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## IN OTHER NEWS

### Letters to the Editor

#### Dear Editor

#### Nick Who?

I've been watching and waiting to hear from the new Minister of Building and Construction about how he will look at the demise of our industry but haven't seen anything yet.

Are we yet again being put in the too hard basket?

Ed:

Perhaps the old saying "*good things take time*" could be applied but you might be right that the industry has been put in the too hard basket.

Clear lines are appearing where you have the industry, the industry funding a consumer protection Board and the regulation of the industry.

It appears all that matters is the regulation of the industry and all the other issues are collateral damage so we wouldn't expect any action from anyone until after the election.

We believe any action that is taken then will be more band aids

## They are Persistent

### Quarterly Advisor

Keeping key Government and industry stakeholders updated on the impact that the Board's functions have within the community



The Board certainly are persistent with Issue Two of their "Quarterly Advisor" being sent out last week. As the title states this is where the Board tells key Government and industry stakeholders how well the Board are impacting on the community.

In this issue the Board are calling on all Mayors and Council Chief Executives to require their building consent officers to carry out routine licence checks of the plumbers and drainlayers that they meet during their duties. This is very surprising when such action cost the industry over \$24,000 recently, when an inspector got it wrong in Oamaru (see previous Fellow Practitioner). They title it "**Mitigating risk for Building consent authorities and property owners**". Is our industry now paying for risk management for local councils and property owners?

The Board tell how another successful licence check in Wanaka and Queenstown has picked up more illegal operators. We would have thought this is negative reporting and a more positive report would have been no one was caught due to voluntary compliance. Every person caught is the Board's failure.

They inform the Key Stakeholders there has been a 13.6% increase in licensing but the small print reads "At 4 June 2014 the total sum of authorisations issued reflected an increase of 13.63% in comparison to **the same period last year**." Let's wait and see what the annual report states!

Under "complaints resolution" they state last year the Board received 59 complaints concerning work performed. It carried out 20 disciplinary hearings, and 17 prosecutions in the District Court. If continuing Professional Development was working and if there was voluntary compliance the disciplinary hearings would be zero.

Sustainability of the industry explains how the number of trainees in the industry is currently exceeding the projected number of licensed tradespeople reaching retirement age. In 2013 the number of trainees exceeded the number of licensed tradespeople likely to

on a gushing wound.

It appears these people don't want improvements; they just want us all to do as they tell us.

Our advice is to go to your local MP or get off to the election campaign meetings and ask the hard questions of all candidates.

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Dear Editor

### An option for the future:

How many people have dropped out of the industry after a couple of years of training?

I am sure we all know someone who either got pissed off with the ITO, with the so called training system or was made redundant at the whim of their employer.

Why isn't there a push to contact these people, clutch them up and get the qualified?

Ed:

Yes writer we support what you say and it's a good idea.

It may surprise you to know there is a Million Dollars sitting in the Skills Organisation bank looking for ideas for it to be applied to the industry and if ideas aren't found it will transfer over to the Skills Organisation control.

We believe there could be scope for the development of your idea to utilise some of the money.

Send us more information and we will see what we can put together as a submission.

If anyone else out there has any ideas please let us know.

reach retirement age in the next five years by 87.5%. This is very surprising as the trend and statistics issued by MBIE indicate that numbers are already declining in the industry.

A lot of factors affect this claim such as trainee's not qualifying, people leaving the industry for other jobs, people leaving the industry because they are sick of the manner of regulation, illness and the list goes on.

The report also has a bar chart that shows the following information:

- 3 Licenses 94%
- 2 Licenses 90%
- 1 Licenses 88%

We are not sure what it means but we think it relates to CPD as they state:

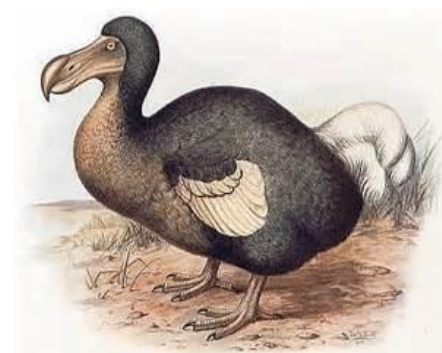
*"As with previous years the upward trend continued to rise in relation to tradespeople achieving the correct amount of continued professional development by the start of the new licensing year."*

So do the percentages relate to people who have licensed, people who are registered or simply for people who have applied for a license so it isn't really representative of anything, but it is a very interesting way of trying to say practitioners are supporting CPD. We ask the question is forced compliance an upward trend or exactly what it is **Forced Compliance**?

Another question is why are the industry pumping time and money into a publication that does nothing for the regulation of the industry? It simply covers information that an annual report covers – and what is the cost of this publication?

We note in Issue One the Board states ***"The Board consists of ten ministerially-appointed members representing both the trade and the public"*** This Board needs to make up its mind as it wasn't that long ago they stated they were not representative of the industry.

### Where have all they all gone?



years.

The extinct dodo's appearance in life is evidenced only by drawings, paintings and written accounts. Little is known with certainty about its habitat and behaviour, much the same as a lot of people who have impacted on our industry over recent

Its approaching four years since the Federation was established and we sit back and reflect on the opposition we have encountered and

## Rumours of a new Master Plumbers CEO

It is hoped the rumours of the appointment of new Master Plumbers CEO are correct, so the Federation can seek a meeting with him to get some unification in the industry.

## The Boards latest consultation

It appears the Board are consulting on integrating exams into the proposed level 4 New Zealand Certificate.

The title is:

### **Proposal to integrate the (licensed class) registration examinations into the proposed Level 4 New Zealand Certificates in Plumbing, Gasfitting and Drainlaying**

You can find the consultation document on the Boards website:

[www.pgdb.co.nz](http://www.pgdb.co.nz)

note that over that period there have been:

- Three Plumbers Gasfitters and Drainlayers Board Chairpersons
- Uncounted Plumbers Gasfitters and Drainlayers Board Members
- Two Plumbers Gasfitters and Drainlayers Board Registrars/CEO's
- Two Ministers of Building and Construction
- Two Industry Training Organisations
- Two Master Plumbers CEO's

The clone factory must have been working overtime to keep up with demand and a lot of people are no longer on the scene. So where have they all gone? Well who cares - from our perspective they have done very little to effect positive change in the industry, for the industry. Some of them probably moved on because of frustration with being unable to make a positive change, some were probably forced to move on.

They have left a few issues to remember them by:

- High fees and levies
- CPD which isn't supported in its current format
- Unlawful taking of money from the industry
- Claiming money from the Government for trainees that didn't exist.
- A divided industry

How many will be remembered for their honesty or integrity?

A couple will be remember for their comments, like *"There was an explosion at Pizza Hut Nelson", "I won't stand here and be called a clown"* and of course the open invitation *"how about I lie down on the table and as you walk past you can all stab me with your screwdrivers."*

We mentioned opposition above because that is exactly what they have been. What is very interesting is that because we disagree with what they are implementing for the regulation of the industry they see the Federation as the problem. The Board are the ones who have interpreted the Act in such a manner that they state they have no governance over the industry - so that is left up to the industry.

Ask yourself this question *"If the Federation numbers were around 5,000 members would the industry get treated in the way that it does by the Government and Board?'* Would they impose on us or work with us?

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