



CHAIRMAN'S ADDRESS



Time spins by and here we are again, newsletter time. I trust everyone is busy now the weather is getting better (particularly for us southerners)

A great deal has been happening with creating a waterproofing information course in conjunction with the Master Builders Association Vic. David Hepworth and myself have been pivotal in getting this off the ground. Andrew Golle (AIW member & Committee member) is delivering these courses which are aimed at people who are not necessarily doing the work but those that are having the work carried out or they are specifying (managing) waterproofing works. This is a big change in what has been offered previously. Frank Moebus (AIW member & Committee member) has also been presenting AIW seminars for the QBCC in Queensland.

What we are now finding, is private building companies are requesting the training in private sessions for their supervising staff members. We are changing the course slightly to solely aim the delivery at these people, some of which know very little about waterproofing, selection of products and subsequent preparation of surfaces and areas. Not forgetting the critical aftercare or following trades actions, where we see many atrocities committed. My niece and

her husband is just at the tail end of having a new dual occupancy built by a "very well know builder" who has been a party to the atrocities.

The number of mistakes and lack of trade control was frankly quite extraordinary, I stepped in to assist them and help with sorting out some of the problems. To many to mention here, but my point being that the supervisor was way out of his depth (nice bloke, but) and the builder was at fault for having an under-skilled person in charge of building this job. This is the scenarios we are collectively seeing across Australia – time constraints, poor applications and cost cutting exercises are coming at a high cost at the end of a build or worse still after a project is completed, the owners have moved in and waterproofing fails.

The mental anguish, stress, and significant rectification cost are taking their toll on everyone- Lawyers are lovin' it!!! As a small industry responsible for delivering a critical part of the build, we all need to be extremely diligent in ensuring works are carried out correctly and will last for the life of the building.

We find this training a massive step forward for the waterproofing industry as

the sooner the greater construction industry become more knowledgeable the better the standard of work.

On another note- the AIW will be putting together our own "Below Ground Waterproofing Standard" to give us something to work with given the absence of a standard in Australia. It will be loosely based on the UK standard and adapted to work for Australia - as soon as time permits we will be calling on all who would like to contribute to this. The more of a cross section on methods and materials the better.

Paul Evans
AIW Chairman



