

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- **Not Again**
- **It's a cock-up but no one wants to know**
- **Letter to the Editor**
- **Ask for the Card**
- **Who is going to Pay for Low Cost Housing – Read Between the lines**
- **To finish with a bit of a laugh**

IN OTHER NEWS

The price of a Pie



We had a query about the price of a pie throughout the country.

We averaged it out at \$2.50 each but the 6 jugs of beer with it varied substantially.

Think Outside the Box for the good of the Industry



It's the international

Not Again



Have you noticed that at nearly every week there is some government department or agency having a go at the tradespeople and imposing some new regulation and cost on us!

Over recent weeks we have had the Working at Heights campaign, the DBH are trying to take away part of our

qualification to do with roofing, proposed changes to gas certification, the Board are wanting to impose CPD where we have no rights, there are qualification reviews and mergers of Industry Training Organisations and it's all in the name of benefiting the public.

What ever happened to the benefits for the tradespeople – are we not members of the public too? It seems that there is an ever increasing burden being placed on us, the tradespeople who are some of the most productive members of society, and all so the politicians and bureaucrats can be seen to be doing something. (Note we didn't say something good, just "something").

There is no balance of benefits and the way the governance of the industry is going, talented qualified people will end up dependant on the state.

It's a cock-up but no one wants to know

The subject of most complaints sent to us at the moment is training.

Training at all levels comes in for very close scrutiny and it is mainly due to the level and standard of training, the need for it and costs in both money and time.

There are all sorts of theories about why industry training is in such a pitiful state and that it's all about money and position, and there may be some truth in that. However we think it's more likely just a cock-up that no one wants to admit to. It seems to be a trend in governance and training that those in position can do no wrong but all the rest of us at the coal face can see that some of these people may be educated beyond their intelligence.



year of the Cooperative and good on Ashburton for being voted the Cooperative capital of New Zealand.

We are more frequently getting complaints from members about suppliers selling direct to the public. In particular they are related to items used in sanitary plumbing.

Dangerous situations have been identified with members of the public doing their own plumbing but yet some suppliers continue on with the practice of supplying direct to the public.

This is yet another situation where some suppliers are dictating what happens to the legitimate people in the industry.

For every item they sell direct to the public they are taking money away from the tradespeople.

Is it time for the industry to form another cooperative that is owned by practitioners for practitioners?

The trade looking after the trade – with both honesty and integrity. From small acorns...

It is very much a case of history repeating itself isn't it?

What can the suppliers do to correct the situation

The Federation has been taking a strong stance on training as we can see the value of it at all levels. Currently there is a review aimed to ensure that New Zealand qualifications are useful and relevant to current and future learners, employers and other stakeholders. An initial review of levels 1-6 qualifications will focus on reducing the duplication and proliferation of qualifications. The aim is to ensure the system is easy to understand, particularly for learners and employers.

The Federation is participating in the review and has a member in the governance committee and a member in the working group. The key role of the group is to review and advise on the technical content of the qualifications, recommend the structure and content of new/reviewed qualifications for governance approval, represent wider stakeholders groups and provide a voice for industry, and be a technical expert in the subject area.

Our two members are only voices amongst many so hopefully other industry groups will fight for what is best for the industry too. We will do what we can for good qualifications for the future. All recommendations will be put out to all of you for comment but if you have any ideas now about how you feel the qualifications should be structured then let Wal know at wal.gordon@xtra.co.nz

We may end up with different qualifications and different methods of obtaining those qualifications. We'll keep you informed.

In the meantime we must still be mindful of the state of the current qualification and the consistency and success of delivery across the country. We hear stories weekly from apprentices with examples of sub standard practice at polytech's, issues with the pre-reading and study guides, reports that are slow to materialise from the ITO and their contracted providers, the list just goes on and on. Please keep letting us know the issues you are experiencing – don't accept substandard service in regards to what you have purchased from the ITO. Remember this is being paid for by you the employer and you the apprentice.

The Federation has previously let the ITO know what it thought of the standard of training and has told the ITO that it did not support the renewal of it's ITO status later in the year unless changes were made. Nothing new has happened and complaints still flow in regarding apprentice training.

One notable event though is the government wanting to reduce the number of ITO's and our ITO has been in negotiations with other sector ITO's for a merger which would benefit us as an industry. We have been asked to comment on the merger and the committee is divided with regard to the need for an ITO.

Some view the ITO as a bottomless pit and a total waste of space. Others see the need for consistency in training throughout the county which is a reason which is very hard to defend at this time as the training isn't consistent and neither are the results.

and help those in the industry that form their client base?

Loyalty is a two way street but is the power of a sale taking over from the loyalty to the tradesperson?

What are your thoughts on this subject? Give us your thoughts and horror stories.

Ashburton's motto
"Life just gets better"

Letter to the editor
"Enforcement"



Gone are the "Good Old Days," when you would receive a complaint about a job through the Board, then Mac Mclvor would phone you and explain to you what you had to do to rectify the complaint. You then did the little patch up, what Mac had recommended to you and everything was put to bed as sweet as.

Mac was a GOOD tradesman and had worked in the field, at the coal face, for many years and he knew that a complaint to the Board, was normally a pretty minor thing and sometimes the complaint was a smoke screen, that the client would come up with, so that they

So conspiracy or cock-up – well we see a bit of conspiracy and a lot of cock-up. Those of us that have been in the industry have never seen training in such an abysmal state at such an exorbitant cost.

Here is a thought that was sent to us:

"We the willing, led by the unknowing, are doing the impossible for the ungrateful. We have done so much, with so little, for so long, we are now qualified to do anything, with nothing."

If you have any thoughts let us know.

Letter to the Editor

Can anyone answer this question?

Why is it that competent tradespeople pay to go on a pipe crimping course to get points for the Board's CPD scheme when a member of the public, without any experience at all, can go into some suppliers and retailers and borrow the crimpers so they can do their own sanitary plumbing.

Ed: What a lot of these companies don't realise is that the industries made them what they are and the industries have the power to take it all away from them as well. For us it seems it's a matter of principle and loyalty. The courts have a lot to answer for as well with fines of only a couple of thousand dollars for people doing sanity plumbing without authority. Perhaps if you know of companies loaning out crimpers to members of the public you could write to the PGDB as they are aiding and abetting someone to break the law.

Ask for the Card

What are your thoughts on the "Ask for the Card" campaign run by the Board?

We note that this campaign has been going for quite some time now but we haven't seen any of the provided stickers on vehicles.

Has anyone seen the stickers on vehicles? There seem to be people for and people against this scheme. Let us know what you think. If you are for it, how can it be given better coverage?

We want your ideas as a lot of money has been pumped into this campaign and we want to know we are getting value for money.

Who is going to Pay for Low Cost Housing – Read Between the lines

could try and get away from paying the tradesman's bill.

Compared to now days, if the Board receives a complaint from a customer, the complaint goes to the Registrar, although in the first instance you receive a letter from a Board staff solicitor trying to build an immediate prosecution against you. The Board solicitor doesn't know anything about plumbing; he only knows how to start building a court case against you.

I would recommend to any fellow practitioner, to be very wary about what you say and what you write down and give to the Board, as all your information that you supply the Board, will be used as evidence against you in a court case or disciplinary hearing.

The Board is not interested in warning, advising, helping, or training you fellow practitioners in any way what-so-ever. (Most of the Board members wouldn't know how to help you, any way). The Board are the Plumbing Police and are only interested in justifying their existence by prosecuting everyone that they can lay there hands on.

I have personally had the Board trying to build a case to prosecute me, even



The Productivity Commission is calling for lower-cost housing to relieve pressure on the property market in Auckland.

The commission released a report on housing affordability in April and

its Chairman stated the cost of houses is too high and said "We can build them cheaper.

We should be building them cheaper." The commission, which was set up in 2011 to conduct research on productivity, has already called for an immediate release of new land for residential development in high-demand areas such as Auckland and Christchurch.

So who is it that is going to pay the price so cheaper housing can be sold? We know the corporates are answerable to their shareholders so their profits won't drop so who are the lucky bunch of people who are going to get screwed down for their prices?

Look at the accusations made about Fletcher Building in Christchurch in that it is being accused of abusing contractors involved in the Christchurch rebuild over its decision to cut pay rates.

Painters and plasterers are outraged their rates have been slashed from \$25 to \$19 per square metre. Fletcher Building spokesman Barry Akers says the company's just reviewed all of the rates it pays its contractors based on independent market valuations, some have gone up and others down.

President of the CTU, Helen Kelly says Fletcher Building is profiting at the expense of the people rebuilding Christchurch. (Now there's a revelation!!) "We've got a Government agent working in an earthquake zone, on dangerous and urgent work, funding a company that treats workers like this. It just doesn't seem right." She says the EQC needs to step up and challenge the decision to cut pay.

In other news - Christchurch's rebuild is expected to result in the country's third major immigration wave. Estimates vary but it's thought up to 40,000 workers will be required for the rebuild, a quarter of them coming from the likes of the UK, Ireland, Canada, South America, India and Asia.

Apparently they're going to bring their families and it's not going to be simply 30 to 40,000 people who arrive to help in the rebuild, it's going to be much larger than that and that's one of the biggest demographic changes that New Zealand has seen for a very long time.

What will happen to wages and what will happen to all the tradespeople after the rebuild? Why not look after the tradespeople we have in the country now and encourage them to train the youngsters wanting jobs.

after a complainant has withdrawn his complaint from the Board.

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Current Federation Numbers

901 Tradespeople

38 Interested Parties

19 Businesses

A total of 958 so keep up the good work. 1000 members is just around the corner.

To finish with a bit of a laugh

Take Action Now



Wipe away the smiles

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