



Crane Code of Practice Process Delayed

The final review meeting for the amended Crane Code of Practice did not take place before Christmas as had been planned. A number of reasons prevented the meeting but it's anticipated that it will happen in February.

The Code was the subject of intense advocacy by your Association after it was signed in 2007 by the then minister without final consultation with the Association and industry. We expressed confusion and disappointment at being denied the opportunity to contribute valuable industry experience and knowledge to the process. The draft Code also contained errors that we were anxious to correct before it was finally signed off.

The Association's members were active in their insistence at being able to contribute to the Code with thirty of them travelling to Wellington for meetings with officials. After the Association approached the minister directly our persistence allowed us the opportunity to contribute to a review. There followed productive meetings with the new managers that were appointed in the Department of Labour and who dealt with matters of interest to our industry. Unfortunately for us two of these people have now moved on.

Colin Meehan has been seconded to the Minister of Labour's office and Andrew Kear has moved to the Building Construction Industry Training Organisation. We wish them well in their jobs but work will continue to complete the review.

Members will receive a full report on our progress after we've been through the final review.

Department of Labour
TE TARI MAHI



From the Chief Executive

There is a requirement in the business plan for the Chief Executive to visit every region in a two-year period. In addition to looking after the Association I also work for the ITO, which covers not only the crane industry but scaffolding, rigging & industrial rope access and elevating work platforms. This ITO commitment has prevented me from visiting as many members as I'd like.

While I have managed the southern part of the South Island and Hawkes Bay, Manawatu, Bay of Plenty and the Waikato (since January 2008) I'm planning to complete the rest of the country. It would make planning easier if companies in North Auckland, Auckland, Taranaki, Marlborough and the West Coast would advise if they do not wish me to call. This applies to both Associate and Full members



Another opportunity: Crane Project of the Year

Here's another reminder that if you want the criteria for Crane Project of the Year please contact the office. To date we have expressions of interest from two companies to put in entries. This is a chance to show off your company's accomplishments

From the President

I hope you have all returned refreshed from the Christmas break or, if you have yet to take time off, that you enjoy it when you do.

2009 will be tough but I trust your company will stay busy. The Association executive is certainly busy, having already arranged meetings with officials. We also hope to meet the new Ministers in the first part of the year to establish a rapport.

It's early days to consider election of council officers for 2009-2010 but, because of interest and the need for continuity, any member contemplating standing is welcome to discuss attending a council meeting as an observer.

There will be some minor changes to the conference programme because of changed circumstances and it will be finalised at the first council meeting for 2009 on 24 February.

Malcolm McWhannell,
President

Newsletter of the

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New York Air Miracle - Crane Lifts Plane

Conference 2009

It was the good news plane crash this month - no one died, the pilot's the latest American hero and a crane operator on the spot took his lifter - and a camera for a bird's eye view.



Shortly before 6pm on a near-frozen Hudson River, divers and probes find the outline of US Airways flight 1549, an A320 Airbus. It crash-landed into the partially frozen Hudson River moments after hitting a flock of birds.

A couple of hours later, the aptly named 'Heavy Lift' joins the rescue. The Airbus had been dragged along the river bottom so it could be lifted and dropped onto a barge.

To date a total of 74 people have registered for the Association's conference on the Gold Coast. There are still display stands and sponsorship spots available and if you want one of these please contact our office for details. As mentioned by the President, the council will be finalizing the programme in February so if you want to sponsor anything now is the time to make contact.



CDs



More than five hours later, instead of the wind beneath its wings, it's slings and the aircraft rises from the depths. The five slings were made from synthetic yarn and others of their type were once used to raise pieces of the Titanic.

A few minutes later and an Airbus that should have landed hours ago in Charlotte, North Carolina comes up through the water and ice for air.

We have received another supply of the CD, *How to read load rating charts* and these can be ordered directly off the website. We have also just been advised that a shipment of a new CD titled, *How to set up cranes* is about to leave Australia. Once we receive them we will advise you and put the details on the website.

Crane Register

In February the Chief Executive will be contacting all companies for them to update their details for publishing in the crane register. The register is complementary to members and \$10 for non-members



Airborne again, and hanging in the air beneath the heavy lifter for nearly an hour, it's inched towards a waiting barge. Later, investigators would find chewed up bird flesh and feathers in the right engine.

Done! And the end of an interesting day's work for the crane operator and a big support crew who will dine out on the experience for years to come. The lifters were Joe Super and Sons of New York.

Tell all about it

Do you have news of interest to Crane Association members? Tell us about it. Dispatches is interested in lifting triumphs, business successes and topics of relevance to the industry.