

## Renshaw victims balk at meeting

By: HAWKINS Barry

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Some creditors will not go to a meeting to be addressed by fraudster Patrick Renshaw because they feel they are being "set up" for a television documentary.

Keith Morgan, a creditor and former close friend of Renshaw, today described the invitation-only meeting as bizarre. Renshaw, a former solicitor, is to be released from Rimutaka Prison on Wednesday. He will have served 32 months of a seven-year sentence on 42 fraud and theft charges totalling \$6.4 million of clients' funds.

The meeting with people he took money from will be in Upper Hutt on Saturday. Mr Morgan said creditors had been told a Christchurch company was making a documentary on white-collar crime and Saturday's meeting would be filmed.

"I have my doubts about what it is going to achieve, except perhaps to help make a documentary for someone," he said.

"It's bizarre. It's like a film set and we will be the actors. I doubt if I will be there," Mr Morgan said.

Deputy chairman of the **Renshaw Edwards** creditors group, Trevor Griffin, said he was not happy about the film crew and had not decided whether to attend. He understood about 75 creditors would be at the meeting.

Christchurch solicitor **Grant Cameron**, who has represented the group in its actions to recover creditors' money from the Law Society fidelity fund, denied the meeting was for the benefit of the documentary producer.

The meeting had been arranged because some creditors and Renshaw thought it would be good value to "get things back on track."

"It is probably a bit more for his (Renshaw's) psychological rebuilding than anything else," Mr Cameron said.

Renshaw's former partner Keith Edwards was jailed for six years for separate offending. It is understood he was released from jail several months ago and is living in Auckland.

Renshaw is believed to be planning to settle in Upper Hutt. He and his wife Lorraine divorced while he was in jail.

Mr Griffin was outraged that Renshaw was being released after serving fewer than three years of his sentence. "He should at least have been kept in until all the outstanding debts with the Law Society were settled."

Lawyers have paid out about \$16.3 million in claims from a special levy. The \$12.7 million owing is expected to be paid by the end of the month.

The **Renshaw Edwards** group, representing about 210 creditors, is to take separate court action to recover more than \$3 million in claims not admitted by the society, plus a further \$2 million in costs and lost interest.

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