

Surfaces

... AWCI downunder

Edition No 18 May-June 2009

A Viewpoint

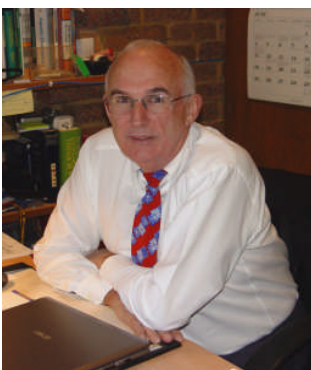
Have you noticed the subtle disappearance from hardware and supermarkets of incandescent globes?

I was looking for two globes for my lounge room recently and found that the mini-fluorescents had taken over. Trying to find two 60-watt reflector globes with an Edison screw was a battle.

It set me to wondering the reason for the apparent shortage of this type of globe. My study showed that this was the Federal government's phase-out of incandescent globes from November 2009.

That plan is part of the government's Minimum Energy Performance Standards for globes, a program similar to the energy star ratings for major appliances.

I personally applaud this energy initiative, but wonder just how some fancy light fittings and chandeliers will look when fitted with compact fluorescent globes.



Allen Morley, executive director

Gold Coast - AWCI is coming soon

The 64th National Conference of the Association of Wall and Ceiling Industries of Australia & New Zealand will be run from 13th –16th October 2009 at Hyatt Regency Sanctuary Cove on the Queensland Gold Coast.

This annual showpiece for the linings industry will be the place to be. When the sun sets on Tuesday 13th October 2009 at Hyatt Regency Sanctuary Cove the 64th AWCI National Conference will swing into action.



The comprehensive program includes:

- ❑ The Conference opening by Gold Coast Mayor, Ron Clarke MBE
- ❑ AWCI's own *Apprenticeship Challenge* featuring apprentices from all Australian States and New Zealand
- ❑ Sessions including specialist presentations including journalist and author Frances Whiting illustrating the woman

behind the man in business as in life

- ❑ Technical sessions covering dispute resolution, the new industry illumination code (see the story elsewhere in *Surfaces*) and technical committee activities
- ❑ Attendance by local and Brisbane apprentices to watch the *Challenge* event and to visit the exhibition
- ❑ Las Vegas on the Gold Coast entertainment as the mid-conference fun event
- ❑ The finale gala evening at MovieWorld where we will celebrate excellence in wall and ceiling projects, recognise industry identities and enjoy a social extravaganza.

Keep a watch out for your registration program in the mail. Two early-bird prizes are on offer; four nights at Hyatt Regency Sanctuary Cove resort for the winner (Note: this prize cannot be taken during the Conference period) and a free Registration for the 2010 AWCI Conference in Christchurch New Zealand.

www.awci.org.au or 02 9806 9541 for more information

You must come to the AWCI Conference. Remember: **October 13-17th 2009, Hyatt Regency Sanctuary Cove, Gold Coast**

Our Training Frustration Appears Almost Over

The new training package for this industry sector - CPC31208 Certificate III in Wall and Ceiling Lining is almost ready to go.

Representing a new career direction for apprentices and trainees in wall and ceiling lining, this course will result in major changes within our industry.



The website www.ntis.gov.au/Default.aspx?trainingpackage/CPC08/volume/CPC08_1/qualificationlevel/514 tells the full story under the Code CPC31208.

The move away from the traditional four year apprenticeship to a competency-based skills assessment still poses some challenges in implementation.

This industry welcomes the training package, where AWCI recognises the broad flexibility this training package will deliver to our industry.

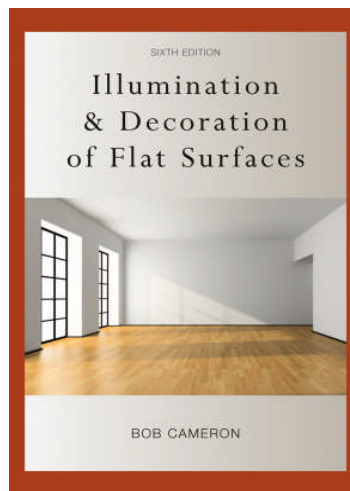
What did we want? The training package CPC31208!

When did we want it? NOW, and that is close to the outcome since it has been endorsed!

Illumination & Decoration of Flat Surfaces Available

The recent release of the publication *Illumination & Decoration of Flat Surfaces*, written by Bob Cameron, did not immediately join the best sellers list.

What would generally be seen as a mundane subject is very important to the sector represented by AWCI. This glancing light issue is addressed in the Australian/New Zealand Standard: Gypsum Linings - Application and Finishing [AS/NZS 2589:2007 – Appendix D]. The previous out-of-print status of *Illumination and Decoration* meant that there was a significant information gap. AWCI sought to provide an interim and complementary solution via its Plasterboard Expectations project – see www.awci.org.au.



Bob Cameron has used the fifth edition work by MJ Ridge as the basis for what is a significantly updated approach. The colour photographs used show

clearly the criticality of this light issue in plaster finishes.

Contact AWCI at info@awci.org.au for details of availability.

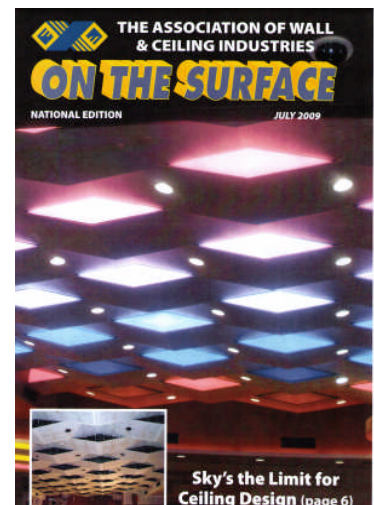
ON THE SURFACE

AWCI's national magazine *On the Surface* is currently set for distribution.

This edition features include:

- ❑ Direct fix versus battened ceilings
- ❑ Front cover story
- ❑ Level What!!!
- ❑ What's new
- ❑ Power assisted tools
- ❑ Screw popping

and many more articles, recommendations, products, profiles etc



AWCI thanks all of its 2009 Conference Sponsors and Exhibitors for their support

Fair Work Act

Operations in the Australian workplace laws area changed significantly from July 1st. The Fair Work Act (FWA) replaces the controversial *Work choices*.

There are new rules for the workplace relating to:

- ❑ Agreement making
- ❑ Common Law Contracts
- ❑ New Modern Awards, &
- ❑ Unfair dismissal provisions.

The changes mean that there are significantly increased employer obligations in the workplace. Anyone running a business needs to understand what the changes mean.

In addition, legislation has been introduced to Federal parliament that will replace the Australian Building and Construction Commissioner (ABCC) with the Fair Work - Building Industry Inspectorate. To add to the list, from 1 January 2010, the FWA expands unions' rights to enter workplaces. The most significant effect of these changes will be to allow unions to enter non-unionised workplaces to hold discussions with all employees, whether they are union members or not.

An additional complication could be the Federal government's draft unfair contract terms legislation. This will affect not only contracts entered into with consumers, but also business-to-business (B2B) contracts. Hence, many Australian businesses will

need to review all their standard-form contracts.

The situation has become more complex at a time when businesses are under economic pressure. So what might be done? The options include:

- ❑ read and understand HIA explanatory booklet on the new Act and what it could mean for you and your business
- ❑ consult your State AWCI office – www.awci.org.au - for information regarding specialist workplace advice services which are part of the membership benefits package
- ❑ consult you local industrial relations specialist.

Which ever way they do it, every AWCI member needs to make a proper assessment of their 'industrial risk profile'

Future editions of Surfaces will provide more information regarding the **Fair Work Act**.



Passwords

We all seem to have passwords for everything we

do these days. Not the least are those required for computers, on-line transactions and for operating ATMs.



So if your passwords comprise a relative's name, your pet's name or football team, please consider that industry advice suggests the following estimated times for cracking passwords:

- 4 characters = 10 seconds
- 6 characters = 1,000 seconds
- 7 characters = 1 day
- 8 characters = 115 days
- 9 characters = 31 years
- 10 characters = 3,000 years.

I guess that Cy7%@P34HI is looking pretty password good!

Information courtesy Lisa Bundensen - www.lisabundensen.com

Insulation Installation

The Federal Department of Environment has responsibility for a program directed to the installation of ceiling insulation in 2.9 million Australian homes.

The government estimate is that there are 2000-3000 installers at present with about 3 times that number needed to meet the program timings over the next two years.



To become an installer under the program requires satisfaction of a number of criteria as well as being on the Installer Provider Register (see www.environment.gov.au/insulation-installers).

To become registered requires:

- Completion of OH&S induction training, &
- A 'licensed' relevant trade – this includes plasterers – which have trade-specific competency, or
- Completion of a training program of units of competency from CPC08 (see www.cpsisc.com.au & look under the Resources tab) plus
- receipt of a certificate of attainment from a Registered Training Organisation (RTO).

Thus, although many AWCI members will be qualified, they will still have to register if they seek to be involved in this program.

AWCI is currently evaluating running training courses for this program.

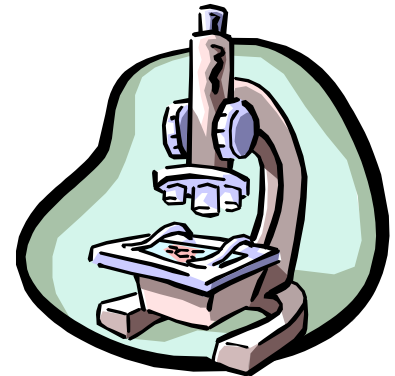
Bits & Pieces

- WorkCover NSW has advised that the full stilts report that AWCI NSW received a grant for should be available on their website soon.

This report is the one that Steve Cowley from Ballarat University spoke to at the AWCI 2008 National Conference



- AWCI has been advised that the application by Swinburne University TAFE for a full review of the OH&S primer It's not a Board game has been successful. The package review will take up to 12 months to complete.
- Swine flu has now established itself in Australia. To prepare your workplace, the general recommendations for employers are:
 1. keep yourself informed and up-to-date on swine flu-related information
 2. inform and keep employees up to date
 3. undertake appropriate OHS risk management by managing the direct and indirect risks
 4. review and evaluate your risk control measures as they relate to swine flu



5. plan and manage the recovery phase of the flu phases.

- AWCI has begun the establishment of a National Technical Committee for this industry.

The Committee's remit will include all technical matters including Australian Standards, Occupational Health & Safety issues, the national training package, licensing, insulation and energy, plasterboard finishes and the environment.

From time to time the Committee's reports will appear on the AWCI website and in *On the Surface* magazine.

- Don't forget the oldest AWCI Conference satchel for a chance to win a \$50 Myer voucher for the winner.

Just contact the AWCI National Office – 02 9806 9541 to make your claim.

AWCI and Associated Events Program in 2009 and 2010

- AWCI Qld Annual Golf Day, 13 July
- **AWCI NSW Passive Fire Resistance Installation Course, Parramatta, 29 July**
- AWCI WA Products Night, August, 14 August
- **AWCI NSW Seminar Events, Parramatta, (Timing TBA)**
- AWCI Vic Annual General Meeting, 20 August
- **AWCI Vic Technical Sessions & Awards, 20 August – to be confirmed**
- AWCI Executive Committee, Gold Coast, 20 August
- **AWCI Qld Annual General Meeting, 22 August**
- AWCI Qld Excellence Awards Night, 22 August
- **AWCI NSW Changes to Industrial Relations Information Evening, September**
- AWCI SA Annual Golf Day, 11 September
- **AWCI NZ Conference, Tauranga New Zealand, 2-3 October**
- AWCI NZ AGM, Tauranga New Zealand, 3 October
- **AWCI WA 21st Annual Ball & Awards Night, 10 October**
- AWCI Conference, Gold Coast, 13-17 October 2009
- **AWCI Annual General Meeting, 16 October**
- AWCI SA Annual General Meeting, 16 November
- **AWCI WA No Frills Golf Day, 20 November**
- AWCI SA Christmas Sundowner, 7 December

Sister Associations

- **fpdc Twentieth Anniversary Dinner, London, September 2009**
- fpdc Annual Conference – September 2010, EuroDisney
- **AWCI US Industry Executives' Conference & Committee Week, San Juan, Puerto Rico, 22 September 2009**
- AWCI US Convention and INTEX Expo, Denver, Colorado, April 20th - 24th 2010
- **CISCA Leadership Symposium, 7- 9 October, 2009 at The Phoenician Resort, Scottsdale, Arizona USA**

AWCI Members: Our strategic partner MCA continues to provide services to AWCI members in the areas of compliance, OH&S, business and environment matters.



Contact MCA on (02) 9521 3422 or via their website

Hyatt Regency Sanctuary Cove lagoon set up for dinner

Join us here for the AWCI Conference



AWCI Members:

Remember when considering your insurance renewal in 2009 to take advantage of our partnership with



Simply phone Wesfarmers Federation Insurance on 1300 WFI WFI (1300 934 934) for the cost of a local call