

Unqualified lifeguards at 16 per cent of Australian aquatic centres

Royal Life Saving has released its State of the Industry 2011 report, showing there are serious gaps in training.



ROYAL Life Saving (RLS) 2011 State of the Industry (SOI) report, which analyses the performance of the Australian aquatics industry in safety assessments conducted in the year to March 31, 2011, has found serious lapses in training in some aquatic centres.

It found that not all lifeguards held current qualifications in 16 per cent of aquatic facilities. Without the correct qualifications, lifeguards lack the knowledge and skills to recognise and respond to an emergency.

“Operators should be genuinely concerned of the possible ramifications should something unforeseen occur in their facility and it was found that the Lifeguard on duty was not qualified,” says Matthew Griffiths, National Manager of RLS aquatic industry services.

Furthermore, over 20 per cent of facilities failed to undertake the minimum recommended amount of in-service training for pool lifeguards.

“Lifeguard training is fundamental to the safety of an aquatic facility and makes a significant contribution to effective supervision, emergency response and the understanding and implementation of a facility’s policies and procedures,” says Griffiths.

However, overall the results demonstrate an improvement in the level of compliance with the Guidelines for Safe Pool Operation (GSPO) and an average compliance in the Aquatic Facility Safety Assessment (AFSA) of 84 per cent, demonstrating a continually improving standard of safety across the industry.

A number of areas have been identified as being a source of concern both within individual facilities and across parts of the industry. The good news is that these challenges are not insurmountable.

The report states that aquatic facilities need to better understand risk within their facilities in order to formulate a more thorough understanding of the application of GSPO. This understanding will contribute to an improvement in all aspects of safety across their facility.

Signage is also an area that needs to be addressed. 83 per cent of respondents had significant deficiencies in safety signage. One of the greatest areas of concern was chemical signage which in most cases is a legislative requirement.

To see the full State of the Industry Report 2011, go to www.royallifesaving.com.au or go to www.splashmagazine.com.au for a QuickLink.



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Providing opportunities for swimmers with disabilities

A recent review of Swimming Australia's Go Club PB Inclusion Checklist will ensure swimming clubs across the country are providing the highest quality inclusive sporting environment for their members.

The Inclusion Checklist was introduced in 2009 to allow individual swimming clubs as well as Swimming Australia to assist in developing improved inclusion of people with disabilities.

In 2009, 203 clubs took part in the checklist – that number has now risen to 360 clubs.

Head Coach for Trinity Swim Club in Lismore Ken Malcolm says the Inclusion Checklist is a must for all clubs.

"I think it's paramount that all clubs participate in a review like this so we can keep up to date with other successful clubs, learn from each other, and put strategies in place to improve the sport across the board," he says.

Out of the 360 clubs that took part, there were 444 swimmers, 64 volunteers, 14 coaches, seven officials and two staff with a disability.

One of the major findings of the review revealed that clubs that already had an inclusion strategy in place were more likely to attract participation from people with a disability and that an inclusive club community for all members allows individuals

with a disability to have the same opportunities, enthusiasm and ease in pursuing a sporting career as an able-bodied person.

Swimming Australia's General Manager of Community Sport Adam Pine says the organisation is committed to providing an inclusive community.

"This review allows us to work towards creating opportunities for people of all abilities to participate at all levels in the sport," says Pine. "Swimming Australia is 100 percent committed to promoting inclusion to as many clubs as possible."

The Inclusion Checklist report can be found at a Quick Link at www.splashmagazine.com.au.

Magnusson wins awards

AUSSIE sensation and new world champion James Magnusson won three big awards at the NSW Institute of Sport (NSWIS) Awards. Now he was further rewarded with

the Male Athlete of the Year, Team Athlete of the Year and co-winner of the Most Memorable Moment with relay teammates Matthew Abood and Eamon Sullivan.

James Magnusson has also won the Swimmer of the Year Award, People's Choice Award and Swimmer's Swimmer Award at Australian Swimmer of the Year Awards.



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SWIMPLEX AQUATICS

New Para star as Maddi takes triple gold

12 year old makes world top-five time

THE 2011 Australian Age Multi Class Championships at the AIS in October may well have unearthed a Paralympic star of the future, with 12-year-old Maddison Elliott setting the pool on fire.

Swimming in the S8 Classification, the Newcastle-based swimmer from the Novocastrian Club recorded a top-five time in the world in the 100m freestyle, just a month out from turning 13.

Picking up her second gold medal of the meet having already won the 50m freestyle, Elliott won the 100m freestyle in 1:11.40 taking four seconds off her personal best time in the process.

With 10 individual medals over the three days including three gold, Elliott was among a host of young stars who could certainly push for selection onto next year's Australian Swim Team for the Paralympic Games.

"There have been some really strong

performances and Maddi's swim was outstanding," says Paralympic Head Coach Brendan Keogh. "She is young girl with a lot still to learn, but the opportunity to race here at the Multi Class Age Championships has certainly been beneficial for her and many others."

Leading the gold medal count over the three days of competition for the men was 15-year-old Mitchell Kilduff from SLC Aquadot with seven gold and University of NSW swimmer Michael Auprince, also with seven.

In the women's events, 14-year-old Amanda Fowler from Nepean Aquatic continued her strong month picking up five gold medals and three silver, while 16-year-old Taylor Corry from Nelson Bay took home a staggering seven individual gold medals.

Ellie Cole's stellar swim in the Girls 19 Years & Over 100m backstroke gave her



Maddison Elliot with one of her Golds. Image courtesy of Swimming Australia.

the number one time in the world this year. Touching the wall in 1:10.07, Cole took 0.20 of a second off her gold time from the 2008 Beijing Paralympics in the same event.

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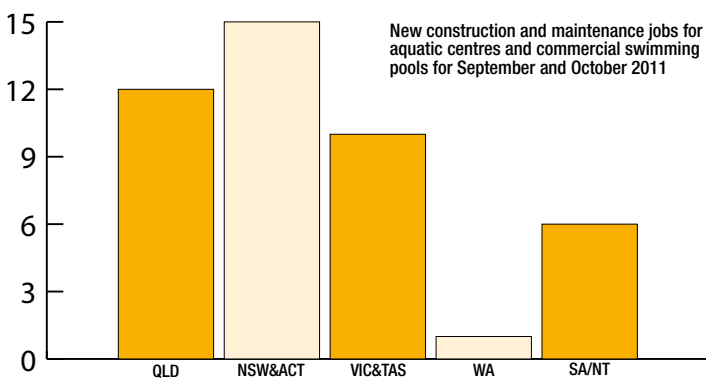
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Latest commercial tenders

Cordell Information has released data showing new tenders for public swimming pools and aquatic centres for September and October, 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 44 in total compared with 31 for the previous period. New South Wales (15), Queensland (12) and Victoria (10) had the most tenders.



Tender of the month

Expression of Interest: White Water Park Development
Cnr Henley Drive & Lake Rd, Champion Lakes.

The Armadale Redevelopment Authority is calling for Expressions of Interest for the funding, design, construction and operation of a proposed white water park and outdoor adventure complex at Champion Lakes in Armadale. A purpose built facility that attracts all types of water sports enthusiasts, a domestic recreational market and tourism is the expected outcome.

- Site area 4.2 hectares;
- Adjoining the Champion Lakes Regatta Centre;
- A development that includes white water sports and extends to other outdoor adventure activity;

- Individuals and sporting groups with prior suitable and related experience in this field is required;
- Development concessions considered to support the selected proponent;
- Expression of Interest document explaining the proposal can be requested by emailing: nick.dilello@colliers.com

This project requires an entity that has the energy and reputation of operating a complex that will deliver a remarkable and unique development.

Expressions of Interest should be submitted no later than 4pm on Friday, 23 December 2011. For more information: Nick Di Lello 1300 133 173 For more information on Cordell Information's commercial tender reports, call 1800 674 120.

the children's hospital at Westmead



Kids can drown in inflatable pools too!

By law, all pools that can be filled with 30cm of water or more must have a fence. For more information on safe pool fencing, please visit www.kidshealth.chw.edu.au/projects/drowning-prevention/swimming-pool-fencing

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Sugarworld just about ready

North Queensland's Sugarworld Waterslide Park is nearing completion and should be ready for summer. Most of the \$5m project is expected to be completed and running by mid-December, including the slides, but some work such as the kids play area might not be open until 2012. The newly renovated park promises to be bigger and better, featuring an open tube, a mat racer with four timed lanes, a slide for parents to accompany their kids, a children's play area featuring a tipping bucket as well as smaller slides for the littlies. Additionally there will be improved visibility with some of the trees being removed to make a safer, cleaner and lighter environment.



New splash in Geelong

A new kids' splash area has opened in Geelong. The Norlane Waterworld park features a 25-metre heated pool, beach entry pool, outdoor LTS pool, waterslides and diving pool. The splash pad children's water play area and recreation area was recently added by Swimplex.

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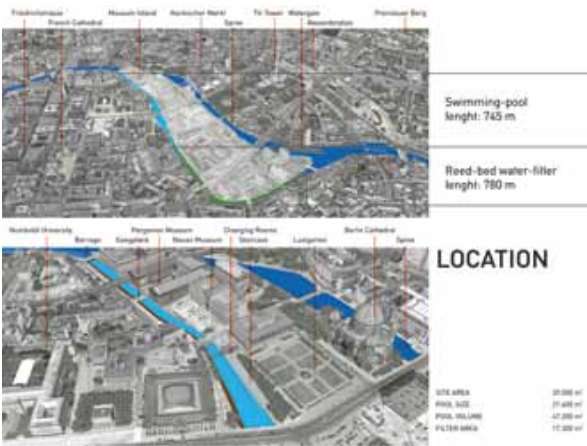
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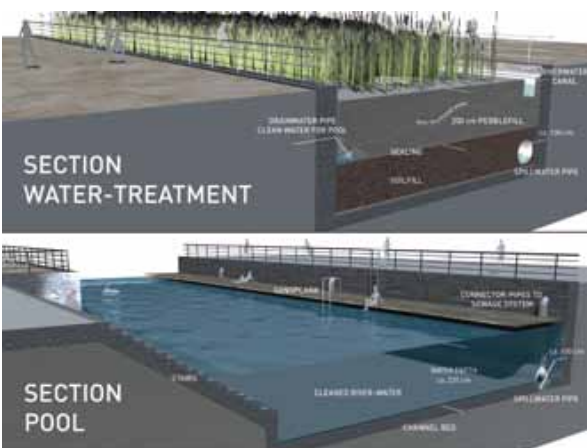
European accolade for world's longest swimming pool



The equivalent of 17 pools in length



Utilising natural reed beds for filtration



The plan for the 745m urban pool

The Flussbad project has won the Holcim Awards Gold 2011 Europe for a project to turn the centre of Berlin into the world's longest swimming pool.

THE designers of the project intend to transform an unused arm of the River Spree into a natural 745m “swimming pool”. The facility is the equivalent of 17 Olympic swimming pools with an average width of 28.8m, water depth around 2.2m, and features a 780m-long reed bed filtration system.

The 3.9ha site includes quay walls converted into generous stairs, similar to Indian ghats, providing access to the swimming pool, with functional lockers and change rooms integrated unobtrusively into the terrain.

Water entering the upper section of the river arm is purified through a 1.8ha reed bed natural reserve with sub-surface sand bed filters. A barrage at the lower end of the system prevents the backflow of unfiltered water from the main body of the river, and overflow

outlets for the city’s mixed sewage network are channelled beneath the system.

Since the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989, the precinct experienced a 75 per cent increase in resident population and an equivalent loss of open space. The Flussbad project will provide a public urban recreation space for both residents and tourists adjacent to the UNESCO World Heritage site, Museuminsel (Museum Island).

The jury commended this project due to its direct and very strong impact on the quality of urban life in an area of Berlin which has been previously overlooked. The project questions the ownership of the river itself that is currently used exclusively for shipping and drainage purposes but not for public activities. They said the idea of providing a public facility is convincing and feasible.



A futuristic appeal

The spherical shape creates the fuzzy path



Riders use 4-person or 6-person rafts



Fuzzy ride with new Magic Spheres

A new concept allows patrons to experience a different path each time they ride.

POLIN has launched a new waterslide series called Magic Spheres.

Apart from its amazing futuristic appearance, the Magic Spheres concept is unique in its geometry and riding path. In terms of riding experience it offers a fuzzy path which makes the waterslide particularly exciting. Riders can experience a new path each time

they ride. It is a high capacity ride with four people – and can be expanded to six people per ride. Polin's natural light effects and special pattern effects can be applied for any customisation, and it is being produced using Polin's special resin transfer moulding composites.

Riders start the journey on a four-person raft. After passing through the tunnel, they

experience a big drop into the sphere – dropping at an angle of 32 degrees and reaching speeds of more than 50kmh. Inside the giant sphere they follow a fuzzy path – auditory and visual effects can be added to make it more exciting. Then riders oscillate up and down as the raft follows another tunnel slide which comes to an end in a splash pool or a dry-out.

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Late consideration makes for warmer pool

Pool blankets were not originally considered for this new school pool, but their later inclusion helped save considerable energy and money.

Following a trend in education facility swimming pools, the new Huntingtower School pool in Victoria will not only be used by the school's students but also groups from outside including other schools and community bodies.

The new aquatic facility features a heated 25m lap pool, a smaller heated tuition pool, as well as gym, dance, aerobics and cycling space.

The school strove to keep maintenance and running costs down to a minimum. One way they did this was to ensure the design used as little water and energy as possible – at the same time making it environment-friendly

and reducing its total carbon footprint.

One problem, however, was that the architect had not considered the need for pool covers.

So after the pool was completed, Sunbather engineer Dave Lindner B.Eng (Mech) looked into the problem of how to retrofit pool covers to improve environmental efficiency while maintaining the neat appearance and ensuring they are easy to apply and remove.

The fixtures for the roller brackets had to be fixed into hollow concrete planks. The first task was to locate the manufacturer's drawings of the planks and then design a

roller to suit. Sunbather's wall-mounted motorised rollers are normally staggered on the wall to allow for blanket "run out" and for ease of operation. However, this was not possible because of the lack of space, so the rollers were positioned inline.

The final obstacle was having to overcome the height of the starting blocks, which were already in place.

Sunbather had used thermal analysis software developed by the University of New South Wales (UNSW) to get the correct climatic data and run a thermal simulation to determine the pool's heat losses and heat input from gas and solar.



The covers had to be built inline because of the limited space



Super Blue thermal blankets were chosen



One consideration was getting the pool covers over the top of the starting blocks

IQ appoints interstate commercial distributors

Pierce Pool Supplies, the commercial division of International Quadratics, has appointed distributors in Queensland, Victoria and West Australia to enable greater customer access and a more personalised and immediate service.

"Many of the products supplied into this market require technical assistance and advice," says IQ Managing Director, David Lloyd. "Until now, interstate customers have relied on telephone or internet communication. Now we can have people onsite immediately if technical assistance or training is required. This has become more necessary with the significant growth of our chemical dosing, furnishing and timing ranges."

The following distributors have been appointed and may be contacted for all commercial enquiries:

NSW Head Office – International Quadratics and Pierce Pool Supplies

Phone: (02) 9774 5550;

sales@interquad.com.au

QLD – Aquatic Elements

Phone: (07) 3806 3437;

sales@aquaticelements.com.au

VIC – Aquachem (VIC)

Phone: (03) 9792 0088;

admin@aquachem.com.au

WA – Austral Pool Solutions Pty Ltd

Phone: (08) 9240 5600;

sales@australpool.com.au

Technical sales position vacant

THE commercial division of IQ and Pierce Pool Supplies is looking for an experienced professional with motivation, technical knowledge and sales experience within the commercial swimming pool market to join their expanding business. Interested parties should forward their CV to eddie@interquad.com.au.

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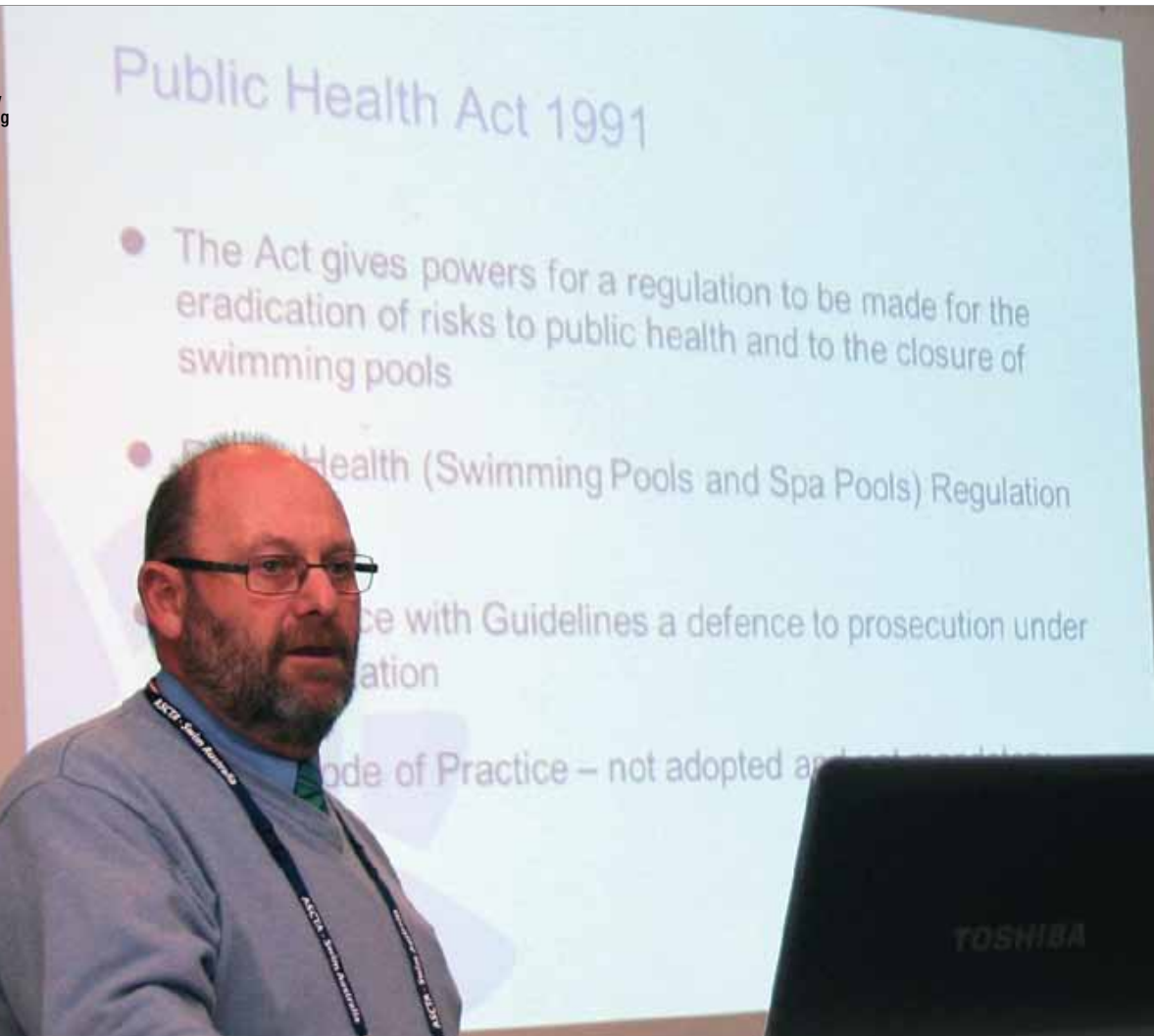
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Neil Shaw from the NSW Ministry of Health updating the industry



NSW Public Health Act to become more prescriptive

Changes to the Act are likely to see a regime that is more prescriptive with greater guidance and much higher penalties for non-compliance.

Neil Shaw, Manager of the General Environmental Health Unit at the Environmental Health Branch at the NSW Ministry of Health (formerly known as the Department of Health) gave a series of presentations over recent months, informing the industry on the upcoming changes to the Public Health Act and how they relate to public swimming pools.

SPLASH! attended one of the presentations at the Sydney Better Water Seminar where Shaw said that NSW Health is about to introduce a whole new regulatory framework.

"We're moving away from risk management – because it's a bit wishy washy

– over to an area that's more prescriptive, prescribing the particular levels that we want the pools to operate at," he said.

"Although we have a new Health Act, we don't have a new Regulation as yet, as that is still subject to parliamentary privilege."

Below is a summary of Neil Shaw's presentation.

The current regime – what we're moving from

At this moment the current Public Health Act 1991 gives powers for a regulation to be made for the eradication of risks to public health and to the closure of swimming pools.

Underneath the Act there is subordinate legislation which is known as the Public Health (Swimming Pools and Spa Pools) Regulation 2000. That specifies the basic building blocks of what public health is about.

There are also guidelines under Regulation; they are used as a way of defending how you operate a swimming pool. Compliance with Guidelines is a defence to prosecution under the Regulation.

But the industry has asked for more guidance, a bit more of a textbook, so we tried to develop that. It was going to be called the Code of Practice but will probably have a different name now.

What we're moving to

In December 2010 a new Public Health Act was promulgated, but the new Regulations haven't been developed yet – that is likely to happen early in 2012.

Under the Act are these relevant items:

- Part 3, Division 3, Control of public swimming pools and spa pools – the most important part of this is the Prescribed Operating Requirements, S34 to 37. These will be prescribed by Regulation.
- Part 3, Division 5, Improvement Notices and Prohibition Orders, S40 to 49.
- Part 3, Division 5, Environmental Health Registers, S50. Local councils must have a database of all public pools in their areas.
- Regulations, S134, to regulate standards for pools and closure when a risk to health.

The Guidelines as they are at the moment will be repealed – the essentials parts of them will be engulfed into the Regulation itself.

The Code of Practice will be changed slightly and called Guidance Notes or something similar.

Control of public swimming pools and spa pools

Under current regulation the maximum penalty for a breach is \$2000.

Now, operation of premises must comply with Prescribed Operating Requirements (PoR). The maximum penalty is now \$10,000 for an individual, and \$50,000 for a corporation.

This surprised us, because we asked for a doubling of penalties, but the Government at that time suggested these much higher penalties. But hang on to your hats, it gets worse later on.

Improvement notices: these are directions to comply with Prescribed Operating Requirements and you'll be given 72 hours (or longer) to comply. If you don't comply, a Prohibition Order can be served to close the pool.

The penalties are:

- Individual - \$22,000/12 months jail/\$11,000 daily
- Corporation - \$55,000/12 months jail/\$27,500 daily

NSW Health doesn't want to operate with a big stick. But this is the first time it's been recognised that there is a small number of recalcitrant pool operators (perhaps three) we come across from time to time, who need the big stick.

Public Health (General) Regulation 2012

This is currently under development and

is a work in progress by the Parliamentary Counsel. On the spot fines are a probability, but it is unlikely they'll apply to situations where a measurement is taken. A possible example would be if you don't have continuous dosing of disinfectant, because that is an open and shut case.

Schedule 1 to the Regulation will be the Prescribed Operating Requirements. Before we get to that we need to have a Regulatory Impact Statement (RIS).

[Please note, SPLASH! sent out an eNews in September requesting input on the draft Regulation and RIS by NSW Health. The timeframe for comments has now passed, however. To ensure you get timely notifications, please register for the eNews at www.splashmagazine.com.au]

It is likely to be promulgated February 2012.

Anticipated Prescribed Operating Requirements

- Bacteriological Criteria – will not be a Prescribed Operating Requirements
- Disinfectant Dosing Systems – continuous dosing as a minimum. Hand dosing and slug dosing will be banned.
- Disinfectant Concentrations – maintaining the status quo – only recognising chlorine and bromine systems. No magnetism, no copper/silver or the other systems.
- Combined chlorine – 1.0 mg/L maximum. This caused some consternation because some parts of the NSW Health wanted to see that level down to 0.5 mg/L. But the industry said it's too hard at this stage for a lot of pool owner occupiers, and so in a few years that will move down to 0.5.
- pH 7.2 – 7.6 (If you run higher than 7.6 you have to add additional chlorine, starting at 7.8.)
- Cyanuric Acid 50 mg/L max

- Temperature effects: 26°C and max 38°C. Much higher chance of *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* above 26°C – so high levels of chlorine above that mark. Max 38°C to prevent "venus pooling" effect, including fainting and drowning.

- Total Alkalinity: 80mg/L minimum
- Turbidity: 2 NTU maximum
- ORP: 720mV equivalence set point.

One of the first States to accept ORP, to encourage people to move towards ORP.

- Test Kits and Methodology will be prescribed.
- Testing Frequency 2 or 4 hours. Have received a lot of correspondence on this issue.
- Results Log

The Draft Code of Practice

This may have a different name, will be a Non-Mandatory Guidance Document and will be released after the Act and the Regulation commences.

It has some words of wisdom about chloramines, trihalomethanes and disinfection by-products. As mentioned above, it recommends a chloramine maximum of 1.0 mg/L.

Summary of points regarding the DCP:

- To be released after Act and Regulation Commences
- Chloramines and THMs
- Chloramines Max 1.0 mg/L (PoR Regulation)
- 4.4.1 (v) Reducing Chloramines
- 4.6 Disinfection By-Products - explained
- 5.5 Disinfection By-Products - listed
- 6.7 Prevention and Control of Chloramines and DBPs

For more information go to www.splashmagazine.com.au, where you can view a video of Neil Shaw's presentation or go to a QuickLink to the NSW Health site.



Presenting at the recent Better Water Seminar in Sydney

The tallest pool in the world

This Hong Kong pool gives you quite a view from 118 floors above harbour.

The tallest hotel in the world



The pool features floor-to-ceiling windows so swimmers can take in the amazing view



Spa suite with a view



The view across the harbour

The recently opened Ritz-Carlton is the tallest building in Hong Kong and the tallest hotel in the world, with the top rooms almost 500 metres above the ground.

But the hotel has another claim to fame: the highest swimming pool in the world – set way up on the 118th floor.

Full length glass windows overlook the spectacular skyline of Hong Kong and the glittering Victoria Harbour, as the guests relax and enjoy their stay in – and

view of – one of the most vibrant cities in the world.

The 19-metre high pool room ceiling comprises 144 LED screens, so if guests are bored of the view they can watch videos instead.

While rooms can be as expensive as \$AU10,000 for the Presidential Suite, even those on a lowly \$AU700 per night room will be able to enjoy the pool while soaking up one of the best views in the world.

For more information go to www.ritzcarlton.com.

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The perfect Santorini location



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Each room features a dreamy king-sized eco-bed, swathed in crisp linens, superlight goose-down summer duvets and a seven-choice pillow menu. Those seeking extra indulgence can check into the signature Grace Suite which incredibly features its own hammam (or Turkish bath), a spa and a series of personal terraced plunge pools.

How easy it is to daydream that you're relaxing in the pool, taking in the uninterrupted view over the island-specked

Caldera Basin to the distant Aegean horizon, waiting for the sunset to mesmerise you into an even greater state of relaxation.

All the while you can enjoy the menu from Chef Spiros, who honed his skills at Michel Roux's Michelin-starred Le Gavroche in London. As with the view, the menu is set for indulgence, to be enjoyed alfresco on the moonlit terraces around the pools.

The Grace Santorini also features a boutique gym, and a massage and manicure day spa.

For more information go to www.gracehotels.com.

Please note, the Grace Santorini closes from October 16 for the northern winter.

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Each room has its own plunge pool



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.



FURNITURE FOR THE PERFECT OUTDOOR ROOM

ROBERT Plumb has released their new range of premium outdoor furniture. It is all handcrafted in Australia by a team of craftsmen using the highest quality materials and the original designs offer customisation to suit any outdoor room.

The range includes timber and steel furniture, architectural hardware, fire pits and planters built to withstand the harsh Australian climate.

“Longevity in décor and design is often overlooked. I always consider the long term and use materials that will stand the test of time,” says design director William Dangar.

Made locally, timber products can be resized to suit any space and furniture such as the Alboo bamboo look collection made of lightweight aluminium can be powdercoated in any colour. Robert Plumb’s simple taupe cushions as well as the extensive range of bright Sunbrella fabric designs ensure all tastes and needs are met.

For more information go to www.robertplumb.com.au.

Poolside setting
from Plumb

GETTING CASUAL WITH CLASSY OUTDOOR FURNITURE

Mamagreen's Sally casual chairs from the Sally collection celebrate the union of design and form, generous depth and optimal height united with tubular arm rests and supportive Batyline sling, making a truly pleasurable seating experience.

The Sally, Gemmy and Liliniki collections represent a different approach from Mamagreen's previous ranges and embrace the fluidity and airiness of tubular stainless steel.

In 2007, Vincent Cantaert launched the Mamagreen outdoor furniture luxury brand. The Summer 2011/2012 collection is a collaboration between Belgian designer/Mamagreen founder Vincent Cantaert and young designer Barbara Widiningtias.

For more information go to www.soundslikehome.com.au, call Benjamin Saad on (02) 9550 3306 or visit the showroom at Unit 5/32-60 Alice Street, Newtown, Sydney.



Outdoor lounge chair from Plumb



Plumb timber outdoor lounge



HARDWOOD DECKING QUESTIONS

BORAL has released a full range of seasoned Australian hardwood species, and Boral Timber marketing manager Robyn Barnes says it's important to consider which timber species are most suited to a particular location. "Australian hardwood species are an excellent choice for decking because of their high density, toughness, colour spectrum, natural beauty and durability," she says.

"Some species such as blackbutt and spotted gum have fire retardant properties which makes them suitable for bushfire prone areas. These same hardwoods have termite resistant properties, which is important in many Australian suburbs and outer regions."

Finding an interior timber flooring species equivalent to a particular decking species also has its advantages. By using the same timber species, decking can enhance the natural flow from indoor flooring to the outdoors, creating a naturally flowing living space.

For extra strong and durable materials for outdoor entertainment and living spaces, Boral has a new range of commercial decking. The 135mm x 32mm boards boast a greater load capacity and offer wider spanning between supporting members when compared with other Boral decking products.

Homeowners choosing decking timber should also ensure the product they select has been produced under a Quality Assurance system that meets Australian Standards, which is not the case for many imported products.

"Boral decking has a Quality Assurance system that ensures strict tolerances and drying procedures to produce a high quality product," she says.

Building a deck in bushfire-prone areas may also require adherence to Australian Standard AS3959: Construction of Buildings in Bush Fire Prone Areas. Local councils will be able to assist with information on the relevant regulations.

Boral Timber has also achieved Australian Forestry Standard (AFS) Chain of Custody certification for its timber products. This means that timber used to produce Boral Timber's hardwood flooring and decking has been sourced from certified, legal and sustainably managed resources. The AFS is the only forest certification scheme that complies to an Australian Standard AS 4708-2007 and is also linked to the world's largest forest management certifier – Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC).

For more information call 1800 818 317 or visit www.boral.com.au/timber.



BLACK IS BACK

ACCORDING to Amber Tiles, black is making a triumphant return to outdoor pools and gardens, providing a sleek designer finish to backyards across Australia.

Amber's Outdoor Tile Expert Mike Barden, believes that black in the backyard is here to stay. "Acting as a canvas for creative flair, black provides a stark and sophisticated contrast to the vibrant blooming colours of spring and summer foliage. It is the safest outdoor style choice to be made this season in anticipation of the bright blocks of summer colour to hit the Australian outdoors in the coming months." Amber's range of black granite is perfect for pools. The contrast of

black and shimmering blue water illuminated by elegant evening lighting, can transform an ordinary backyard into an extraordinary one. It is available in 400mm x 400mm x 30mm, 600mm x 400mm x 30mm and many pool coping options.

Heathstone Grand retaining walls also come in dark colours to add elegance to the outdoor area. They come with matching capping and corner units. Available in 440mm x 270mm x 162mm and 440mm x 280mm x 162mm.

For more information about Amber's products, store locations and opening times, visit www.ambertiles.com.au or call 1300 362 241.



SPARKING UP THE OLD OUTDOOR FURNITURE

OLD iron furniture needn't be thrown out. It can be cleaned up and given a new lease on life with Rustoleum Universal all-surface spray paint.

For the cost of a can of spray paint, Rustoleum Universal allows you to instantly create new looking, personalised pieces including chairs, tables, pots, garden tools and decorative features. Colours include Canary Yellow, Sunset Orange and Cobalt Blue.

Featuring a revolutionary 360 degree any-angle trigger mechanism, this unique spray paint sticks to any surface without the need for an undercoat. The result is a fade and chip resistant, smooth, even finish without marks or streaks often encountered from brush-on paints.

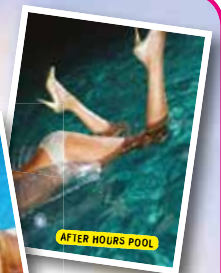
It offers superior one-coat coverage, minimising paint wastage and provides maximum UV protection to resist colour fading.

For more information call 1300 784 476 or go to www.rustoleum.com.au.

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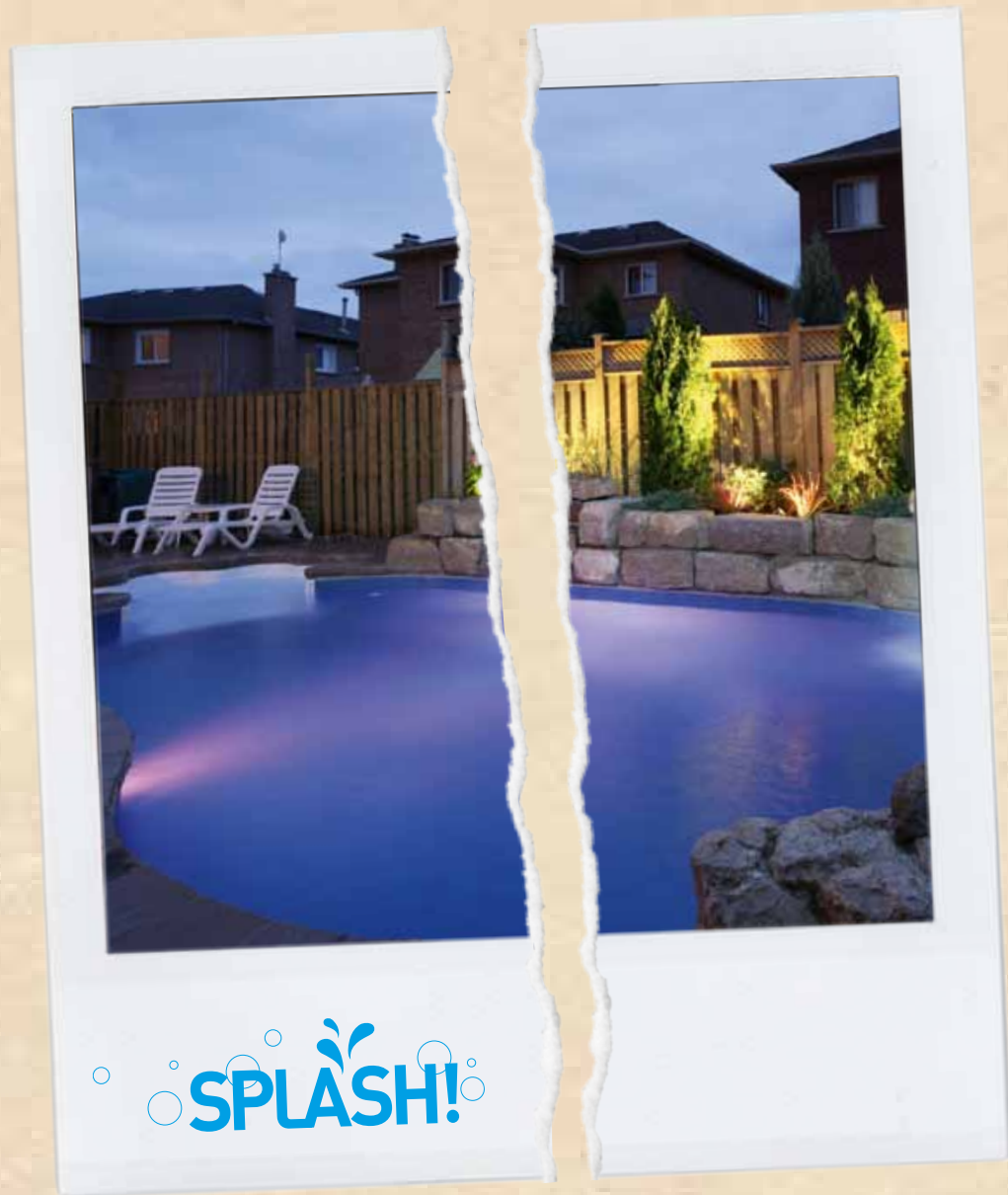
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NEW AUSTRALIAN-MADE SUCTION COVER

SINCE May 2011, the new Australian Standards for pool and spa suction cover outlets have caused some confusion in the industry. The Australian Standard was revised to AS1926.3-2010 in an attempt to eliminate pool and spa drownings by entrapment.

Currently available on the market are some imported suction covers from the USA and Asia.

Reltech says that although they pass our new Australian Standard, pool builders, servicemen and shops wanted an Australian product.

Reltech, a 100 per cent Australian owned and operated company, researched the market and based on customer feedback designed and developed a new suction cover to overcome much of the negative feedback about previously available suction covers.

The result is that Reltech has made what it believes to be the strongest and flattest suction cover available on the market.

It offers many benefits including an unobtrusive low-profile design and a pleasing appearance that can complement low-profile fittings and niche style lights on pools and spas.

Unlike some of the thicker imported covers, it can't be used as a step to get out of a pool or spa which in itself can be dangerous. It has also been vigorously field tested to work seamlessly with major brands of suction cleaners, thus eliminating suction cleaners sticking to the covers.

It comes in four popular colours (clear, white, black and dark grey) and is designed to fit snugly on 40mm and 50mm (Class 9 and 12) pipes. It's available for concrete, fibreglass and vinyl pools and spas. The concrete-pool version comes with a push-fit self aligning backing that can be fixed to the pool wall.

Its modern and compact styling still allows it to have a flow rate in excess 330lpm, but most importantly it meets the new Australian Standard for pool and spa safety having recently gained approval (No. 112289 2844 – 26/10/2011).

The approved cover can be retrofitted in place of older style covers, thus upgrading some existing pools and spas to the new Standard. This is even possible for fibreglass and vinyl pools and spas.

The new suction covers are all 100 per cent manufactured and assembled in Australia by Reltech which is part of their on-going commitment to providing quality Australian-made products to the industry.

For more information call (03) 9459 3838 or go to www.reltech.com.au.



DAVEY'S NEW ECO PUMPS

DAVEY Water Products has released two new pool pumps for the 2011 summer season.

Davey says their new PowerMaster Eco and Silensor Eco pool pumps offer outstanding performance along with an 8-Star Energy Efficiency rating for the PowerMaster Eco and a 6-Star Energy Efficiency rating for the Silensor Eco.

The premium Davey PowerMaster Eco series is specifically designed to circulate swimming pool water for filtration and

all other pool applications very efficiently and effectively. An intelligent variable three-speed brushless DC motor allows for very high operating efficiency that will offer up to 70 per cent running-cost savings over traditional one-speed pool pumps.

The variable speed motor on the Davey PowerMaster Eco allows you to choose from low flow Eco mode specifically designed for pool filtration, mid-flow for automatic pool cleaning or water feature operation or high-flow for all other tasks. It features a large leaf basket, auto-reset thermal protection, easy-to-use flow setting controls, a three-year Davey Guarantee and runs very quietly at only 60.2dBa (on low flow).

The Davey Silensor Eco series pool pumps are available in two models, the SLLECO and SLSECO. Both pumps feature a 6-Star Energy Efficiency rating and are very quiet. Using a unique water-silenced motor design means that running the Davey Silensor Eco at any time of night will not only allow for off-peak power usage, but help keep the neighbours happy.

For more information contact your Davey dealer or visit www.davey.com.au.



BIOGUARD LAUNCHES NEW POOL SYSTEMS ACCESSORIES

BIOGUARD has announced a new partnership with Australia's leading manufacturer and distributor of swimming pool and spa equipment and accessories, Pool Systems, on a new range of handheld accessories.

BioGuard says they wanted to create world-class products with genuine unique design features. To do this, they needed to engage a specialist company that had experience in the design and manufacturing of these products.

BioGuard says the result of this partnership has been a range of premium quality, revolutionary handheld accessories that are different from anything else in the market. The BioGuard Series of handhelds will be available this season and Pool Systems has the exclusive rights to produce and sell the range.

The product range includes brooms, leaf rakes and scoops, floating dispensers, thermometers and other measuring products, brushes, and all-brush flexible vacuum heads.

For more information contact Pool Systems on 1300 366 020.



NEW BROOMS AND BRUSHES

POOL Systems has introduced a new Super Broom. It has seven rows of UV-stabilised nylon and PP bristles for optimum low-effort pool brushing.

Stronger than metal-backed brushes, the all-plastic design is engineered with a large curved area, twice the footprint of a standard 45cm brush. Providing constant contact with the pool surface, the extra wide body is very effective in new pool start-ups, dispensing of pool salt and removal of algae.

Every pool owner knows the hassles of vacuuming floor debris from their

pool floor and walls. The new Aussie Gold Flexible Brush Vacuum Head is flexible enough to get into any corner. This brush vac efficiently cleans all curves and shapes of every inch of a pool in no time at all. Strategically balanced weights keeps the vacuum head submerged. The body is moulded in one-piece flexible polyethylene and the specially placed brushes guide debris into the suction chamber.

For more information contact Pool Systems on 1300 366 020.

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THE NEW K-BOT

THE K-Bot RX Series robotic cleaner has the latest robotic technology, encompassing the new and exciting features of Smart Swivel and Autoscan.

The K-Bot has been released by Kreepy Krauly as part of the Klever Kleena range. It comes with a full system warranty for two years on the RX-1 and three years on the RX-2.

The exclusive Smart Swivel system stops cable tangles, while the Autoscan advanced technology delivers precise auto-scanning for greater cleaning efficiency.

The K-Bot RX Series robotic pool cleaners quickly and efficiently clean almost any size and shape pool.

Autopool says the features include:

- Environmentally friendly – reduce chemical use
- Fully independent from pool filter system
- Ultra efficient scrubbing, cleaning and vacuum
- Precise water line cleaning
- Obstacle escape system
- Intelligent self – adjusting software



- Removable filter bag – optional cartridge filter
 - Automatic timer
 - Digital switch mode power supply – less than 30 volts DC
 - Plug and play – easy installation
 - Do it yourself maintenance – replace brushes and rollers yourself
 - Ultra-modern high speed motors
 - Motor protection system
 - Built in self-diagnostics
- For more information go to www.autopool.com.au.

SLEEKER OUTDOOR SWITCHES

SLEEK design by Soliroc means external switches and powerpoints can now take their place alongside stylish appliances gracing outdoor rooms and entertainment spaces.

With many homeowners investing in architecturally designed outdoor areas with high quality fittings and appliances, Legrand's Soliroc switches look the part compared to other bulkier outdoor units.

Soliroc is designed to have high aesthetic appeal and, at just one centimetre in depth, it is also discreet in appearance. The weatherproof and impact-resistant range is suited to undercover or open air barbecue areas, outdoor kitchens, pool areas, decks and patios. Soliroc also has a lockable flap, meaning the switches can be made tamper- and child-proof.

The hardwearing material, referred to as a zamak metal alloy and made from a combination of zinc, aluminium, magnesium and copper, gives Soliroc a strong resistance to scratches and

protection from salt damage.

With the growing popularity of technology for outdoor entertainment applications, Soliroc can also accommodate more than 50 Arteor electrical mechanisms including switches and TV sockets and High-Definition Multimedia Interface (HDMI).

For more information call Legrand on 1300 369 777 or go to www.legrand.com.au.



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NEW FROM WATERCO GLASS BEADS



WATERCO has launched its own Glass Beads. Manufactured from 100 per cent virgin glass, Waterco's Glass Beads offer filtration below 3 microns while requiring 20 per cent less water for backwashing compared to sand.

"Waterco's Glass Beads are chemically inert for the ultimate water purity," says Waterco group marketing director, Bryan Goh. "In fact, Waterco's Glass Beads have been independently lab tested for leaching contaminants and were found to be well within Australian Drinking Water Guidelines."

At only 0.6mm by 0.8mm in size, the narrow particle size of the Glass Beads enables in-depth superior filtration. The spherical shape also results in low friction levels, reducing the need to backwash and saving pool owners both time and precious water.

For further information go to www.waterco.com.au.



MICRON ECO

WATERCO has released the new Micron S602

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Eco granular filter. Like its EnviroPro stablemates, the Micron Eco has been created with energy efficiency and water conservation firmly in mind.

It features an internal hydraulically efficient system designed to facilitate energy and water savings. A major feature of the Micron Eco is its unique fishtail laterals, which ensure better water distribution through the filter's media bed, enhancing its filtration and backwashing efficiency.

"We have used our experience in and knowledge of the commercial swimming pool market to design these new laterals, and then applied the technology to the domestic pool market," says Goh.

"The effective coverage of the lateral system virtually eliminates any dead areas of flow and provides an even up-flow through the filter bed during backwashing. The Micron Eco's backwashing time is reduced significantly, leading to savings of backwash water of up to 30 per cent."

The Micron Eco is the result of the latest in fibreglass winding technology that is being extensively used by Waterco. It is manufactured with an inner shell of fibreglass reinforced polyester resin, which is strengthened with multiple layers of continuous strands of fibreglass filaments.

It has a 10-year warranty on the tank, and a 12-month warranty on all other components.



ECOSKIM

THE Approved WaterMark Consumer Product of the Year, the Ecoskim pool skimming device, is now available from Waterco.

The Ecoskim attaches to existing pool

skimmer boxes to allow for greater fluctuations in pool water levels due to evaporation and heavy rainfall – without compromising on water quality.

"With the Ecoskim, topping up pool water is a thing of the past. And in times of heavy rainfall, rather than purge the excess water, the Ecoskim continues to ensure pool water is skimmed adequately," says Goh.

"This innovation is capable of skimming water and operating a suction cleaner concurrently. It means that the suction cleaner will clean the pool's floor and walls without impeding its skimming action. Without the Ecoskim, a suction cleaner would block off the skimmer and prevent it from skimming the surface of the pool."

Unlike the average skimmer box which operates within a maximum 70mm water level fluctuation window, the Ecoskim is capable of operating as water levels fluctuate up to 350mm. In fact, the Ecoskim can maintain water levels for up to six months of zero rainfall before topping up is necessary.

"The Ecoskim literally saves pool owners tens of thousands of litres of water each year. We are pleased to be distributing such an innovative and sustainable pool product which is set to change the way pools are managed worldwide," says Goh.

For more information on the Ecoskim go to www.ecoskim.com.au

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