



2007 ACT Plumbing Apprenticeship Awards



Photo: Keith Maynard receiving the award for outstanding 3rd Year Apprentice. Keith also won the Master Plumbers Shield for Best Overall Performance in Years 1, 2 and 3. Also pictured: Gary Guy (Training Fund Authority), Pat Read (Southern Plumbing Plus) and Phil Quinnell (President, Master Plumbers Association of the ACT)

Residential Building Approvals - February 2007

In trend terms, the number of residential approvals in the ACT in February 2007 was 134. This was below the five-year monthly average of 182 approvals for the ACT. Nationally, residential approvals rose slightly in February.

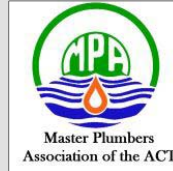
In original terms, the ABS estimates that the number of houses approved rose from 72 in January 2007 to 75 in February 2007. The ABS estimates the number of other residential dwellings approved (e.g. townhouses, apartments etc) rose from 4 in January 2007 to 88 in February 2007.

Looking forward, the announced increase in land supply of 1200 sites in 2006-07 should support growth in residential building approvals. However, the interest rate rises in May, August and November 2006 may dampen demand for new dwellings in the ACT.

State/Territory Comparisons - Trend

In the year to February 2007, the ACT recorded the strongest growth, followed by Tasmania. New South Wales recorded the largest decline, followed by Victoria.

Source: ABS and ACTPLA



On 29 March, the Master Plumbers Association of the ACT held their annual dinner and apprenticeship awards. The awards recognise the outstanding achievements, knowledge and skills of ACT plumbing apprentices in all stages of their apprenticeship.

The awards also recognise the training provided by their Registered Training Organisations and employers.

Winners of the various apprenticeship categories and their employers were:

Stage 1	Kane Bagnell	Jervam Holdings
Stage 2	Rhys Gough	Regional Plumbing and Drainage
Stage 3	Keith Maynard	Snowfield Gas and Plumbing
Best Overall Performance in Years 1, 2 & 3	Keith Maynard	Snowfield Gas and Plumbing

Improve your skills and professional development with the following courses.

- Wet Area Waterproofing
- Confined Space Training
- Traffic Control Management
- Introduction to OH&S
- Senior First Aid (level 2)
- OH&S Risk Management Training
- OH&S Representatives Training
- Fall Prevention
- Waterwise Course
- Testing and tagging of electrical equipment
- Open Cable Registration
- Optical Fibre Cabling
- Business Administration and Management
- Computerised Accounting

The above courses are examples of courses for which the Training Fund Authority may reimburse up to 80% of the training Cost (conditions Apply).

For further Information please call:

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Changes to Government and Industry Leaders



Anne Houghton

After a period of leave, Anne will retire from the ACT Department of Education and Training after spending her career in the government service. Anne started her career as a teacher at Lyneham High School before spending 22 years at the Canberra Institute of

Technology.

Anne then moved to the Department of Education and Training, progressing to the Directors position at the Office of Training and Adult Education in 2003.

Her responsibilities covered apprenticeships and traineeships, accreditation and registration of training organisations and administration of non-university higher education providers. Her overarching role was to promote education and training, making it relevant to the skills needs of the ACT and quality assuring the services provided to industry and individuals.

Anne was committed to providing quality learning opportunities to meet the needs of individuals, business and the community.

Jocelyn Vasey is currently acting in the Director's position.



David Dawes

David will shortly leave his position as Executive Director of the Master Builders' Association (ACT), to take up a position as Deputy Chief Executive within the Chief Minister's Department.

David will head up an implementation team to drive the reforms and initiatives flowing from the Affordable Housing report announced by the Chief Minister Jon Stanhope on 12 April.

Mr Stanhope said Mr Dawes had impeccable credentials to drive the Government's multi-pronged approach to housing affordability. He played a strong leadership role in Canberra's post-bushfire recovery as Chair of the Community Expert Reference Group, had been a member of the ACT Residential and Commercial Advisory Group and in the past year had guided the \$30 million upgrade of the National Convention Centre.

"The ACT Public Service will benefit greatly from Mr Dawes wealth of private sector experience and the high esteem in which he is held amongst the city's business leadership group," Mr Stanhope said.

Canberra Business Council Executive Director John Miller is to become the new Executive Director at the MBA.

Source: www.chiefminister.act.gov.au/media

New Roles for two Senior Figures at Housing Industry Association



The HIA's Executive Director for the ACT and Southern NSW, Caroline Lemezina, has been promoted to the new national position of Executive Director HIA Kitchens and Bathrooms.

Elisabeth Judd, currently the HIA's Assistant Director, Federal Relations, will take over the role of Executive Director ACT and Southern NSW in an acting capacity.

Announcing the appointments, HIA Managing Director Ron Silberberg said Ms Lemezina had overseen a substantial growth in membership in her region, and would bring tireless energy and considerable experience to one of HIA's most important and fast-growing sectors.

Ms Lemezina has been with the HIA for 10 years, the last four as Executive Director. She said she was looking forward to the challenges of developing a new role within the HIA. "Kitchen and Bathroom builders, designers and renovators form a significant proportion of HIA's membership and we are committed to providing specialist services to them."

"I believe the last four years as Executive Director have given me the experience and expertise to help develop the kitchens and bathrooms sector, especially the many small, family-based businesses that operate there," Ms Lemezina said.



"Elisabeth Judd has been making a significant contribution to HIA in the national office as Assistant Director, Federal Relations and now has the opportunity to take the experience gained, together with her considerable local knowledge, into the role of Executive Director," Mr Silberberg said.

Ms Judd said she was delighted to be given the chance to work closely with members in the ACT and Southern NSW.

"I have lived in Canberra since I was a child and know the region well. My family has a background in architecture and as long as I can remember I have been interested in buildings and the construction industry".

"The region faces some significant challenges, in particular the continually affordability crisis that is robbing so many young people of any hope of home ownership, trapping them in a rental market which is itself rapidly becoming unaffordable through lack of investment in new properties".

"These are very real issues and ones I intend to pursue with government at the earliest opportunity," she said.

Source: www.hia.com.au