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## IN OTHER NEWS

### From the Media

*Customs lab built from ill-gotten gains*

*NZ Newswire October 30, 2015, 4:02 am*

*A laboratory that was built using the proceeds of crime is making it easier to stop illegal drugs entering the country.*

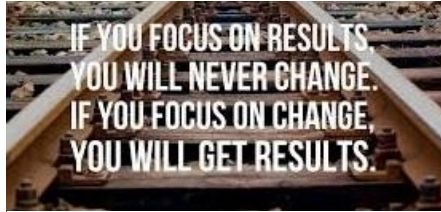
*Customs Minister Nicky Wagner says the lab at Auckland Airport screened more than 2000 drug samples in its first year and discovered about 700 illegal shipments.*

*"I'm pleased that criminals' ill-gotten gains are being used to help stop drugs at the border," Ms Wagner said.*

*"The lab's real-time testing capabilities are a big advantage in speeding up investigations against drug importers."*

*Apart from the lab, money seized under the*

## A Great Time to Reflect



There is a lot happening in the industry and a lot of change is lined up, so where to from here?

The Federation has battled consistently for the last five years for change and finally it is starting

to happen. We would hope supporters are satisfied at what has been achieved, and feel positive about the direction the industry is taking.

We know that all the battles haven't been won YET, but when you look at where the industry was heading five years ago when the Federation was started, a lot has been achieved and it hasn't been without cost and risk.

The hours put in by the Federation Executive would astound a lot of people, as would the number of letters received threatening defamation action.

The Federation has prided itself in following through on what it says it will do and that will continue. Our focus has always been on change that will make the industry better, and the Federation as an organisation has nothing to gain except a better industry to be part of.

On reflection the actions of others has slowed progress and the Federation believes the regulation of the industry is getting close to where it should have been 4-5 years ago, and there is still a lot to do.

If we can all focus on what change is needed it will happen and we can get on to the really important things in life, so don't sit back and wait, it's actually NOW that we need people to step forward and help to rebuild and implement the change that is needed.

We need people to SUPPORT change. One reason people resist change is because they focus on what they have to give up instead of what they have to gain. Recent resistance to changes to Continuing Professional Development is a good example.

This week's Info Brief from the Plumbers Gasfitters and Drainlayers Board shows a lot of change, for example discipline changing so that complaints that are minor, don't present significant health and safety issues or involve repeated poor behaviour by a tradesperson, they will now, in the first instance, be dealt with by way of mediation where possible. This is not only a change in process but also a change in attitude.

The appointment of a professional investigator not only means better quality investigations, but also better value for industry money. It means that if you are investigated you can be assured it will be the facts that are looked and the facts will be what proves guilt or innocence.

*Criminal Proceeds (Recovery) Act is being used for multiple initiatives including crime investigation and drug treatment programmes.*

Perhaps the Government should look at directing all proceeds from offenders doing illegal plumbing gasfitting and drainlaying back to the industry so we can spend it on enforcement and apprentice training!

There seems to a lot of double standards when it comes to enforcement issues.

### People Power

Unbeknown to a lot in the industry, The Skills Organisation have struck again cancelling another meeting due to the same person being away as reported last week.

This is what was sent:

*Hi all*

*As you may be aware, Stephen Bocoock is currently on jury service for 6 weeks. With this in mind, we have decided to cancel the PGD Leadership Forum and will instead put together an industry update and share this with you all.*

*If you have any specific updates that you would like covered off, please forward them through to me and I will ensure that we include this for you.*

*The industry update will include 2015*

- *Trainee registrations*
- *Credit reporting and completion activity*

The Board has taken the time warn those operating illegally in the industry that they will be caught, so it is an ideal opportunity to take steps to ensure everyone is operating legally in the industry and get those on the fringes qualified and legal.

Something to remember when looking at illegal activity is that those operating in an illegal manner are costing those operating legally in the industry money and that includes members of the public doing their own work, so don't feel bad about using the new App from the Board which will be available from the end of November. This App will allow you to send relevant information to the Board about possible offenders. We congratulate them on the innovative idea and we encourage our members to use this App to report illegal operators.

Put simply - would you let someone walk up to you, put their hand in your wallet and remove money? That's what's happening if they are operating illegally in the industry whether they are an unauthorised tradesperson or a member of the public. "Get legal or get out" is what needs to happen.

We have only touched on the changes needed in the industry and in the very near future our focus will be on improving the standards in training needed to progress us into the future. This will mean training apprentices to be tradespeople who are responsible for their own work not training apprentices to pass assessments as it is now.

We want to look at quality not quantity. We would sooner have a well trained, qualified industry with a skills shortage than a group of partially trained and qualified people who can't cover the gambit of the industry.

Does it sound like the Federation is going soft - HELL NO - it is probably getting harder, but what is changing is the attitudes of others. Five years of fighting for fairness and equality in the industry has taught us a great deal, and the Federation is better positioned to effect the change needed.

What we need is you, your ideas and a small amount of your time. We need you to get the messages out to others about what is happening in the industry. We will do the hard yards fighting the battles but we need you to support us and supply us with the ammunition.

## Continuing Professional Development (CPD)



Congratulations to those who have been pushing for changes to CPD and to the Board for supporting the industry in moving forward!!

This week the Board thanked practitioners for making submissions on CPD in their recent consultation. This is what they said:

*Dear Submitter*

*The Board would like to thank you for the submission that you made as part of its recent consultation in relation to a proposal for a new form of CPD.*

- Summary of provider relationships

2016

- Planning for 2016
- TROQ update and programme delivery plans

Thanks for your understanding

Kind regards

This time attendees were quick off the mark and let their feelings known. The Skills Organisation have since responded and the meeting is to go ahead as planned this Friday.



Well it's not an Empire and it's not the dark side, but we are a Federation and we do need YOU.

You are deserving of a voice with no strings attached, we are not puppets to anyone, so join the Federation and encourage others to do the same.

You can get an application form at

[www.pgdf.co.nz/joining-the-federation/application-form](http://www.pgdf.co.nz/joining-the-federation/application-form) or

you can join on line at [www.pgdf.co.nz/sign-up](http://www.pgdf.co.nz/sign-up)

At its Board meeting held on 27 October 2015, the Board considered the submissions it had received in relation to the proposal.

The Board received a total of 308 submissions in relation to this issue. It was clear from the submissions that there was both support for and against the proposal with many of those against the proposal concerned at the costs involved as well as the time involved in undertaking the CPD.

The Board have resolved to proceed with the proposal and will now be proceeding to gazette the change. This means that the current CPD points system will cease on 31 March 2016 and will be replaced by a new system with the following features:

- A mandatory course that every practitioner will be required to complete.
- The course will be up to 6 hours. In the first year it is estimated that it will be between 3-4 hours.
- The topics will be developed in conjunction with a stakeholder reference group consisting of staff, representatives from the industry and The Skills Organisation
- Delivery will be an approved provider and practitioners can complete the course by either attending a training day, which will be available throughout New Zealand, or by completing the course online.

The Board considers that this new form of CPD will provide greater opportunity to deliver important key training to the industry. It will also mean that there is greater consistency of content and quality of delivery. The Board will work hard with the industry to ensure that the topics are relevant and of value to practitioners.

The Board expects that after 31 March 2016 some suppliers will continue to run courses promoting their products and advising practitioners about the correct installation and use of those products and believes that practitioners will continue to attend those if they see value in them. However, points will no longer attach to those courses and practitioners will therefore no longer be compelled to attend.

The Board is of the view that the projected cost of \$75 per practitioner is not excessive and is likely to be substantially offset if sponsorship can be successfully obtained. Where ever possible the Board will look to keep the cost down. The Board is also of the view that the fact the Board can be completed online in practitioners own time, means that there does not need to be any impact on a practitioners work practices unless they choose to attend a physical training course.

The next steps involved in this process will be to gazette the changes as well as finalising the topics, sponsorship and the calendar for delivery. As these steps are implemented the Board will continue to keep the industry informed.

It's been a long hard battle to get what most people are happy with and that meets the requirements of the Plumbers Gasfitters and Drainlayers Act 2006. The real cost savings to individuals far outweigh the minor cost of attending the mandatory training. Congratulations to all involved! Now we can move forward and get appropriate training for our apprentices and

or

you can simply send your details to  
wal.gordon@xtra.co.nz.

Our postal address is 6 Tacoma Drive, Totara Park Upper Hutt if you wish to send a donation or you can:

- Make a direct deposit at any ANZ/National Bank Account: ANZ 06 0773 0319398 00 or

- Deposit on line through internet banking or set up a direct credit payment to Plumbers Gasfitters and Drainlayers Federation ANZ 06 0773 0319398 00

For those people who have been supporting us - we thank you and hope we are meeting your needs.

If you have stopped getting the Fellow Practitioner for some reason then resend your contact details to us and we will see what we can do to rectify the problem.

The industry is coming into a great period of change so we need to have a united front to ensure fairness and equality.

Don't sit back expecting everything to go our way- we will need to fight for what is right.

journeymen.

## Mistrust



Did you know the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment is the organisation that advises the Minister of Building and Housing on all things regarding plumbing gasfitting and drainlaying.

We picked up on this headline yesterday:

***Public servants strike against 'culture of mistrust'*** More than a thousand public servants from the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment will strike today in protest against what they say is a culture of mistrust.

*A spokesperson said "What we want is something that's more transparent, something that delivers across the board pay increases for people and something that's fair."•*

Trust is like an eraser, it gets smaller and smaller after every mistake so if staff can't get a fair deal from their employer what hope do we as an industry stand in getting treated fairly? Let us know your thoughts.

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