



LET'S TALK ABOUT

WATERPROOFING

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CHAIRMAN'S ADDRESS



With the cold and wet weather in the southern states, it is the usual battle to get applications done.

We urge members not to be pressured by those who “want it done” even though there may be a wet substrate!!! As we all know where that will end up.

The AIW is seeing more and more waterproofers and affiliated professionals join the up so the word is out that we are finally getting somewhere.

I take this opportunity to say Thanks to the current Committee who are all giving up their own time and effort to push forward with the ongoing battle to better our industry.

Mal Ferraro and Frank Moebus have been doing the QBCC roadshow which I am sure they will post all about this in this newsletter. Well done guys.

We are seeing some shift in local (Vic) government mentality towards the age old problem of water ingress and the subsequent damages it's causing.

The AIW has recently submitted an amendment request to the VBA for a re-wording of the Building Code in reference to waterproofing applications being inspected by building surveyors.

We hope they will agree with this amendment which would then require builders to have a membrane system inspected and signed off before a Certificate of Occupancy is issued.

And we are still pushing for the Tiling Standard to be re-instated (Standards Australia wants to abolish it so we will have no standard for correct tile laying!!) – It's on hold at the moment.

For all those who are applying correctly, this will be a favourable change and for those that are not (not AIW Members) will help them bring up the standard and install a decent membrane system that can be warranted with piece of mind.

The Building Surveyors will need training on what to inspect as currently what we see is they just ask for a

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certificate of compliance and they are happy with this. Stay tuned for further outcomes on this hot topic.

In June, I travelled the country (on my own coin- so don't worry about your AIW sub's) side visiting a number of waterproofing industry professionals who are also passionate about the industry.

One in particular, from the UK, is Mr Ian MacLennan (or Mac) who is at the forefront of underground waterproofing.

He and his team in the UK have a broad knowledge and undertake some very large projects with terrific results.

We spoke for many hours in his offices and we explored the methods and criteria they use in the UK where they have a "Below Ground Standard" unlike us where we do not even have a standard for this. !!!! More on that later.

While we are still twiddling our thumbs in Australia getting a standard, we at the AIW are looking at adopting the British standard for our use here.

This may help eliminate all the guess work involved with contractors doing what they feel is right but not always ending up right.

The high amount of below ground leaks is becoming a very serious problem as we all want more bang for our buck

when building a home or development and going down as the answer for more M2 in a build.

As I pursue more on this underground topic, I will keep you all in the loop.

I encourage everyone to get on the AIW website - update your company details and get involved in the newly created Forum on the website - this will be a great place for members to have a say about what they see should be happening and help each other out if you have a tricky job and not sure how to tackle it.

Remember, we may be competitors but we are also a small fraternity with a large amount of work out there.

We need to work together more rather than being out there on your own.

You are not- you're a member of a wider network being with the AIW.

Paul Evans

AIW Chairman

Waterproofing Changes in Victoria

The Building Act 1993 remain, however current the Building Regulation 2006 are to be 'sunset, replaced by the proposed Building Regulations 2017 (legislated around September)

Changes in the 2017 Regulations which affect the waterproofing industry relate to "Part 13 – Inspections notices and Orders;

Division 1 – Inspections and Directions; 169 Prescribed mandatory notification stages for construction or alteration of building".

For the first time a building inspector or surveyor must add the inspection:- "(e) prior to covering a waterproofing membrane in any wet areas"

The Building Regulations remain consistent in the other areas affecting waterproofing, namely;

Part 2 – Building Code of Australia The regulations referring to the adoption of the NCC and relevant Australian Standard

Part 9 – Building Work, Division 1 – Methods of assessment of compliance; Covering material testing, compliance certificates etc. as proof of quality of building works.

The VBA have confirmed that only a registered Building Practitioner (appropriate categories) can authorise compliance of waterproofing works.

A sub-contractor who is not a Registered Building Practitioner cannot authorise compliance.

A statement from the sub-contractor may state in their opinion that they have complied with the relevant Standard and thus compliant with NCC, however the liability is primarily with the Registered Builder (now shared with the Building Inspector or Surveyor for wet areas).

David Hepworth

AIW Director

QBCC Tradie Tours



Waterproofing is consistently one of the most common defects reported to the QBCC and mistakes can be costly.

During June 2017, the QBCC presented ten waterproofing seminars throughout Queensland metro and regional centres, on behalf of the Australian Institute of Waterproofing.

The seminars were dedicated to waterproofing and tiling issues with a focus on 'Preventing Waterproofing Defects'.

Approximately 1000 builders, waterproofers, certifiers, and tilers attended and came ready to ask many questions relating to waterproofing best practice.

Bayset's Training & Quality Manager, Frank Moebus provided in-depth information about avoiding installation problems. The Tradie Tour saw a great turn out with lots of good feedback from the industry.



Project Reference

Botanicca Corporate Park

"A challenging but very rewarding job" - Gary Moody



Overview

Property Type: Commercial

Project Type: Restoration

Scope: Leaking roof joints affecting company suites

Applicator: Australian Waterproofing Company Pty Ltd

Area m2: 1150m2

Category: Waterproofing

Products Used

- Soprema Soprasun 3.0S
- Soprema Sopradhere Primer
- Soprema Alsan Flashing
- Soprema Roof Vents





Project Details

Botanica Corporate Park had leaks in the roof joints that affected the various company suites below and at balcony level.

Fixing the leaking roofs was paramount to the success of the building as it was only built in 2006, it now has a 20 year warranty.

A watertite roof with The Soprema Torch On was applied to achieve a very pleasing aesthetic result as well as a high quality waterproofing result due to great application from our experienced applicator.



Published Articles by Paul Evans - Remedial Waterproofing Consultant

Finding and Fixing What Lies Beneath in Waterproofing

February 29th, 2024

Drenched to the Core: Major Waterproofing Problems Plaguing Residential Homes

October 12th, 2023

(Sponsored Content) Raising Standards and Awareness in Waterproofing

February 9th, 2023

Multi-Storey Basements Must be Kept Dry

May 26th, 2022

Why Tiling and Waterproofing are Intrinsically Linked

January 17th, 2022

Waterproofing Design In Construction

July 30th, 2021

Leaking Concrete Rooftops – Why Waterproofing Should Not Be Ignored or Delayed

April 28th, 2021

Solving Water Leaks Is Not Always About Waterproofing

February 4th, 2021

Australia's Awareness of Waterproofing is Growing

May 21st, 2020

Why Balconies Leak

February 24th, 2020

BuildIT – Featured Article 2019

“Committed to Raising Waterproofing Standards and Training Across Australia”

Paul Evans, President of Australian Institute of Waterproofing

<https://buildit.partica.online/buildit/buildit-2018/flipbook/66/>

Sourceable – Construction

Interviewed by Andrew Heaton on October 5th, 2017

<https://sourceable.net/australia-must-improve-waterproofing-standards-practices/>

Waterproofing President to Speak at International Conference

Australian Institute of Waterproofing (AIW) News - October 2017

Solving Roof & Balcony Leaks

Facility Perspectives - The Leading Resource for Facility Management in Australasia. VOL 11 NO 1. March-May 2017

Notes from a Balcony Inspection

Australian Institute of Waterproofing (AIW) News - November 2016

Australian Institute of Waterproofing – Online News

Notes from a Balcony Inspection – Nov 2016

<https://www.waterproof.org.au/notes-from-a-balcony-inspection/>

Getting It Right in the First Place – October 2016

<https://www.waterproof.org.au/getting-right-first-place/>

Waterproofing - Getting it Right the First Time

Australian Institute of Waterproofing (AIW) News - October 2016

Waterproofing - Common Failures

LinkedIn Article - Feb 2015

Associations

Australian Institute of Waterproofing (AIW)

Australian Society of Building Consultants (ASBC)

Building Dispute Practitioner Society (BDPS)

Concrete Institute of Australia (CIA)

Australian Concrete Repair & Remedial Building Association (ACRA)

Master Builders Association Victoria-Specialist Contractor (MBAV)

Owners Corporation Network of Australia Ltd (OCN)

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