



# ACT Master Painters Press

**Master Painters Australia**  
**AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY**  
*"Bringing Together Canberra's  
Finest Painters"*

May 2010

## MPA ACT Annual Golf Day

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An enthusiastic group of 18 golfers gathered at Fairbairn Golf Club on 7 May to take part in the MPA annual golf day. Unfortunately pressure of work meant that many members were unable to play this year. The excellent weather meant that all concerned had a most enjoyable day and the scores were very close. At the conclusion of play all players joined for lunch while prizes were presented by Paul Papas. Our thanks go to Dulux, MGA Insurance Brokers, Drummond Golf and Coates Canberra for assisting with sponsorship of the event.

Prize winners were:

Best Gross Score	66	Brian Wilson, Jeff Wilson and Damian Lowes (Coates)
Best Nett Score	59	Elton Willis, Jeremy Zutt, Peter Schure and David Gozzard
Runner Up Nett	59.75	Paul Papas, Stephan Runge (MGA) and Shane Billington
2nd Runner up	60	Brian Wilson, Jeff Wilson and Damian Lowes
3rd Runner up	60	Brian Combridge, Ken McLear, Patrick Brassier and Alex Naim
4th Runner up	63	Jack Spooner, Peter Papas, David Jones and Eung Bhumabhuti

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Damian Lowes of Coates Canberra prepares to play



"This is a magic club - the head went further than the ball"



President Paul Papas with the Besselink team – winners of the best nett score

### Committee Contact numbers

President	Paul Papas	0418 264 154
Vice President	Brian Wilson	0412 295 156
Treasurer	Elton Willis	0413 432 455
Secretary	Brian Combridge	0412 062 804
Committee	Gary Stroud	0418 632 787
	Simon Parancin	0412 259 225
	Jason Proud	0413 792 358
	John Hoppe	0424 044 739
	Simon Fantich	0418 697 324
	John Anasson	0418 499 827
	Jack Spooner	0402 901 178
	Peter Lee	0431 592 038
	Chris Chaffey	0415 450 416
	Karl Allred	0421 763 600

Business Manager Jim Rule 0408 623 357  
Ph/Fax 02 6287 2793



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## Message from President Paul Papas

What a start to the year. The government's stimulus program including the additions to schools has meant that there is plenty of work for our members but there are a few areas of concern.

Many of you will be aware of and some of you have been involved in the changing workplace relations scene that is happening in the building industry. The unions are becoming more active in relation to employment conditions in the industry and painters are no exception. Also the Australian Building Control Commission is checking how workers are being employed. Members who employ workers on hourly rates should be aware that they may be in breach of taxation law and or industrial relations law. At the moment the emphasis is on the commercial sector but eventually employment practices in the cottage sector will come under examination so it is important that any member who employs workers should be aware of their responsibilities

Your association convened a members information evening with Mike Baldwin the Industrial Relations Director from the Master Builders Association which was very well attended.

Many of those who attended were not fully aware of the new requirements but now realize that there will have to be changes in the way we operate. To assist members your committee is working through the requirements to produce a suggested approach so that we can offer a coordinated response to the union. Situations such as this make it even more important that we have a strong association that presents a unified front.

Our membership growth is still slow. We continue to move forward but there are several things we still need to do to improve our association and to take us to the next level of success. I encourage members to attend meetings more frequently. I would also like to see existing members encouraging other painters to join our association.

This is the last edition of Master Painters Press before we have our Annual General Meeting and election of your new committee in August. Please consider standing for the committee and have a bigger say in how the association is run.

Finally thank you to the members of the committee for their work in running the association.

## From the Desk of the Business Manager Jim Rule

### New MPA ACT Website.

Our new website is up and running and I think you will agree that it provides better service to both members and the public. We still need more photographs of high quality jobs completed by members. If you have some send them to me and I will see that they are included. We try very hard to keep our contact details including the website up to date. If you change address, phone numbers or email address please let me know so I can update our records.

### Members' Information Nights

A small but enthusiastic group of MPA members attended the Members' Trade Information Night held on 24 February. The meeting was addressed by Mark McCabe the ACT Work Safe Commissioner who spoke about the implementation of revised OH&S regulations and the need for members to be aware of their responsibilities.

A special non scheduled information night was held on 22 April when we were spoken to by Mr Mike Baldwin about the new workplace relations conditions and in particular the need for employers to ensure that workers were correctly employed. As a result your committee is working to obtain information for members.

The information night scheduled for 26 May has had to be cancelled due to the unavailability of our guest speaker. We will try to arrange an alternate date later in the year. If you would like a particular subject or speaker to be included in future Members' Trade Information Nights please give me a call.

### Golf Day

Our golf day was small but enthusiastic and it was a pity that many more members could not attend. If you have any ideas on a more suitable time for this most enjoyable day please give me a call.

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The ACT Government is overhauling occupational health and safety regulation through the establishment of a new body called WorkSafe ACT and employing an additional 5 staff to enhance work safety in the Territory, Attorney General, Simon Corbell, said last week.

“The new WorkSafe ACT will perform a crucial function within the ORS, and will combine the educational and compliance roles under the Commissioner for Work Safety,” Mr Corbell said. “WorkSafe ACT is about providing better enforcement, education and compliance in occupational health and safety in the ACT.”

“The Government will invest approximately an additional \$2.4m over the next four years to improve management structure and enhance the regulatory presence around the ACT.”

Mr Corbell said the Government is implementing reforms to clarify the role of the work safety regulator in the community. The role of educator and regulator will be delivered by the new branch to be led by the Work Safety Commissioner.

“The Work Safety Commissioner, has been integral in providing information to the Canberra community about how to remain safe in the workplace. Now the Commissioner will be given the important power to ensure people are complying with the work safety and workers compensation laws in the ACT.”

The additional \$2.4m funding will provide for additional inspectors as well as support staff.

Mr Corbell said the Government will now develop a detailed draft implementation plan in consultation with a range of key industry stakeholders.

“The Government will also undertake reviews of the new arrangements at both six and 12 months of implementation,” Mr Corbell added.

“The Work Safety Commissioner has been successful in raising the profile of work safety education in the ACT. Those functions will now be expanded to assume the responsibility for regulation of work safety and workers compensation in the ACT,” he said.

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## Put it in Writing - Not having a contract

***"This article was written for MPA NSW but the lessons are just as applicable anywhere".***

The association constantly deals with disputes, be that with members of the public, commercial building companies or painting companies that sub contract to other painting companies.

More often than not many of these disputes could be avoided if the agreement between the parties had been in writing.

A recent example came across my desk that highlighted this issue. A verbal agreement between the two parties had been reached to paint a property. The painter had agreed to paint the house inside and out using what I would call a standard paint system.

On completion of the works the owner of the property did not believe he had gotten what he paid for, it was alleged that colours were not correct, the adjoining garage and shed had not been painted and the front fence has also not been painted.

This work that was alleged to have been not completed amounted to quite a large amount of work. Naturally the contractor stated that this work was not included in the original price.

The owner disputed this and promptly took the contractor to the CTTT (Consumer Trade and Tenancy Tribunal). The owner in the tribunal claimed the contractor had stated that all these building were part of the agreement.

Due to a lack of paperwork from both parties under the Home Building Act the onus on a proper contract being in place is on the contractor and not the home owner. As the contractor did not put a contract in place, the home owner won the case and the contractor was made paint these out buildings that he had not priced into the job, as a result he lost money.

The lesson here is simple, had an agreement in writing been reached prior to the commencement of works this would have all been avoided. The owner would have known what they were getting for their money and the contractor would have known what the owner was expecting.



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