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The soft plastic Recycling Programme enables soft plastics and soft packaging such as shopping bags, bread bags, frozen food bags and food wrap to be recycled. Bins have been installed at 70 New World, Pak 'n' Save, Countdown and The Warehouse stores in Auckland.

The Government has funded \$700,000 from the Waste Minimisation Fund towards this project (hands up if you had any idea this fund existed?). The aim is to provide 70 per cent of New Zealanders with access to a drop-off facility within a 20-kilometre drive. (Yep that's right jump in your car and burn up those fossil fuels to deposit your plastic bags)!!

The Government's Waste

**There is life after CPD**



There is life after CPD Continuing Professional Development (CPD) is changing and moving away from the "buy points to licence regime," into a regime of identified and necessary training. This will help with the transfer of necessary information to protect the tradespeople in the industry, which in turn will protect the public.

The new regime also changes the way practitioners will upskill on a personal level. It means they can now afford to undergo training which is relevant to their needs and that of the business they are employed in.

Some organisations have already taken this on board and are preparing for life after CPD. They should be congratulated and supported. Last week we picked up on Rinnai's forward thinking - no strings attached training. This is what they published:

***We have more courses and CPD until 30 April 2016 More courses:*** Rinnai is keeping our popular courses running even after the current CPD period ends. In fact we will be adding to the courses with more on installation and commissioning of Rinnai appliances.

***Last chance for CPD:*** CPD is changing from 1 April next year. The PGDF confirms that you will be able to complete Rinnai CPD points earning courses until 30 April and the points will be credited to your relicensing in the 2016/17 period.

***We'd like to say thanks:*** At Rinnai we have appreciated the growing number of people who have completed our courses in the last couple of years. In fact a whopping 1200+ courses this year alone! We are committed to continue to provide support for specifiers and installers and will provide better simpler courses in the future.

**Well done Rinnai for taking swift and decisive action to continue supporting practitioners!!**

Other training has caught our eye too that is helping the industry. You should have by now heard of "TradePoint."

Minimisation Fund provides financial support to projects that reduce environmental harm and provide social, economic and cultural benefits. It is funded from a levy introduced by the National-led Government in 2009, which is charged on waste disposed of at landfills to discourage waste and to fund recycling initiatives. Over \$60 million has been awarded to more than 120 projects from the Fund to date.

Yes \$10 Million a year and we as an industry can't get a bloody thing from the Government except grief.

So they impose a levy for projects that reduce environmental harm and provide social, economic and cultural benefits. As an industry we provide benefits by protecting the health and safety of the public on a full time basis.

Good on the project for protecting the environment but it yet again shows the Government is selective in their allocation of funds.

Dr Smith, Minister of Building and Housing, why can't the public be levied to fund their own protection?

Why do we as tradespeople get taxed to provide protection for others simply because we choose to specialise in an industry?

Where is the fairness? We note that Taxpayers are covering the legal costs when MPs are sued - but MPs can keep the use of public money for

## TradePoint



TradePoint information has been making the rounds and a few people seem confused about who TradePoint is. TradePoint is an initiative by Master Plumbers to help with training everyone in industry. Master Plumbers have been driving the development of TradePoint with input from the Federation and others.

TradePoint has been funded with money which was held by Skills for the benefit of industry. The money was left over after the amalgamation of the old ITO into Skills and had a limit on how long it was to be held for. Master Plumbers, supported by the Federation, took the initiative to develop a skills centre for the industry.

The centre is to provide resources for personal development and assist practitioners at all levels in the industry. Master Plumbers graciously made some of their courses available to get the ball rolling while courses were being developed. This month a Federation representative attended one of the newly developed courses "Train the Trainer" held in Hamilton. This is what he reported:

*I am happy to report that the seminar was very well presented and relevant to any business owner, Certifier and/or trainer who has staff or is thinking of employing staff or an apprentice. The seminar was full of relevant details and easily recognisable strategies for maintaining and developing management skills.*

*The presentation helped to identify the types of training, and style of training needed for the individual and business alike. It was thought provoking and informative, a worthwhile investment for trainers and supervisors in our industry. The tight time schedule meant that the presentation did not stagnate and freely flowed through the main points with still time for clear reflection on ideas and strategies raised.*

*Joe Grayland has developed and presented a course well worth attending.*

We look forward to seeing this industry owned initiative develop and thank Master Plumbers for taking a lead role in developing and maintaining TradePoint.

Any ideas on courses and seminars are welcomed as it is an industry project. This can be done direct to Master Plumbers or through the Federation.

If you are not sure how to access TradePoint give Joe Grayland a call at Master Plumbers for information about log on access etc. It's great to see these funds being put to good use for the benefit of all of industry.

their defence secret under Parliament's rules.

Over recent years Dr Smith has had legal bills partly paid from the public purse and in one case stated he was very grateful to have received \$209,000 of public money from the Parliamentary Service.

Apparently he also had his costs reimbursed for defending another defamation claim against him.

He's not alone, apparently Helen Clark in May 2001 had the Crown pay a \$55,000 settlement, Trevor Mallard, as a minister in 2001, had the Crown pay legal costs for both sides over comments Mr Mallard made, Janet Mackey had taxpayer assistance where about one-third of her initial legal expenses defending a defamation suit was covered. All this money seems to "appear" to assist the rule makers but everyone else suffers.

Dr Smith even has a gasfitter in his own electorate that has nearly lost everything because of accusations made against him which have never been proven but what assistance does he get?

Whatever happened to the days of Ministers and the Government leading by example?

The Government should look at history to help guide the way for the future. An event in 1854 was the culmination of a period of civil disobedience in the Ballarat region of Australia during the Victorian gold rush.

## Safety it's Everyone's Responsibility



You would have noticed that Plumbers Gasfitters and Drainlayers fund the protection of the public's health and safety.

Authorised practitioners get held accountable if things go wrong and also have to fund the prosecution of the public if they choose to do

their own sanitary plumbing gasfitting or drainlaying.

So is this a fair situation, because as tradespeople we are paying to hold these people accountable. Who is educating them on the do's and don'ts not only to do with their own safety, but also about what they can and can't do in regards to sanitary plumbing, gasfitting and drainlaying?

We were horrified this week to read of a Sydney baby boy fighting for his life. At the date of writing the 10 month old boy continued to fight for his life after being left in a scalding shower while his mother's boyfriend apparently smoked a cigarette. The boy was in a critical condition and was placed in an induced coma with serious burns to 40 per cent of his body.

This sad incident got us thinking about what would happen if this happened in New Zealand. Who would be held responsible - would it be the person that left a child unsupervised in water that was obviously too hot, or would it be the plumber for not installing a tempering valve?

Education on the repercussions of the public's actions or inactions seems to be falling by the way side. The Government has laid the burden of prosecuting non authorised people, including the public, on the legitimate tradespeople in the industry. Does this mean we are also responsible for educating them?

Shouldn't the Government be running campaigns to teach the public about the repercussions of cross connections, about hot water temperature, about sewage, about backflow and the list could go on all day.

There are undoubtedly stupid people out there and if the Government isn't prepared to help prevent injury and damage then they should be funding the cleanup of prosecuting non authorised people.

They have legislated hands off regulation of an industry to the benefit of the public and Government and no benefit to the tradespeople. There is no mechanism for the recovery of the costs except for the industry to increase prices which the public seem reluctant to pay. This in turn opens up the black market.

The industry has been fighting hard for fairness and equality and has made headway with the Plumbers Gasfitters and Drainlayers Board but the Minister and Government seem to have some hidden

Miners objecting to the expense of a Miners Licence, taxation via the licence without representation and the actions of the government, the police and military, stood their ground.

The **Eureka Rebellion** was a rebellion of gold miners, who revolted against the colonial authority being imposed on them.

The rebellion grew from a Ballarat Reform League movement and culminated in the erection by the rebels of a crude battlement and a swift and deadly siege by colonial forces, 23 three people were killed in the brief encounter.

Mass public support for the captured rebels in the colony's capital of Melbourne when they were placed on trial resulted in the introduction of the Electoral Act 1856, which mandated full white male suffrage for elections for the lower house in the Victorian parliament, the second instituted political democracy in Australia.

The Eureka Rebellion is controversially identified with the birth of democracy in Australia and interpreted by some as a political revolt.

Now there's a thought **DEMOCRACY**, we wonder if it would work in New Zealand?

agenda.

In some ways you could say we are not a regulated, but simply a "taxed," industry, we pay money that others don't want to pay and get no benefit from it.

This week you could well ask the question "are all farmers paying for the Ministry of Primary Industries investigation into the abuse of bobby calves?" More likely to be the tax payer paying for the investigation and the prosecution but if it was plumbing gasfitting or drainlaying issues we would be paying simply because we are plumbers gasfitters and drainlayers.

The way in which the Government is dealing with occupational regulation and the review of the Plumbers Gasfitters and Drainlayers Act is very much creating a situation where every day we go to work just to find we are getting screwed over more than yesterday.

We await with interest in what decisions the Minister will make around the appointment of Board members with some terms due to expire in the first half of next year. Just when progress is being made with the relationship between the industry and the Board you can probably expect more changes from the Minister.

Is this part of a cross seeding plan (we recently saw the appointment of an Architect to the PGDB – so now we have an Architect and a Builder appointed in the last year or so). Is this part of the Minister's occupational licensing regime coming home to roost early?

What would be great would be to know what plans are being drawn up by people who sit behind a desk in a Ministry Department with a grand vision for where we will be in five years time, and the first we'll know about it will be too late to make a change.

Perhaps the Minister and his advisers should remember that we are mature enough to forgive but not stupid enough to trust again. Our parting thought this week is for the government:

Once a person gets screwed over they stop giving a shit about a lot of things.