



Office of **Energy**

Office of **ENERGY WA**

Gas FOCUS

AGA Western Regional Conference

The Australian Gas Association (AGA) in conjunction with the Gas Industry Association of WA (GIAWA) held its Western Regional Conference in Fremantle on 5 August 1997. There were 140 delegates at the conference, making it the biggest regional conference held by the AGA.

Many papers were presented at the conference, covering a wide range of topics. These included:

- Gas Safety and Technical Regulation in WA (Albert Koenig, Office of Energy)
- Energy Deregulation in WA (Vince Walsh, Office of Energy)
- Meeting WA Market Objectives (Steve McMerrin, AlintaGas)

- Growth Potential for the LPG Sector (Gary Ireson, Wesfarmers Kleenheat Gas)
- Opportunities for the Manufacturing Sector (Rhys Edwards, Edwards Engineering)

The strong interest shown in this event and the fact that WA is a dominant gas producer in Australia means that the conference could become an annual event in WA.

Minister for Energy Colin Barnett and Shadow Federal Energy Minister Stephen Smith were the dinner and luncheon speakers respectively.

Rhys Edwards gave attendees an insight into the history of the Edwards Engineering company. He also showed how a cigarette contributed to the start of the Edwards hot water system (see below).

SMOKING DID BENEFIT WA INDUSTRY

Thankfully smoking cigarettes was not looked down on in the 1950's as it is today. For it was the smoking habits of Alan Edwards that led to the birth of Edwards Energy Systems.

Living in a farm cottage void of power save kerosene fridge and wood stove, Alan would, after his evening meal, light his cigarette from the top of the glass chimney of the kerosene table lamp.

Amazed at the heat generated by the small table lamp's fluid products, Alan decided that this was an excellent method by which to heat water.

Using a 44 gallon drum, welding into it a piece of galvanised iron pipe through the base and lid (for a flue), filling the drum with water and placing the kerosene lamp at the bottom of the galvanised pipe - the very first Edwards hot water system had been created.

Today Edward's is a leading manufacturer of hot water systems, exporting to all parts of the world.

Burns Do Hurt

Once again, a gas fitter has received burns to the face and neck while attempting to light a storage water heater.

This incident again highlights the need for gas fitters to be attentive and safety conscious when purging and lighting gas appliances. In his own words "I suppose it was my fault. It was the end of a long day and I adopted a 'she'll be right' attitude".

This gas fitter had been called to relight a water heater that was installed at a major regional hospital in the North West. Unbeknown to him, maintenance staff at the hospital had already made numerous attempts to relight the water heater.

When he bent down to check the pilot light, at the same time releasing the pilot valve, he was injured by the ignited gas that was present at the burner.

If you have an accident, I suppose the best place is at a hospital where first aid is close at hand. In this gas fitter's case however, his burns were considered serious enough to fly him to Royal Perth Hospital for further treatment.

Blast Burns Man

A man in his mid 20's received serious burns to the face, hands and feet last night after a gas explosion at his Scarborough home.

Reported in the "West Australian" newspaper

Generally, an appliance that has been approved for commercial use cannot be installed in domestic premises.



We need to learn from such incidents. Gas fitters must ensure that they are safety conscious at all times and that they:

- ensure the gas appliance is purged properly and the gas has dissipated prior to lighting the appliance
- follow the correct lighting procedure and if there is a lighting difficulty, allow sufficient time for any accumulated gas to disperse, before further attempting to light the appliance.

DON'T BE THE NEXT VICTIM

Commercial Appliances Installed in Domestic Situations

A recent inspection revealed a commercial gas appliance that had been installed in a domestic premises. Appliances such as the example shown in the photograph are not permitted to be installed without the approval of the Gas Supplier's Inspector.

Generally, an appliance that has been approved for commercial use cannot be installed in a domestic premises. However, the Gas Supplier's Inspector has the authority to approve an appliance that may not be currently approved for that use.

The Gas Supplier must be consulted if an unusual installation is requested (eg. commercial stove in a domestic installation).

**PROSECUTIONS FOR BREACHES OF
THE GAS STANDARDS ACT (1972) AND GAS STANDARDS REGULATIONS (1983)
1 July 1997 to 31 October 1997**

<i>Breach</i>	<i>Name (and Suburb of Residence at Time of Offence)</i>	<i>Licence No.</i>	<i>Fine \$</i>	<i>Costs \$</i>
<i>Made a false statement in Notice of Compliance. Section 13A(10)(e)</i>	<i>L Santovito (Balcatta)</i>	<i>GF 007387</i>	<i>400.00</i>	<i>782.00</i>
<i>Installed domestic cooking appliance where distance from uppermost burner and any combustible material was less than 600 mm</i>	<i>K Schofield (Thorndlie)</i>	<i>GF 000381</i>	<i>150.00</i>	<i>233.00</i>
<i>Failed to complete and issue Notice of Compliance within 48 hours of completing gas fitting work. Regulation 21(1)</i>	<i>K Schofield (Thorndlie)</i>	<i>GF 000381</i>	<i>150.00</i>	<i>224.00</i>
<i>Failed to fit stabilising brackets in accordance with manufacturer's instructions. Regulation 27</i>	<i>K Schofield (Thorndlie)</i>	<i>GF 000381</i>	<i>200.00</i>	<i>223.00</i>

Note: There was one other prosecution, however a spent conviction order applies.

AGA Opens WA Office

The Australian Gas Association (AGA) has established a Western Australian office. David Parker has been appointed as Industry Development Manager, based in Perth.

David will be addressing a range of issues for the AGA, reflecting the Association's whole of industry approach in representing the industry and ensuring a close liaison with all industry bodies.

David Parker can be contacted at the AGA's WA office by telephoning 08 9486 3358 or by mail to GPO Box A28, Perth WA 6001.

Changes of Address for Lodgement of Preliminary and Compliance Notices for Installations Connected to AlintaGas's Reticulation System

The following changes of address for lodgement of Preliminary and Compliance Notices for installations connected to AlintaGas's reticulation system apply as from 1 December 1997:

◆ **Preliminary and Compliance Notices for installations connected to AlintaGas's reticulation system may be lodged at:**

AlintaGas Distribution Division
7 Harvey Street
Victoria Park WA 6100

- Address all general mail to this location.
- Pads of Preliminary / Compliance Notices are available from reception at this location.
- Completed Preliminary / Compliance Notices may be left at this location.
- Contact phone numbers remain unchanged:

Telephone (Reception) 9486 2777

Facsimile (Reception) 9486 2733

Telephone (Scheduling Centre) 9486 2600

Facsimile 1 800 643 369
(For Preliminary / Compliance
Notices)

◆ **Preliminary and Compliance Notices for installations connected to AlintaGas's reticulation system may also be mailed to:**

AlintaGas
PO Box 375
Victoria Park WA 6797

For installations using other gases, please forward Preliminary and Compliance Notices to the relevant gas supplier.