

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- [A BIG THANKS From The Chairman of the Federation Wal Gordon](#)
- [Awards Week](#)
- [The Flip Flop Award](#)
- [The Blame Game Award](#)
- [The Triumphant Award](#)
- [Frugal Expenditure Award](#)
- [Confusion Award](#)
- [Communication Award](#)
- [The Gullibility Award](#)

IN OTHER NEWS

Suppliers: What's the Difference?

Upskilling has been with us for an eternity and no one has every objected to increasing knowledge or actively going out looking for it.

Most suppliers of industry products and services have ALWAYS played an important part in the upskilling process.

Enter the Continuing Professional Development scheme where obtaining points is the all important factor, where the question has changed from "what's the upskilling about" to "how many points do I get?"

Practitioners have had CPD thrust upon them at a cost in time and money.

Some suppliers have got on the CPD gravy train where they can hand on their product information to the industry as well as recover some of their costs from a captive audience

A BIG THANKS From The Chairman of the Federation Wal Gordon



As the end of the year approaches we can look back over the past twelve months and take stock of what has been achieved and what hasn't, but one thing is for sure the Federation's committee and members have done an outstanding job at fighting for the badly needed changes in our industry. I personally want to thank you all for your

efforts, donations and support.

I am sure there are a lot of people out there who agree with me that your efforts are appreciated and you are helping to create an environment where people can say what they think without fear of retribution. It is high time we had an industry that is open to all and not guided by a few. We need to look at the important things in our industry that benefits us all.

The year has certainly been one full of challenges and significant change for each and every one of us, but there is still a lot to be done and change won't come without YOU and your support. The Federation Committee is continually stepping outside its comfort zone and challenging itself to achieve a good result for the industry and I commend and thank them also.

Next year a lot of issues will become recent history but there will still be hangovers from this year like - the Charities Commission decision, the Ombudsman's final report into complaints and the Regulations Review Committee decision on the Offences Fee to name a few.

New issues will also emerge such as the complaint to the Regulations Review Committee on the legality of the CPD scheme. We have been assured the Office of the Auditor General will review the Board's activities and there is the Review of the 2006 Act, and of course we have the Minister who says he will hold the Board accountable through his Output Agreement with them. Other issues to do with qualifications will also become hot subjects needing a lot of work to ensure we don't continue to head down this one line of thought we are being taken at the moment.

The Federation committee are working tirelessly to get support from those still waiting for a safe environment for them to step forward with their thoughts. We all need to realise there is safety in numbers, real numbers, and recruiting and supporting others in your

who need points.

We wish to thank those few Suppliers who have got in behind the industry and provided FREE (to the practitioner anyway) CPD sessions.

We realise they are doing it for their own marketing but they are incurring costs and they are saving YOU money.

They are making the most of a bad situation the same as us. We are forced to get points and these suppliers are helping us achieve that free rather than pay hard earned money to people who have jumped on the CPD gravy train, not for our benefit but for self gain.

So a big thanks and acknowledgement to those suppliers who are helping the pain of the industry by supplying free courses.

Remember these suppliers didn't create the problem - it was the Board and others.

And remember "He who smiles in a crisis has found someone else to blame."

Responses



The Federation have received responses from the Board regarding the section 52 exemptions letter and the Comments made by Mr Bickers regarding the Charities Commission.

Both contain some very interesting comments and both display a "digging the heels in attitude".

We are seeking advice on both letters and will

area helps create that environment. Even people in competition can head in the same direction for the future.

I am proud of what the Federation has achieved over the last year in a tough environment where the "old boys network" rules. I know that all members of the Federation can tell their children and grandchildren that they helped change an industry that had lost its way.

I want to say a special thanks to the families of members who put up with all the moaning and time we spend away from them whilst trying to make a better future. My wife, children and grandchildren give me the support I need to support you so my thanks go to them.

Finally, I know this year we have upset people and made some enemies, but we have also made friends with a lot more, and as long as the friends outnumber the enemies then we must be heading in the right direction.

I'd like to take this opportunity to give you my best wishes for the festive season. Stay safe and come back next year with numbers and a new found zest for an open productive industry.

Wal Gordon

Chairman

PS: Over to the Editor who tells me it's Awards week.

Awards Week

AWARDS WEEK



What would the end of the year be without an awards week? Our judges have thought long and hard about the awards so relax and wind down for your hard earned break. Come back to us next year and help fight for what is right.

The Flip Flop Award



The FLIP FLOP award goes to..... Hon Maurice Williamson, Minister of Building and Construction where he commented that the CPD scheme was "Bullshit" and yet he signed off on the same scheme with a minor adjustment adding more shit to our everyday lives!

respond appropriately but it got us thinking about the Board's situation and two questions keep coming up - "can the Board succeed in implementing the purpose of the Act without the support of the industry and why don't they have that support?"

In answer to the first question the Board can continue to do what they are doing now and impose on the industry with minority support and dubious legal backing, then yes they will have limited compliance and the result will be the same as it is now where people comply begrudgingly.

In response to the second question the answer is simple - for people to comply they must understand, believe and support the system and also believe in the people implementing it.

Trust is the biggest factor here and if the trust doesn't exist then it will be as it is now where there is disbelief and dissention.

This Board, in our opinion, won't succeed as they have made too many questionable decisions and treated most people who disagree or question them as adversaries.

Constitution Act 1986

Did you know we have a Constitution Act and that section 22 reads:

"It shall not be lawful for the Crown, except by or under an Act of Parliament,—

- (a) to levy a tax; or
- (b) to borrow money or to receive money borrowed from any person; or.
- (c) to spend any public money".

There is that word levy

The Blame Game Award



The BLAME GAME award goes to the Chairman of the Plumbers Gasfitters and Drainlayers Board, Mr Alan Bickers for his article in the October 2012 edition of the "Info Brief" where he revealed it was Wal Gordon and the Federation that caused the Board to lose its charitable status. If at first you don't succeed... blame someone else!

The Triumphant Award



The Triumphant award goes to Mr Peter Jackson, then Deputy Chair, Plumbers Gasfitters and Drainlayers Board for his "special edition" of the "Info Brief" July 2012. In that edition the Regulations Review Committee (RRC) advised the Board of its decision not to proceed with three complaints made against the Board in regards to the disciplinary levy and continuing professional development (CPD).

He stated "The Board is pleased but not surprised by the decision as, in its view, the complaints had no substance" and "The Board has gone to great lengths to ensure that its processes are robust and legally compliant and this is borne out by the RRC's decision".

Oops, isn't that still in front of the Regulations Review Committee where the Office of the Auditor General disagreed with Mr Jackson's view. We look forward to the SPIN in a New Year special edition of the Board's Info Brief detailing to readers how the Board got it so wrong, again.

Frugal Expenditure Award



We spent money defending we are a charity... The rest we wasted.

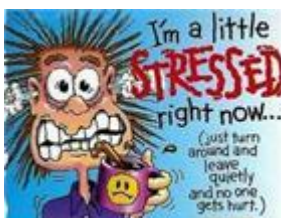
The FRUGAL EXPENDITURE award goes to.... the Plumbers Gasfitters and Drainlayers Board for caring so much about the industry that they will spend tens of thousands of dollars to ensure the Board remains a charity even when Mr Bickers has stated they don't know the historical background to the Board being a charity. Obviously well thought through. (Maybe they need to get a consultant's opinion on that one – another favourite way to spend our money)!

that keeps getting chucked around, most recently by the Office of the Auditor General where they told the Regulations Review Committee that the Board's Offences Fee was more akin to a levy not a fee.

The Ombudsman had even used the term in a preliminary report so if the Minister is made aware of an illegal levy is he aiding and abetting an offence against the Constitution Act of New Zealand?

Time will tell. We don't have an answer but perhaps we'll find out in the New Year.

From the Editor



Happy festive season everyone.

Thanks for your support and contributions.

Your encouragement is what makes this publication, so I want to encourage you to stay calm over the holidays and spend valuable time with those around you.

Remember we are all in this boat together so cut the kids some slack, chill out and come back refreshed.

Confusion Award



The CONFUSION award goes to Master Plumbers Gasfitters and Drainlayers Association NZ for claiming to represent 60% of the industry but backed apprentices paying a \$45.00 annual licensing fee so they get used to paying fees, and also for standing in the Regulations Review Committee Hearing and stating that whether it was right or wrong for practitioners to pay, the offence fee should stay. Excellent support for the industry..... we think?

Communication Award



The COMMUNICATION award goes to the Plumbers Gasfitters and Drainlayers Board for their "Ask For the Card" public awareness campaign where hundreds of thousands of dollars has been spent and the public are still none the wiser. Maybe next year we may see one of the stickers on a plumbing vehicle or an article in the media.

The Gullibility Award



The GULLIBILITY award is the supreme award given to the overall winner and it goes to..... all those who believe improvements have been made in the industry this year. To blindly believe and follow those in positions of authority is gullible. The people in positions of authority should be judged on their actions not on what they say.

You are receiving this email as a member of PGDF or because you signed up online.

[Edit your subscription](#) | [Unsubscribe instantly](#)

Plumbers Gasfitters and Drainlayers Federation 3
Jupiter Grove Trentham Upper Hutt 5018 Ph (04)
5277977 Mob 0276564811 Fax (04) 5277978
information@pgdf.co.nz