefit. It will promote the sharing of information and resources on sports administration, junior sport and coaching and officiating to support sport development practices and provide links between sports.

The Australian Government previously held a sport-related MOU with the

Malaysian Government from 1995 to 1998. A number of cooperative activities took place under this prior agreement, including Australian athlete preparation for the 1998 Commonwealth Games in Kuala Lumpur. The current MOU will remain in effect for two years, with the possibility of a future extension.

Adelaide to host Olympic trials

THE newly opened South Australian Aquatic & Leisure Centre in Adelaide will host the 2012 Australian Swimming Championships, incorporating selection for the swimming component of the 2012 London Olympic and Paralympic Games. The championships will be held over eight days of heats and finals competition from March 15 to 22, 2012.

Swimming Australia CEO Kevin Neil

says the announcement is confirmation that Adelaide now has one of the premier swimming facilities in Australia.

“The state of South Australia has invested heavily in the development of a fantastic facility and has shown great foresight and commitment to the development of the sport,” says Neil.

“The recent Australian Age Championships, with more than 1500 competitors, showed that the venue is capable of

hosting major events. Feedback from the athletes, coaches and swimming community was very positive.”

In addition to hosting the 2012 event, the board of Swimming Australia also confirmed Adelaide will host the 2013 Australian Swimming Championships which will act as selection trials for the FINA World Championships, as well as the 2013 Australian Age Swimming Championships.

Mighty Mouse auctions her gold, but keeps one blue ribbon

CANADA'S champion swimmer, the barely five-foot tall Mighty Mouse, Elaine Tanner, is auctioning her Olympic and Commonwealth medals.

The only thing too precious to part with is a little blue ribbon from a meet in 1957 in Santa Clara California, where she won her first race at the age of five.

It had been her dream to win that ribbon, and it set her on the path to international stardom. She was born in Canada, and returned there to compete for the country of her birth. She won three Olympic medals, broke five world records and became one of the best female swimmers in the world. In 1966 she

was named Canada's best athlete – the youngest person to ever get the award, and also received the Order of Canada.

Elaine is auctioning her collection, even her Olympic medals. But she will not part with that blue ribbon.

Elaine's husband John Watt says that her life in the sport in Canada has been bittersweet. Since the 1968 Olympics and an international meet in Russia in 1969, she has not swum at all – not even recreationally. Watt believes that if she had swam for Australia or the USA her life in swimming – before, during and afterward – would have had a much more positive outcome.

The auction will be continuing online

till June 21 at classicauctions.net. You can see a video of her at elainetanner.ca. or go to www.splashmagazine.com.au for a QuickLink.



52-strong team for Shanghai

Australian Swim Team for FINA World Championships, Shanghai, 24-31 July:
Men (22): Matthew Abood, Sam Ashby, Craig Calder, Ashley Delaney, Tommaso D'Orsogna, Thomas Fraser-Holmes, Jayden Hadler, Geoff Huegill, Jarrod Killey, Mitchell Larkin, James Magnusson, Kenrick Monk, Ryan Napoleon, Travis Nederpelt, Brenton Rickard, James Roberts, Christian Sprenger, Hayden Stoeckel, Eamon Sullivan, Matthew Targett, Kenneth To, Ben Treffers
Women (23): Jessica Ashwood, Angie Bainbridge, Bronte Barratt, Alicia Coutts, Merindah Dingjan, Blair Evans, Sally Foster, Katie Goldman, Melissa Gorman, Olivia Halicek, Samantha Hamill, Belinda Hocking, Leisel Jones, Rebecca Kemp, Yolane Kukla, Meagen Nay, Jade Neilsen, Kylie Palmer, Leiston Pickett, Stephanie Rice, Jessicah Schip-

per, Emily Seebohm, Kelly Stubbins
Open Water (8): Danielle DeFrancesco, Melissa Gorman, Codie Grimsey, Trent Grimsey, Natasha Harrison, Ky Hurst, Rhys Mainstone, Bonnie MacDonald
Head Coach: Leigh Nugent

Australian Swim Team for Para Pan Pacific Championships – Edmonton, Canada 10-14 August:

Kayla Clarke, Blake Cochrane, Ellie Colé, Matt Cowdrey, Jay Dohnt, Richard Eliason, Daniel Fox, Jacqui Freney, Brenden Hall, Sarah Hilt, Tanya Huebner, Ahmed Kelly, Nicole Latham, Matt Levy, Esther Overton, Andrew Pasterfield, Grant Patterson, Katrina Porter, Madeleine Scott, Jeremy Tidy, Tiegian Van Roosmalen, Prue Watt, Reagan Wickens - Head Coach: Brendan Keogh
Coaches: Angelo Bassalo, Chris Phillips, Graeme Carroll, Steve Hadler, Tony Keogh, Brian Miller.

Aussies pinch son of a Kiwi legend

THE son of New Zealand Commonwealth Games swimming gold medallist, Mark Treffers, has been chosen to represent Australia at the world championships in July.

Ben Treffers is arguably the super fish that got away for New Zealand after the Canberra-born 19-year-old qualified by winning the 100m backstroke title at the Australian national championships in Sydney.

Treffers, whose father Mark won the 400m individual medley at the Christchurch Games for New Zealand, supports the Crusaders in Super Rugby but in the pool his allegiance lies with Australia.

He recorded a personal best time of 53.87 seconds to upstage Beijing Olympians Hayden Stoeckel and Ashley Delaney.

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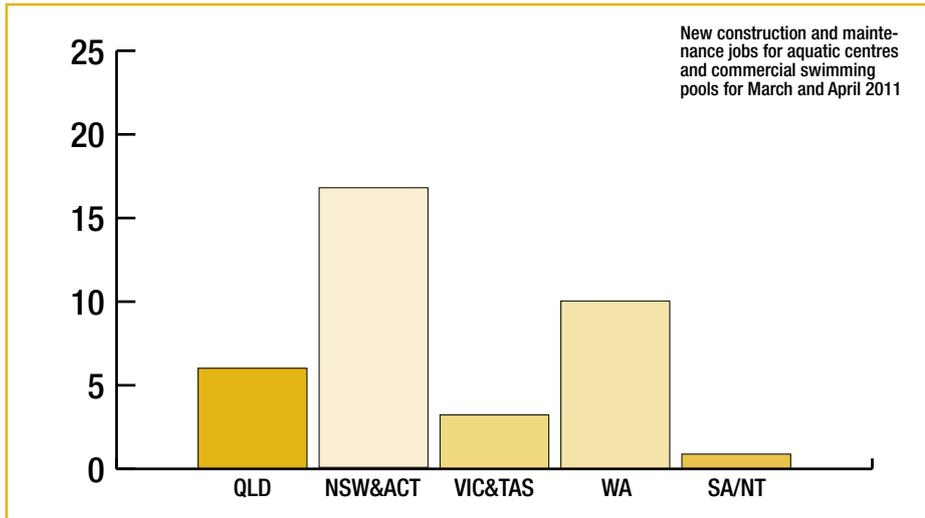
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Latest commercial tenders

CORDELL Information has released data showing new tenders for public swimming pools and aquatic centres for March and April, 2011.

The figures show both construction and maintenance jobs for aquatic centres and commercial swimming pools. Only new business opportunities have been included, not jobs that have been previously advertised.

The figures show tender numbers at 38 in total compared with 28 for the previous period. New South Wales (17) and Western Australia (10) had the most tenders.



Tender of the month

Dalby Aquatic Centre - Construction of New 25m Indoor Pool

Close Date: July 1, 2011 2pm

Tender to: Western Downs

Regional Council

Unique Tender ID Contract No:

1.2/2/10-11

Location: Darling Downs. Dalby is 211 km north west of Brisbane.

Western Downs Regional Council has put out a tender for the construction of a new 25m indoor pool at the Dalby Aquatic Centre.

Documents and further information:

Western Downs Regional Council

Ph (07) 4672 1100

Fax (07) 4672 1199

Email: info@wdrc.qld.gov.au

Website: www.wdrc.qld.gov.au

Tenders Close 2.00pm on Friday 1

July 2011.

For more information on Cordell Information's commercial tender reports, call 1800 674 120.

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Uluru money to pay for pool

THE National Indigenous Times reports that the Uluru Kata Tjuta Board of Management has approved the installation of a community swimming pool at Mutitjulu in Central Australia. The residents of the community had been struggling to get the pool for decades. The nearest pool is currently 25 kilometres away and given the proven benefits of swimming pools to indigenous communities, the decision has been a long time coming. The funds for the construction will be made available from rent money for Uluru lands.



NSW councils get planning back

NEW NSW Premier Barry O'Farrell has scrapped Part 3A of the planning act, which had allowed the planning minister to assess projects worth more than \$10 million. That power has now reverted to local councils.

While Part 3A was considered important in speeding up large applications, it also received a great deal of criticism

from some local communities, and because the approval power was centralised with one person, it left the door open to the perception of undue influence.

Applications already lodged under Part 3A of the act will be divided between councils and the NSW Planning Assessment Commission. Applications that have been on the books for more than two years will lapse.

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Australian Anthony Syrowatka has the good fortune of not just spending a week or two there, but living and working right in the middle of green rice paddies, smiling locals and relaxed tourists.

He runs the Australian owned, built and managed Viceroy Bali with his parents. The

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Relaxing by the main pool

resort is designed around high class villa-style accommodations with stunning rural vistas of the Petanu River valley, all the while ensuring a high degree of luxurious seclusion.

Unlike some upscale Ubud hotels, the Viceroy prides itself on an intimate and friendly ambience, and it's their philosophy to work closely with the local Balinese people, to respect all of their traditions, and to ensure that wherever possible, the local village people are employed to give all guests that unique Balinese experience.

Of course, the most important part of any luxury holiday is the pool. And the Viceroy doesn't disappoint. Not only is there a beautiful main pool and a spa, but each of the 25 villas has its own private pool.

The pools were designed by the family in conjunction with a local architect, were built using steel-reinforced concrete by the family in combination with the local work force. They feature traditional Balinese green stone lining, use saltwater chlorination with sand filters, and acid for pH balancing.

The resort also features the Lembah Spa balanced on the hill overlooking the spectacular Petanu River Gorge with its unrivalled views. The spa offers treatments developed by Swiss professionals to combine the best of the West, with Balinese natural treatments. In addition to a variety of massage and body treatments, the spa also offers a steam room and a sixty-eight jet therapeutic American Jacuzzi. 📍



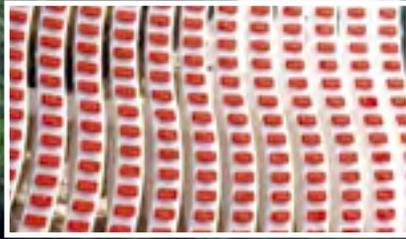
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Uniting the USA

At the recent SPLASH! Asia Pool and Spa Trade Show, Alan Lewis asked Tom Lachocki if a unified Model Aquatic Health Code (MAHC) will bring about healthier recreational water.

Tom answered the above question with part humour and part caution: "Hopefully in my lifetime! [By the way he's not that old – ed] Bringing fifty states together, it will have to be an evolutionary process. Certainly not a revolutionary one."

The process of establishing a uniform MAHC across the 50 United States began some five years ago. One of the most persuasive thrusts towards the decision to embark on this task was driven by the data produced by the Centre for Disease Control (CDC) in the USA. This body is charged with the onerous job of reducing the national risk of injuries or disease from any source.

Data emanating from the monitoring of pools across the country continually indicated much cause for concern: from misuse of hazardous chemicals; failed levels of disinfection; outbreaks caused by chloramines; outbreaks of Cryptosporidium; badly maintained equipment and much more. These incidents were attributed to: lack of satisfactory surveillance in public pools and other aquatic facilities; unsatisfactory training of pool managers and pool staff; a poor culture of swimmer hygiene; insufficient warnings and reporting of disease outbreaks; and other tracking of facility health events.

The CDC continues to harness its personnel and expertise to the task of correcting the failings of the swimming industry, and continues to support water activities as a vital chronic disease prevention tool. Hence the MAHC has this lofty vision/mis-sion statement:

"To develop a Model Aquatic Code that is user friendly, knowledge based and scientifically supported in an effort to reduce risk and promote healthy recreational water experiences."

The objective: "To transform varied swimming pool regulations used by health departments into a uniform model national code to ensure the health and safety of the swimming public"

Those associated with the health legislators in Australia know just how difficult

it would be to initiate such a code in this country. While we only have eight states and territories as opposed to the 50 the USA has to coordinate, there are some essential differences between our two countries regarding the resources for embarking on such a path.

In the first place, the Australian CDC has all but ceased to concern itself with pools. The task of monitoring health in public aquatic facilities has been handed to the individual local jurisdictions in each state and territory. There is no co-ordinated national program that reports on a regular basis – apart from the excellent work that the Royal Life Saving Society invests in prevention of drowning in swimming pools across the Australia.

Fortunately, the current US CDC effort can provide a model for Australia, saving time and resources to establish our national model code independently. The USA is blessed with a vibrant National Swimming Pool Foundation (NSPF) which supports research specific to recreational swimming waters to the tune of millions of dollars. Australia has no such body and no regular investment in research of any significance flows to this poorly funded area.

In discussing the research that is needed to support the industry, Tom Lachocki says: "Research undocumented is research undone!" Albert Einstein once said "You cannot solve a problem with the same mentality you used to create it."

These two quotes help us to understand just how important research is, and how difficult it is to evolve changes such research might sponsor. Other nations such as Germany, Sweden and Denmark have already adopted science-based change. They have taken the "quantum leap" and embraced new concepts and practices. An innovative country like Australia should be able to muster enough resources to invest in research which would help us create a new mentality focused on a "health culture" and discipline which would both protect and enhance the public swimming pool experience.



Tom Lachocki at SPLASH! Asia

Our job is made easier since research results and developments are presented each year at the World Aquatic Health Conference (WAHC) organised by the NSPF in the US. These seminars are documented online for all to register and access.

The US steering committee of the MAHC is now releasing their draft policies, and the first of the 12 model code modules. Additional modules will be released one by one so that the industry, government and academia will have ample opportunity to contribute to the debate.

The most critical module of all has now been issued. It describes the training and certification requirements, to ensure pool operators meet the essential minimum educational requirements needed for their job. Without well-trained and qualified operators who must upgrade their knowledge every five years, the future is in the hands of the uneducated – which is not a "mentality" that pursues excellence and advancement.

The Draft Public Review and Comment shows clearly how much has yet to be done in the USA – let alone countries like ours – in order to bring this document and its objectives to fruition.

A vital aspect of swimming pools and their mechanical systems remains a formidable challenge: many were built decades ago and no longer comply with modern requirements and the demands resulting from heavier bather loads than originally envisaged.

Thus we must research, document and adopt new technologies in order to provide safer and healthier swimming water.

Good science must be encouraged to develop new strategies for the upgrade of older pools in particular, to bring them into line with new demands and new concepts which minimise risks from chemical and physical hazards including disinfection by-products. 

Ole Gronborg at the WAHC



Better Water Seminar Series in August

SWIM Australia, The Australian Swimming Coaches and Teachers Association's (ASCTA) national learn-to-swim division, is hosting its inaugural Better Water Seminar Series during August. The seminars will focus on tried and tested new, cost-effective technologies that significantly improve water quality in pools with high bather loads and/or high temperatures and also how to improve the quality of the air in the pool halls. There will be many tips to help even the smallest facility maximise results.

The first two Seminars will be based around Westside Swimming in Brisbane and include a visit to the post-flood refurbished plant room. This Swim School, one of Swim Australia's National Testing Centres, has successfully trialled the applications since October 2010.

Keynote Speaker Dr Ole Gronborg is a world leader in the design of heated indoor pools and the special equipment needed to achieve a new benchmark for high quality and healthier swimming water in indoor heated pools. He will be presenting "Reducing Trihalomethanes and Chloramines in Pools".

Seminar 1: Brisbane, Tuesday 9th August, 1:00pm.
Specific to the needs of Environmental Health Officers and other Council Health officers in relation to the Queensland Health Swimming and Spa Pools Quality and Operational Guidelines 2004.

Seminar 2: Brisbane, Wednesday 10th August, 9:00am.
Specific to swim schools, hydrotherapy pools, hospital pools and spas.

Seminar 3: Sydney, Fri 12th or Mon 15th August (DTBC)

Seminar 4: Canberra, Tuesday 16th August

Register your interest now with seminar consultant, Alan Lewis on Skype (alanlewis34), by email (aquazure34@gmail.com) or SMS to 0408 168 812 as early as possible so that you can be kept informed of the details as they emerge. Remember to provide your contact details.

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The Waterco fibreglass wound filter



Fish ready to go for a simulated trip to the deep

A pool filter for fish

A hyperbaric chamber designed by an Australian pool filter manufacturer is helping save fish from serious illness caused by “catch and release” fishing.

An Australian-designed hyperbaric sand filter chamber which replicates deep sea conditions up to almost 70 metres is key to a vital project into the affects of barotrauma on fish which are rapidly brought to the surface and then released.

The chamber was designed and created by swimming pool and water treatment specialist Waterco in conjunction with aquaculture specialist Aquasonic.

The Wild Fisheries Program, a division within the NSW Department of Industry & Investment which undertakes scientific research into the sustainability of fish stocks in NSW, has received funding from the NSW Saltwater Recreational Fishing Trust to conduct a series of tests into fish barotrauma over the next 18 months. Barotrauma is the physical damage caused by a change in pressure and is particularly dangerous for fish when they are brought to the surface from great ocean depths. The gases trapped in the fish’s blood, tissues and swim bladder expand faster than they can be expelled and can cause injury or death.

The initial research is being done on two of Australia’s iconic fish species – snapper and mulloway, with the ultimate aim of conducting tests on a range of species.

Bryan Goh, Waterco’s group marketing manager, says the fibreglass wound hyperbaric chamber is an advanced solution for a very real problem.

“Wild Fisheries needed a high pressure-rated chamber for crucial research into barotrauma. With Waterco’s 8-bar fibreglass filter, the Wild Fisheries Program can carry out tests to more than seven atmospheres (at least 60 metres).”

Waterco is one of only a few companies to manufacture large high pressure rated fibreglass filters. The growing desalination industry in particular uses such filters (6-8-bar). Waterco uses the latest in

fibreglass winding technology, ensuring vastly superior structural strength, mechanical and chemical resistance, and tanks which weigh just one third that of steel and are non-rusting/corroding. Its 8-bar filters have also been used for water treatment applications such as pre-filtration for reverse osmosis/membrane systems.

Catch and release fishing

“One aspect of this research is looking into the survival of fish following their capture and release,” says Dr John Stewart, senior research scientist, Wild Fisheries Program.

“Catch and release fishing by recreational fishers is a practice designed to enhance the sustainability of fish stocks, but fish that are captured from even quite shallow waters can suffer from barotrauma injuries.

“We are conducting a series of experiments on these species to examine their behaviour and survival following simulated pressure changes from different depths. We will investigate ways of improving the fish’s health and survival rates.”

Dr Stewart and his team have already begun testing the chamber on snapper and mulloway to investigate the rate at which gas is secreted into the fish’s swim bladder. “This is important to know before we start the survival experiments,” he says.

“The chamber is working very well and maintains constant pressures of up to eight atmospheres indefinitely. We are using a submersible well pump to pump the seawater into the chamber under constant pressure”.

“Some level of barotrauma occurs in many fish that are caught from more than approximately 10m depth. This is because of a simple law of physics regarding the volume of gas under pressure. This expanded gas has to go somewhere and causes damage to the fish’s internal organs, eyes and gills.”



1. Dr John Stewart with a fish ready to go into the chamber
 2. The filter operates at seven atmospheres for these experiments, but can go to eight
 3. Observing the fish in the chamber
 4. Testing the fish afterwards
 5. The laterals to let in salt water – there is no media in the filter



Most advanced program of its kind

While there has been other research into fish barotrauma, this hyperbaric chamber makes the Wild Fisheries Program the most advanced of its kind in the world.

“Previous field-based research into the effects of barotrauma has been hampered by factors such as damage from being hooked, and stress during the fight,” says Dr Stewart.

“Many people have used tagging studies, however it has proven difficult to recapture enough fish to achieve statistically significant results. Other studies have maintained fish in cages – which can be difficult due to changing weather and sea conditions.

“Until now, no experimental fish hyperbaric chambers have been built that could withstand more than four atmospheres of pressure. As most of our offshore fish are captured from depths much greater than 30m, we needed a chamber that could withstand greater water pressures.”

Highest pressure rating

The pressure rating of the filter is 8-bar (800kPa), which is the highest pressure rating Waterco can currently achieve.

“Its construction and multiple layers of continuous fibreglass enable the filter to withstand a high internal pressure,” says Goh. “A project such as this really demonstrates the strength of our commercial filters. We’re currently undertaking further research and development and aim to achieve higher pressure ratings in the future.”

For the Wild Fisheries Program, the chamber solved a number of challenges.

“The challenges we faced included building a chamber that was large enough to keep quite large fish (up to 7kg snapper),” says Dr Stewart. “It also had to have flow-through salt water, be able to handle internal pressures of more than seven atmospheres – and we had to be able to see the fish inside.”

Waterco installed two 80mm sight glasses which could withstand the 8-bar (800kPa) pressure and enable the fish to be viewed from outside.

“Over the past two years we tested various methods of installing large manholes and sight glasses,” says Goh. “Generally they are harder to incorporate in high pressure filters, because any opening in a filter vessel creates a potential weak point or complicates the manufacturing process.”

After significant research and development, Waterco’s proprietary

technology and advanced manufacturing capabilities enabled it to incorporate the sight glasses and large manholes into the high pressure filter for the Wild Fisheries Program.

“We believe this is a world first, and that no-one else has made 8-bar filter vessels which are larger than 2200mm,” says Goh. “The sight glasses we installed for this project were specially designed and developed by our fibreglass engineers. Such filters are also suited for desalination plants as pre-filters, prior to the membrane filters.”

What's happening in 42 regional health spa markets

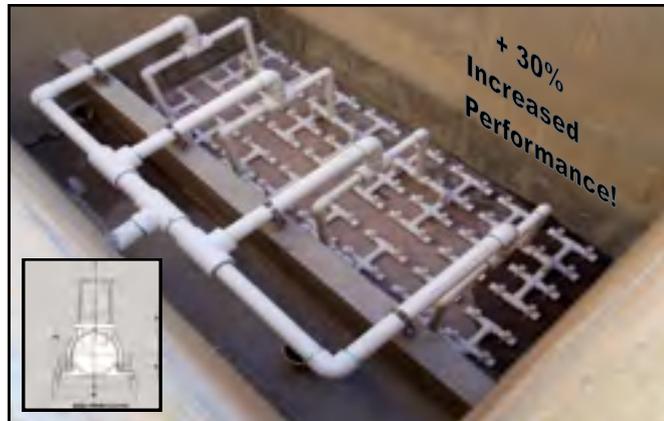


Healthy water being prepared at Antara Spa in Thailand

Intelligent Spas has published its first Asia Pacific spa industry report.

Singapore-based research company Intelligent Spas has released its first ever spa industry report for Asia Pacific which contains data on all 42 countries across the region.

This new research covers total industry revenue and employment numbers by country, collected during Intelligent Spas' Global Spa Benchmark Program, as well as information relating to which spa markets are supported by industry associations and government departments, enforce legal



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requirements and training standards, plus practice traditional spa therapies.

Each country was also analysed and categorised according to market status including mature market, growing market, emerging market or potential future market.

"The Asia Pacific Spa and Wellness Coalition (APSWC) is extremely pleased to have initiated the first-ever report covering all 42 Asia Pacific countries," says Andrew Jacka, APSWC Chairman.

"Compiled by our premier research partner, Intelligent Spas, the report was released to delegates of the 5th APSWC Spa Forum held in Phuket. Given this is the first time such a report has been published, it has served to highlight the importance of the spa sector to the tourism industry in the region, acknowledging the significant number of professional spas that are already in existence, while showing that a number of Asia Pacific countries have yet to establish their first spa."

"This new regional spa industry report is a vital resource in understanding the spa industry across Asia Pacific and will prove useful in its continued development," says



Julie Garrow, Managing Director of Intelligent Spas.

"Following the global economic instability the world has experienced over recent years, this research is timely to assist stakeholders within the industry to recognise changes in each marketplace, adapt their business strategies accordingly, identify new business opportunities and maximise overall performance."

Key research findings are:

- There are more than 3500 spas currently operating in the Asia Pacific region.
- These spas collectively generate approximately US\$2 billion in revenue per annum.
- The Asia Pacific spa industry employs over 50,000 people.
- More than 60 per cent of countries are considered emerging or potential spa markets, suggesting there are plenty of development and business opportunities across the region.

Countries included in the report are:

American Samoa, Australia, Brunei, Cambodia, China, Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, French Polynesia, Guam, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Japan, Kiribati, Laos, Macau, Malaysia, Marshall Islands, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nauru, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Niue, North Korea, Northern Mariana Islands, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Samoa, Singapore, Solomon Islands, South Korea, Taiwan, Timor-Leste, Thailand, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, Vietnam, Wallis and Futuna.

The full report is available from Intelligent Spas website at www.IntelligentSpas.com.

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Bodyboarder Oly getting a ride

LatiTube emerges from the green room

The long-awaited Australian-designed upright surfing ride has finally been unveiled.

The LatiTube has been launched in Coffs Harbour. This Australian innovation allows total surfing beginners to ride massive waves without the fear of a wipe-out.

According to Geoff Leaver, director of aquatics equipment designer and manufacturer Swimplex Aquatics, the LatiTube Pocket Series is a real wave simulation device which produces quality waves that will excite, challenge and enthuse even the best surfers.

"It was designed and tested by surfers for surfers. Beginners to expert, everyone can experience the feel of seven-foot-plus tubing wave safely. If you can do it in the ocean you can do it on a LatiTube."

The LatiTube was developed over many years by Swimplex in conjunction with LatiTube designer and committed surfer Steve Kriticos.

Kriticos says the LatiTube is his "pipe dream", and it has effectively captured the rush, velocity and intensity of a barrelling wave.

Several years ago, Leaver identified the potential for inclusion of surfing simulators into large municipal pools and aquatic centres as a means of targeting social problems experienced by today's youth. Kriticos approached Leaver in 2007 outlining his dream to produce his own design for a surf simulator. A relationship was forged and now some five years later the project has come to fruition.

Swimplex arranged a prototype test by former world champion bodyboarder Michael "Eppo" Eppelstun. Eppo gave LatiTube the thumbs up and said he loved the potential of being able to train people to surf on the LatiTube and improve their wave riding technique while standing right next to them.

"The exciting thing about the LatiTube is that on the night of the launch, two girls

who had never surfed before got up and were riding the wave simulator like absolute professionals," says Leaver.

While LatiTube will appeal to a broad demographic, the main marketing thrust will be the lucrative youth market with skill-based repeat business.

Kriticos says the youth market is the quickest to tire of stagnant attractions – but the LatiTube provides the dynamic features and ever-changing ride experiences to keep them literally on their toes.

The device features adjustable skill levels by changing the power, effects and shape of the wave so the controller can create beginner-friendly conditions in seconds and continue to adjust the skill required while the rider is up, to make it more demanding and fun as their skill improves.

It is envisaged that a LatiTube installation will present excellent opportunities for attracting community groups, schools, surf tours, back-packers and corporate events.

Swimplex Aquatics are currently in negotiations with several Australian sites. For more information go to www.swimplex.com.au or visit sales@swimplex.com.au. 



Eppo gets into a tube



Eppo shows a bodyboarder how to do it



This girl had never stood on a board before trying the prototype LatiTube



Steve Kriticos and Geoff Leaver with the prototype

The youth market is the quickest to tire of stagnant attractions – but the LatiTube provides the dynamic features and ever-changing ride experiences to keep them literally on their toes.



It's great for teaching surfing while standing next to the student, as Kriticos shows here



Kriticos in the tube

New Products

The latest ideas to make residential and commercial pools, spas and landscapes more enjoyable, stylish, efficient and easier to maintain, including luxurious accessories, technological advances and new concepts from Australasian and international manufacturers, suppliers and service providers.

BREAKTHROUGH IN SUBMERSIBLE LED TECHNOLOGY

CRYSTAL, a world leader in the development of new technology for water features, introduced new LED ring lights at the SPLASH! Asia Pool and Spa Trade Show in May.

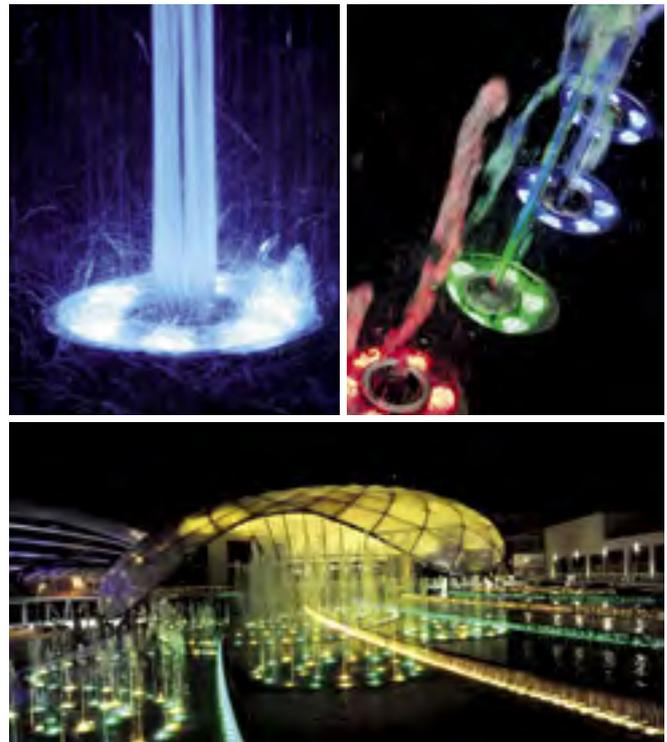
Unlike the previous generation of submersible LED lights, these new ring lights surround each water jet, combining lights and water into one component and focusing water illumination in a new exciting way.

The LED ring lights are designed for residential poolside fountains and large commercial water features. The breakthrough design brings several key advantages to water feature design:

- Increased space and flexibility (from combining two components into one);
- Major increase in the lighting focus from 360-degree illumination;
- They are more powerful (30W) making the light clearer and brighter. Even a 13m jet of water can be illuminated to its maximum height;
- A centre hole of 2¼" diameter means that many types of nozzles can be accommodated and a variety of mounting options add to its flexibility;
- New 316 stainless steel construction is extremely durable.

Crystal first introduced submersible LED lights for water features five years ago. Since then, Crystal has worked to improve the technology to make the product increasingly flexible and illumination even more powerful.

For more information go to www.crystalfountains.com, email Mike Crnkovic at mcrnkovic@crystalfountains.com or call him on +1 (905) 660-6674.



New modular slide centres

WATERPLAY has released a new line of curvy slide activity centres. The modular centres are an innovative solution for projects on flat or graded surfaces, retrofits into existing facilities, or new projects.

“The variety of deck and flume options enable countless combinations to address the unique characteristics of each project,” says product manager, Cory Forrest. “And the stainless steel construction enables them to withstand the most demanding chlorinated pool environments or zero-depth aquatic play pads.”

The new slides aim to keep families active and engaged for longer periods of time giving aquatic facilities an edge and potentially increasing revenue generating opportunities.

For more information visit www.waterplay.com or email lisa.neilson@waterplay.com.



New tiles from Middle Earth

NEW Zealand ceramic tile and paving manufacturer, Middle Earth, has introduced Basalto Clinker tiles to the Australasian market.

Developed in Spain, Basalto Clinker tiles have black, grey and metallic shades which suit modern architectural spaces.

Basalto is manufactured from high-quality clays in a single 44 hour firing cycle at a temperature of 1360°C, giving it a natural blend of shades and excellent technical performance.

The tiles have a slip resistance rating of R12 and are resistant to scratching, impact, abrasion, flexing, frost, thermal shock, stains and acids. The high technical performance of Basalto Clinker tiles makes it the ideal product for swimming pools and outdoor paving, always respecting the environment and contributing to the development of sustainable architecture.

They are available in a comprehensive range of tile sizes and accessories and include a new Infinity Pool edging tile, ceramic drainage grates and overflow drains.

Other Clinker tile colours include Lava, Light Sand and Natural.

Middle Earth Tiles is the only manufacturer of ceramic tiles in New Zealand. For further information go to www.middleearthtiles.co.nz or call +649 360 2638.



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NEW FROM FOCUS – STA-RITE POOL EQUIPMENT

FOCUS Products is now the exclusive Australian and New Zealand distributor for Sta-Rite pool equipment. The range includes:

SILENTFLO

CLEVERLY designed both technically and aesthetically, this pump has many benefits such as the elevated base keeping it high off the ground. Not only does this reduce vibration and noise, but assists in keeping moisture away from the motor. Quality components such as the deep groove ball bearings tested to 120°C are sure to deliver long life and durability. With a large capacity hair & lint pot and easy to remove “push and turn” lid, emptying the basket is a breeze. The SilentFlo is a rugged high performance pump, and represents excellent value for money.



MAX-E-PRO

MAX-E-PRO is a high head, high flow pump suitable for most applications on pools and spas. Its heavy duty design and appearance makes it ideal for in-floor cleaning systems and overall long lasting performance. The quick lock lid makes for easy removal and cleaning of the basket. Famous over the years for its performance and quality, the Max-E-Pro is the pump of choice for the high end or high performance pool requirement.



INTELLIPRO

INTELLIPRO multi-speed and variable speed pumps are revolutionising swimming pool efficiency. By reducing the speed of the motor, these pumps can deliver excellent performance and save between 30 per cent to 90 per cent of running costs. Based on the high performance and heavy duty properties of the Max-E-Pro wet-end and the latest technology in multi- and variable speed motors.



BOOST-RITE

BOOST-RITE booster pumps are an excellent choice for running pressure side cleaners. This multi-stage high performance pump along with a pressure cleaner will deliver superior pool cleaning properties and allow the skimmer and pool circulation equipment to carry out their roles completely separately.



INTELLITOUCH

THE Intellitouch brings the whole pool and outdoor area together. The pool, water features, lights, etc can all be customised and operated through the Intellitouch touch pad. The Intellitouch system now utilises the Pentair Screenlogic App, meaning you can turn the pool lights on, switch the heater on before you get home, turn the speed of the pump up or down, all from your iPhone or iPad.



MASTERTEMP

ULTRA high performance in an ultra compact, quiet and eco-friendly design. Master-Temp gas heaters are available in a wide range of sizes, in both LPG and Natural Gas. They have one of the smallest footprints of any gas heater which is crucial for smaller blocks of land. Performance and energy efficiency rolled into one small package.



TAGELUS SAND FILTERS

TAGELUS sand filters have been known for many years for their strength, performance and reliability. The Tagelus tank is constructed in one piece from fibreglass reinforced material to deliver unmatched strength and durability for years of service.

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Super efficient spa pumps now approved for Australia

ITT Laing E-10 low flow circulation pumps have just been approved for use in the local market. They are the most energy efficient circulation pump in the industry, drawing just 70W of power. They have a wide range of applications including filtration/heating systems and 24-hour ozone systems to optimise water quality and ozone generation effectiveness.

Laing circulation pumps have been in use since mid 1990s particularly on North American imported spas, as well as locally made spas since around 2000. The new E series pumps replaced



the previous SM series pumps in mid 2008.

Laing pumps are distributed by Australian Spa Parts, who also distributes Waterway spa related products such

as jets, manifolds, air controls and spare parts. They also distribute the full Magnum range of portable spa related pleated filter cartridges, including custom designed cartridges to exceed original specifications for product quality improvement.

For more information call 1300 736 025, email sales@spaparts.com.au or visit www.spaparts.com.au.

A HELPING HAND FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

ACCESS to aquatic environments is vitally important to the quality of life for both mobility challenged individuals and seniors. A pool provides the optimal setting for low impact exercise or therapy. Fear of falling and other traditional land-based concerns virtually disappear when exercise is moved into the pool.



As our society ages, the mobility challenged population increases, as does the need for safe and accessible pools. Most States in Australia require local councils to provide their public swimming pools with disability access. This may take the form of a ramp or a disability lift. To retrofit a ramp into an existing swimming pool can cost hundreds of thousands of dollars.

However, it is a simple process to fit a permanent or semi-permanent disability lift at a fraction of the cost.

The Federal Government has just released a new Australian Standard "Disability (access to premises, buildings) Standards 2010" which covers the minimum specifications for all disability access products. The IQ Aquatic Splash Pool & Spa Lift is a semi-permanent lift that exceeds these requirements.

It is battery powered and operated by a screw driven actuator. It features full mechanised left & right as well as up & down motion. The hand control is completely waterproof, and allows either the user or the attendant to control its operation with ease.

The seating system is the first system designed specifically for disabled swimmers. The seat itself is both deeper and higher to both provide a more stable platform for sitting, as well as being able to better accommodate swimmers with reduced trunk stability.

For more information contact David Lloyd from International Quadratics on 61_2_9774 5550 or 0418 203 743.

LO-CHLOR LAUNCHES THE FINISHING TOUCH

FOLLOWING the success of their Aquaspa range, Lo-Chlor is launching a new premier range of pool and spa chemicals called The Finishing Touch.

Lo-Chlor says that each product in the range – and those to be added later – has its own unique characteristics and each will perform its task with the maximum efficiency possible. At the time of going to print, labels were still being prepared. The products in the range will be:



SPA COVER REJUVENATOR

A unique vinyl restorer and protector that has been specially formulated for spa and hot tub covers, to prolong the life of vinyl covers and to maintain them in excellent condition. It is water repellent and by hindering the penetration of water it ultimately gives the cover its own "rain coat". It has inbuilt SPF protection which prevents fading from UV rays and is anti-fungal. It also fights chlorine or bromine embrittlement of vinyl headrests.

ABOVE THE WATERLINE

THIS product is a specially formulated surface cleaner and polisher for swimming pools, spas and hot tubs. It boasts a high strength formulation and is ideal for all pool and spa finishes. It cleans up grease, grime, dirty marks and the scum line and adds that "extra sparkle and polish" to the pool or spa surface. It comes in a convenient trigger spray pack making it very easy to use.

POOL RESCUE

A suntan lotion remover specially formulated for swimming pools. As well as removing suntan lotion it also removes oils and body fats, making greasy water shine and sparkle again.

UV PROTECT

THIS product has been specially formulated for swimming pools and very effectively guards them from the harsh rays of the sun. It puts an invisible blanket over the pool all year round protecting chlorine from ultraviolet light.

SPA WATER ENHANCER

THIS is a unique high strength water clarifier and enhancer specially formulated to remove unwanted suspended matter in spa water, such as oils and body fats, suntan lotion, as well as dirt and organic matter.

For more information contact Lo-Chlor Chemicals 1800 64 7665.

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MAGELLAN CLEANING SYSTEM

WALER Australia has released two new Hexagone pool robots to the Australasian market: the Premium and Eco Pro models for large or small commercial pools.

Both robots are fitted with the new Magellan cleaning system, ensuring complete cleaning of the pool in minimal time. Hexagone research and development ensures that latest technology is incorporated in all new models and that updated technology is available to upgrade older models where possible.

Hexagone and Waler Australia have supplied robotic pool cleaners to some of the world's premier aquatic venues, swim schools and

hydrotherapy pools. Both Waler and Hexagone offer onsite dedicated professional service and product training to ensure customers are confident in operating and maintaining their robotic pool cleaners.

Hexagone is a French company located in Paris, supplying more than 3500 robotic pool cleaners to the global commercial pool industry. Waler Australia has been the Australasian distributor of Hexagone since 2003 and has supplied more than 200 Hexagone robotic cleaners to the Australasian market.

For more information on Waler email sales@waleraustralia.com.au; for more information on Hexagone email info@myhexagone.com.



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HYDROSTORM ECO THREE-SPEED PUMP

WATERCO has unveiled its most energy efficient swimming pool pump yet – the 6.5-star energy rated Hydrostorm Eco.

Unlike conventional pumps that are limited to one set high flow rate speed, the Hydrostorm Eco is equipped with a three-speed motor which allows pool owners to set the pump at a low, energy-saving flow rate for every day filtration.



The new pump is also one of the quietest on the market at 60 decibels – enabling it to be operated at night during cost-effective, off peak electricity tariff periods, without upsetting the neighbours.

“It’s not an exaggeration to say that the Hydrostorm Eco can save you hundreds of dollars when it comes to your annual electricity bill,” says Waterco group marketing director, Bryan Goh. “When set to a low flow rate, the pump uses almost 70 per cent less energy than when operating at a standard high flow rate speed.”

“As a pool’s filtration cycle occupies 99 per cent of the run time of a pool pump, you can operate the Hydrostorm Eco on its low speed setting for the majority of its running time, leading to significant energy savings,” he says.

“Not only that, running a pump at a low flow rate also reduces water flow resistance in pool equipment and plumbing and even enhances the clarity of the swimming pool water.”

The Hydrostorm Eco 100 is available for \$1470 (RRP).

Exotuf filter

ACCORDING to Waterco, the Exotuf is the toughest thermoplastic granular pool filter available on the market today.

“The Exotuf offers superior strength and dependability and is designed to cope with the cyclic pressures of the modern day swimming pool,” says Goh.

“Unlike the majority of thermoplastic blow moulded filters on the market, the Exotuf filter vessel is precision injection moulded – a more precise method of manufacturing – resulting in minimal tolerances. In fact, the Exotuf is so tough, it’s rated to withstand a working pressure of 350 kPa.”



The Exotuf is ideal for pools equipped with in-floor cleaning systems and high-powered pumps. Cleaning the filter simply requires turning the filter’s multiport lever from the filter position to the backwash position.

Exotuf filters are covered by a 10-year tank warranty and 1-year warranty on all other components. Commercial installations are covered by a 5-year (1 year full + 4 years pro rata) tank warranty and 1-year warranty on all other components.

The Exotuf is available for \$605.00 (RRP).

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cleaning, spa jets and more. The IntelliFlo can generally save between \$620 and \$1360 a year in energy costs. So you'll enjoy your pool even more.



Pentair Water

Pool and Spa® *Together we build dreams*