

The New Zealand LIFT FAX

The New Zealand Lift Fax is produced bi-monthly by LEC. Six copies of the N.Z.L Fax comes to you for only \$27.00. Regards.Ed.

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WHAT'S GOING UP or DOWN THIS MONTH:

WHO IS THE NZLEA ?

The New Zealand Lift and Escalator Association has often been in my firing line more for what it hasn't done rather than for what it has done for the NZ lift industry.

Well this time I have to heap praise, as although I haven't had notification, it seems the Secretary Garth Wyllie has produced a website and it's well worth a look.

Have a look at - www.lifts.org.nz

Garth has detailed membership costs at \$500 for a full voting member, but better still only \$300 for non-voting members which gives you access to the Chat room. It is this area that interest me, because if all you smaller operators and consultants join, it could become a good vehicle to answer industry questions, put forward points of view, and generally improve communication in this industry. Maybe Garth could add a photo gallery for industry personnel. So have a look and email me your thoughts, and if enough are interested, maybe it's time to join the NZLEA!

EDITORIAL.

WHERE HAVE ALL THE EXPERTS GONE:

The Building Act, structured to recognise specific areas of independent expertise through the introduction of Building Certifier's, was I felt a great opportunity to bring those with little formal academic qualification, reflective of the trade base of the Building Industry, the opportunity to bring this high resource of experience into the Governance structure.

Since 1991 it has been disappointing to see only a small number of well-experienced individuals taking up this challenge. Is it due to an industry that for too long has been over dominated by Professional body interests and officious council officers who seemingly have insufficient experience to be able to look outside the square? And was this not one of the main reasons for overhauling the Building Act in the first place? If you have read the BIA News of late, they seem to be addressing some of these issues with Territorial Authorities, but on the other hand with the present building water-tightness fiasco, there seems to be a return to the focus of pandering to the professionals income needs once again, with requiring further accreditation of individuals and higher insurance. Will all the result be to drive what is left of individual expertise out of the process, with reversion back to the status quo and increasing unnecessary overheads on building costs? Ed.

LIFT 2004 - Milan Italy 17-20 November:

Did you miss InterLift this year like me, well here is your chance to redeem yourself and attend one of the most prolific lift manufacturing cities in Europe - Milano. More details as they come to hand.

ACCESS ELEVATORS INVITED - IPENZ CONVENTION

The 2004 IPENZ Convention was held at the Grand Chancellor hotel over the 24th to the 26th of March and who should turn up to make a presentation in their Project Showcase, but Geoff Ellett from Access Elevators. Along with the designer of the Christchurch Wind generators and detail of engineering in Afganastan as it rebuilds, Geoff Ellett gave an entertaining 20 minute Powerpoint insight into his unique water hydraulic lift. It seems a few engineers have them in their house by the response that came up to Geoff to relate their good experience with his units. LEC has just completed overseeing installation of 3 units into the local Mairehau High School.

WANTED! GENERAL MANAGER

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THIS IS MY EXCUSE FOR BEING LATE THIS MONTH:

YOUR GOVERNMENT AT WORK REFORMING THE BUILDING ACT FOR YOU:

Are you awaiting the outcome of the Building Bill with baited breath, well here we have the latest, the BIA has just released a discussion paper on the accreditation of Building Consent Authorities (BCA's).

Yes, BCA is the name endowed on entities undertaking building consent and certification activities.

Phew its hard keeping up with all these acronyms oozing out of the seemingly endless MOC's, MED's, JBC's, BOINZ, BRANZ, ERMA, all putting their 2 penneth worth in to assist the Building Industry over its Weathertightness crises, and obviously now, every other aspect of the building industry.

As you are probably aware, I have tried to add my penny's worth by providing copious amounts of fee-less time and opinion from my perspective as an independent lift consultant, to try and assist in the D2 Mechanical Access area of the Building Code. And so some 10 years ago, I went through the peer reviews and certification processes at some cost and time, to provide a little credibility as a D2 Building Certifier. I also wanted to show to others it was possible for a well experienced but minimally qualified individual to be accepted as a Building Certifier.

ie. Bring some workface experience to the Governance of lifts within the building industry, of which there is little. And so I move on to my experience of the multitude of organisational and appointment changes over the last while.

The first experience was when I reapplied for annual re-certification in January, where I duly completed all the insurance and bond confirmations put in place 10 years previous by my insurance broker, and which had been reviewed annually without change except for a mighty good premium increase each year.

The new appointee wanted all the documentation I could gather together on the insurance policy, along with a recommendation that to issue building certificates without current approval is a serious matter, and would be treated as such. Subsequently I notice on the BIA site that my certification had expired and my local TA wishes to know if I've gone out of business.

Thank God we are only small businessmen and live on crusts, what are a few crumbs out of our income, we could always apply for the dole if the family gets hungry. They have been looking a bit fat lately!

Subsequent to-ing and fro-ing between myself, my

Broker and the new appointee, resulted in a letter dated the 2nd of April accepting the insurance as it basically was, with a few small clause change requests, and a further limiting on my project value overhead by a third.

Oh I forgot. The approval expiry date was slipped back to the 1st of October 2004. But unlike the parking meter, I wonder if I'll get a refund for time expired, which will now total half a year, and my insurance is up or renewal soon! I wonder how much it will go up this year when they hear of all this inconvenience put to them.

On the 2nd of April a letter arrived from the new Chief Executive John Ryan, headed "Review of Scheme of Insurance".

Well I'll be, what a coincidence!

It begins, "As you are aware a number of issues have arisen in recent months concerning the scheme of Insurance"

Well I'll be, he must not have been around when these issues were discussed years ago and a compromise was necessary in the insurance specification. Anyway they can always keep us BC's expired, it was a good thing they didn't expire the BCA's!

In case you are unaware you got it from here, **Don Hunn** has agreed to lead the review, and of course another file of discussion papers will be distributed for interested parties to put forward their views. I wonder why they didn't listen last time?

Do you think the Insurance companies will bother, they're on a pretty wicket with the status quo, and whatever other quo or step out clause you come up with at present. Why doesn't someone review the value of insurance companies, better still, why not let the Government cover the BCA's, they would make a lot of money for nothing.

Just on a sad endnote. I just had a call from my good old review appointee; he was calling to let me know that a new appointee would be taking up the reins as he was off to the meat industry. Probably pays better, anyway it was good to get to know him, and we may cross paths again one day.

This is just to fill the space, as the sun sets at Wigram after a great day in Wanaka at the 2004 airshow.



THE BLACK ENGINEERING POOL LIFT:

What better way to provide access to the pool for those with limited mobility.

Mark Law and Graeme Ellis of Black Engineering Ltd have been working with waterpower for some 15 years.

Some of the first lifts were water powered. Back in 1889 in Sydney the Suburban Hydraulic Power Company first laid mains to supply high pressure water to metropolitan Sydney to power wool presses and goods lifts.

The company became an agent for electric Westinghouse lifts, which finally made the water lift obsolete. Since then EPL, Lend Lease Elevators, and today in the New Zealand market, KONE Elevators Pty Ltd has evolved.

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