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IN OTHER NEWS

A Few Words From The Chairman of the Federation

Hi All,

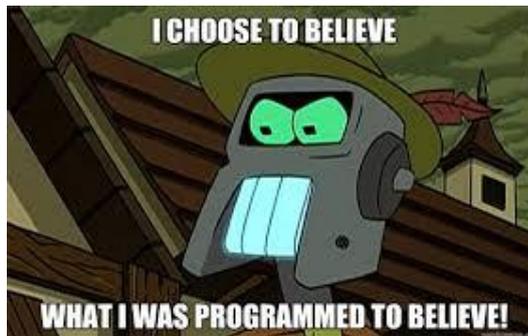
It's been a busy few years for everyone and a lot has happened to our individual businesses and personal circumstances. The Federation was started as a new concept where nearly everything has been done electronically and we have been successful in its operation.

Although distance separates us all we have still managed to maintain the direction of the Federation and keep its good reputation of being up front and honest about its activities.

We have had nothing to gain but a better industry and it still frustrates us that it is a constant battle with others in the industry to get progression

I believe we have reached the stage that unless there

Technology revolution not paying off



It would seem practitioners in the industry believe what they have been programmed to believe over the years but it might not be what is best for the industry or the future of the

practitioners. For years we have been told that technology is the key, but is it really?

Some technology speeds up jobs and robotics are great in that they don't eat or take breaks, but don't forget they don't buy anything either. They don't return anything to society and technology costs jobs. We would argue that we are in an industry where knowledge and skills reign supreme and the only people who benefit from technology are the consumer.

There has been research into robots and technology and it turns out there's little evidence all this technology is actually contributing to GDP in the manner that humans do.

Technology can't replace common sense, but it can replace workers. The world is a long way off getting a robot or getting technology to replace plumbers, gasfitters and drainlayers so we need to start working towards the immediate future of tradespeople having the relevant skills and knowledge to perform the work required. In saying that, we need to tap into the skills and knowledge of the aging practitioners in the industry before they all disappear.

It seems the training system just goes around and around and nothing new or substantial is achieved apart from a bunch of statistics that can be manipulated to read as success.

We have gone from well trained, knowledgeable tradespeople to an industry that requires supervision and it would appear a lot of the industry doesn't want that to change.

are changes in the attitude of those in Government then we are at a standstill and nothing can be achieved.

The Government don't seem to be providing any form of leadership for our industry and that includes the previous Government. They have the legislation in place so the industry doesn't cost them a cent so nothing gets done.

We have become the lost industry where procrastination and self interest of organisations rule the day and I believe the majority of the industry have given up trying to effect change and are going back to days of old where avoidance is again becoming common place.

Our industry contributes to the estimated \$1 billion in tax not being paid by those self-employed, and others, who do jobs under the counter for cash, and also in unreported company income.

It was reported this week that tax experts believe \$1bn was a conservative estimate and other unreported company income would add another \$200,000,000 in tax.

They stated: "There's a cost to this behaviour and that cost is less money for health and education, social housing and the huge range of government services in need of more money. It's an added burden on people who fulfil their duties as taxpayers."

Why keep pushing for a productive future when no one listens.



The Plumbers Gasfitters and Drainlayers Federation have been fighting for fairness and equality in the manner in which we are regulated for over seven

years. We have persevered through all sorts of criticism, threats of legal action and industrial exclusion from organisations, government departments and the Government itself.

The Federation's executive committee has decided to place the Federation into recess until there are sufficient processes and procedures in place for governance of the industry. This doesn't mean we are abandoning the industry but means we are going to sit and watch the vultures pick on the carcass of the industry for awhile and will be ready to step in and fight the fight when required. If you remember it was action at the Regulation Review Committee that kicked us off. We held people to account for their actions and we are prepared to do so in the future as well.

The question will be asked WHY go into recess and WHY now? The Federation set a number of goals when it started and one of the most important was to help establish good regulation of the industry. The Federation believes the Plumbers Gasfitters and Drainlayers Board are well positioned to regulate the industry effectively and fairly under the current legislation. There is always room for improvement but improvements now will require action by Government and their minions.

The Federation's executive committee have chosen now to go into recess because industry groups, the ITO, government departments and the Government don't seem ready to change and move into the future so why waste time and resources discussing the same issues. For years now the Government has left us in a stagnant pool swimming around in the filth they have created.

The Federation has been calling for a Governance Board for years but it has not been forthcoming and what industry can afford to fund two boards 100%.? The Federation did suggest an industry appointed Governance Board to be funded out of existing fees and reserves but this fell on deaf ears. We also suggest the sharing of the Chief Executive and Secretariat.

If the Government funded the regulation of the industry, the industry would be able to fund its own Governance Board but it seems no money was available when National was in power so they imposed retrospective legislation on the industry and now the Labour Coalition seems more content supporting other activities such as the \$714.22m boost in overseas development funding. A

I can't see why the Government don't try to get our industry on side instead of treating us like lepers. We get no respect from them and the Ministers they appoint may as well not be there. This reflects on the Leadership of the Prime Ministers over the years as they are the ones letting it happen.

If practitioners turn their backs on the regulation of their industry then it is poor legislation and governance.

Practitioners need to believe in the legislation that regulates them. They need to believe in the end product and the manner in which they get there. They need to have confidence in the training systems and the upskilling.

They need to be put in a situation where they have pride in their industry and get a sense of well being that they can progress and thrive within the industry. It needs to be viewed as a career not as a short term job.

Those of you who have supported the Federation should be proud of your involvement and what has been achieved over the last seven plus years.

Our forceful tactics has ensured the Board has become accountable to the industry and we can only speculate on where the industry would be if you hadn't stepped up and forced change.

Our efforts have changed the industry and there is still

couple a million a year to fund the regulation of an industry to protect the public seems to be beyond any Government the public vote in.

As long as we don't have Governance we will continue to crumble under the pressure imposed by others.

The Federation's executive committee also decided enough effort has been put in fighting a non responsive Industry Training Organisation (The Skills Organisation). Over the last few years they have done nothing but exclude the people who do not agree with their line of thought. Money seems to rule and the human factor takes a back seat. No change just a reshuffle of the same shit that has failed before.

Other industry organisations have been working on industry issues but have chosen self preservation over what is best for the industry. They want self certification but don't want practitioners to fully qualify at the end of an apprenticeship. They have been involved in peripheral issues but now want others to bail them out as costs become prohibitive. Organisational needs are affecting the progress of the industry.

The review of the Plumbers Gasfitters and Drainlayers Act doesn't seem to be on anyone's priority list. A recent Official Information Act Request by the Federation shows nothing but a load of bureaucratic bullshit and that, according to the OIA request, nothing has been done since May 2017.

The old saying that good things take time certainly won't apply to this review as most issues are now out of date. An Act dated 2006, implemented in 2010, to be reviewed in 2013 and still nothing is recommended or finalised. How many more elections are we going through before practitioners, as tax payers, get a fair deal?

All these issues have an effect on the industry and the number of people employed within it.

So there you have it we have outlined a few of the WHY and WHY NOW issues. There is nothing the Federation would like more than to have a well represented progressive industry that is knowledgeable and well trained and we are ready to step into an environment that will help achieve that but we are not prepared to keep on going around and around on the circus merry go round controlled by a bunch of clowns.

We want to thank all our supporters and for those who have been making regular payments to help with the running costs of the Federation we thank you and ask you to stop the payments until we kick into gear again.

Over the years we have had a couple of large contributions made by people who have put their faith in the Federation. We thank you for your support and you can rest assured the Federation will be keeping an eye on the industry and what is happening.

a lot to be done but the Bureaucrats are suppressing the industry to meet individual organisational needs.

I have no doubt we were ahead of our time and others will step up in the future and try to take credit for the Federation's ideas.

We still have the resources available to us to fire up as time and events dictate so you can be confident we will be keeping a watchful eye on things.

For the Government and others we are turning our backs because we are sick of waiting for action from them and we are not going to waste time and money fighting bureaucracy.

I personally want to thank all supporters and the Federations Executive Committee for your forward thinking and tenacity.

I can honestly say I am proud to have worked with you all and of the changes we have forced.

The Federaion - forever enduring

Wal Gordon

As we are only in recess all money in the Federation's account will remain there until needed.

After this edition of the Fellow Practitioner there will be one more so if you wish to make comment and have your views and feelings heard then send them to wal.gordon@xtra.co.nz and we will include them in the pre-recess edition of the Fellow Practitioner.

The Federation just can't understand why so many people in positions of authority are just sitting back watching an industry turn its back on its regulation particularly when those same practitioners want to progress and make things better. We suppose the saying "not even duct tape can fix stupid" rings true.

Don't forget to send your comments.

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