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IN OTHER NEWS



Hi Editor

Just want to let you know forming political groups as being suggested doesn't sit easy with me personally.

I believe the Federation needs to build its membership in a positive way so that it can demonstrate to the Public, Plumbers Gasfitters Drainlayers and the Govt that we are a unified, credible, respected, and influential group of tradespeople.

The Federation has an opportunity to offer to its members what Master Plumbers seems to have gone away from. Supporting the sole traders, small businesses

Out of adversity comes innovation



Yes, it had to happen! An innovative entrepreneur has developed this "Flip Flop" toilet. Specially designed to help the Flip Flop Politicians make a decision of whether they are left or right of centre. It is particularly handy for the totally confused who don't know if they are coming or going.

At debate time the "Flip Flop" toilet cans easily handle the volume of effluent and there is room for two, just to allow for those "back room" deals. Flip Flop toilets soon to be released at a Parliament near you! (Though if they can find a plumber who wants to work for them they will be lucky!)

Accountability

It's quite ironic isn't it, how John Banks and Peter Dunne are voting for a Bill to legalise unlawful activities, and to impose a prosecutions fee on innocent people, when one is in court and the other has had to resign as a Minister for alleged "conduct unbecoming" to the extent where the Prime Minister can no longer trust him, and yet our fate is in the hands of these two.

They want to change the law to charge US discipline and prosecution levies to hold US accountable for not putting a strap on a hot water cylinder or not buying enough CPD points.

They want the Board to have the power to say WE are incompetent because we refuse to buy points. It's amazing how the PGDB is going the same way as the Government. There is a lot of wheeling and dealing going on, with all the tradeoffs but it is all catching up on them?

Amendment Bill

Last week another letter was sent to every Member of Parliament reminding them about what they were actually voting for. The letter reminded them:

- The effect the Bill will have on plumbers, gasfitters and drainlayers and also ordinary New Zealanders.
- They are validating fees taken illegally, and are imparting MORE power to the Plumbers Gasfitters and Drainlayers Board to levy the industry "as it sees fit" - unfettered.
- The passing of the Bill is nothing more than "Industrial Exclusion," where the rights and opinions of a section of the industry are being excluded for the benefit of others, and reminded them what happened in 2010 when the government got it wrong with the RRC and created the situation we are now faced with.
- That forced compliance will not be achieved, and this Board and Minister will never be in a position to govern this industry again and achieve positive results.

and apprentices.

Their fees have got out of hand and they seem to me to want to be elitist. They certainly do not want to hold the Board accountable.

We could do this by:

- Coming together annually
- Building a solid base of members
- Forming local support groups
- Identifying as a group the issues we want to work on.
- Challenging the Board and fighting for Justice and Fairness.
- Advocating for our members
- Promoting training opportunities.
- Promoting the Federation to the Public as to what we stand for, our passion for the trade, our skills, and experience and quality workmanship.
- Supporting and advocating for Young People through their apprenticeships.

Call me "old fashioned," , "a dinosaur plumber" or what, but I believe and have experienced the best way to make change in society is to be like "white ants"

They are tiny creatures, but together they can topple huge structures, by eating away at the piles and foundations slowly. Finally it all comes down. That is what you guys have been doing so far and well done.

I say keep going on the same track slowly eating away at the foundations but get more support by building up our membership as suggested above.

Solidarity in numbers becomes a force to be reckoned with. I will be interested to hear what other

- The Regulations Review Committee in its 2010 decision questioned the composition of the Discipline Levy and the Board has never disputed the composition of the original levy and fees.
- The legalising of the historical levy and fees will set a legal precedent of what are "costs arising out of". This could have serious implications in other industries and sectors that use the term "costs arising out of", such as the insurance sector.
- The passing of the Bill will mean the Board has legally applied the funds and other expenditure which has not yet been exposed but will never see the light of day if the Bill is passed.

We don't really know what has been spent and where, yet. In addition we reminded the Members of Parliament the Bill is about MORE than the payment of money, it's about unlawful activities, and it is about the trust New Zealanders place in the Government and Parliamentary systems.

We added we are an industry that is not opposed to fair and transparent discipline of registered persons and not opposed to the prosecution of non registered persons, but needed them to vote against a cover up of poor leadership by the Minister of Building and Construction, coupled with the incompetence of a Board which he appointed.

The letter outlined that Maurice Williamson has been heard to lay the blame on the previous Government but we believe the fault lies squarely with him in that he has not listened to the industry. He had the opportunity to correct the situation but failed to do so. He had the opportunity to negotiate with the industry as recommended by the Ombudsman, but he chose to exclude a sector of the industry by changing the law. Democracy at its worst with an act of Industrial Exclusion.

Liability

There has been some discussion about what liability the Board has and the Building and Housing Group have stated the Bill will take away any liability the Board had.

Well all we can say is they haven't got anything right yet and we are preparing to lay complaints about the Board acting in bad faith or without reasonable care. This may result in individual members of the Board being held personally accountable. (Comment from the guy with the Ute, the cellphone and the dog – you mean the Board member's might be PERSONALLY accountable for the decisions they make, the same as plumbers, gasfitters and Drainlayers – now there is a novel idea!)

It's About Spin.



The Board reported in the last Info Brief that the stakeholder survey showed that overall; there was a high level of satisfaction with the Board's performance. What they didn't tell you was that under the heading "General Service", for 4 of the first 5 questions the number of "Not Satisfied" people increased, that 3 of the 5 questions had a decrease in the "Fairly Satisfied", and that 3 of the 5 questions had a decrease in the "Very Satisfied".

Under "Consultation", the number of "Very Satisfied" people decreased in ALL three questions. Under "Registration and Licensing" the number of "Very

members think.

Regards 47 years experience
and "Proud to be a Plumber"

Ed:

Yes we agree with the majority of what you say and that is how the Federation would prefer things to be but we need to keep options open or time will slip by us as it has before and we will be left holding the can so to speak.

Here's a bit of what others think.

Hi Wal, You can count me in. Great idea - political party - let's give it to them. They don't like it - up them. Tell me where to sign up.

I totally support the setting up of a political party for the Federation, take the fight to them and get more public exposure of this corrupt bunch of thieves.
I currently send \$5.00 a week towards the cause and I'll pay an extra \$50.00 towards setting up and being a member of the party.

I would be interested in joining a political party. We need down to earth problem solving practical people like us and the early working based members of the labour party e.g. Norman Kirk and those before him. Not all these bloody lawyers and accountants and other idiots.

I don't care which party a person votes for but I'm sick of the lies and PC crap that they all speak. If you're asked a question give a friggen straight forward answer.

I am big enough to know that people have different view points on things and I respect another person's view even if I don't like it but these bastards

Satisfied" decreased and the number of "Don't Know" answers increased.

The Board claimed there has been a last minute scramble by some to complete CPD courses and because of this, the number of licences issued so far this year is a little down on the same time last year. It's actually down THOUSANDS of licenses but it's not due to a last minute scramble, it's due to people not supporting CPD and choosing not to license.

They also claim 1,114 registration applications were processed by the Board last year but they don't tell you the number registering doesn't keep up with the number not licensing. They claim the plumbing, gasfitting and drainlaying trades are being sustained by those entering the trade for the first time and those moving into the registration class of Certifying but they don't tell you there are less plumbers, gasfitters and drainlayers per capita of population in New Zealand that there has been for TEN years. Needless to say this is alarming! More on this in the next couple of weeks.

Practical and Independent.

Last week we asked for anyone interested in starting a political party to send us their views and pledge their support if they are interested. We need 500 members to form a political party and is not what we wanted to do but it may be the only way of getting what is due to us and other industries.

We are simply keeping our options open. Too many times the industry has sat back and waited to see what will happen and that gets us nowhere. We need to think and prepare for the future.

We have over 100 people interested in membership of a political party in the first week of asking. You don't have to do anything at this stage except tell us you may be interested to help reach the 500 members goal. Send your support to wal.gordon@xtra.co.nz

Some feedback is in the left column under "Have your Say"

Helpful Information from Rinnai



Rinnai put a lot of effort into helping practitioners and have asked us to hand on this information to our members.

Hello Fellow Practitioner

I wanted to update you of an initiative that Rinnai and the Gas Equipment Suppliers group has undertaken.

Rinnai along with other suppliers of CFWH have been aware for a while that there has been some discrepancy when it comes to the interpretation of a specific clause of AS/NZS 5601 part 1.

Specifically clause 5.11.5.9 (a)

I understand that the auditors were under the impression that the Mechanical Air Inlet includes inlets to an appliance. Our 'take' on this from an industry /

spend hours dancing around the questions and you don't know what they stand for.

We need people running the country that want to make the country better for everyone not just for themselves and their mates.

Just a quick note to say I am happy to support any action that will effect change on present system.

I support any action the Federation will take. I am sick of supporting people's salaries who do not do any good for NZ and are basically leaching off others.

Go for it PGDF

Hi -Yes to that idea 100%

I support the action. The Board all need a bullet and get people that actually want to make the industry better not worse and understand it!!

This has been going on for far too many years and needs to be sorted as a lot are thinking of leaving the industry after all the crap that just never stops.

We never got a refund after the disciplinary fee was illegal, NO just a re-word of the same thing to line their pockets

Big "Yes" from our team!

Ed: There were too many comments for us to print but thanks to all who sent them in.

supplier perspective is that the intent of this clause was to cover mechanical air inlets to buildings and NOT clearances to appliance inlets. These are taken care of in clause 5.11.5.9 (b) with reference to the table in figure 5.3 this basically allows for a 1.5m clearance from an ignition source rather than the 3m clearance if 'mechanical air inlet' is interpreted as being an inlet into an appliance.

I understand that some practitioners have had installations 'fail an audit' based on the Auditors interpretation of this clause.

To clarify this issue and provide some assurance to the wider industry. I wrote to the Chair of AG001 committee who produce the AS/NZS 5601 standards in my capacity as chair of the NZ GES an on behalf of all CFWH suppliers for clarification on the intent of the current wording and also to suggest that the wording of this clause be amended to say "mechanical air inlet into a building" which would make the clause far more prescriptive.

I'm happy to say that the AG001 committee agreed with our view point and advise the next draft of AS/NZS 5601 part 1 will incorporate this change.

As such the GES has advised all member CFWH suppliers of the amendment.

Here at Rinnai we have produced an advisory notice for gasfitters and placed this on our tradesmart website.

http://www.rinnai.co.nz/tradesmart/upload/files/homepage/vent_terminal_location_as_nzs_5601.1_clarification.pdf

John Swarbrick Technical & Compliance Manager

PS: While we're on the subject of information. Did you know we have a few new free online training courses at www.rinnaitraining.co.nz

- Energy efficiency for 13 CPD points
- iheat Specifying 6 CPD points
- iheat installation 11 CPD points

(Note from the guy with the Ute, the cellphone and the dog – I have done the iheat courses myself and can personally vouch for them. Every Rinnai course increases your knowledge! Good on them for providing something like this for industry, where you do truly UPSKILL.)

Trades Contractors Petition.

Remember your support will make a difference in the construction industry so have a read of the latest News Blog updating on the progress of the Trades Contractors Petition. You can view the latest News here:

<http://www.tradescontractorspetition.co.nz/news-blog.html>

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