



## Remembering Pre-COVID Times: Work Christmas Parties

### Client Services:

- General advice in relation to all employee-related issues
- Resolving Personal Grievances and Workplace Disputes
- Employment Agreements - drafting and negotiation
- Employment Relations Authority/Employment Court and Mediation Representation
- Employment Relations Strategies
- Training
- Monthly newsletter

It has been another hectic year, so we have scoured the internet for some interesting Christmas Party anecdotes to lighten the mood. Needless to say, we do not condone such behaviour, nor can we establish the veracity of the statements made. Of course if any such behaviour occurs at your own Christmas Party, we are happy to assist.

### Hypnotist Hijinks

*"Some years ago, we had our Christmas party at a local hotel and had some entertainment including a hypnotist. He asked for volunteers, and several people went on stage. He went through the process of hypnotising them and ended up with several people in the state of hypnosis. The hypnotist then told them there was a big pile of hundred-dollar bills in front of them, and they could have all they could carry away. One of our employees immediately pulled her dress up and starting stuffing imaginary money into her panty hose. Yikes! He managed to stop her, but not before about 1,000 people looked on in amazement. She was a good sport about it, and we decided not to hire a hypnotist in the future."*

### Swimming with the Sharks

*"We had our holiday party on a barge whose top floor was rented out to a different company... One of the female party goers from that party had had way too much to drink before the meal was even served. Between dinner and dessert, she stumbled down the flight of stairs... The next thing you know we heard her screaming, 'Fine then! I'll just go,' and she jumped overboard into waters we all know were shark-infested. Her date, knowing there was no way she could survive given how drunk she was (not even considering the sharks), emptied his pockets and jumped in after her. They had to stop the barge, call the police, and end the trip for the rest of us. No idea what happened to the jumpers and I didn't get any dessert, but at least I have a good story to tell!"*

### Costume Conundrum

*"I wore an ugly Christmas sweater, red plaid slacks and reindeer earrings while everyone else was in their work clothes (suits). I stood out like a sore thumb for sure. People had told me they dress Christmassy for the party, but what they had meant was red ties with a snowman tie pin or snowflake jewellery. Little details like that. No one told me that Christmassy meant 'add an almost unnoticeable amount of Christmas to your normal outfit.' I embraced it though and made a point of being extra cheerful to everyone around."*

### Flaming Good Food

*"We were a party of about 15 in All Bar One, which was filled with other office parties. It was a sit-down Christmas dinner and, after the main course and cracker pulling, I wiped my mouth with a large cloth napkin and accidentally put it down on a lit tealight. It caught on fire immediately – there were flames and smoke and the waiter was hitting it with a cloth and throwing jugs of water as people gasped in terror. I was absolutely mortified – I scurried off to the toilets during the pandemonium and never returned."*



## Disclaimer:

This newsletter is not intended as legal advice but is intended to alert you to current issues of interest. If you require further information or advice regarding matters covered or any other employment law matters, please contact **Dean Kilpatrick, Jane Taylor or Deborah Hendry.**

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Hello! My name is Deborah Hendry and I have recently joined the team here at MGZ Employment Law. I started my career in a specialist employment law firm here in Christchurch and have specialised in employment law ever since.

I have acted for clients on a number of different employment law issues, including: raising and defending against personal grievance claims; dealing with wage arrears claims; attending disciplinary meetings, mediations and Employment Relations Authority hearings for both employees and employers; and assisting with restructure processes. I like to take a pragmatic approach to assist clients to resolve any disputes that arise.

When I am not in the office you will find me searching for beautiful scenery to photograph, lifting weights at the gym or looking after my turtle and axolotl.



# Employment Relations Practice Course

We will be setting dates for our first course shortly, however we can take expressions of interest from clients who wish to attend

Topics covered include:

- Pre-employment
- Dealing with absences from the workplace
- Discipline and Termination
- Performance Management
- Holidays Act
- Parental Leave
- Negotiations and Good Faith
- Redundancy and Restructuring
- Introduction to Health and Safety
- Policies
- Legislative Updates

Further information in regard to the course content can be found on our website – [www.mgz.co.nz/training](http://www.mgz.co.nz/training)

## CHRISTMAS SHUTDOWN

The offices of MGZ Employment Law will be unattended from midday on Wednesday 22 December 2021 until Monday 10 January 2022.

If you require assistance during this time please contact us on the following numbers:

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