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IN OTHER NEWS

Sick of Guilty until Proven Innocent?

We have discussed issues with insurance companies over the last couple of weeks so try this one on for size.

Plumber: *We have not seen anything about the damage.*

Is it possible for us to visit the site and see for ourselves what we are being accused of, or has it already been repaired.

Also are we compensated for our time etc if it is proved we are not liable?

Insurance Company:*The reinstatement has not yet been undertaken, other than some emergency work to make the property safe.*

We are of the opinion that it would be in the insured's best interest to show you the damages sustained to their house, and I will have a word to them and have them contact you directly to

Letters to the Editor



Editor,

There is some talk of a change in attitude at the Board office, a more willing to listen to the individual and industry regime. For the first hundred years of the Board's existence their office and personnel were not protected by an expensive coded access

security door. The security doors were installed a year or so ago after some visits from irate tradesman, the board personnel felt threatened. If there is indeed a noticeable change in attitude and treatment of industry/tradesman I am sure the security doors will not be needed and removed soon. The proof of the pudding and all that.

Dear Ed

I recently attended one of the meetings sponsored by the Board on the proposed review. May I say that I was astounded at the change the new CEO has made. Gone were the row of faces hiding behind a solid row of tables and a more congenial atmosphere prevailed throughout the meeting.

The Board members listened, the CEO made frequent comments about having discussed various issues with the Federation and Wal in particular, and the meeting was run in a very civilised manner.

You don't have to think back too many months when the Federation were persona non grata at meetings and we were being dictated to by the Board. I think members should take the time to get along to any future meetings run by the Board, as based on the meeting I attended I believe a corner has been turned. The proposed changes that were outlined and discussed at the meeting bode well for the future of the industry, and I believe more importantly the relationship the Board has with the industry, and vice versa.

I know the cynics will say we have heard it all before but I believe the Board is under new management and as a well-known New Zealand model stated "It won't happen overnight – but it will happen" .

I am not an apologist for the Board and have frequently muttered about what has happened but I look forward to some positive changes in the future.

arrange a convenient time for you to meet with them and go over the loss.

There is no compensation available from ourselves or the (Name) insurers should you prove not to be liable. You do have the option of arranging for your own insurer to investigate your liability, which would be at no cost to you if you are not found liable.

I will not be having any more involvement in this claim or the reinstatement work, this file will shortly be handed over to XYZ Claims Recovery Unit who will make further contact with you or your insurer should you choose to lodge a claim.

Plumber:*So what you are saying is that someone points the finger of blame, then you hand it over to the Claims Recovery Unit and I'm left to prove myself innocent?*

Insurance Company:*At this stage, from all the information we have been provided, the liability appears to rest with you, if you don't believe this to be so, then yes its now up to you, or your insurer, to prove otherwise. Once again (and I would encourage you to do so) lodge a claim with your insurers as this type of liability claim is exactly what you pay your premiums for.*

This just seems like bully tactics where the blame is laid on the little guy and they either fold and

PS: How do I apply to be considered to be a member of the Board?? Let's get positive.

ED:

Thank you for expressing your views and supporting the Federation. It did seem like there had been a change in attitude but then the August edition of the Info Brief came out and Mr Jackson, the Chairman of the Board stated:

"The three yearly review of licensing fees and other charges is now well underway, and the second round of consultation is currently open for comment. A schedule of the series of stakeholder consultation meetings to be held around the country can be found on page six of this newsletter.

At this date, six meetings have been conducted and very low attendance levels appear to indicate that the industry is comfortable with the fees that will take effect as of April 2016"

This is exactly what the Federation has been warning the industry about, that silence is seen to be support for the Board and whatever it wants to implement. Perhaps it is the exact opposite where the industry is sick of consultation because they have heard the same old rhetoric for the last decade and the industry hasn't been listened to.

We would hate to see comments like this undermine the attempts by the Chief Executive, Martin Sawyers, to create dialog with the industry. If Mr Jackson really believes his comment is true he must be looking at a different industry to the rest of us.

We wonder what other Board members think - do they believe the industry is comfortable with the fees so they haven't attended the meetings, or do they think the Board lost its credibility with the industry and the practitioners just don't want anything to do with them.

If the Chair's line of thought that non attendance is support then New Zealand would have a new flag, and national anthem by now. We really think it is dangerous territory to ASSUME that silence is agreement, sometimes silence is apathy, sometimes it's just – well, silence!

The Federation encourages you to attend consultation meetings and have your say.

Has the precedence been set?

For a long time now the Federation has been fighting for fairness and equality and all the industry has ever got is dictated to by the Board and Government, but has DR Smith set a new precedence for getting funding from the Government? On Tuesday this happened:

An \$89,700 grant from the Community Environment Fund for the restoration of the Whangawehi stream on the Mahia Peninsula was announced today by Environment Minister Dr Nick Smith during a visit to the catchment.

"New Zealand has a major challenge to improve the management of

pay or fight and pay.
What ever happened to
the theory of innocent
until proven guilty?

Paul Gee knows all about
this tactic and what the
cost is financially and
mentally when the finger
gets pointed and you end
up having to prove your
innocence. No apology,
no one accountable and
no compensation.

Know your subject

A politician was seated
next to a kid in an
airplane from Auckland
to Wellington. The
Politician turned to the
kid and said, "Lets talk"

The kid said "Okay,
what do we talk
about?"

Politician (making fun
of the kid): "How
about the New Zealand
Economy?"

Kid: "Very interesting
topic. But let me ask
you a question...Horse,
cow and deer, all eat
grass. Yet deer
excretes pellets, cow
flat patty and horse
clumps. Why?"

Politician: "I don't
know."

Kid: "Do you really feel
qualified enough to
discuss the New
Zealand Economy
when you don't know
shit???"

our waterways, which has to be achieved stream by stream, river by river and lake by lake. The key to the success of these restoration programmes is getting all parties – landowners, iwi and hapū, district and regional councils as well as the Government – working together. This has been achieved on this project and that is why the Government is providing funding support," Dr Smith says.

It looks like if everyone works together (i.e. does what the Government says) then they can find money for funding. We seem to remember the Government couldn't find any money when millions of dollars was taken unlawfully from the industry.

What's more important, the restoration of a stream or protecting the health and safety of the public?

We want to know

You may have an idea or a view on a subject but fear that others may not like it. Don't worry about issues like that, just send them to us and we will let others know for you. For all you know there may be hundreds out there who think the same .

Send us your views, good or bad, so we can share them with others in the industry. The idea to solve the problems in the industry may just be rattling around in your head.

One of the biggest problems in the industry is that everyone sits back waiting for others to do things for them - waiting for things to happen rather than making them happen and that won't get us anywhere.

Great to receive the above letters to the Editor – all views are welcome. We would LOVE to hear from some of our apprentices out there – how are you finding things? Are you happy with your training? Do you have any ideas about the industry you will be working in for a chunk of your life? C'mon – we'd like to see some thoughts from the youngsters coming up through the ranks.

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