


info brief

FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER

 Plumbers,
Gasfitters and
Drainlayers Board

A word from the Chair

BOARD ELECTIONS | DEVELOPMENT OF THE BUSINESS PLAN | THE REVIEW OF THE ACT



as a process of evolution, not revolution. It is important to provide some stability and certainty for those we regulate and I think that is what trades-people expect of us.

The Board is currently developing its business plan for the next year and this will be available to read at the end of March. The plan will show a number of initiatives to support the evolutionary approach to improvement that the Board is following.

In a similar vein is the review of the Plumbers, Gasfitters and Drainlayers Act which is being undertaken by the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment. Information about the review is in this edition of Info Brief. Please take the time to respond to the Ministry's survey when it is sent out in a few day's time.

We are looking for skilled certifying plumbers, gasfitters and drainlayers to investigate complaints received by the Board. This provides the opportunity for suitable people to further develop their range of skills and to contribute to the industry in an important way. Investigators are paid for their work.

You can find out more about becoming a Board investigator by calling 0800 743 262 and asking to speak with Renée Riddell-Garner.

It is a privilege to have been reappointed as Chair of the Board for another year. It is also pleasing to again have Graham Hardie as my deputy and Craig O'Connell as chair of the Audit and Risk Committee. The support from Graham and Craig is invaluable to the Board and to me personally.

The Board always strives to improve our services and the way we regulate. However, I see this

Peter Jackson
Board Chair

| REVIEW OF FEES & LEVY - SEE PAGE 8 |



2 | The 2015 Board election results.



3 | A collective approach to support local business and create trust in the community.



4 | Compliance made easy! Youtube clips and handy resources.



8 | Your feedback is important. See page eight for details.



Elections are held annually for the positions of Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson.

Each year at its February meeting, the Board holds an election for the positions of the Board Chairperson, Board Deputy Chairperson and also for the Chairperson of the Audit and Risk Committee.

2015 Election results

Elect ed again this year were, Peter Jackson (Board Chairperson), Graham Hardie (Board Deputy Chairperson), and Craig O’Connell (Chairperson Audit and Risk Committee).

About Peter

Peter is registered as a certifying plumber, gasfitter and drainlayer, and is the Director of H2O Design Ltd. Peter’s Board appointments include Deputy Chair of Site Safe New Zealand, a Director of New Zealand Plumbers Merchants and a Trustee of the Apprenticeship

Training Trust and Councillor of the Southern Institute of Technology. He is also an Accredited member of the Institute of Directors. Peter served an earlier term on the Board from 1992-2000 and is from Queenstown.

About Graham

Graham is a registered certifying gasfitter and drainlayer, and a licensed plumber. He is the owner of Rivery City Gas, a gas appliance and servicing company and also NZ Gas Group Ltd, whose purpose is to increase trade awareness and education

of gas appliance servicing and installations - specifically around health and safety. Graham is from Wanganui.

About Craig

Craig is the owner and director of the management consulting firm, Recruitment and Performance (RAP) Consulting Ltd. He served as the acting Chief Executive of the Board from February to November 2010. He holds a Bachelor of Arts in psychology and a Bachelor of Commerce and Administration in economics. Craig is from Wellington.



Peter Jackson



Graham Hardie



Craig O’Connell

Included in this photo are : Wayne Short, Peter the Pukeko - Trev Hendra (Trev's Plumbing) and James Neilson.



SHOW - THE - CARD

Email comms@pgdb.co.nz for stickers, posters, high resolution artwork and other different options available to support the campaign.

Stack the deck in your favour

WORKING COLLECTIVELY TO SUPPORT LOCAL BUSINESS AND CREATE TRUST IN THE COMMUNITY

When it comes to promoting the Ask-for-the-card campaign and driving public awareness of the importance of only using authorised trades-people, innovative thinking and proactive action are not foreign to local Feilding tradies.

Wayne Short of My Plumbing Depot knows building a successful small business is a huge challenge. If you don't have a brand creating consumer assurance in the industry, it can be hard for local businesses to generate trust in the services they provide.

"I support my trade customers in any way I can, says Wayne. I display the Ask-for-the-card posters in-store and have prominent roadside signage to

help educate the consumer." "Making sure illegal operators don't stand a chance in our local community is essential. I've taken things a step further—I put up a notice board in-store to display the media releases on the Board's latest prosecutions. My retail customers take the time to read them too."

"Supporting community events is a great way to interact with the consumer. This type of support and face-to-face interaction is invaluable in creating trust," Wayne continues.

"The small business marketing budget can be pretty tight. Engaging in these events in a visually notable way and getting impact is not always possible—so I came up with a collective way to

do it, and we got winning results."

"We entered a float in the Christmas parade promoting the plumbing, gasfitting and drainlaying trades. All the local tradespeople collectively supported the initiative and came together making a joint financial contribution. The public awareness that we achieved was great. We dispersed 30kg of lollies to on-lookers and were a big hit with the local community. We were delighted to win best business float on the day."

NEXT MONTH :

South Island gasfitters and National franchise branch execute a collective saturation marketing advertising campaign.

Compliance made easy



HELP WITH GASFITTING REGULATIONS

Worksafe New Zealand – Energy Safety, the Board, and Standards NZ have developed a series of online presentations to assist gasfitters and other practitioners with understanding New Zealand’s gas regulations, including amendments made to the regulations that have come into effect since 2013.

Learn about the regulations at the following URL:

<http://www.med.govt.nz/energysafety/legislation-policy/reviews-discussion-documents/gas-and-electrical-certification-amendments-2013>

GAS (SAFETY AND MEASUREMENT) REGULATIONS

In January 2015, a series of three videos were released, titled The Gas Regulations and You. The first two videos were developed to assist gasfitters in understanding key changes to the gas regulations and what these changes mean in practice. The third video is an overview of 2014 amendments to the gas regulations.

URL clip one : <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ebm-j32Vfqc>

URL clip two : <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m4dIONWabMY>

URL clip three : <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gzkCYLki6U>

Do your homework



Find everything you need at www.doyourhomework.co.nz

NEW CONSUMER PROTECTION MEASURES

Government have agreed new consumer protection measures as a result of the Building Amendment Act 2013. [In summary these measures are detailed below.](#)

- Mandatory written contracts for residential building work costing \$30,000 or more (including GST).
- A requirement for building contractors to provide checklists and disclose certain information for residential building work \$30,000 or more (including GST) or when they are asked for this.
- Minimum content that must be included in all residential building contracts.
- Clauses that are taken to be included in a residential building contract that does not contain all of the minimum content, or in a contract for work \$30,000 or more (including GST) that is not in writing.
- Information that a building contractor must provide to their client after the building work is completed.
- Infringement fees of \$500 for breaching the contract, disclosure or checklist requirements.

An inside look at the Board

Board member Nick Fleckney speaks about his commitment, strengths, industry view and where he sees the biggest challenges.



Nick is a Certifying Plumber, Gasfitter and Drainlayer who works as a Hydraulic Service Design Consultant for Hydraulic Services Consultants Ltd in Auckland. Here he is involved in the total design of water, gas, stormwater and waste services whilst also passing his knowledge on as a training facilitator. He holds a Post Graduate Certificate in Education, Graduate Diploma in Higher Education, Backflow Testing and Surveying Accreditations, and is currently continuing his studies to complete a Diploma in Hydraulic Building Services Design.

Following in his father's footsteps, Nick started his career in the trades. Today, he works in hydraulic design where he designs all aspects of plumbing, gasfitting and drainage—from small commercial projects right up to 30 storey plus high-rise buildings.

His commitment to the Board stems from a desire to see the industry continue to grow well. Nick wants to ensure consumers are confident that industry tradespeople are fully registered, licensed, trustworthy and competent.

“Growing up with a father who showed great pride in his career, his work and his colleagues, not only motivates me, but makes me proud to be in the industry and committed to the Board.”

Being the youngest member of the Board, Nick has the opportunity to give a different generational view on things. He has 20 years practical experience and 10 years experience in the tertiary education sector.

“I have a broad overview of all aspects of the industry including an insight into industry training—not only at an apprenticeship level but also the practitioner and CPD level.”

“I believe the industry itself is working hard and trying to make a positive difference for the public. What is noticeable on my site visits is the shortage of plumbers, gasfitters and drainlayers available to keep up with growing demand of the construction sector.”

“Those years of minimal apprentices coming through the system is

starting to show. Now operators unfamiliar with NZ standards are picking up work and posing a significant threat to the public's health and safety.”

“This is why the Board's licence checks throughout the country are good for the industry. They demonstrate and endorse the importance of the qualifications and practicing licenses—and the illegality of working without one.”

The current training of apprentices is also something that concerns Nick.

“The shift over the past 3-4 years to mainly assessment on block courses has seen apprentices coming through with variable training. The capability of employers to provide on the job training varies according to their skills in training, type of service they deliver and demands of business.”

Nick believes this can result in people being poorly prepared for assessment and lead to frustration for apprentices, employees and tertiary providers.

“The industry needs well-trained people. I think the proposed new national qualifications in conjunction with the delivery of approved programmes at Polytechnics will;

- provide a way forward to a good national approach to some much needed decent off-site training of apprentices and;
- be a shift away from the current assessment focused method of delivery within certain training models.”

It's a gamble without the card

CHRISTCHURCH REMAINS IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Glen Harley has been convicted and fined \$1,275 plus court costs and solicitor's fees for illegally carrying out sanitary plumbing following receipt of a complaint made by a Christchurch home owner.

Mr Harley, who was project managing building work at the property has never held authorisation from the Board. He installed and connected a bathroom hand basin, toilet pan, kitchen sink with an insinkerator, and laundry tub as part of the renovation project. Parts of the work were carried out incorrectly, resulting in leaking and water damage.



NEW PLYMOUTH CONVICTION SERVES AS A TIMELY REMINDER

Darren Brown was convicted and fined \$1,875 when he replaced a tempering valve on a hot water cylinder, and installed a new bath, vanity and shower at a home in Inglewood when not authorised at the time he carried out the work. Mr Brown pleaded guilty to the charge of carrying out sanitary plumbing unlawfully.

This conviction serves as a timely reminder to plumbers, gasfitters and drainlayers to ensure you relicence by 1 April 2015, or you will be unable to legally undertake work.

IT'S NOT WORTH THE RISK IN AUCKLAND

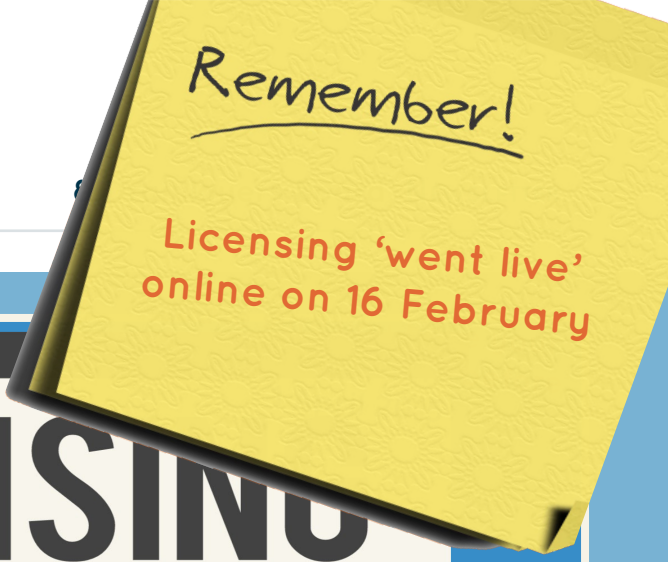
Christopher Blewden has been convicted and fined \$2,000 plus court costs of \$130 and solicitor's fees of \$113 after pleading guilty to the charge of carrying out gasfitting work illegally.

Mr Blewden carried out gasfitting work on a galvanising plant for New Zealand's largest metal recycler, which included the replacement of a gas regulator. He has never held or been authorised by the Board to carry out gasfitting work.

The galvanising plant operates to coat mild steel with molten zinc to prevent corrosion of the steel. The system requires the exact gas and air mixture for efficient heating. The incorrect type of regulator for the galvanising plant was installed by Mr Blewden. If something had gone wrong it could have been catastrophic.

Daniel Stewart, who did not hold a current authorisation from the Board at the time he carried out work at an Auckland home, was convicted and fined \$1,750 plus court costs and solicitor's fees when he left the residents with what they described as a "shell of a bathroom and no money".

He installed a shower mixer and connecting pipes, removed waste water pipes and a basin, and changed hot water cylinder pipework. There were defects in the work carried out. He also removed gib board from the ceiling and walls and a wall between the bathroom and water closet, leaving this work unfinished and the residents of the home disgruntled and out of pocket.



RELICENSING

2015 / 2016

The new licensing year is fast approaching

It's illegal for anyone to do plumbing, gasfitting, or drainlaying without the Board's authorisation. Ensure your relicensing for 2015/16 has been completed by 1 April 2015.

RENEWING YOUR LICENCE IS EASY

Two ways



You can renew your licence online if you have an online profile set up. If not, email licensing@pgdb.co.nz to get one organised.

You can also renew your licence by completing a relicensing application form that you can download from the Board website (see link below). Alternatively, give the licensing team a call on 0800 743 262 to request a form to be sent out to you.



APPLYING FOR A LICENCE OR RENEWAL



TIME LINE

STEP 1

Complete the application form accompanied by the information, documentation and required monies as outlined in the application form or online template.

STEP 2

The Board licensing team will process your application. Applications are processed within 5 working days.

STEP 3

If you would like to confirm that your application has been accepted, check the public register on the Board website for your updated details.

STEP 4

Authorisation cards are sent out within 10 working days of applications being accepted.

GO TO WWW.PGDB.CO.NZ/LICENSING ... OR [CLICK HERE](#)

Find more information on licensing in the policies section of the Board's website

Upcoming consultations

PLUMBERS, GASFITTERS AND DRAINLAYERS BOARD



The preliminary consultation starts 25 February for the three yearly review of the Board's fees and levy. You have until the 22 April 2015 to submit your feedback. Later in the year the Board will be holding meetings throughout the country to discuss this important matter.

Look out for the email on 25 February directing you to all the information you need to make your submission on the first stage of the process.

If you would like a hard copy of the consultation document and submission form posted out you, [email comms@pgdb.co.nz](mailto:comms@pgdb.co.nz) or [phone 0800 743 262](tel:0800743262). You can also find all the information you need at the Board's website. [Got to: www.pgdb.co.nz](http://www.pgdb.co.nz)



**MINISTRY OF BUSINESS,
INNOVATION & EMPLOYMENT**
HIKINA WHAKATUTUKI

REVIEW OF THE PLUMBERS, GASFITTERS AND DRAINLAYERS ACT

MBIE is currently reviewing the operation of the Plumbers, Gasfitters and Drainlayers Act 2006 (the Act), as required by section 187 of the Act (the review).

The Act aims to protect the health and safety of the public by regulating people who carry out sanitary plumbing, gasfitting and drainlaying. Consequently, the Act regulates a wide range of functions, including:

- registration and licensing
- exemptions from registration and licensing
- competence
- receipt and investigation of complaints, discipline and offences.

The Ministry will be conducting a survey of plumbers, gasfitters, drainlayers to gain a better understanding on how well the Act is operating. Is the Act

supporting you in your day-to-day work, or could it be improved? Your thoughts are important and will make a real difference in the review.

The survey will be conducted online, and your responses will be confidential. A link to the survey will be emailed to you on Friday 27 February 2015. The Ministry will also contact other industry stakeholders to gain their thoughts on the operation of the Act.

After analysing the responses from plumbers, gasfitters, drainlayers and other industry stakeholders the Ministry will provide a report on the operation of the Act to the Minister for Building and Housing. The Minister must present a copy of the report to the House of Representatives as soon as practicable after receiving it.

AMENDMENT TO THE FEES GAZETTE NOTICE

The Board has published a very minor wording amendment to the Fees and Disciplinary Levy Gazette Notice. The change does not alter fees or the levy, or how they are administered.

The amendment can be viewed at:

[www.gazette.govt.nz/
notice/id/2015-gs269?
year=2015](http://www.gazette.govt.nz/notice/id/2015-gs269?year=2015)

STRATEGIC PLAN

The Board's strategic plan has been reviewed and updated. The plan sets out the significant challenges facing the Board and how it plans to address them.

The plan puts an increased focus on cost reduction, evolution of the regulatory scheme and relationship building.

Find the updated version at:

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