

# Fellow Practitioner Issue 344 Dated 13 October 2017

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### IN OTHER NEWS

More Money Generated by the Bureaucrats

Over the last few weeks we have made mention of Bureaucrats creating legislation that others make money out of and we referred to the Prequalification in Occupational Safety and Health.

It was stated by some larger companies that they won't employ contractors who don't have a pre-qual.

Yes pay to get a pre-qual and you may get employed by a larger company to do their work at no risk to them because they have taken all reasonable steps to cover their arse.

Well here's another one we picked up on this week where the legislation has created an environment where an entire postal zone, that no one owns, can be sold off by a group that doesn't own them.

Yes for the right amount of money you can purchase the rights to issue a rental warrant of fitness to rental property owners in your designated area.

You can join this group of Assessors and help them lift

# **Comedy or Drama?**



Winston once said "Tact is the ability to tell someone to go to hell in such a way that they look forward to the trip", that's Winston Churchill NOT Winston Peters.

We thought Winston Peters was going to announce yesterday who will be forming the next Government but that hadn't happened when we collated this week's Fellow Practitioner, so the wait continues and we won't know if it's a drama or a comedy for a few days.

What we do know is that either National or Labour will be told to go to hell and their supporters will probably not enjoy the trip but they will have to endure three years of the new Government before it can change again.

Once the Government is announced the next holdup we will encounter is the appointment of Ministers. For our industry we need to know who the Minister of Building and Construction will be before we can plan our activities and strategies. We will also need to work out who our allies are that are working for the industry and are not motivated by self interest of their organisations.

We will need to see if the "Opposition" is going to be in a position or have the incentive to assist our industry. In the past they have paid us lip service and have never really got behind is. If we are left in a situation where we need to fight the Government for change we will need to give the Opposition the tools and information to support us.

We noted Government departments have basically been closed for a few months now and by the time they prepare and brief new ministers about what they are and aren't doing it will be time for them to close down for their well earned Christmas holidays.

Parliament will close again and the Ministers will head off to rest up ready to come back sometime next year fully refreshed to get their Departments to figure out how they will meet the promises that were made during the election campaign.

the standards of the rental stack in New Zealand.

The postal zone you purchase will solely be yours (until another company doing the same thing starts up in your area).

The clever people doing this have announced final regional licences are on sale this week only and that the offer won't last.

These very smart people are taking advantage of the Bureaucrats creations and developing a market around work that others have to do to protect themselves against the wrath of the Government Departments who enforce the Governments legislation.

## **Your Thoughts**

Have you noticed that more and more businesses are being required to report on what is going well?

We are reporting when there are no accidents, food operators are reporting when there are no cases of food poisoning and there are other examples as well.

Are the Bureaucrats so insecure that they need to hear that all is good all the time and hope the good buries the bad so no one will notice?

What are your thoughts? Do you have any examples of this type of reporting? For us in the industry, the people protecting the health and safety of New Zealanders, we will be expected to stay legal, and continue on providing the professional protection over the holidays and beyond while others ponder on what to do with our qualifications, with our licensing, our training and the regulation of our industry.

Others may be able to drag the chain and take their time experimenting with other people's lives but we can't. We are the ones doing the real work and providing the real protection expected by the public and the Government.

What is bad for us is that we are a dedicated industry and get so involved in doing what we do best that we leave important issues to others. We have said it time and time before that we, as an industry, need to take ownership of what we do, how we are regulated, how we are trained and how we qualify.

How we will progress and what we can achieve over the next twelve months will depend on who we get as the Minister of Building and Construction. The last two ministers have not been effective and have hampered the progress of the industry. We need a Minister that has ears that are used for listening (not a jackass). One that will provide the support and leadership we need to make improvements for us all.

Only time will tell if we are going into a comedy or a drama but we need to remember that it is our lives that the Bureaucrats are playing with and that time is not on our side. Those of us that are nearing retirement need to step up and leave a legacy for the younger ones and the younger ones also need to step up and help progress the industry for their future.

## **The Masses**



If you want to get involved in the activities or direction of the Plumbers Gasfitters and Drainlayers Federation contact Wal Gordon at wal.gordon@xtra.co.nz

Like every other organisation we need support and fresh ideas to keep on making progress.

Doing something now may

prevent a huge amount of rebuilding in the future. Saying and doing nothing may just put you in the category of the masses.