

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- **Board tackles Licensing**
- **A Chairman's View**
- **Letter to the Editor Custodians of the Nations Health**
- **Letter to the Editor General**

IN OTHER NEWS

Fees and Levy Consultation.

Thanks to everyone who submitted information to the Board's latest consultation now we wait for them to confirm their recommendations.

We heard at one of the consultation meetings that someone said tradesmen should harden up and accept it.

Will this do?



Is Dirty Harry Back?



Following vans with pipes on top for hours

Board tackles Licensing



industry aren't working.

They created the problem with the manner in which they regulate and now we are paying to fix the problem they created. You see the blame keeps getting laid on the tradespeople, saying they are operating illegally, so the Board zero in on the tradespeople who are the easy targets rather than the home handyman, the builders and such like that are doing plumbing, gasfitting and drainlaying.

Catching tradespeople justifies their existence and makes the situation look bad to those looking from the outside. Have no doubt about it, the Federation believes people should get legal or get out - but what assistance are they being given?

The qualifications and training system are set up so that people are qualifying at the end of their apprenticeship with what is in effect a partial qualification. What do you mean we hear you all asking, well at licensing level a practitioner can't work unsupervised so in effect they are still bound to an employer until they get to certifying level. This surely makes it a 6 year apprenticeship if the trainee doesn't stop at licensing level?

This system creates a breeding ground where people start operating outside the bounds of their licence and addressing this issue with an ambulance at the bottom of the hill tactic seems to be a Board priority - instead of addressing the cause of the problem.

Prevention is better than cure.

A Chairman's View



This week we heard numerous reports that the Board has the Deputy Registrar out and about checking practicing licences.

If a lot of people are caught what does it prove? Quite simply it proves the Board's methods in regulating the

We promised you some views from ex Plumbers Gasfitters and Drainlayers Board Chairpersons so here is the first.

to identify the driver is one way of doing things but we don't feel it is the best use of the Deputy Registrar's time or our money.

So we thought we would develop some equipment to assist the Plumbing Police.

The Ego Helmet



Especially designed for the big egos in the unit

Stake Out Toilet



For those long stake outs waiting to catch the unlicensed.

Toilet Paper Cam



Paper camouflage so the unit operative can blend into any toilet block

Dog Blanket Cam



The ultimate in

Its Time to Get Real

It has often been said that the Plumbing, Gasfitting, and Drainlaying Industry is its own worst enemy.

The situation that confronts the Industry at the present time bares this out.

Good hard working tradespeople are being asked more and more each day to put their hands in their pockets to continue to fund the Plumbers, Gasfitters, and Drainlayers Board which up until ten years ago had the confidence and the respect of the whole Industry. Today this same Board is seen as a Body which has become a sledge hammer to crack a wall nut. As a person who served on the PGDB for twenty two years from 1982 until 2003 it is my opinion that the present mood of qualified trades people in the Industry is one of entrapment by people who have not done the "Hard Yards" in the Trades and see the Industry as a cash cow for easy employment coupled with inflated salaries.

I had the privilege of working with very committed members of our profession during my time as a Board member, chief examiner, Industry ITO member, and being involved with our counter parts in Australia through ANZRA.

The costs associated with the running of the Board were always kept to a minimum by practical use of premises which were not on the 7th floor of a building on the Terrace in the centre of Wellington, and licence fees were on a cost recovery basis only. It was also paramount that the tradespeople who were at the coal face and some times up to their knees in mud were the ones who were supplying the money to run the Board.

The present situation in my opinion is that instead of the Industry acknowledging that it was an Industry driven Board to protect the health and safety of consumers the board is now being run by people who think they know better. This I contend is a slur on the integrity of previous Boards and suggests that for almost one hundred years we got it wrong.

I was proud and privileged to be a part of a PGDB that put the Industry first if you got it right, but was also hard on offenders who got it wrong.

I also personally believe that until the people in authority change their stance the Industry is heading for more grief. We are only a small country and the time involved with compliance, red tape, and proving our competence over and over is recipe for disaster. It will eventually kill the Industry as we know It.

It is time to wake up Industry and realise that the only reason that the PGDB exists by that name is to ensure that we as trade's people continue to fund this Board.

I am proud of the fact that when I was involved firstly as a Board member and later as Deputy Chairman {five years} leading to Chairman {four and a half years} the Board was seen as a respected part of our Industry and not against it as it appears today. If as we are told that it is for the protection of consumers of our services and is not controlled by the Industry maybe a name change would help and the funding should come directly from consumers.

If we are not vigilant the future will not improve our position and between petty personalities, mislead politicians, and Industry parasites the industry will continue to be plagued by deceit,

bedroom camouflage which also afford protection from those dangerous tradesmen.

The Wiper



For the final clean up when the situation gets really bad. It also doubles as a tooth brush for the harder members of the Plumbing Police.

Letters to the Editor

For the record I am really pissed off about having to do CPD points to retain my licence and the fact that there will be no provision for plumbers in retirement who would like to do a few jobs legally for family and friends. No way are we going to be able to afford to pay the licence fees they charge and complete all the courses to get our points. It just won't be worth it.

.....

Hi, I was thinking that the letters CPD could stand for Continuing Poo Degree. Just a thought

.....

Meeting with the Minister I hope the upcoming meeting is a positive and constructive one and I know you will present your industry's case very well. Small businesses can't sustain such huge increases and the Board should be striving for a

diminishing membership and less career opportunities for those starting their working lives.

Why would any one subject themselves to the climate that exists in the Industry today re registration and licensing, not to mention the frustration attached to the cost of training at the present time which could be done more efficiently and less costly not only to the employees but also to the employer. Is it possible that seat loading officials have taken our very much respected industry which requires not only brains but practical skills and turned it into an academic nightmare?

Now is the time to get behind those in the Industry who are trying to put it back where it belongs

HGH Thomas QSM JP

Editor: Thanks to Mr Thomas for his views on where he believes we are as an industry. It's great to get a view from someone who has been there and done that.

We hope in the near future to have a view from a second ex-Chairman of the Plumbers Gasfitters and Drainlayers Board. We look forward to that as much as we did to Mr Thomas's view.

Letter to the Editor Custodians of the Nations Health

Hi Editor ... It would appear that all of the Industry finds it hard to understand where and what we should be doing to make our position fair and reasonable. The Board seems to consider that the Industry Professionals (US) are but bystanders.

*The so called powers that be who pontificate and create a job and a fee to substantiate their existence are really nothing without the **INDUSTRY SUPPORT AS WE THE INDUSTRY ARE THE CUSTODIANS OF THE NATION'S HEALTH AND FROM THE MOST EARLY DAYS HAVE MADE THAT DIFFERENCE TO ALL OF OUR SOCIETY AND WE WILL CONTINUE TO DO SO WITH OUR GOODWILL WHICH IS GIVEN TO THE NATION .***

HOWEVER IF WE WERE NOT SO FORTHCOMING THE VERY FIBRE OF OUR SOCIETY WOULD CRUMBLE AS WE ALL KNOW AND UNDERSTAND THAT THOSE WHO MAKE AND SHOOT THE PAPER NIGHTMARE HAVE NO KNOWLEDGE AND ARE NOT ABLE TO DO THE VERY WORKS WE DO DAILY AND IN TIMES OF ABSOLUTE NEED ..

I SAY THAT IT MAY COME A TIME WHEN CIVIL ACTION MAY BE REQUIRED WITH OUR RESPONSE TO MANY OF THE SO CALLED DIRECTIVES BEING PUT ASIDE. IF WE AS A COLLECTIVE WITHHELD OUR ABILITIES FOR A PERIOD PERHAPS COMMONSENSE WOULD PREVAIL. THE INDUSTRY WOULD THEN BE MORE FAVOURABLE TO REASONED AND CONTINUING DIALOGUE.

We for our part have issues with un-reregistered people in the Tararua Council area doing Plumbing, Drainage And Gas Work. The Board are working away at this issue and are trying to affect a good result however there are other areas of concern, i.e. The Mitre 10's Bunning's and other do it your self out lets supply Plumbing Drainage

harmonious relationship and not one of them and us. I always thought Maurice was a reasonable type but wonder if he has lost his way? This is based on observations that he fought for the underdog. Have a good weekend and keep smiling;

A Question

When does an apprenticeship finish and are you qualified at completion?

An apprenticeship is a way of training people to do a particular job. The apprentice acquires, in a variety of formal and informal ways, the skills necessary to carry out their trade.

The expectation of an apprentice is at the end of their time they will be able to apply the trade to which they have been taught but is that the case in our industry.

We have people qualifying after 8,000 hours as licensed plumbers gasfitters and drainlayers but they can't work unsupervised. The system has deemed they are incapable of doing the job unsupervised so are they qualified in the trade?

We need your thoughts.

and Gas Equipment to any body who walks in from the street .

This of course is being done by the back yard and home punters in general badly and DANGEROUSLY. It's time to have our Industry supply train regulated to safe guard the public from those who feel that they can do our work. Such as the Chap down in Paraparaumu.

Letter to the Editor General

Editor, I must comment you and the Fed team for a most enlightening 'Issue 123' today, it looks like some headway is being made when the minister requests a meeting.

I have mentioned this before but I do think that the Federation needs a paid membership so we can all contribute equally to fund you and the Federation team's expenses at least, not to mention the untold hours of research and input to produce the 'Fellow Practitioner', lord knows what state the industry would be in if left to the Board indefinitely. (Perhaps we could become a charity) what is good for one is good for all! I digress.

The 'Short Fuse' item today is apt, what do the critics suggest we do "sit back and suck it up" until the Board members are on \$1000000 salaries? Because they are heading in that direction fast.

Editor it is not inconceivable that the Federation could run its own on-line C.B.L. points system albeit a 'Claytons' points for members system if the points for licenses has to stay. If it could be established I believe that all tradesmen in the industry would want to be a member.

Enough for now I know you are a busy man and appreciate all that you and the team have done for the benefit of our industry, cheers

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