

VICTORIAN TASMANIAN BRANCH
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SEMINAR 1/2015
26-03-2015

Looking Around

On Thursday the 26th March the Vic/Tas branch held its first PD for 2015 at the Plumbing industry Climate action Centre (PICAC) in Brunswick. The day was very successful and informative with 21 people in attendance.

The day commenced with a short talk and power point presentation from Greg Tink – Manager, Facility and Operations at PICAC. Greg explained the development of PICAC, its core goals of industry training and how they went about delivering skills training to the workforce. Following this Greg provided a tour of the PICAC facility including,

- Inspection of exposed and operational HVAC Plant.
- The medical gases training room including a mobile training station. **(Photo 1)**
- Mobile TMV training stations **(Photo 2)**
- Mobile RPZD (back flow) training stations.
- An inspection of a small self-contained co-generation plant that when running supplies partial power to the facility.
- An inspection of a small absorption chiller.
- Welding training areas equipped to teach up to class 10 welding including stainless welding.
- Fire systems training area. **(Photo 3)**
- Confined spaces training area.
- Working at heights training area. **(Photo 4)**
- Elevated work platform training area.

All services in the building wherever possible are exposed to allow students to view equipment in a working environment.

Following the tour we were treated to a presentation from Kim Bruton - Chief Engineer, Facilities and Maintenance - Northeast Health Wangaratta on "*Managing Sewerage During Floods*". **(Photo 5)** Kim gave us an interesting insight into the Parisian sewer system as an example of the evolution of sewerage systems to today. His discussion then moved onto a near flooding event that his facility experienced and the modifications that he designed and implemented to significantly reduce the risk of a repeat occurrence.

With our appetites stimulated by the discussion on sewerage we enjoyed a generous lunch provided by the sponsor for the day, Vesta Group who produces the Evapco range of cooling towers. **(Photo 6)**.

When we had completed lunch we sat back finishing the remains of the fruit platters and assorted cakes while Michael Zara from Vesta group informed us of the New eco -Cooling tower product range, which is promoted as providing greatly improved water savings (wet/dry), improved energy/power reduction and reducing maintenance requirements. This was an impressive presentation and apart from promoting the sale of a complete cooling tower provided some innovative solutions to cooling tower access and maintenance that could be retrofitted to existing towers.

This schedule allowed us to finish by around 3:00 P.M and be home at a reasonable hour.

We distributed a feedback form at the end of the day requesting that 5 categories be given a rating from one to five, one being poor and five being excellent. The results are as follows.

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|----------------------|-----|
| Venue | 4.9 |
| Program | 4.6 |
| Speakers | 4.6 |
| Presentation content | 4.6 |
| Catering | 4.6 |

Some of the comments included but were not limited to,

- Very informative day all round.
- Well done by all – A good day. More of the same in the future would be good.
- PICAC, excellent venue, in the city. As always worth the time to attend.
- Fantastic day.

It was encouraging to find that the attendees felt that their day was worthwhile and we would like to thank everybody for the support that they have given to this PD. We look forward to another informative and enjoyable PD in early May at the Victorian Comprehensive Cancer Centre which will still be under construction.