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IN OTHER NEWS

Federation Financial Report 2018.

The Federations 2018 Financial report has been loaded on to the Register of Societies but in a nut shell they are as follows.

INCOME

Donations \$2,754.00

Total Income \$2,754.00

EXPENSES

Bank Fees \$38.00

Printing and Postage \$2,220.00

Total Expenses \$2,258.00

Net Surplus \$496.00

EQUITY

Movements in Equity for the year \$496.00

Equity at the beginning of the year \$10,251.00

Equity at the end of the year \$10,746.00

CURRENT ASSETS

ANZ - Cheque Account \$10,747.00

The Federation is Back.



In May this year the Federation announced it was going into recess. This is what was said:

“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”

Being true to our word we have been watching and in the brief few months we have seen people and organisations positioning themselves at the expense of the industry. We have seen questionable use of industry money and possible alliances being formed with the exclusion of a large section of the industry.

The Board’s Annual report has just been released and the Federation is working its way through it and sees good progress in some areas but has questions in others. The Federation will be looking more closely at that over the next few weeks.

The decision to come out of recess was not taken lightly and the following are some examples of why we are back. We offer the right of reply (short and brief) to anyone they may relate to as this is not combat but information the industry should have.

We have been informed the Plumbers Gasfitters and Drainlayers Board sent two Board members and one person from the Secretariat to the World Plumbing Council Conference on Legionnaires Disease in the United States. A very important issue to do with the health of the public, but did it require three people?

Total Current Assets
\$10,747.00

TOTAL ASSETS

Accumulated Funds
\$10,747.00

Total Equity \$10,747.00

Yet again the Federation has held true to its promise to the industry that it would not waste industry money.

The electronic manner in which the Federation operates saves thousands of dollars on travel, accommodation and time.



It is time for the Federation to move forwards without the Government and Board.

We seek a country wide meeting to discuss a new regime into licences and insurance and training of fellow workers.

We need to set a date for the meeting then progress to the Plumbers and Gasfitters Board on the Terrace, take all car parks, block roads and then march down to the Beehive.

Power in numbers moving forwards is the only solution to win a battle.

ED:

Well writer it may just come to that action.

The Federation has protested a couple of times in the capital but that was small scale stuff

How does this benefit practitioners around New Zealand – as they have paid for this. How will the information be imparted and how can we judge if this was value for money? Under what legislation was this expenditure justified?

We seem to remember Mr Paul Gee complaining to the Board about a gas installation that had potential to create the legionella bacteria but was told by the Board in part:

“.....Should you have concerns about the safety of a specific installation then this should be reported to Energy Safety in the first instance who are the agency responsible for non-compliant gasfitting installations....”

Where was the concern for public safety when they said that and what has changed so dramatically that we need to send three people to the United States to get information on it?

It also seems industry money has been used to send people to Australia, Canada, England and Scotland to look at training and apprenticeship schemes. The most recent being three people going to Canada, England and Scotland. This included one person from The Skills Organisation (our ITO), one from the Plumbers Gasfitters and Drainlayers Board Secretariat and one from Master Plumbers.

It seems the Skills Organisation paid for flights and respective organisations paid for everything else for their representatives but no matter how you cut it, it was still paid with out of funds supplied by the industry at large.

If this issue was so important why wasn't a delegation (formed from the industry) sent instead of representatives from three organisations that seem to have formed an alliance. Perhaps employers of apprentices that are not members of Master Plumbers may have wanted to attend, perhaps the New Zealand Plumbers, Drainlayers & Gasfitters Association might have wanted to send a representative or maybe the Federation may have wanted to have input.

It would seem possible alliances are being formed to the advantage of some and the remainder of the industry is excluded. This is taking us back a decade to where the Board, Master Plumbers and the ITO ruled the roost and the rest of the industry had to follow blindly behind. We are not trying to undermine the good done by these organisations but want equal opportunities for all in the industry.

Speaking of opportunities, it reminds us that no one in the industry has been afforded the opportunity to apply for positions on the Plumbers Gasfitters and Drainlayers Board. It seems the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment is continuing with the practice of recommending people to the Minister of Building and Construction that have been recommended to them.

It used to be that positions on the Board would be advertised and the opportunity to apply would be given to everyone in the industry. That stopped under the National Government's reign of terror over the industry.

to get a point across, but yes we believe you are right and the next protests need to be on a national scale.

Who are we loyal to?

The Federation is of the opinion that you should never push a loyal person to the point where they walk away and no longer give a damn but that is what has been happening.

The Federation believes the plumbing gasfitting and drainlaying industry has been loyal to the government and has done everything within its power to protect the health and safety of the public but have been pushed to the extreme by needless bureaucracy implemented or pushed by people who have no knowledge of the industry or are out for self gain.

The Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) immediately come to mind. These are the people who advise the Minister of Building and Construction and they do so without full and proper consultation with the industry although it would seem they are asking questions about the review of the Plumbers Gasfitters and Drainlayers Act 2006, but asking questions and listening are two different things.

Vital decisions are being made affecting those employed in the industry and there is supposedly more to come in the near future. We have been waiting for leadership and direction as practitioners in the industry have no say in their future. This is dictated by government and employer groups.

The Federation represents

Mentioning the National Government reminds us of the Retrospective Legislation that they imposed to make legal the taking of a couple of million dollars from the industry and allowed the Board to keep the money. We see in the annual reports since then that the claims of the Board going bankrupt if they had to pay the money back to the industry may have been misleading.

The latest Annual Report shows the Board has nearly a year's worth of operating costs in reserve. We are pretty sure the Government stated 3-6 months was a reasonable amount to have in reserve so is the 2 million dollars now causing issues for the Board? We see big money being paid to some Board members and staff and we just hope the industry is getting value for money. Some money being paid is sickening when you look at what some apprentices get paid.

While on the subject of apprentices, apparently a new apprenticeship scheme is being mooted where an individual would go to a designated Polytechnic for a full year and then enter the workforce for a two year apprenticeship full of knowledge and skills they obtained in their year at Polytechnic. It has been labelled the Foundation Apprenticeship. To us this seems to be a scheme that was in place before called a pre-trade, and most people who did the pre-trade scheme didn't go on to get apprenticeships, so is this the same turd wrapped up in a different ribbon? Call it what you will but if it walks like a duck, quakes like a duck then it is a duck.

We also hear of other industries wanting to get exemptions to operate in our industry for instance the milking and pumping installers and electricians who work on gas appliances. It would appear that a lot of lobbying is going on direct with MBIE – as practitioners we need to be very aware when the public consultation takes place on the changes to the PGDB Act 2006 and make sure we have a voice that is heard by the politicians. They did such a poor job first time around we can't trust them to do it well the second time.

One more issue to bring us out of recess is the issue of unit standards, qualifications and supervision and the legality of them. Are they being implemented in accordance with the intent of the legislation and are the regulations imposing restrictions on the industry lawful?

We believe barriers are in place that prevent the progression of practitioners and the industry. This is a big issue and the Federation has started to form an opinion to place before the Regulation Review Committee. Remember going before the Regulation Review Committee was where it all started seven years ago with a displeased industry fighting for its rights.

So now you have a few reasons why the Federation is coming out of recess, but this time around we need ALL of you out there to step up and be counted. We know plumbing, gasfitting and drainlaying practitioners are losing the will to fight for change but for seven years the Federation has put in thousands of hours attempting to establish a better industry for the practitioners who have no one to stand up for them and now its payback time. **We need your**

ALL in the industry and has nothing to gain but a better industry for the practitioners and New Zealand but it would seem this isn't enough so we will be pushing hard for a Governance Board or Council to progress the needs of the industry. We don't enjoy conflict but feel the practitioners deserve more by way of effective training, regulation and representation.

So our loyalty is to you but we need you to help in the fight.

support.

In the next few issues we will expand on some of the topics mentioned above and let you know how you can help, but in the mean time discuss these things with other practitioners, and if you know people who were getting the Fellow Practitioner but don't receive it any more then get them to update their email and postal address.

As always we welcome your feedback. If there are issues raised in this newsletter then please let us know what your thoughts are – a Letter to the Editor or a simple email will do. In the end we want to represent the views of the industry at large – from the newest apprentice to the oldest servicing Certifier and all the practitioners in between. Each of you have an opinion that is valued!

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