MASTER ELECTRICIANS

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Current matters November 2026

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Remembering Ross Talbot, Past President of Master Electricians



Master Electricians is deeply saddened to learn of the passing of **Ross Talbot**, former National President and a valued member of our association.

Ross made a significant contribution to the Hawke's Bay Branch throughout his contracting career, with his involvement extending to leadership roles at a national level. He contributed to national award negotiations, served terms on the Electrical Workers Registration Board (EWRB), and held the position of **National President in 1994 and 1996**.

A passionate advocate for Master Electricians and the wider electrical industry,

Ross was known for his straightforward approach, strong commitment and great sense of humour. Alongside fellow members Toshach and Tizard, the trio affectionately known as the “3 T’s” shared many memorable moments and laughs.

Last year, Ross was presented with his Past President’s jacket, a recognition he received with immense pride.

Ross leaves behind a lasting legacy of service, leadership and friendship. We are grateful for his dedication and the contribution he made to our association and industry.

Our heartfelt condolences go out to Ross’s wife, Wendy, and their family during this difficult time.

In this candid interview, recorded when Ross was presented with his Past President's Jacket by fellow Past President Ross Beal, Ross reflects on his lifelong passion for the electrical industry and what it meant to be recognised by his peers. As Ross puts it, *“It's my industry. I loved it, I worked in it.”*

Watch Ross’s Story

Buzz Barham Member-Elected Director



Master Electricians New Zealand is pleased to advise members of the election of **Buzz Barham** as a **Member-Elected Director** to the Master Electricians Board.

His three-year term will commence on 2 December 2026, following completion of the formal appointment process.

This appointment follows the conclusion of Omri Ash's six-year term on the

Board, including his final two years as Chair.

On behalf of the Board, we extend our sincere thanks to Omri for his leadership, commitment, and contribution to the organisation and the wider electrical contracting industry during his time in governance. As a Member-Elected Director, Buzz will play an important role in ensuring the Board remains closely connected to the perspectives, challenges, and opportunities facing electrical contractors across New Zealand. The Board looks forward to the experience and insights he will bring to support the ongoing success of Master Electricians and its members.

We warmly welcome Buzz to the Board and look forward to his contribution over the coming three years.



A recent 1News report highlights the ongoing dangers of asbestos exposure, sharing Andrew's personal story and raising important questions about asbestos awareness in trade training.

Master Electricians contributed to the story, noting that the current review of electrician qualifications presents an opportunity to consider asbestos awareness as part of future training requirements.

Read the full story here

AS/NZS 4836: Every Electrical Worker Should Know



As the newest versions of the standards found in Schedule 2 of ESR 2010 are about to be in full swing, we want to point out a very important standard that does not get enough attention.

AS/NZS 4836 provides fundamental guidelines, procedures, and safety requirements for working on or near low-voltage and extra-low voltage electrical installations and equipment. It outlines a structured risk management process to identify and mitigate severe electrical hazards, specifically electric shock, electrocution, arc flash, and arc blast. The standard details necessary procedures for safe isolation, proving de-energisation, testing, and selecting fit-for-purpose tools and personal protective equipment (PPE). Compliance with these requirements establishes a safe working environment to protect electrical workers from serious injury or death.

This standard has been updated to cover a wider range of voltages; it includes non-electrical workers and the scope of it is now much broader.

All electrical workers in NZ should become well familiar with this standard. It is cited in Schedule 2 as well as in AS/NZS 3000 for safe work practices. PCBU's (as defined in the Health and Safety at Work Act 2015) have a duty of care to ensure that workers and the public are protected from against hazards by taking reasonably practicable steps to ensure there is no harm that comes from them. AS/NZS 4836 is where the steps come from for electricity.

AS/NZS 4836 also covers working procedures around asbestos containing materials and polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB), both of which are known to cause cancer. Attention should be paid to the minimum PPE requirements found in Tables 11.1 and 11.2. Risk assessment should be performed before entering anywhere there could be energised parts. Where a risk assessment has been performed for a switchboard, the results of that risk assessment should be sign posted on the enclosure to let the next worker know what voltage, incident energy, arc flash boundary and PPE categories are.

See Table 11.1 and Table 11.2.

Get Ready, Mark Your Calendar!



Electricity Safety Regulations: Key Changes to Schedule 2

The Electricity (Safety) Regulations 2010 underwent a major amendment on 13 November 2025, with one of the most significant changes relating to Schedule 2, which outlines the official standards referenced in the regulations.

As part of this amendment, some standards have been removed, others replaced with new versions, and additional standards introduced. Most of the standards cited in Schedule 2 have also been updated to their latest versions.

Some standards referenced in Schedule 2 have been modified at a regulatory level. This means that certain information within the downloaded standards may not fully reflect the regulatory requirements. It is therefore important to review the changes outlined in Schedule 2 to ensure a complete

understanding of the updated requirements.

For further information, here are two articles worth reading to help you understand the changes and prepare for the updated requirements:
Electricity (Safety) Regulations 2010, Schedule 2
EWRB Guidance on Changes to Electricity Safety Regulations



We're excited to announce a new partnership with **Bunnings Trade**, giving members access to the PowerPass trade account and exclusive member benefits.

Members can access customised trade pricing, dedicated trade support, and a wide range of products through Bunnings Trade's nationwide network of stores.

Ready to take advantage of this exclusive partnership?

Apply for or Link Your PowerPass Account

Health and Safety Code for Residential Construction



WorkSafe New Zealand has released a new Approved Code of Practice (ACOP) to clarify health and safety roles and responsibilities on residential construction sites.

Taking effect on 1 April 2027, the ACOP provides practical guidance for contractors, subcontractors and other parties working on residential projects, particularly where health and safety duties overlap.

While following the ACOP is not mandatory, it provides a recognised standard for meeting obligations under the Health and Safety at Work Act 2015.

Read the ACOP and access WorkSafe's industry resources

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