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The voice of the Wet Industry

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August/September 2010

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**WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH
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1): a product of the imagination

2): a device or process originated after study and experiment



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CEO and Inventor




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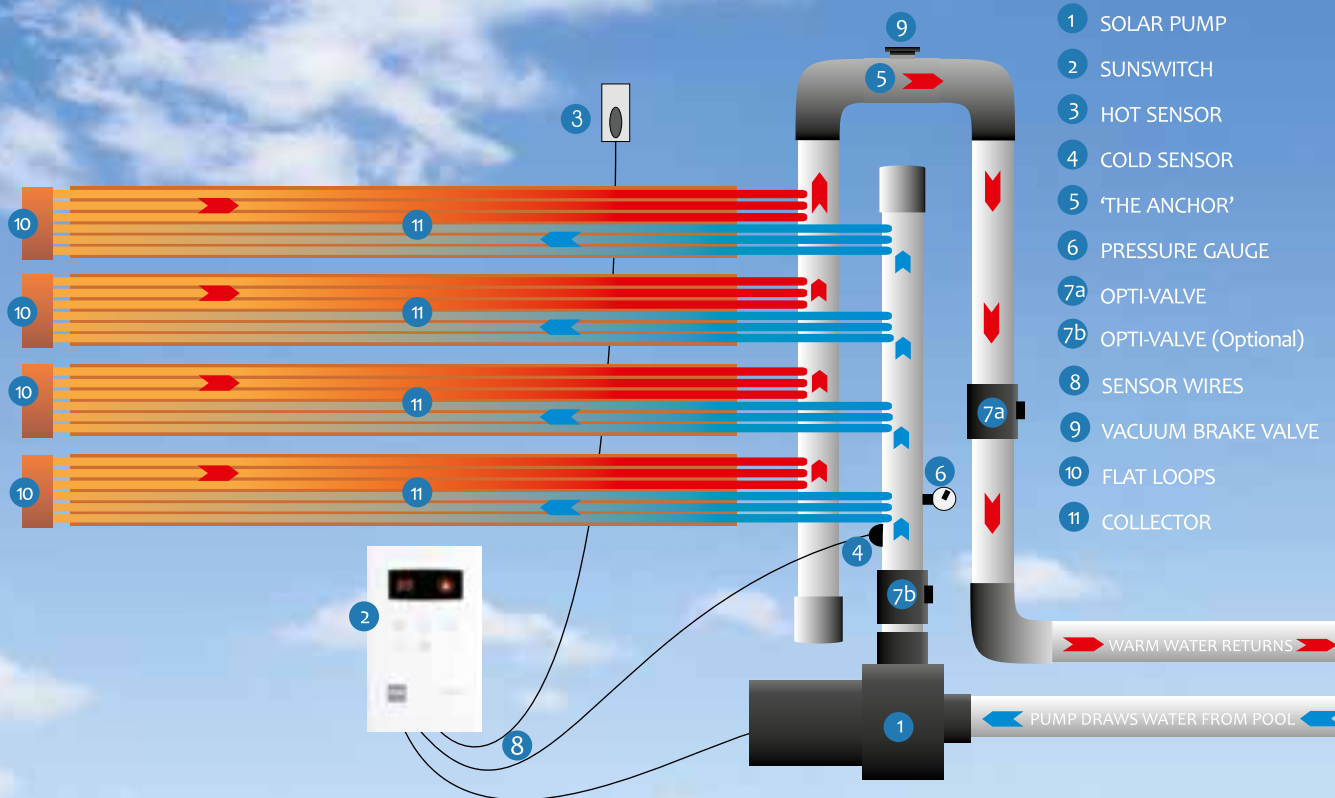
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SPLASH!

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Welcome to SPLASH!



As winter approaches in the even numbered years, the crew at SPLASH! start to get very excited. Because the biggest pool and spa trade show in Australasia (and the biggest dedicated pool and spa trade show in either the Southern Hemisphere or in Asia) only comes to the Gold Coast every second year.

In many ways it's more a celebration that just a trade show. More industry members from around the country will be brought into the one location than ever before – and it won't just be Australians – visitors from New Zealand, Asia, Europe and America will also be attending.

This year, the headline presenters are the amazing trio from Genesis 3 – Skip Phillips, David Tisherman and Brian Van Bower. These guys have an incredible reputation around the world, not just for what they've achieved in the industry, but for the exciting way in which they impart their knowledge. I for one am very keen to get along to the seminars.

SPLASH! Week continues to get a little bigger each time. This year, there is a pre-show workshop by David Tisherman on the Tuesday, as well as the Australian Leisure Facilities Association conference. Other companies also have their own conferences organised for early in the week.

On the Wednesday and Thursday there's the full trade show with more than 100 exhibitors, and a cram-packed two-day program of highly useful and extremely interesting seminars.

The Thursday night features the Gala Awards dinner at the Sofitel hosted by Steven Bradbury, which is an excellent opportunity to relax and network. And on the Friday is the highly popular Andrew Simons Memorial Golf Day at Jack Nicklaus's Lakelands course.

As usual, I hope to meet plenty of members of the industry and get the lowdown on what's happening around the country. If you'd like to have a chat or if you have some information you'd like the rest of the industry to know about, please come up to me and say g'day.

Look forward to seeing you there,

Chris Maher
 Editor
 chrismaher@intermedia.com.au



This issue's cover

This amazing pool design uses Sicis Otranto mosaics to create a "carpeted" underwater world. There is more on Astounding Tiling on page 30 and beyond.

The inset shot shows two young customers enjoying the facilities at World Waterpark at West Edmonton Mall. You can find out more on the symbiotic relationship between malls and aquatic centres on page 74.

which product is still the only genuine “starver” available to the pool industry?

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Let's keep this a secret amongst ourselves

MOVIE PERPETUATES A USEFUL MYTH

IN the new comedy film, *Grown Ups*, five old school friends get back together for a weekend of fun with their families. As those friends are portrayed by Adam Sandler, Rob Schneider, Chris Rock, Kevin James and David Spade, you'll imagine a few moments of gross-out hilarity ensue.

In one scene, the five grown-ups are reclining in the kiddies' wading pool at a water park. One of their daughters warns them not to urinate in the pool, as the pool has a special chemical in it that turns urine blue.

"That's an old wives' tale sweetie," he says. Then a wide zoom-out reveals all five of the grown-ups are surrounded by dark clouds of squid-inkish blue water. The kids all run out of the pool, screaming.

But of course, the adult character was correct – there is no such chemical.

Tom Lachocki, pool chemical expert and CEO of The National Swimming Pool Foundation in the US says that while there are chemicals that react with urine to change colour, they're too toxic to put in swimming pool water.

However, he adds it would be a better world if people believed such a chemical did exist. "It seems unbelievable that some people need to be told to not pee in the pool, it is a gross reflection on society," he says.

Not only is urine in the pool bad in itself, it also reacts with chloramines to create more dangerous chemical compounds, some of which can be quite dangerous. And urine in the pool also makes the sanitising chemicals work harder – with many negative effects including higher chemical usage and a greater risk that infectious diseases will survive and spread.

So, while the idea of a urine-alert chemical is an urban myth, let's just keep that amongst ourselves in the industry; and let the general public believe such a chemical really does exist.

Grown Ups is on general release across Australia and New Zealand. It is rated PG.

Maax Spas goes into liquidation

ASSETS FOR SALE

VICTORIAN spa manufacturer Maax Spa Corporation Pty Ltd has been placed in liquidation and is currently being wound down. At the time of writing, works in progress were being finalised, with the liquidator looking to realise stock and find buyers for moulds, plant and equipment.

Maax Spas was started by Russel Devenish in 1999 when he bought and rebranded Hibiscus Spas, running it as a family business out of Chirnside Park. Prior to setting up Maax Spas he had been in the spa business for many years, owning Monarch and Spa World.

Maax Spa made spas and swim spas under the brand names Maax Spa, Jadan Spas and Spa Showcase. The company was also a large distributor of portable infra-red saunas and gazebos, selling through a 100-plus dealer network.

The spa segment has suffered internationally and in Australia through the global economic downturn. Several international companies have consolidated, been sold or closed down, including the sale of MAAX Corporation of Canada (no relation to Maax Spa Corporation of Australia) to an asset management group.

Liquidator Steve Mitting for Cor Cordis says they have a couple of interested parties at the moment to purchase all available assets. The Maax Spa name is owned by the director but it may be negotiated as part of the deal.

The liquidator says that a couple of Maax's bigger customers were in trouble themselves and that had a flow-on effect to Maax. Also, they were put under pressure from the ATO who were very strict, and that was the final nail in the coffin. The closure may have a flow-on effect to their suppliers.

If the currently interested parties don't end up buying the combined assets, the liquidator may be interested in selling off the stock and equipment separately.

For more information contact Steve Mitting at Cor Cordis on (03) 8320 5600 or email smitting@corcordis.com.au.

Autumn Solar still shining

IT appears the rumours of the demise of Ulladulla-based solar manufacturer, Autumn Solar, have been overstated, with the company expected to be back to normal trading by the time this issue of *SPLASH!* publishes.

Due to a "goof-up" with a disputed creditor, a liquidator was appointed for Autumn – even though it was not required. The only way to retrieve the situation has been through a formal process that involved appointing an administrator.

The administrator, Michael Jones, says that the winding up order has been stayed, that the formal process is underway to have the company back trading as normal and the deed of company arrangement is expected to be approved shortly after the time of writing.

According to Jones, the company is healthy and business is continuing as usual, with no employees being affected.

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Industry moves

BRUCE LEITCH PASSES AWAY

FORMER Waterco sales and marketing director Bruce Leitch passed away on Wednesday 23 June after a 12-month battle with leukemia.

Leitch joined Waterco as general manager of the Zane solar pool heating business in 1987, and played a pivotal role in Waterco's success and development. He quickly rose through the ranks to become Waterco's Australian and New Zealand sales manager in 1994, after being appointed to the board in 1992.

He went on to forge the success of Swimart which now has more than 64 franchised outlets across Australia and New Zealand. He was also heavily involved with Waterco's international trade shows and Swimart conferences.

Leitch was at the helm of many of Waterco's acquisitions during the past two decades including FPI, Senex, Finsbury, Aqua Swim, Fulham Equipment, Senex and Commandomatic.

In mid-2006, he spent time in the US facilitating the consolidation of Baker Hydro and Focus Temp, two strategic acquisitions that firmly cemented Waterco's North American presence.

A highly active sportsman, Leitch had a keen passion for yacht racing, flying and bike riding. The energy and dynamism he showed in both his professional and personal life will be sorely missed by his colleagues, friends and family. He is survived by wife Judy and three children James, Johnathan and Tim.



RAY CROSLING RETIRES AFTER 26 YEARS

AFTER more than a quarter-century on the job at Pool Systems, Ray Crosling has finally called it a day.

This is the end of an era in Pool Systems history as Crosling was employed by the Brisbane-based manufacturer and distributor way back in 1984. During the subsequent 26 years Crosling performed many roles for the company and inducted dozens of new staff members into their respective warehouse, operations or call centre positions.

For the past 11 years Crosling was Call Centre Manager overseeing the receipt and processing of more than 20,000 customer orders annually. He was also Pool System's unofficial salt test meter repairer for 20 years.

Crosling was an integral part of Pool Systems growth from its modest beginning in a small cottage in Zillmere to the current custom-designed warehouse and office complex at Brendale in Brisbane's outer north. During his time, Crosling has possibly spoken to almost every pool shop on the east coast and has solved countless product enquiries from customers all over the country.

Crosling overstayed the official retirement age by almost four years, but is now planning to do some travelling, work on his garden and try to "back a few more winners" at the track. Everyone at Pool Systems wishes him a safe and happy retirement.

His retirement has created an internal promotion for warehouse manager Gary Anderson, who will move into the Call

Centre, and Brent Darben who will step up from warehouse supervisor to manager.

BIOGUARD DISTRIBUTES POPPITS IN NZ

BIOGUARD has been appointed New Zealand distributor for Poppits brand spa chemicals. The distribution agreement will ensure continuity of supply for existing Poppits customers and also broaden distribution by making the products available to BioGuard retailers to complement their existing range.

BioGuard Commercial Director Lindsay McGrath says that the distribution agreement builds on preferred supplier arrangements already in place through Poolside stores.

"Poppits produce non-chlorine and non-bromine chemical solutions and this is a niche market we are happy to explore," he says.

The Poppits brand spa chemicals should be available through BioGuard from August 2, 2010. Customers looking for support with Poppits products can call BioGuard New Zealand Business Development Manager Rob Wischott on 0421 417 764.

For more information on Poppits, visit www.poolpoppits.com.au or BioGuard visit www.bioguard.com

BOLTZ APPOINTS DISTRIBUTOR

SOUTH Australian-based swim accessories brand, Boltz, has moved closer to national distribution with the appointment of KK Products Pty Ltd as their South Australian and the Northern Territory distributor.

Since its launch five years ago, the Boltz range of learn-to-swim and swim training equipment has increased its distribution nationally to include Victoria, Queensland, Western Australia, and now South Australia and the Northern Territory.

StateSwim Centres in three states have bolstered Boltz' distribution with learn-to-swim pupils taking to Boltz goggles, fins and flotation products.

KK Products is the South Australian and the Northern Territory distributor of Pool Pro chemicals and accessories, Kreepy Krauly pool cleaners and Glow and Flow pool and spa lighting and has been servicing these markets for many years.



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All two-dimensional works will be accepted in all media, however the actual artworks can be no larger than 36" x 36" for a juried three-day exhibit to be held in conjunction with the WAHC. The artworks must relate to swimming pools or hot tubs, and/or individuals involved in swimming, aquatic fitness and/or warm water immersion activities.

Submit JPG images of your artwork to springartshow1@gmail.com by August 15th. There is no entry fee. Send digital images of up to five original works. Prizes will be awarded and all work will be for sale. The National Swimming Pool Foundation (NSPF) will keep a 40 per cent commission on all work sold. For more information on the conference please go to www.nspf.org.

Entries are available to anyone around the world, but if selected by the jury, the actual artwork must be sent to Colorado for judging, prior to the exhibition being hung on October 6, 2010 in the Hilton Antler Hotel, Colorado Springs, USA.

TEXAN JAILED IN HOT TUB SCAM

A Texas man has been sentenced to more than two years in jail for selling non-existent hot tubs on eBay. The sentence includes three years of supervised release after prison and restitution totaling more than \$190,000. Steve Lanni, owner of Factory Direct Spas, pleaded guilty to wire fraud after authorities accused him of demanding full payment up front from the highest bidders on hot

tub orders, then spending the money on trips and expensive meals. Authorities say Lanni duped customers in the US, Canada and Europe.

NEW PRESIDENT FOR PISCINA MANAGING

Director of the Fluidra Group, Eloi Planes, has succeeded Lluís Cortés as president of Piscina, the International Swimming Pool Show of Barcelona, who had officiated over the past two events.



Eloi Planes' professional career began in 1998 at AstralPool. In 2000, he was appointed managing director of the same company and, in 2002, he led the creation of the Fluidra group. In 2006, he was appointed Managing Director of the group and in 2007 he led Fluidra's stock market flotation.

SPEC FIGHTS THE "BLACK" ECONOMY

US swimming pool industry advocate SPEC (California Spa & Pool Industry Education Council) is mounting a campaign against the underground economy. Apparently the swimming pool industry is the largest contributing business segment in the fast-growing, invasive underground economy in California.

SPEC Chairman Mike Geremia says "These unscrupulous people are not playing by the rules. They underbid law-abiding competitors to win a contract. The low bid wins because these violators aren't paying minimum wage, or overtime, or payroll taxes, nor do they provide their employees with workers' compensation insurance coverage. The ramifications are far-reaching to our legitimate industry professionals, as well as unsuspecting consumers."

OLD LADY BEQUEATHS POOL TO COMMUNITY

VERNA Oller was 98 years old when she passed away in a retirement home in Washington State, USA. During her life she had been well-known for her frugal lifestyle. According to friends, prior to

moving into the retirement home she used to haul firewood in a wheelbarrow – even though she was well into her 90s – as she didn't want to pay to heat her house. She was also known to use zippers from op shop clothing to repair her shoes.

None of her friends in her Long Beach retirement home knew of the fortune she had tucked away, let alone what she was planning to do with it in her will.

So it came as a complete surprise when they discovered she had left the city \$US3.5m for the building of a local swimming pool. She also left \$1m to help local public schools.

Her money had come from meagre savings after a life of hard work shucking oysters, filleting fish and picking cranberries, together with \$600,000 her sister had left her, which she then placed in astute investments. Apparently, she didn't feel the money was hers to spend, so she saved it for the community.

She chose the idea of a swimming pool because it would benefit everyone in the community, from children to the elderly. She bussed to a neighbouring town to investigate their pool and its cost prior to making her decision.

Unfortunately, the city has yet to accept her offer. Although the money is sufficient for the pool, it doesn't leave any funds for ongoing maintenance, so more funding research has to be undertaken.

WATERCO'S CANADA OPERATION HEATS UP

THE Waterco Canada Inc team celebrated the company's manufacturing milestone of producing 50,000 heat pump units. The benchmark was set after the production of an Excellence Supreme Titanium heat pump rolled off the line.





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The SPLASH! Bookshelf

THE LEISURE POOL & SPA HANDBOOK

THE easy-to-understand Leisure Pool & Spa Handbook is a 120-page information guide for managing swimming pools. It is designed for the efficient, safe and easy operation of small resort, semi-private or backyard swimming pools or spas.

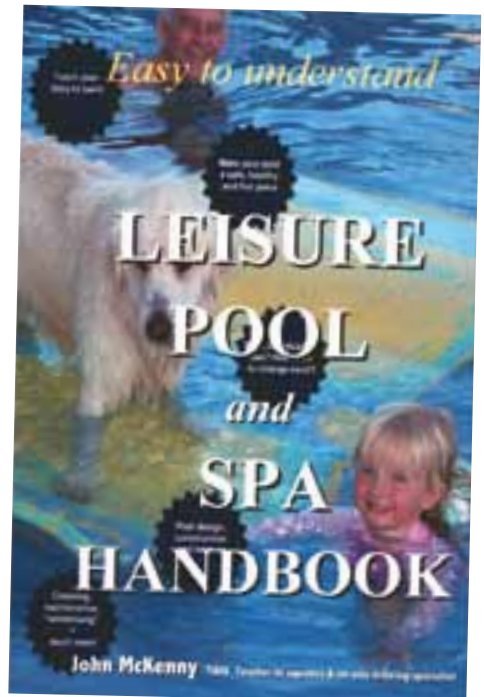
Additionally, it includes a full chapter discussing the simple steps to teach babies and infants water confidence and survival, with the author having 32 years

experience teaching infants and young children water safety.

There are 22 full colour chapters with easy-to-follow advice on how to keep pools and spas clean and safe.

There is extensive advice for anyone setting up, running or having difficulties with their small leisure, private or spa pool. It contains many important suggestions on how to operate and enjoy the private pool, along with seven chapters on water chemistry – written in easy-to-understand language; four pages on solving 29 possible water quality problems; nine pages of suggestions and ideas, plus a glossary of pool terms. It has been written by John McKenny after three decades managing swim centres and conducting approximately 27,000 swimming lessons for all ages.

The book is on sale for \$49 including GST, postage and handling. For more information go to www.macquaticstraining.com or call John McKenny on (02) 6732 3133.



Win a copy of The Leisure Pool & Spa Handbook

SPLASH! has a copy of The Leisure Pool & Spa Handbook to give away. For a chance to win, email: splashcomp@intermedia.com.au. In the subject line write "SPLASH! Competition – The Leisure Pool & Spa Handbook".

In the body of the email write the answer to this question: Approximately, how many swimming lessons has John McKenny conducted over the years?

In the body of the message also include your name and address. The first received correct entry will be sent a copy of the book.

Industry calendar

FUTURE INDUSTRY DATES TO KEEP IN MIND

- July 24 SPASA WA Awards Night
- July 28-29 SPLASH! International Pool and Spa Trade Show, Jupiters Gold Coast
- July 29 SPLASH! Environmental Awards Gala Evening, Sofitel, Gold Coast
- July 30 Andrew Simons Memorial Golf Day, Lakeslands Golf Club, Gold Coast
- July 28-30 Our Sporting Future forum, Gold Coast Convention Centre
- Aug TBA SPASAC Meeting
- Aug 8-14 Expolazer, Nova Hamburgo, Brazil
- Aug 20-22 ABC Gardening Australia Expo, Rosehill Racecourse
- Aug 14-15 SPASA Victoria Consumer Spa & Pool Show, MEEC, Southbank
- Aug 28 SPASA Victoria Awards Night, Zinc @ Federation Square
- Sep 10 SPASA Queensland Golf Day
- Sep 23 Bob Stanley Memorial Golf Day, Camden Valley Golf Club
- Sep 26 Middle East Pool & Spa Exhibition, Dubai, UAE
- Sep 27-29 FINA World Aquatic Conference, Uruguay
- Oct 2-17 Rescue 2010, Alexandria, Egypt
- Oct 6-8 World Aquatic Health Conference, Colorado Springs, USA
- Oct 10 Piscina, Santarem, Portugal
- Oct 13 Interbad, Stuttgart, Germany
- Oct 15 FSB Fair for Amenity Areas, Sports & Pool Facilities, Amsterdam
- Oct 25-27 Ibero-American Conference, Sao Paulo, Brazil
- Nov 3-5 IPSPE, Las Vegas, USA
- Nov 10 SPASA Victoria AGM
- Nov 14 SPASA NSW Xmas picnic
- Nov 16-19 Piscine, Aqualie and Wellgreen, Lyon, France
- Nov 19 SPASA WA Sundowner
- Nov 26 SPASA Queensland general meeting and Xmas function
- Dec 15-19 FINA Shortcourse World Swimming Championships, Dubai, UAE

2011

- May 4-5 SPLASH! Asia, Raffles City Convention Centre, Singapore
- Aug 17-18 SPLASH! New Zealand, Wellington Town Hall
- Oct 18-21 Piscina International Swimming Pool Show, Barcelona
- Oct 26-29 Aquanale, Cologne, Germany

More details and dates are available at www.splashmagazine.com.au.

These dates are subject to change and should be checked with the relevant organisation. Please send calendar submissions to chrismaher@intermedia.com.au

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Autumn shows promise

DA FIGURES FOR THE AUTUMN MONTHS OF APRIL AND MAY HAVE SHOWN A 38 PER CENT INCREASE OVER THE SAME TIME LAST YEAR.

THE positive two-month period has seen the pool development application (DA) figures for the past 12 months move closer to the previous 12-month figures. The Year-to-Year figures are only eight per cent shy of the previous figures, while the two month figures show an increase of 38 per cent nationally from 1538 to 2132 new pool DAs.

According to the DA numbers, South Australia and Victoria showed modest increases over the twelve month period, while other states showed modest declines. Over the April/May period, the big performer was New South Wales, showing a 300 per cent increase from 183 DAs to 554. Victoria showed a 150 per cent increase, while other states remained stable.

It should be taken into consideration that comparisons of DA numbers against insurance scheme numbers indicate that some figures could be considerably higher.

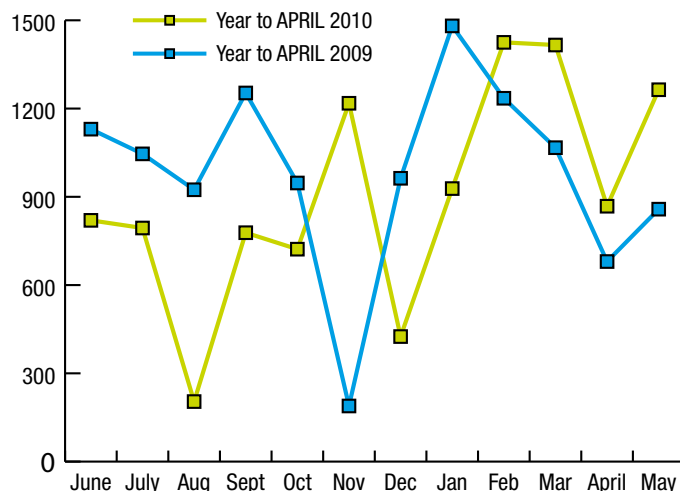
Additionally, these figures would exclude most renovations, pool projects that are included as part of a new home, or smaller projects under the cost threshold –these projects are estimated to be an additional 30 per cent, meaning total pools actually built could be considerably higher than the quoted DA figures.

However, while these quoted figures may miss some swimming pools, spas and renovations, they do give an indication of how the market is trending.

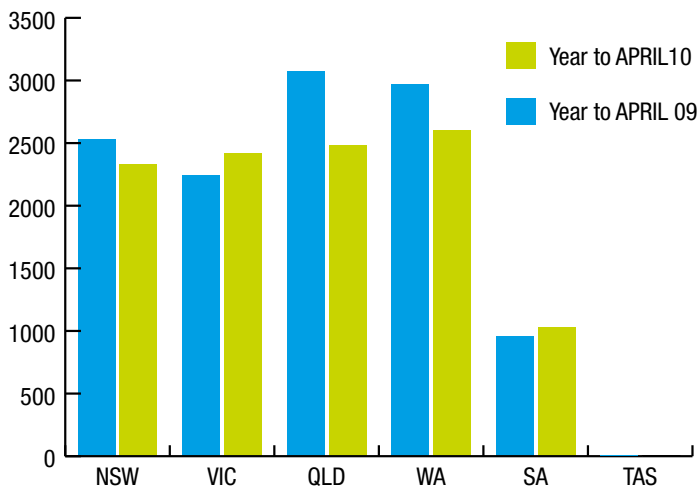
For further information and more complete reports, contact Magdalene Miller from Cordell Information on 1800 80 60 60.

PLEASE NOTE: Due to the combined timeline issues of Cordell's name change (see box) and SPLASH's deadline to be ready in time for the Gold Coast show, we could only get new data for May, but didn't have time to collect the June data. That data will be published in the next edition.

Comparison of Australian pool approvals Year-to-May 2010 with Year-to-May 2009



Pool Approvals by State Year-to-May 2010 and Year-to-May 2009



Reed now Cordell

REED Construction Data, the provider of construction information for SPLASH's regular pool data, is having a name change. The company will now be known as Cordell Information.

The Cordell name is well-known within the construction industry, and Reed Information Services tender notification division will be brought under the new Cordell Information brand.

The move won't alter the structure or personnel of the company, which will continue to provide information solutions and services to construction firms, developers, subcontractors, architects, and manufacturers and distributors of building products.

Cordell Information remains part of Reed Business Information Pty Ltd, which is a wholly owned division of Reed Elsevier, an international leading provider of professional information solutions in the science, legal, business, medical and construction sectors.

Government funding to speed housing developments

IN a move intended to see more housing developments in New South Wales, the State Government has announced a Comprehensive Housing Supply Strategy.

The strategy includes a \$44 million funding package, including support for local government to accelerate the delivery of local environmental plans, development assessments and contribution plans.

The Government says that the \$44 million package includes \$8.9 million for the Department of Planning to prepare plans for well-designed, vibrant communities around public transport and assist in the delivery of council-wide plans and greenfield land release.

The package also includes a new \$20,000 per dwelling cap on local council contributions, with the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal to decide on proposed funding above this amount.

A new independently-chaired Land and Housing Supply Co-ordination Taskforce will oversee the measures.

Become a Remco reseller!



Remco is Australia's best-known quality manufacturer of automated, and multifunctional pool cover systems and enclosures. Our stylish products keep Australian pools safe, clean and beautifully warm all year round. Environmentally friendly, they're designed to stop evaporation and save our precious water while minimising chemical usage. Pool owners Australia wide are appreciating these Remco benefits.



With over 20 years experience Remco has a history of supplying the highest quality products, manufactured to the strictest international standards. Our range of safety covers, vinyl covers, automatic and manual rollers and pool enclosures are available and serviced Australia wide and are now enjoying substantially increased recognition from extensive marketing support.



Contact Remco today to find out more about standard and customised designs to suit new or existing pools. If you would like to know more about becoming a Remco reseller please use the Freecall number below.

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or visit **www.remco.com.au**



Modification to WN8 Series Lights

New Product - WN9 Series - Available from July 1st 2010



The WN9 Series is the latest development from Spa Electrics. The WN9 Series has retained the key features of the previous WN8 series whilst implementing new, leading edge designs to increase the lights efficiency and reduce installation times.

Key features of the new WN9 Series that have changed are:

Interchangeable Rim Colours:

- Available in Clear, White, Black, Grey, Ivory & Taupe. The stainless Steel is still available as a dress ring.
- Simply twist off the original rim and twist on the new colour - no screwdriver required.



No Rim



Clear Rim



White Rim

Changes to the Light Housing:

- Direct cooling of the LED through an external heat sink will further improve the internal operating temperatures. This provides longer light life and increased output.
- The bayonet tabs have been replaced with an easy slide in / slide out mechanism.



The Patented preassembled detachable plug top system is positioned differently.

- The patented detachable cable system has been repositioned higher on the light housing. This enables the installer to mount the light and cable into the niche cavity with greater ease.
- The plug top can also be fitted to existing wet niche lights to allow for retro fitting with the WN9 Series.



The Niche bucket / Housing has not changed.

- WN2 series and WN8 Series are all able to retro fit with the new improved WN9 Series.



Information Regarding Clip on Rims:

Please be advised that when ordering the WN9 Series you will no longer need to specify a rim colour.

All WN9 Series lights are supplied with a clear rim to dramatically improve the spread of light. If you require a specific rim colour please order this separately. Code: WN904 (concrete) or WN904F (fibreglass).

The WN2 series lights (Halogen) have not changed and do not have interchangeable rims. When ordering the WN2 series lights you must nominate a rim colour.

Code changes for the WN9 Series:

For all code changes please contact Spa Electrics.



Kickstart an apprenticeship

SOME SMALL BUSINESSES ARE BEING OFFERED INCENTIVES TO PUT ON APPRENTICES

SMALL businesses who hire young apprentices and train them in traditional trades identified as experiencing a national skills shortage may be eligible to receive a Federal Government bonus.

By accessing the Apprentice Kickstart Extension, employers may receive \$3350 in bonus payments in addition to the existing \$1500 commencement incentive if they engage and retain a new apprentice under 19 years old in a skills shortage trade.

Some of the skills being targeted include bricklayer, carpenter, drainer, electrician (special class), gasfitter, general electrician, general plumber, joiner, landscape gardener, mechanical services and air-conditioning plumber, painter and decorator, refrigeration and air-conditioning mechanic, roof plumber, stonemason and wall & floor tiler.

The National Skills Needs List is used to determine the eligibility of employers and/or Australian Apprentices for the following Australian Government incentives and personal benefits:

- Support for Adult Australian Apprentices payment
- Tools For Your Trade payments
- Rural and Regional Skills Shortage incentive
- Securing Australian Apprenticeships initiative

The full list of skill shortage trades is available on the National Skills Needs List which can be downloaded at the Australian Apprenticeships website which can be accessed through a Quick Link at the News tab at www.splashmagazine.com.au.

Improved safety with Wacon kit

SPASA Queensland has put together a deal to supply Wacon equipotential bonding kit at a discounted rate to members. This follows issues with equipotential bonding in 2008 which saw seven council pools close temporarily on the Gold Coast.

One benefit of the kit is that there is less disruption to the building process, as you only need an electrician to complete and check the install.

Builders are required under the regulations to effectively earth the reinforcement in a concrete slab, and the Wacon equipotential bonding connector makes this task quick, easy and effective. The Wacon slides easily over reinforcing mesh and is connected by single shear-head bolt, the body is rubber insulated and sealed to keep concrete, dust and dirt effectively out of the connection.

It is made in Australia and suits up to N12 bar 12mm deformed, grade 500N.

For more information contact SPASA on (07) 3252 6777 or by email on info@spasa.com.au.



Franchising Code changes

ON July 1 several Franchising Code changes came into effect.

These include the requirement for franchisors to provide greater disclosure to franchisees, and also to provide six months notice if they're not going to renew a franchise agreement.

Franchisors are also now required to make clear what kind of obligations the franchisee has in terms of future capital expenditure or whether there are any requirements to pay a franchisor's legal costs.

Another change relates to the increased powers given to the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC), which includes the ability to conduct random audits of franchisors.

For more information on the Franchise Code go to the ACCC website or go to the News tab at www.splashmagazine.com.au for a Quick Link.

Susie charms the locals

SWIMART has leveraged their promotional deal with Susie O'Neill to generate store visits and get the local pool owners and their families excited about swimming.

Olympic Gold Medalist and former world champion O'Neill visited Queensland stores at Beenleigh and Browns Plains, New South Wales stores in Warners Bay and Charmhaven and a Victorian store in Cheltenham.

According to Chris Fitzmaurice, Swimart's National Manager, O'Neill's appearance was much talked about by many of the locals.

"Everyone wanted to meet her and have their photo taken," he says. "She really is one of our most enduring sporting legends and having her spend time in our stores was a huge honour."

The stores reported impressive increases in sales compared to the same time last year and attribute this to O'Neill's pulling power.



Swimming legend Susie O'Neill signs autographs for Samantha Heaton and Phoebe King at Swimart Beenleigh



A ton of water saving

SPASA Victoria's Water Neutral Pool program is about to crack the 100 mark.

It's autumn 2008, the midst of the water crisis. Public opinion has turned on swimming pools as water wasters, and it's affecting the desirability of the product and consequently the industry as a whole.

It was in this environment that SPASA Victoria came up with the concept of the Water Neutral Pool (WNP).

The idea of Water Neutral Pools is to encourage and recognise the building of water-friendly pools; at the same time proving to the public that swimming pools don't need to use much water – in fact, they can even be "water positive" by harvesting water for use in the garden and around the home.

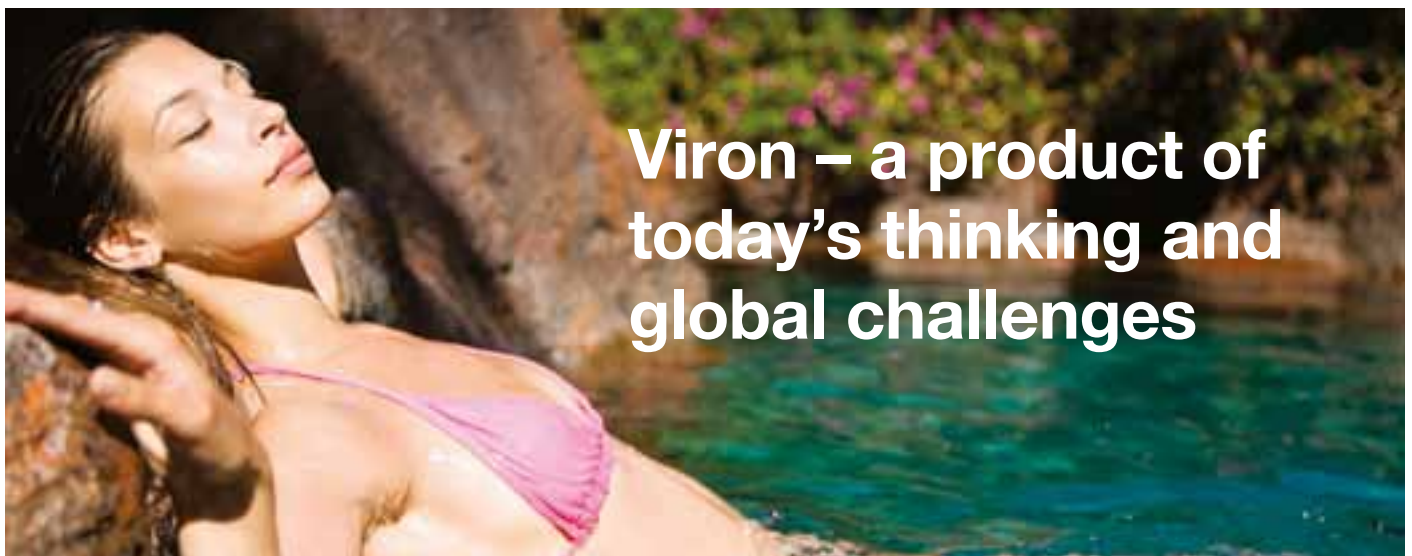
The program was methodically tested using Bureau of Meteorology data and independently reviewed by well-known environmentalist and meteorologist Rob Gell and Access Environmental. It is supported by the greater Victorian Metropolitan Water Retailers.

The first Water Neutral Pool was launched at Glen Iris and now, just over two years later, the program is about to celebrate its 100th certification.

To be certified as a Water Neutral Pool, the pool can't require additional water from the reticulated system over a 12-month period. Not only is this good publicity, it helps save the pool owners money through reduced water and chemical usage, and significantly reduces the environmental impact of the pool.

The many benefits to pool owners include:

1. Reduced water use – delivering water savings, energy savings and cost savings while reducing the impost on mains water;
2. Reduced chemical use – cuts pool maintenance costs;
3. Water collection at site – another way of saving water and money by storing water and diverting it for use in laundries, toilets and gardens;
4. Enhanced property value; and



Your dream of owning your own swimming pool or spa can become a reality. A sparkling clean, healthy family fun environment will provide hours of enjoyment all year round. But owning a pool doesn't have to be high maintenance, expensive or impact on the environment.

With the AstralPool's Viron range of environmentally friendly pool and spa equipment everyone can benefit from crystal clean water all year round

- Reduce operating costs by up to \$800 a year
- Save up to 12,000 litres of water per year
- Reduce carbon emissions by up to 80%
- No added salts to minimise salinity in the environment
- Significant reduction in noise levels
- Extended equipment life

To find out more about the benefits the Viron P300 pump, CL Filters, Heaters and Sanitiser Management Systems contact AstralPool or visit astralpool.com.au/viron.htm

Viron



A division of

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Melbourne: 03 8796 8600	Gold Coast: 07 5552 2600	Perth: 08 9350 2600
Sydney: 02 9853 2100	Townsville: 07 4750 3100	sales@astralpool.com.au
Brisbane: 07 3308 5400	Adelaide: 08 8152 7600	www.astralpool.com.au

5. Demonstration of the pool owner's responsible attitude to water conservation.

The program addresses the three main ways pools lose water: evaporation, backwashing and splashing. The program overcomes these water losses by having the following three elements:

- 1.** A water tank to harvest rainwater;
- 2.** A water minimising filter;
- 3.** A pool cover to reduce evaporation.

An average sized home in Victoria has the potential to harvest more than 100,000 litres of rainwater annually, and only 2000 to 3000 litres of this would be required for occasional topping-up the pool, when a pool cover and cartridge filter are in place. So, to have a Water Neutral Pool owners need to install:

- For a 20,000 litre pool – a 2500 litre tank;
- For a 40,000 litre pool – a 4000 litre tank;
- For a 60,000 litre pool – a 5000 litre tank.



A well-managed pool with a cover will eliminate about 95 per cent of evaporation, with both physical and liquid pool covers meeting the WNP criteria. When used with a roller, cover removal and replacement is quick and easy. Owners are reminded that a pool cover will not save water if it's not on the pool!

A water minimising filtration device ensures the pool owner require less water for backwashing. There are many types of acceptable devices including cartridge filters.

Pool owners receive an A4 Water Neutral Pool Certificate of Compliance and a metal display plaque for the fence or gate, as well as the knowledge they're "doing the right thing".

Certification is free.

For more information contact SPASA Victoria on (03) 9872 4502 or visit www.spasavic.com.au.

The first Water Neutral Pool, certified in 2008 in Glen Iris and fitted with a water tank, pool cover and backwash minimisation system

Harness the power of the sun

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Update on pool pump efficiency program

Equipment Energy Efficiency (E3) mandatory labelling is now due to start in October 2011.

Pool pump efficiency labelling under the Equipment Energy Efficiency (E3) Program is now likely to become mandatory in October 2011. This program is aimed at regulating the sale of pool pumps to ensure first, that only pumps meeting minimum energy-efficient standards are sold; and second, to encourage the purchase of the most environment-friendly models.

As reported in previous issues of SPLASH!, the Federal Government has identified swimming pool pumps as major users of household energy, and as such they are being targeted for energy efficiency measures by the Australian and New Zealand energy efficiency regulatory agencies under the E3 Program. The E3 Program has recently introduced voluntary energy rating labelling for pool pumps. Suppliers of pool pumps can now label their products with the familiar red and yellow energy rating label.

In homes with pools, the pool pump is the single largest emitter of greenhouse gases, unless there is an electric hot water

heater present. It uses more electricity than the combined electricity consumption of a clothes dryer, clothes washer and dishwasher.

The ultimate aim of this program is to ensure that only efficient pumps are put on the market, and that pumps for sale are labelled with a star rating (similar to the star ratings currently used for whitegoods) so that consumers are aware of the more efficient pumps.

The standard label will have six stars, but pumps deemed "super efficient" will have a slightly different label going up to ten stars.

The scheme is tied to the recently published standard, AS5102 - 2009 Performance of Household Electrical Appliances—Swimming Pool Pump-Units – which comprises two parts:

- 5102.1 Part 1: Energy consumption and performance
- 5102.2 Part 2: Energy labelling and minimum energy performance standard requirements.

All single-phase pump-units that are capable of a flow rate of 120 L/min or greater and input power of 2.5kW or less will be affected.

Voluntary labelling has already come in, mandatory labelling of pool pumps will follow



Choosing better pool covers

SmartWater Mark and PASCAA are joining together to help develop pool cover guidelines for industry.

A number of measures are being introduced into the Building Code of Australia which will impact on the pool and spa industry, including measures relating to water conservation.

One change is the requirement of pool covers for new outdoor pools where the water is heated by a gas heater or a heat pump.

However, not all covers are equal with some being far more efficient at water and heat conservation than others. To help identify those pool covers which are fit for purpose, Smart Approved WaterMark has been working with the Pool and Spa Cover Association of Australia (PASCAA).

Australia's outdoor water conservation label has developed Pool Cover Guidelines including minimum performance standards. The guidelines are now out for consultation and are available to download from Smart WaterMark's stakeholder web site: www.smartwatermark.info or you can access it from a Quick Link at the News tab at www.splashmagazine.com.au.

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The night of nights

It's not too late to book yourself a place at the SPLASH! Environmental Awards gala dinner.

The SPLASH! Environmental Awards gala dinner is on Thursday night, July 29, 2010 at the Sofitel Gold Coast. At the time of writing there were still some seats available.

The dinner is held on the last night of the SPLASH! Pool and Spa Trade Show, making it a perfect opportunity to get together and enjoy some time with friends, clients or other industry members.

Individual tickets are available for \$140 (+GST) or \$1260 (+ GST) for a table of 10. For more information call Melanie on (02) 9660 2113 or email melanie@intermedia.com.au.

This year's Master of Ceremonies will be Olympic gold medallist Steven Bradbury, famous for his spectacular finish in the 2002 Salt Lake City Winter Olympic Games, when he glided over the finish line while his competitors lost their footing and scrambled behind. The win etched Bradbury's name into the history books. He has an impressive career as an Olympic athlete that has been driven by determination, sacrifice and most importantly a will to succeed.

The Bradbury story is one of a true Aussie battler who overcame all kinds of adversity to achieve his ultimate goal.

The SPLASH! Environmental Awards are proudly supported by Foundation Sponsor Sunbather Technologies, who also sponsor the Residential Pool categories.

Other sponsors include AstralPool, Supreme Heating, Phoenix Pool Equipment, Puresilk by ClevaQuip and Ecodomes.



Pool Technologies

Foundation Sponsor and sponsor of the residential categories, Sunbather Technologies



Commercial Outdoor Pool Sponsor, AstralPool



Supreme Heating

Specialists in heating for homes & pools

Commercial Indoor Sponsor, Supreme Heating



Spa Category Sponsor, Puresilk by ClevaQuip



Energy Efficient Product Sponsor, Ecodomes



Pool Shop Sponsor, Phoenix Pool Equipment

Energy efficiency labelling extends to swimming pool pump-units

The more stars the more efficient - better for the customer, better for the environment.

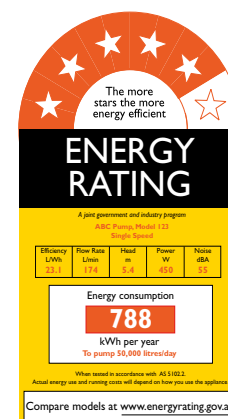
Under a new voluntary program, the Energy Rating Label can now be shown on eligible swimming pool pump-units.

If you are a manufacturer wanting to display the familiar red and yellow Energy Rating Label on your pool pump-unit you can find out more at:

<http://www.energyrating.gov.au/swimmingpoolpumps2.html>



A joint initiative of Australian, State and Territory Governments



Summary of HWI changes

PETER FREEMAN IS THE DIRECTOR OF NATIONWIDE INSURANCE BROKERS, A COMPANY WITH A HISTORY OF HANDLING INSURANCE FOR SWIMMING POOL BUILDERS ACROSS THE COUNTRY, BUT ESPECIALLY IN NSW. HE HAS PUT TOGETHER A VERY USEFUL PRÉCIS OF THE HWI UNDERWRITING GUIDELINES FOR BUILDERS AND INTERMEDIARIES.

THE Draft HWI Underwriting Guidelines for Builders and Intermediaries, released on 9 June 2010, is a 35 page document covering many aspects of the new scheme. We have dealt with only certain aspects of the guidelines and provided the notes below to prepare Builders for the new arrangements so that they can adapt to the new requirements.

On 1 July 2010, the NSW Self Insurance Corporation became the single insurer for the Home Warranty Insurance Fund in NSW. QBE, Calliden and Vero (until 30 September 2010) will operate as agents of the NSW Self Insurance Corporation providing the same kind of functions they provided prior to 1 July 2010.

If a Residential Contractor (Builder) currently has Eligibility with QBE, Calliden or Vero, that Eligibility should automatically transfer to the new Government insurer – so contractors not with Vero do not need to do anything.

Vero ceases as a home warranty insurance agent on 30 September 2010. They will continue to issue new certificates of insurance from 1 July 2010 to 30 September 2010 to those Builders that currently have Eligibility with them. Builders during this time will need to select which insurance agent they wish to transact home warranty business through, either QBE or Calliden.

If a Builder requires a new Eligibility or project certificate for a NSW location, they will need to contact their Insurance Broker as Vero will not issue new Eligibilities or approve any changes to existing Eligibilities from 1 July 2010.

Premiums will remain unchanged from the existing rates that the Builder currently has as at 30 June 2010. A new premium structure should be finalised in the near future.

The NSW Self Insurance Corporation intends to introduce a single premium structure at some stage in the coming months which will ensure all premiums are calculated on the same basis for all Builders, to create a level playing field.

HOW WILL BUILDERS BE AFFECTED UNDER THE NEW SCHEME?

Eligibility

Builders will need to meet new criteria and demonstrate they have the financial capacity to complete the construction project before they can obtain home warranty cover.

Inexperienced Builders and Builders under financial stress who need to obtain Eligibility will be offered options to either increase the equity in their business through paid up capital, provide a security, or opt to participate in the Builder Management Program – see further notes below regarding Outline of Eligibility and Certificate Process (Managed Builder Program).

There may be Builders who do not meet minimum requirements and will be unable to obtain Eligibility. If the financial situation of these Builders improves they will be able to request consideration again.

Contractors with conditions on their current Eligibility will have similar conditions imposed under the new scheme.

Builders who are currently required to have a security, such as a Deed of Indemnity, will be required to provide a similar security to the NSW Self Insurance Corporation. Securities that Builders provided to insurers prior to 30 June 2010 will remain in place until they are released by the insurers. This is usually 6 years after completion of the last contract undertaken under the existing scheme.

This means that Contractors will be duplicating Deeds of Indemnity or Bank Guarantees.

NSW Self Insurance Corporation is allowing a three month transition period until 30 September 2010 for new security arrangements to be put in place. The new security will have a review date of not more than 3 years from its execution date.

Contractors categorised

Contractors will be segmented as follows:

1. New Builders – New industry entrant
2. Small Builders – Existing Builders

with annual Insurable Turnover up to a maximum of \$5m

3. Medium Builders – Existing Builders with annual Insurable Turnover over \$5m and up to \$20m
4. Large Builders – Existing Builders with annual Insurable Turnover above \$20m
5. Owner-Builders

Restrictions by segment

Notes:

1. These maximum construction amounts inclusive of GST are the maximum generally allowable for the category concerned, but may be adjusted up or down by the Insurance Agent underwriters based on the builder's construction history and experience.
2. Where Builders are members of a group (as defined in the Corporations Act), considerations of turn-over limits to be included in builder Profiles should apply to the entire group.
3. The experience required for a new builder to gain immediate Small Builder status includes 5 years experience as a manager or supervisor for a builder from the building construction type sought.

Builder turnover and construction size growth requirements will be assessed and determined on the basis of parameters that the Insurance Agent will apply. (See Table 5.3 regarding turnover growth guidelines)

THE SEGMENTS

New builder segment

A New Builder classification is required for applicants who have not previously held a licence nor are able to demonstrate prior experience in building under their own licence or who have had less than 5 years experience as a manager or supervisor with a licensed builder from the building construction type sought.

The application for New Builder Eligibility is for residential Contractors/Builders who fall within the following criteria:

- Has not previously contracted direct with homeowners;
- Has not undertaken any speculative constructions;
- Has not previously operated their own building business (including being a Director of a building company);
- Is deemed a new builder due to past history;

Table 5.2 – Maximum construction values by builder and construction type

Building Construction Type	New Builder (inexperienced)	Small Builder (incl. New licence with 5 yrs exp.)	Medium Builder	Large Builder
New single construction	\$350K	\$500K	\$1M	\$1M
Multi unit (# ≥ 4) < 3 storeys	No	\$500K (on application)	\$1M	\$1M
Structural alterations & additions	\$350K	\$500K	\$1M	\$1M
Swimming pools	\$50K	\$50K	\$100K	\$100K
Renovations	\$50K	\$100K	\$100K	\$100K
Other	\$50K	\$50K	\$50K	\$50K

Table 5.3 – Guideline for thresholds for consideration of turn-over growth approvals

Builder category	Eligibility accepted without qualification	Conditions placed on Eligibility
New Builder	N/A	N/A
Small Builder	45.00%	30.00%
Medium Builder	30.00%	20.00%
Large Builder	20.00%	10.00%

- Will trade as a Sole Trader, Partnership or Company;
- Operates within New South Wales only (plus cross-border provisions applying).

Conditions to apply to Eligibility, except in exceptional circumstances where the New Builder is able to demonstrate to the Insurance Agent a reasonable justification to exceed the conditions, are to be:

- Profiles permitting the construction of new dwellings should be limited to two concurrent dwellings (or less if appropriate, such as a single dwelling only - including with one 'granny flat' - on a one on one off basis) with each job to be confirmed and signed-off by the homeowner as having been satisfactorily completed;
- Maximum Insurable Turnover of One Million Dollars (\$1m) in value over a 12 month period.

The following Types of Construction are not generally available to New Builders:

- Speculative dwellings, unless the Insurance Agent is satisfied that the land purchase and construction will not place an excessive financial strain on the new builder;
- Swimming Pools (unless specialising);
- Architect/Designer Tendered Projects;
- Multi-Dwelling Developments;
- High rise rectifications;
- Developer projects.

The facility will be reviewed at expiry of the 15-month period to determine ongoing Eligibility and any change/increase in Maximum Insurable Turnover. It is expected that a New Builder could be elevated to Small Builder on acceptable review of financial performance and practical experience after 15 months.

New Builders which fall outside the new builder criteria or conditions are to

be advised to apply as if a Small Builder with appropriate consideration being given to experience and other factors as is appropriate for that segment.

Small builder segment

This application for Eligibility is for residential Builders who meet all of the following criteria:

- Require annual insurable turnover of \$5 million or less;
- Operate within New South Wales only (plus cross-border provisions applying).

A Small Builder is required to have:

- Traded as a licensed builder for at least 12 months; or
- More than 5 years experience as a manager or supervisor with another licensed builder in the building construction type sought.

The principal/s need to have held a licence for longer than 12 months and/or have the necessary practical experience, adequate financial performance and status as a basis of consideration for acceptance.

Medium builder segment

This application for Eligibility is for residential Builders who require an annual turn-over over \$5m and up to \$20m.

Medium Builders need to be able to demonstrate that they have:

- traded as a licensed builder for at least two years in the small category and have adequate financial performance; or
- more than 5 years experience as a manager or supervisor with other small and medium licensed Builders in the building construction type sought and necessary financial resources, as a basis of consideration for acceptance.

Large builder segment

This application for Eligibility is for residential Builders who require an annual insurable turnover above \$20m.

Large Builders need to be able to demonstrate that they have:

- Traded as a licensed builder in the small and medium category for at least 5 years and have adequate financial performance; or
- More than 5 years experience as a manager or supervisor with other medium and large licensed builder in the building construction type sought and necessary financial resources, as a basis of consideration for acceptance.

Turnover Growth

The HWIF believes that Turnover Growth is a significant cause of builder insolvency (so is non-payment by customers!). Growth requires capital until increased cash flow and profits cover the increased overheads associated with the growth.

Triggers under the new scheme identifying potential concern over such growth and potential limits on growth are in terms of the following guideline matrix and the coverage of the proposed turn-over by net tangible assets (as defined by the HWI).

Assessment of the financial strength of the builder or builder group

The Insurance Agent's underwriter will determine whether accounts required as presented, are a true and fair representation of the financial position of the builder, and if not, they will adjust your financials until they are so; for example whether personal remuneration appears to have been appropriately treated; whether owner/s remuneration is shown as an expense or a dividend.

This is an interesting situation, as the Insurance Agent is putting aside your External Accountant's audit and making their own assessment of your financial position.

Assessment of other factors which are to include (where available) the following categories, each of which have specific weighting, and which are scored by underwriter judgement:

- Trading Structure
- Continuous years trading in this structure - experience
- Legal or CTTT Actions (consider builder size and trading history)
- Builders Licence Incident Record e.g. suspension, disqualification, fines and

other disciplinary action (considering builder size and trading history)

- Management systems
- D&B &/or Trade Credit History
- Previous home warranty insurance claim history – verified (consider builder size and trading history)
- Directors’/principals’ profile
- Past insolvencies
- Other adverse issues identified.

– with the characteristics and experience scoring towards the factors. The respective results against each characteristic are weighted as to their assessed significance.

OUTLINE OF ELIGIBILITY AND CERTIFICATE PROCESS (MANAGED BUILDER PROGRAM)

Eligibility

- Builder applies through the Insurance Broker for Eligibility.
- In cases where the Insurance Agent is not satisfied that the builder fully meets Eligibility criteria but appears capable of remediation, it may require the builder to increase equity or provide security or participate in a Managed Builder

Program (for contracts of \$50,000 and over) in order to grant Eligibility.

- Builder decides to select option of participating in a Managed Builder Program.
- Eligibility granted subject to a condition requiring the builder’s participation in the Managed Builder Program for each project contracted by the builder where the contract price is \$50,000 and over.

Certificates of Insurance

- Builder (or Insurance Broker on behalf of Builder) selects preferred Managed Builder Program provider from provider panel.
- Builder (or Insurance Broker on behalf of builder) submits job costings and contract documents to Managed Builder Program provider.
- Managed Builder Program provider reviews and approves costings and contract documents (including construction period and scheduled payments) and determines number and timing of inspections to be undertaken.
- Managed Builder Program provider notifies Insurance Broker of approval

of costings and contract documents and schedule of inspections.

- Insurance Broker applies (on behalf of builder) to the Insurance Agent for a Certificate of Insurance for the project attaching Managed Builder Program service provider’s approval and inspection schedule.
- Insurance Agent approves the issue of a Certificate of Insurance for the project.

Comment

The HWIF has not advised the makeup of the panel of the Managed Builder Program providers. The cost of their services will be the Builder’s responsibility.

We consider that the Builder will need to engage the provider’s services at the tender stage to ensure that they will be able to obtain an Insurance Certificate, as they will not be able to vary the contract values with their customer after being awarded the contract. If the Builder is unsuccessful, they will still need to pay the costs of the provider.

For more information contact Peter Freeman or Michael Carr on (02) 9634 6600 or visit www.nationw.com.au.

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SPASA calls for independent review of HWI scheme

SPASA NSW has called for an independent review of the Home Warranty Insurance scheme, to ensure greater security to consumers and prevent builders from closing their doors.

“This is an insurance of last resort,” says Spiros Dassakis, CEO of SPASA NSW. “We hold profound concerns about whether consumers will be provided with genuine and complete protection and whether the builder could continue to stay in business.

“This scheme could have a disastrous effect on this industry, which contributes more than \$300 million to the NSW GDP annually. SPASA’s view is that if the Government doesn’t get this right it will threaten millions of dollars generated by the pool building industry – and it will affect the income lifecycle of the entire property industry. Whilst this product remains in place, consum-

ers and builders will continue to be hurt – and hurt badly,” he says.

SPASA is deeply dissatisfied about the lack of industry consultation surrounding the takeover.

“The HWI is a junk insurance, and our industry has paid and continues to pay millions of dollars into an insurance scheme which historically has not been in the best interest of the consumer or the builder.”

Since June 2006, pool builders in NSW have built around 16,000 pools, and there have been just 88 claims – that’s 0.55 per cent. However, despite the pool and spa industry’s strong track record, it was excluded from the consultative committee formed by NSW Treasury.

“Under the scheme, it is the builders who are the insurers. They are, in effect, reinsuring insurance companies, which

take none of the risk. And in the process, building companies are enduring significant financial hardship because their assets are tied up in Deeds of Indemnity, bank guarantees and securities which are required to maintain eligibility under the HWI scheme.”

SPASA has also expressed its concern at the building management service providers, which are suggested by NSW Government as a possible option for builders who are having difficulty in satisfying the criteria for obtaining eligibility for Home Warranty Insurance.

“In essence, these providers are acting as shadow directors of a company,” says Dassakis. “So if a claim is made by a consumer against work by the building company, who will then be to blame? The builder or the building management service provider? And then who pays the claim and on what basis?”

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Astounding TILING

It's the crème de la crème of swimming pool finishes – mosaic tiling. Here we look at some of the most spectacular examples of this fine art.

When looking for a pool finish that's stylish, awe-inspiring and ultra modern, it's hard to go past mosaic tiling. The irony is that this 21st century style comes courtesy of a material that is far from modern itself, dating back further than Christianity, further back than Alexander, Plato and even pre-dating the Athenian democracy.

The earliest discovered friezes made from tessellated tiles go way back to Mesopotamia – five millennia before the first Australasian swimming pool was put in the ground. Mosaic tiling became popular

with the spread of Greek civilisation, but it wasn't until the Romans began their love affair with bath houses that tiled pools became more common.

And even though mosaics and ceramic tiling originated in the Middle East, it was eventually the Romans who popularised it in those parts as their empire spread throughout Asia Minor. Some of the world's most beautiful examples of architecture exist in that part of the world, and their beauty is at least partly due to the tiling.

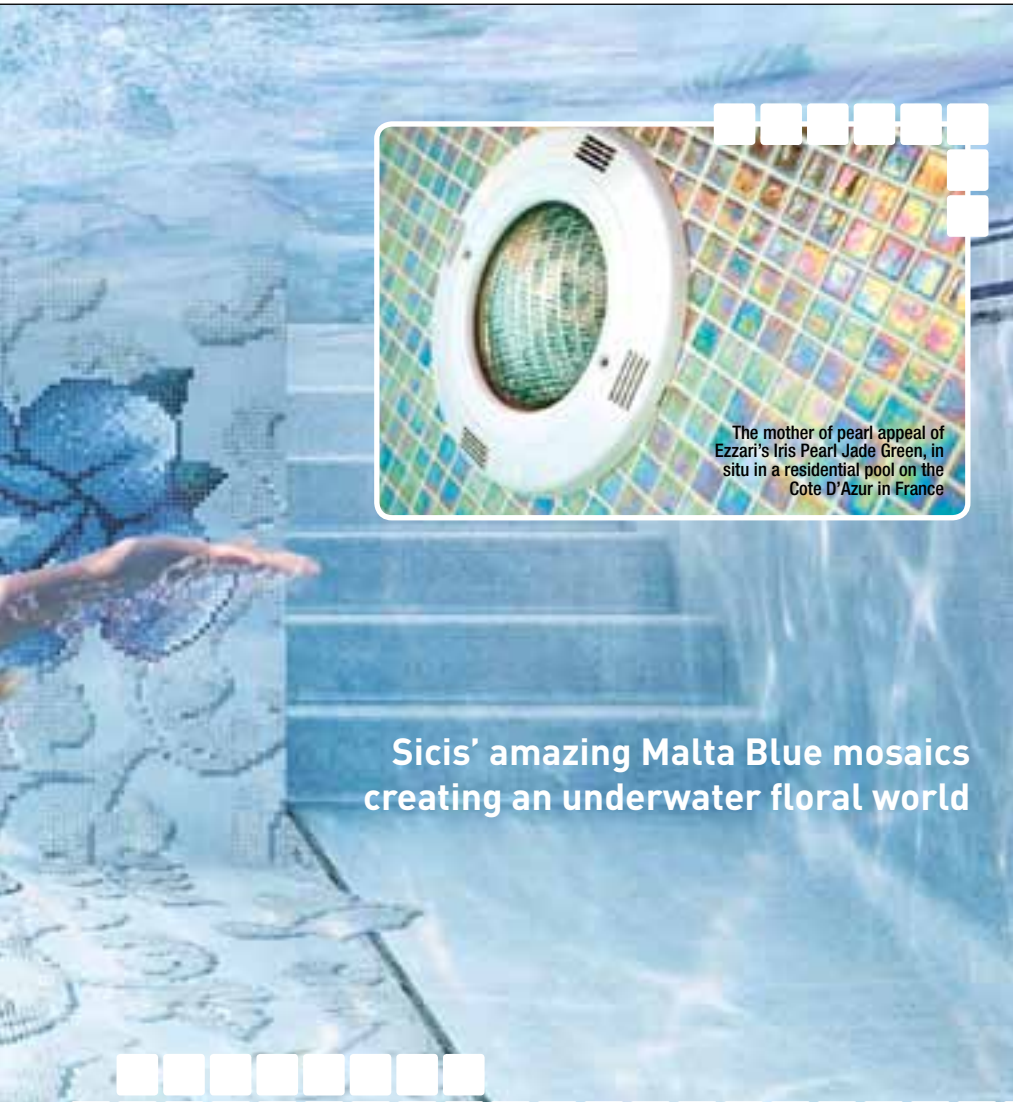
And as you can see from this special SPLASH! feature, some of the most beauti-

ful swimming pools in the world also owe their beauty to mosaic tiling.

Viva Italia, Viva Espana

Long after the Roman emperors have fallen on their swords, Italy remains one of the esteemed homes of glass mosaic tiles.

For example, Sicis is an international company manufacturing mosaic tiles in Italy. Some of the designs are amazing – and that's not using the word lightly. Intriguingly, the two pictures featured in this article provide an artistic zing that gives the impression the pool interior is actually carpeted.



Sicis' amazing Malta Blue mosaics creating an underwater floral world

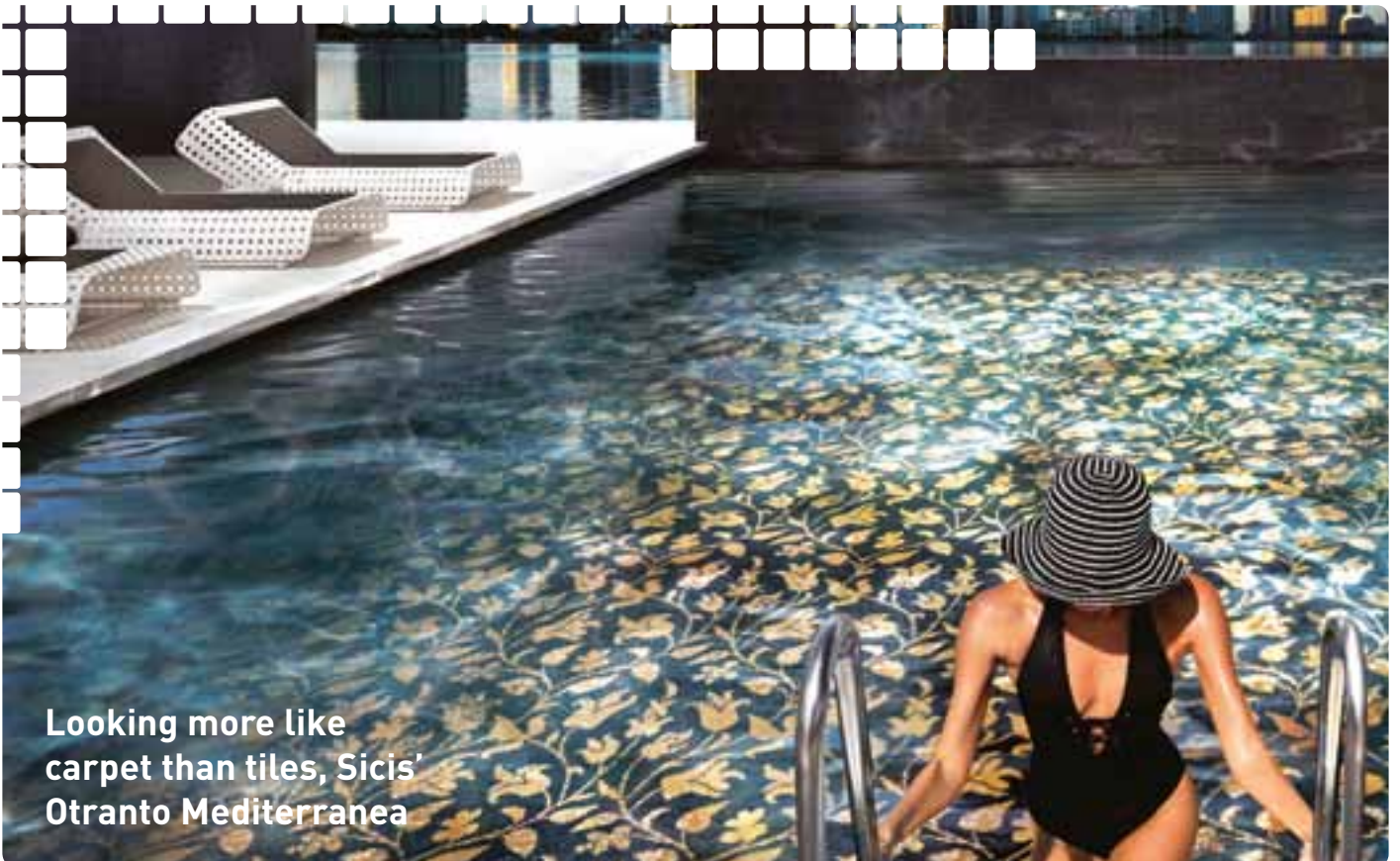
The mother of pearl appeal of Ezzari's Iris Pearl Jade Green, in situ in a residential pool on the Cote D'Azur in France

Since 1987 Sicis has worked full time on mosaics, with the aim of resurrecting them from history into the modern age. The company says it seeks to see mosaics not as a simple tiling product, but as a means of communication and an expression of trends, fashions and lifestyles. For more information on Sicis, go to www.sicis.com.au or call 1300 310 002.

The other famous Mediterranean home of glass mosaics is Spain. One northern Spanish company renowned amongst swimming pool builders, designers and owners is Ezzari. Ezzari glass mosaic tiles are imported into Australia exclusively by Renaissance Tiles.

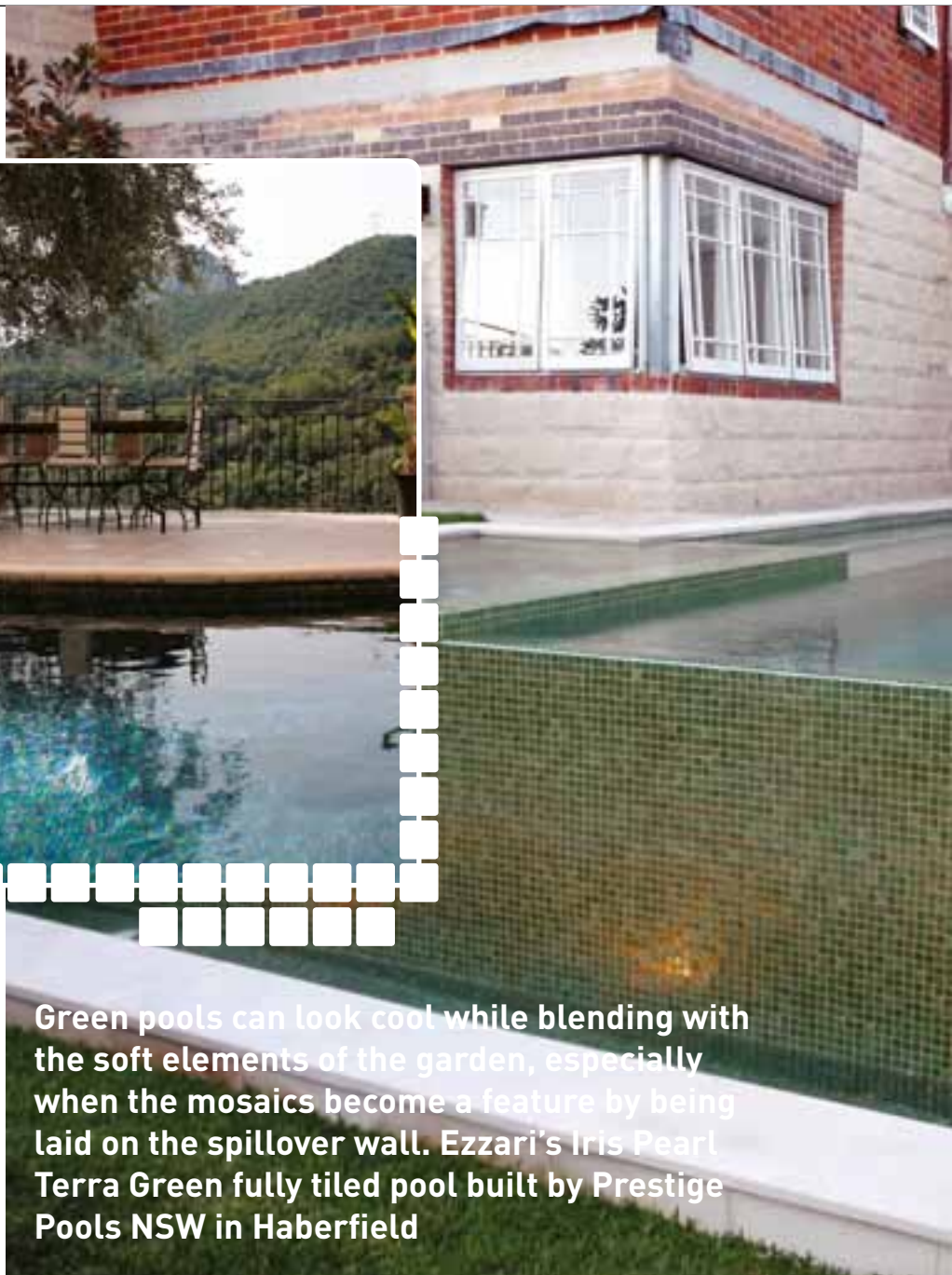
Ezzari have been manufacturing fine mosaics for more than 30 years and export to more than 70 countries. Ezzari tiles are highly suitable for pools and spas as well as kitchens, bathrooms and murals with lifetime durability. They are extremely versatile and can be used for internal and external applications, and for commercial or residential projects.

Renaissance says that Ezzari Glass Mosaic Tiles are a high quality product at an affordable price, as well as being eco-friendly and manufactured from only the finest pure clear recycled glass. The tiles have smooth edges and rounded corners for safety.



Looking more like carpet than tiles, Sicis' Otranto Mediterranea

Black is beautiful. Ezzari's Iris Pearl Black, or Ebano, in a residential pool on the Cote D'Azur in France



Ezzari tiles exceed the strict Australian Standards AS3958.1.2007, as the proven dot mounted system on 25mm and 36mm tiles allows 93-95% safe adhesion. The anti-slip range has been tested by the CSIRO meeting the required standards.

Some of the Ezzari range warrant particular attention. The Iris Jade tiles are made using a process which includes spraying them with a "mother of pearl" powder, which is then baked into the middle of the tile creating the pearlescent effect.

The Titanium Gold range is a gold-titanium-based tile. The photo on page 38 also shows a platinum-gold textured tile on the steps and light walkway areas leading into the pool, with the textured finish creating a light grip when walked on. Unfortunately this particular gold titanium tile has had some issues in production and Ezzari are outsourcing a new supplier for the titanium, so a delay is expected if the tile is ordered.

The latest addition to the Ezzari range is the "screen printed glass tiles". This process offers the client an endless choice of design and colour co-ordination for their specialised project.

Ezzari glass tiles come in 25mm, 36mm and 50mm size tiles. There are more than 100 colours and 14 ranges to choose from. For more information go to www.renaissancecetes.com.au or call 1300-ezzari.

Green pools can look cool while blending with the soft elements of the garden, especially when the mosaics become a feature by being laid on the spillover wall. Ezzari's Iris Pearl Terra Green fully tiled pool built by Prestige Pools NSW in Haberfield

Painting a picture, Aussie style

Picture mosaics are quite a specialised feature for swimming pools. For the right client, a picture mosaic provides an opportunity to customise their pool with a feature of personal significance.

In general, picture mosaics for pools tend to be made from glass mosaics as there are abundant colours and effects to choose from. The design, colours and sizes can all be customised for the pool owners.

Robert James from The Pool Tile Company says that today's pool owners are opting away from traditional picture mosaics of dolphins and opting for humpback whales, turtles, stingrays, crocodiles and compasses.

"They are ideal for inserting into pebble or render finish pools prior to the pool interior

being laid," he says. "However, some picture mosaics are inserted into fully tiled pools which makes more work for the tiler but offers an amazing end result."

The Pool Tile Company has a range of standard designs but also offers clients an opportunity to create their own design for their pool or feature wall.

A note of caution regarding the use of picture mosaics: you do need to be careful not to infringe on someone else's design copyright. For example, The Pool Tile Company makes the Medusa design with a square Greek key border rather than a round one to ensure they don't infringe on the Medusa design owned by Versace.

For more information go to www.pooltile.com.au or call (07) 3854 0462.



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Global ideas

Since 2009, swimming pool designers, builders and artists have been recognised with the Global Aquatekture Vision Awards (GAVA). These awards are bestowed upon artisans whose visions and creativity exemplify the best in AquaTektur – the discipline of designing, engineering and erecting water environments and ancillary components in a harmonious nature with consideration to function, space and aesthetics.

GAVA transcends traditional water-themed design awards by hosting an

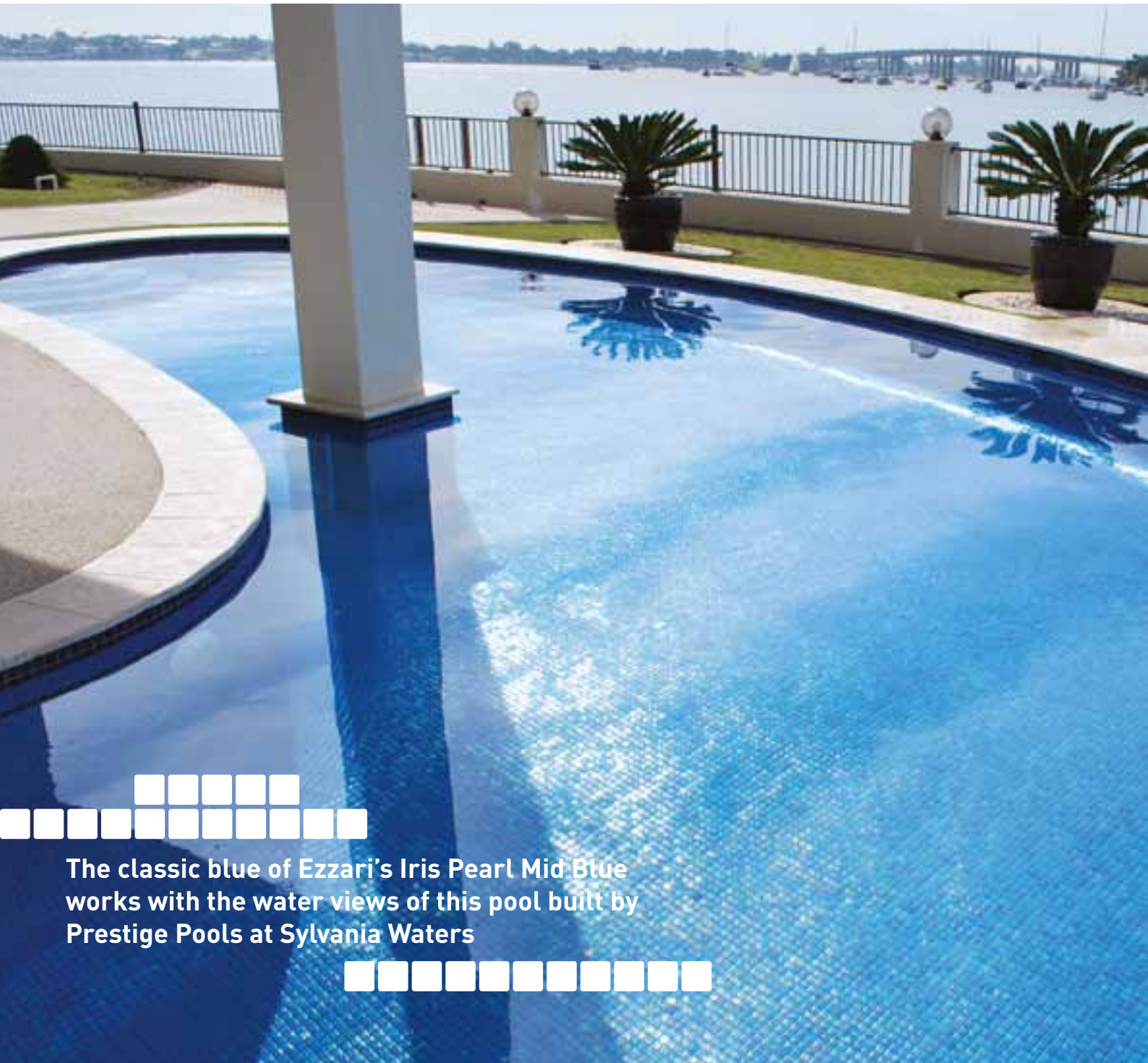
integrated world-wide competition open to design professionals of all genres dedicated to influencing and creating thought-provoking solutions.

For more information about the awards go to www.gavaawards.com.

Some of the winners include the spectacular use of mosaic tiles. One such winner is the Wave On Pool built in Cuernavaca Mexico by Joseph Ventura and designed by Francisco Perdomo of Moscaicos Venecianos (p42). In a similar way to the Sea View Condominium shown on p38, this residential

pool uses variegated blue, white and yellow tiles to create a realistic beach, complete with rolling waves fading out in the shallow end, and with darker coloured tiles in the deeper end to simulate the deep blue sea.

Another Mexican pool showing imaginative use of tiles is the Coral Reef Pool built by Alfonso Abe and designed in conjunction with Javier Duarte and Mosaic Design Kolorines (p42). The computer generated mosaics depict a realistic coral reef, complete with turtles and fish – including the Aussie clown fish, made famous by the film Finding Nemo.



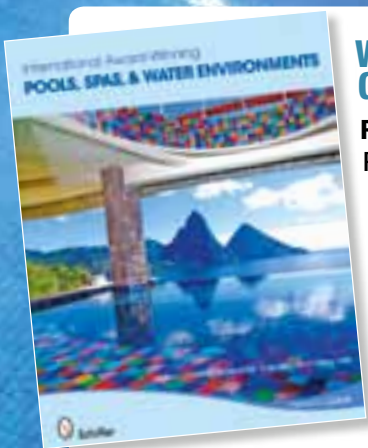
The classic blue of Ezzari's Iris Pearl Mid Blue works with the water views of this pool built by Prestige Pools at Sylvania Waters



One of the most mesmerising tiled swimming pool projects to win a GAVA award is the Jade Mountain series of pools on the West Indian island of St Lucia by Nick Troubetzkoy (p46).

Of particular interest to us here is stunning way the shimmering tiles combine. They are made from recycled glass which had been repetitively layered, folded, fired and refired in a method similar to creating Damascus steel blades. The resultant effect is reminiscent of an iridescent Persian carpet. This pool is shown on the cover of the International Design Book (see box) and also on Laticrete's design manual (p42).

Tiles are used to a different effect in the Euro Pools/Rafael Sanchez job in McAllen, Texas (p37+45). The bold coloured tiles were incorporated to create a dramatic impression, especially where they appear on the oversized spa and wet-deck lounges.



Win a copy of the GAVA book

PUBLISHED by Schiffer Publishing, the International Design Book showcases every award winning design from the 2009 GAVA competition. The cover image was selected from the Gold winning projects. The book is available for purchase from www.schifferbooks.com.

However, SPLASH! has a copy to give away. We will be giving it away in "first in, best dressed" competition in the next eNews. To ensure you get the eNews, go to www.splashmagazine.com.au and click on the Subscribe to eNews button. Subscriptions to the eNews are free.



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