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IN OTHER NEWS

It's a crack down on rogue plumbers.



It's been announced the Board will investigate one North Island region and another in the South Island within the next two months, following a series of complaints and tip-offs about people working illegally in the trade.

Apparently the Board Deputy Registrar Kern U'ren says prosecutions are possible, as tradespeople are continuing to flout the law.

Looks like those who have not renewed their licence will be investigated and anyone found breaking the rules

Thanks for the Feedback

We are getting lots of views from supporters so thank you all very much as it's nice to know we are not alone. We can't put all the views up so apologies to those who have written and their views haven't been published. Lots of varying opinions in this week's issue. Happy reading.

The PGD Board's Annual Report



Plumbers, Gasfitters & Drainlayers Board | 2012
ANNUAL REPORT

The Board this week released its Annual Report and at a first glance you would think "Wow what an organisation!" but those of us that work under its regulation know different.

The report says all the right things - but is there any real substance to it? After all there is a difference between SAYING the right things and DOING the right things, especially when it comes to making a difference.

Over the next couple of weeks we will be looking in depth at the report and comparing it with the claimed actions and benefits and will be reporting back to you with our thoughts.

Hopefully we will be able to say all is good we are on the right track, but in reality Annual Reports are a bit like the area around a septic tank, green and lush on top but full of shit underneath.

On the date of writing this issue the Annual Report had disappeared from the Boards website but we are sure it will reappear at some stage.

Letter to the Editor about Williamson

I am a builder and read last week's article and comments made by Maurice Williamson. Words can't describe my disgust in this so called "representative of the people". My father always taught me to respect people in positions of authority but now I despise most of them.

These people are living off the reputations of genuine people of the past. People with integrity and morals who would lead by example. Now we have the power of position and money ruling everything and I can see why the Plumbers are turning their back on the Plumber's Board under the direction of Williamson.

I've been talking to a few builders who are now wondering what direction we are being taken in, especially when the Chairperson of the two regulatory Boards is Alan Bickers. Our industry representative groups are falling into the same trap as Master Plumbers where they are sucking up to the powers to be to gain

could face a maximum \$10,000 fine.

A couple of investigators will be on the road to check exactly what work tradespeople are carrying out.

It's a well held secret what regions will be investigated.

A thought from the www.plumbers.co.nz forum

Hi guys, this note is part of a `review` of the Ch-Ch City Council's going on's which I am sure that everyone has heard of.

I am sure that it could be applied equally to the P.G.D.B. cheers When a council shuts the door on most of its stakeholders, doesn't listen, doesn't take advice, and doesn't mingle with people in business or community-based representatives, it loses its grip on reality and can't be expected to know or understand what is going on in 'the real world' the review says.

"This leads to what stakeholders have described as naive decisions that are not connected or appreciated by the people it serves, which in turn leads to public criticism and political unrest, even dysfunction."

Letter to the editor

One of my good clients called me and asked, – "I have noticed a roof nail on my roof appears to have come loose and is sticking up from the roof iron by an inch or so, could you drop in and give it a whack with your hammer".

This is a single storey house, after 31 years in the trade will I soon not

advantage over others. To them it's a game - but to us it's our livelihoods.

The Plumbers Federation seem to be on track with what its doing and I've been encouraging builders to get on board with you help get rid of some of the problems before they hit our industry.

Regards: Concerned Builder his dog, Ute and cellphone.

Ed: Thanks very much Concerned Builder. All support we get is very much appreciated. Yes we agree with you, things aren't good and we feel your industry organisations are being suckered in the same as ours were. One of the problems we have is that one of our industry organisations is siding with the Board for the gain of their organisation not the industry, and as long as that continues it will be a divided industry and the fight with the Board will continue.

The Charities Commission Update

A decision is not now expected until some time in September. The Board and its highly paid external law firm, (not the Board's own lawyers), has again met with the Charities Commission at our expense and requested an extension of time to make another submission.

You may be interested to know that the Board has stated that your license fees are the source of its funding and they enable the Board to carry out its "charitable" functions. Would we be reading too much into this if we were to say that we can only assume the decision is not in their favour if they are asking for more time to make yet another submission? Only time will tell.

To protect it's perks the Board is also attempting to influence the Department of Building and Housing for a change in the Act so as to be able to avoid Fringe Benefit Tax should it's lawyers lose their case to the Charities Commission, a classic "bob each way" with tradesmen picking up the tab of the Board's on going incompetence and delusional ideas.

When we are advised of developments we will let you know. In the mean time relish the fact that you are funding a Charity and associated perks.

Who said this nearly two years ago?

"What's important to understand, is that in any regulatory environment, the people who are being regulated are still the customer. As such they deserve a high level of respect and excellence in service".

"Firstly, you need to have a clear vision of what you want to achieve and clear expectations of the roles different parts of the organisation play in achieving that vision. Secondly, you need to lead by example, modelling the behaviours you expect from others. This includes values such as honesty, respect and openness, but most importantly, it is about modelling the provision of services and ensuring the customer feels they are getting good service and they are being listened to."

"I am looking forward to building on the excellent work already done by the Board in areas such as improving communication with the trades and with the sector organisations. By re-building these relationships and improving the Board's communication, maintaining trust and ensuring the highest level of openness and accountability, I am certain the Board will be able to move forward with confidence."

be qualified to climb an 8 foot ladder lean on to a roof and bang a nail in?

Has the world gone mad, or is it just the Minister and the P.G.D.B.?

Branded



Here a couple of views from the Plumbers Forum.

If you don't pay their fees they can paint you as a desperate unqualified criminal person/s whose putting the public in grave danger immediate danger blah blah blah, an accident resulting in death is imminent, luckily lives were not lost on this occasion etc etc etc.

They just get pissed when they miss out on collecting their piece of the action and make everything they say sound worse than it is. The spin doctors have worked their magic.

If the public knew the guy was qualified and had been through and successfully completed an apprenticeship, passed all necessary examinations, paid his dues multiple times over, had an exceptional record, but just hadn't paid his license fee for the current year the public would liken it to getting a speed camera fine or a fine for your car rego being out by one week which everyone has had at some point. Hardly news.....etc.

Yet their spin on it leaves people thinking wow this is bad, this guy should be banned from plumbing for life etc.

Registered vs. Not

Quiz Answer later in this issue.

Caution – This is where CPD could take us.

Dear Editor

I've been looking at some CPD courses and based on what I have seen this passage has more valuable information than most of the courses. Enjoy...

Definition of a pipe

1. All pipes are to be made of a long hole, surrounded by metal copper or plastic, centred a round the hole.
2. All pipes are to be hollow throughout the entire length - do not use holes of different length than the pipe.
3. The ID (Inside Diameter) of all pipes must not exceed their OD (Outside Diameter) - otherwise the hole will be on the outside.
4. The pipe is supplied with nothing in the hole, so that water, steam or other stuff can be put inside at a later date.
5. All pipe over 150m in length should have the words "LONG PIPE" clearly painted on each side and end, so the contractor will know it's a long pipe.
6. Pipe over 3000m in length must also have the words "LONG PIPE" painted in the middle so the contractor will not have to walk the entire length of the pipe to determine whether it is a long or short pipe.
7. All pipes over 1.8m in diameter must have the words "LARGE PIPE" painted on it, so the contractor won't mistake it for a small pipe.
8. When ordering 90 or 30 degree elbows, be sure to specify left-hand or right-hand, otherwise you will end up going the wrong way.
9. Be sure to specify to your vendor whether you want level, uphill or downhill pipe. If you use downhill pipe for going uphill, the water will flow the wrong way.
10. All pipes shorter than 3mm are very uneconomical in use, requiring many joints. They are generally known as washers.
11. Lengths of pipes may be welded or soldered together. This method is not recommended for concrete or earthenware pipes.

You are now competent to install a pipe. We invite you to say how many points this should be worth. Starters for 10!

Letters to the editor, Taking Action

Dear Editor

I read with interest the latest issue 112 of the Fellow Practitioner. You have asked for more feedback on what action we as members of the PGDF might take at the time of next year's relicensing. I said right back at the beginning, pre-Federation, some years ago, that the only thing these people (Govt and associated Boards) understand is outright rebellion. Asking and/or trying to get change the diplomatic way is just time wasted when working against the dictatorship we know. I think as time has gone on that it has been proved that my

Licensed

With regard to the Deputy Chairs comments:

I thought the Board highlighting someone being unlicensed was not necessary. The guy is obviously qualified, just not currently paying to practice.

He should have been referred to as a certifying plumber/drainlayer or whatever he is. You don't lose that qualification just because you haven't paid your fee.

Quiz Answer:

How did you guess?

Yes - it was the Board's own CEO and Registrar Mr Max Pederson.

It would be interesting to hear from him as to why none of the things he stated have actually occurred.

Think about this question over the next week

CPD is a contentious issue in the industry so we want your views on the following question:

How much competence is a CPD point worth?

Parting Word

If you think the problems they create are bad, just wait until you see their solutions.

thoughts are correct, they will never admit wrong and will forge ahead, totally blind to the real world we live in. We need to take real action that they can't ignore.

To be of any use, the Federation members need to stand 100% in their action. All members need to agree to stand united. I think we need to 'officially' tell the board that our Federation members will not relicense or pay the disciplinary levies in 2013, and that we will continue to work regardless, until we get some agreement with commonsense outcomes. I imagine it would be best if the Federation made the written communication on behalf of the members as there are many individual guys who will never do it.

I also think that we the members should all make an agreed set financial contribution to the Federation prior to taking the action. My reasoning is that if the Board decide to get tough with our members then we can just tell the Board that they should refer all correspondence to our representative, the Federation. Rather than let the Board single members out and attack them we give them one reference point, the Federation, which works on our behalf.

I will repeat myself here but time has gone by and the Federation has done great work for us but we will never get a fair outcome unless we dig our toes in.....they will have to take us all to court as a group if they want to (it might work that way ?) At 53 years old I am ' old school ' and I am not happy to be told by these none productive fools, that after 36 years in the trade, that they think I am no longer competent to continue to work at my trade. If I were closer to retirement I would just jack it in, I bet there are a few who have done that already, so the Board will have forced some very experienced tradesmen, who could have worked on, to say 'enough is enough' and that experience is lost.

Dear Editor: 20% increase in productivity

Having read the first part of the Fellow Practitioner; I'm left scratching my head. How is 'upskilling' going to improve productivity by 20% when the demand for building services, plumbing, gasfitting and drain laying included, seems to be either stagnating or decreasing? And why do we need 'upskilling'? Are we all getting it that wrong? I would say that we aren't; that these people in positions of authority are using the minority of the sector, who have bad attitudes and don't give a stuff about their customers, as their reason for doing this.

If someone has a bad attitude, wanting as much as possible for doing as little as possible, no amount of 'upskilling' will fix the problem. They either need to change their attitude or exit the industry; leaving the work to those of us who do take pride in our work. For those of us who do a good job there is no need for 'upskilling'. We make sure we understand what we are doing before we go on any job because we want a good end result, not just for our customers but for ourselves as well. There is the argument for not needing another useless 'partnership'. And it only took one person, 15 minutes of my time to write the email, and it cost nothing to send it to you.

Have a good day.

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