

# Flowstopper opens floodgates to fame Now, to tap overseas

**BRENDAN BERECHRY**

AN appearance by Denistone plumber Neal Borland on popular ABC TV show *The New Inventors* has spread news of his new invention nationwide.

He appeared on the show in September to demonstrate the Flowstopper.

The product provides a new way for plumbers to instantly plug the flow of residual water when repairing and welding broken copper water pipes.

Mr Borland explained his invention is fast, effective and simple to use so it allows the plumber to take full control of pipe repairs saving hours.

"I was fed up with wasting time with pipe repairs waiting for water to stop draining out of the line, stuffing bread up the pipes or paying for freezing companies, so I set out to invent and test a better solution," he said.

"Simply feed the hose into the pipe, pump up the bladders and the plumber can weld the pipe to repair it."

Mr Borland described his moment in the television limelight as a "great experience".

"It was my first time on TV," he said.

It seems to have paid off as momentum is certainly building for a rapid take up of his invention



Denistone plumber Neal Borland sits in his van with his Flowstopper invention.

Picture: DAVE SWIFT

after 10 years' of research and development and more than two years of on-the-job testing.

An Australian patent was granted for Flowstopper in August and international patents have now been applied for overseas markets.

Following the ABC TV exposure, interest in the Flowstopper as well as sales have already significantly increased in the past month.

With 18 years' in the plumbing industry, Mr Borland set up NCB Plumbing 10 years ago, specialising in residential, strata and commercial maintenance, after a stint travelling in Europe.

"When I returned, I left my employer and decided to take the plunge and start my own plumbing business," he said.

In the past 7 years, Mr Borland's Denistone business has employed numerous apprentices through

the NSW Master Plumbers Apprentices program to give them experience in the plumbing industry.

Two years ago, he set up a new business under the name of Flowstopper Pty Ltd.

Over the next year, the company's plan is to look to grow into new markets overseas working with government programs through Austrade.