



AGM for 2007 an outstanding success.

2007 Conference report

The Crane Association's annual general meeting for 2007 was an outstanding success.

The July conference in Christchurch attracted more than two hundred attendees, the largest I've organized on behalf of the Association. Well done all!

I would like to record my heartfelt thanks to all those who made it happen. Without the assistance of council, the staff at the hotel, the suppliers of services and most important of all the members it would not be possible to run a successful conference.

We had so much interest in Council there had to be an election, the first in twelve years. The Crane of the Year Project was popular, with skilled and interesting entries.

The recreational side went well - and now we have started thinking about next year's conference. Any suggestions of items to be included for 2008 are most welcome.

The dates look likely to be 16th to 18th July.

This year's big attendance shows we have outgrown the smaller venues and need to find larger ones. The big unknown is how many attendees there'll be next year and there's no guarantee that we can attract the same numbers. However, if we presume that we do attract at least the same numbers as this year - we're rapidly outgrowing many venues.

Although delegates at the Christchurch conference opted for the council to look at the possibility of holding next year's event in Tauranga, the preliminary costings and venue availability has now been looked at and it is unfortunate but Tauranga has had to be ruled out for a variety of reasons.

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2007/2008 Council

There was an election for council, the first in 12 years, that resulted in 2 new councillors (one is returning for another stint) and the council, for the next 12 months is:

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| • Malcolm McWhannell
(President) | • Gordon Stone
(Vice President) |
| • Robert Carden
(Immediate Past President
& Assoc. members rep.) | • Dick Parsons
(ITO nominee) |
| • Giff Linder
(Assoc. Members rep.) | • Mark Clayton |
| • Tony Gibson | • Craig McIntosh |
| • Doug Sargeant | • Tristan Williams |

From the President

This is my first newsletter as President and I start by extending a sincere thank-you to former president, Robert Carden, for his great work during his 2 years. I know that this will be a hard act to follow but please be assured that I'll do my utmost to serve the membership well. I also extend the members' appreciation to John Miller and Ken Drury for their contributions as councillors. The election at the AGM was the first for council that has taken place in over 12 years and indicates to us that the Association's in good heart with people willing to put their hands up to serve. Thanks to you all.

I've been in the position for about 3 weeks, but already there are issues requiring council's and members' attention and I know there will be continuing support. The council will be busy for the next 12 months.

Malcolm McWhannell,
President

Newsletter of the

CRANE ASSOCIATION
OF NEW ZEALAND INCORPORATED
21-23 Andrews Ave, Lower Hutt
PO Box 30 074, Lower Hutt
New Zealand
Telephone: 04 569 9799
Facsimile: 04 569 6969
Email: info@cranes.org.nz
www.cranes.org.nz



Code of Practice for Cranes

The Association has made a direct approach to the Minister of Labour to express serious concerns held by members over the newly instituted Code of Practice.

This issue has been pressed with the Department of Labour, to no avail, for many months.

In our direct approach to the Minister we sought to have the Code withdrawn until the errors of substance that we were aware of were rectified.

The Minister has recognized our concerns and, while not withdrawing the Code, has asked us to make the "errors" known to the Department.

Currently there are a number of sub-committees looking at each of the sections and all of these details will be consolidated into one document to be sent to the Minister.

If you have read the Code and have identified problems, please tell our office straight away or let one of the councillors know. Our approach to the Minister is our last chance to have an influence on this matter.

Crane Project of the Year award

There was the largest number of entries in the project of the year award for 2007 and because of the very high quality of these the judges had difficulty in deciding on the winning entry. The entries were from:

Culham Engineering Whangarei

- for the moving and placing of a "cyclone" (to extract dust and gasses from a preheater tower) from their yard in Whangarei to Golden Bay Cement Co

Brian Perry Civil, Auckland

- for the extension of the wharf complex at Marsden Point

Daniel Smith Industries, Rangiora

- for the new rail bridge and removal of the old bridge over the Grey river in Greymouth

Verticon New Zealand Ltd, Auckland

- a world first for the tallest free standing luffing tower crane (76.5 metres)

Titan Cranes Ltd, Auckland

- for the erection of a new rail bridge at Henderson, Auckland.

The winning entry was the Daniel Smith Industries project and congratulations are extended to all involved.

What this shows is that our members undertake many skilled and complex tasks and by placing an entry in the competition they display their achievements and lift the standards for all of us..

Opportunity Training

The ITO has its own board and, soon, will have its own newsletter, but already, it has students who have completed National Certificates in Piling.

This is a great effort considering that the Unit Standards and National Certificate were only registered in 2006.

It shows what can be done when people are dedicated.

The ITO offers National Certificates and National Diplomas in a variety of disciplines that will guarantee a future, skilled work force for the industry. Most of the training is done on-the-job

We congratulate those who successfully completed the certificate:

- | | |
|--------------|-----------------|
| • Pat Palmer | • John Sullivan |
| • Paul Muir | • Len Sabin |

Opportunity

Skills Build Futures



Conference 2007 report

contd.

We have also investigated the options of Hamilton (the Novotel Tainui and site of the 2002 conference); New Plymouth (we last visited there in 1996); Palmerston North (last visit was 1988) - but in each case we have had to rule them out if the numbers wishing to attend are similar or greater than this year, we would not be able to accommodate them.

Finally we have now looked at 3 hotels in Wellington and accepted an offer to hold the conference on Thursday 17th & Friday 18th July at the Duxton Hotel in Wellington.

The dust may still be settling from this year's conference but anyone with items that they would like included in next year's programme should provide the details to our office.

The contested Council, calibre of Project entries, full turnout and support for the aims of the Association bode well for us all.

Ian Grooby
Chief Executive.

