



Conferences – 2008 & 2009

The first registration is in for the 2008 Crane Association conference to be held in Wellington on the 17th and 18th of July at the Duxton Hotel. As the President mentioned in his column this month (see right), this is a welcome early start that always begins as a trickle and then builds during the year.

We remind you that we will book your accommodation with the Duxton Hotel but you need to pay the hotel directly for your accommodation when you check out.

Conference 2009 - Offshore?

Malcolm has also mentioned the discussions that took place at last year's conference in Christchurch. We discussed the possibility of holding the 2009 annual conference offshore.

While on holiday recently on the Gold Coast I took the opportunity to visit some local hotels capable of staging a conference for our expected numbers, to view the facilities and discuss prices.

More information about this possibility of an offshore conference will be coming out in the next few days seeking members' opinions. We ask that you respond to it promptly because that will give the council an early indication of the feeling of the membership to the proposal.

2009 Australian Crane Conference

Details of the 2009 Crane Industry Council of Australia's conference have been posted to their web site: www.cica.com.au

For ease of reference, there is no offshore contemplated for them this year. It's being held at Hotel Sofitel, Melbourne on 4th and 5th September 2009.

Once the programme and registration forms are finalised and made available we will advise everyone.

Conference - attending this year's, planning 2009 already

2008/2009 Crane Register

Companies have responded enthusiastically to our request for updates to the 2008/9 Crane Register.

This early response means we will probably be able to print and get copies of the register out a little earlier than in the past. If you haven't already done so please send your listing back as soon as you can – even if you have no change to report.



Tower crane topples

New Yorkers are being reassured that tower cranes are safe, as rescuers search through the rubble of a town house crushed by a toppling crane. Four construction workers were killed in the accident.

The crane was about to be extended 45 stories high. It's one of 250 such cranes operating in New York City at present.

From the President

The conference programme and registration forms have gone out and already we've received a registration from someone who hasn't attended before. That's a positive start!

It's recognised that while the programme may not suit all we're confident that it'll provide the platform for good discussions. Suggestions for 2009 would be welcomed at any time – in fact the earlier the better as this helps the council plan.

As discussed at the 2007 conference in Christchurch enquiries have been made into holding the 2009 conference offshore and some preliminary details will be sent out shortly for initial indications of interest. The matter is on the programme on the second morning of the conference and, no doubt, there'll be a healthy debate at the AGM on the Friday afternoon.

*Malcolm McWhannell,
President*

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Bridges and Over-weight Vehicles

The Industry Code of Practice that's used to "certify" drivers to travel over certain bridges where there are restrictions, for example, crawl and offset, imposed by Transit New Zealand is now some years old.

The Code was developed in conjunction with the New Zealand Heavy Haulage Association. At that time we undertook to Transit NZ that we would look at the development of a Unit Standard after the Unit for BESS was in place. With that about to happen we'll contact officials shortly to discuss the development of this new Unit Standard.

Bridge Engineering Supervision

We have been talking about bridge engineering self supervision for a considerable time and now we can report that the exercise has almost been completed.

The Unit Standard has been registered and the training documentation is receiving its final touches. As we have pointed out in the past, Opportunity – The Training Organisation will not be registering assessors for this Unit Standard.

Any assessor wishing to assess the unit will have to contact Tranzqual and comply with all of their requirements.

Member Visits

The Chief Executive completed the first round of visits to members in mid-February. He provided a summary of contacts made and his discussions to the council for their meeting on 26th February.

The next part of the programme consists of visiting members located in the bottom part of the South Island, starting in Invercargill and finishing in Christchurch, in early May.

When dates and towns are finalised we'll advise members and any not wanting to be included in the round of visits should let us know.



Meetings with Ministers

Your Association will meet

with two key ministers at the Beehive as part of our advocacy work with politicians.

They are, after all, the people who either set the rules or sign them off after their departments write them.

We have managed to arrange meetings with the Hon. Trevor Mallard, Minister of Labour and Harry Duynhoven,

Minister of Transport Safety, on the same day (8 April).

Some of the issues that will be raised in our meetings include

the Code of Practice for Cranes and the considered view that it should only cover machines designed specifically as cranes.

We'll also use the opportunity to raise related amendments that membership have told us need to be made.



Hon. Trevor Mallard,
Minister of Labour.

With the Minister of Transport Safety we'll be discussing log-book exemptions, work time and drivers licence endorsements. That is, the W drivers licence endorsement that is required for all terrain cranes.

In these ever-changing times it is vital that we establish and maintain a link to the politicians of all parties so that we have a better chance of working with the authorities on matters that affect our industry. It is one of the prime benefits of Crane Association membership - a voice at the top table.

New members choose to join of the Association

We welcome the following new members:

Full members:

- Pollock & Sons Crane Hire Ltd

Associate members:

- Albert Hutterd



A downtown Wellington project gets into the air as L. T. McGuinness works on the Chews Lane rebuild. Members with photos of their work are welcome to submit them for publication.