



Information Item	COVID-19: how are CANZ members managing?
Sponsor:	CEO
Date:	July 2020

July 2020

COVID-19: how are CANZ members managing?

It's not all doom and gloom. That's the view of some Crane Association of New Zealand Members post-COVID-19. And while the lockdown has been a mixed bag for some these past few months, some are positive for the industry's future.

Tim Smith

Smith Crane & Construction
Managing Director

How did you manage your time through the lockdown?

Managed my time with a bit of work and few chores around home.

What have been some of your reflections, from this situation?

Busy as hell and now very keen to get back to work.

Post COVID-19 what does the future hold for you, your company and that of the wider Crane industry?

Oh, pretty positive so far. We've got lots and lots of things going on, so we're pretty good. I think the industry's future is looking pretty positive. There's lots of construction projects going on for us – I bought another four or five cranes since lockdown, so things must be happening. I could probably employ another 20 people; she's not all doom and gloom from my angle.

Chris Diack

Diack Bros
Director

How did you manage your time through the lockdown?

We managed our time very quietly, we managed essential work that had to be done in the Hawke's Bay area.

What have been some of your reflections, from this situation?

We didn't really see any difference at all when we came back to work.

Post COVID-19 what does the future hold for you, your company and that of the wider Crane industry?

We hope that the crane industry will be the same as it was before COVID-19. Napier is not a big place, and things don't change very much down here in Napier. Everybody went to sleep and then woke up again a month later. We'd just like to get back to business as usual, because it just happens to be a little bit quieter this time of year.

Daniel Wallace

Hydralift Crane Hire

Managing Director

How did you manage your time through the lockdown?

Sadly, we had no productive work to do, no income raising work. So, just spent most of time with family – thoroughly enjoyed that, but hope not to have to repeat that. Not because of spending too much with family, just because of the financial situation.

What have been some of your reflections, from this situation?

Initially, it was quite a bit of a scary time when it came to the crunch. I think, government-wise, it was handled pretty well or should I say 'so we thought'. There might be a few background things that we might hear about one day. But it appeared, by all accounts, to be managed well, certainly by the government who were pretty informative. We've made such great progress until very recently but hopefully we don't have any major return to the lockdown scenario.

Post COVID-19 what does the future hold for you, your company and that of the wider Crane industry?

We're going to be holding down pretty tight for a while just to see how the local economy reacts to it and what goes on. We're very winery-based here with our workload throughout the year. I think it's going to be fairly tight over this foreseeable future; just how long it lasts is really anyone's guess. As for the crane industry, nationwide, I don't know. I certainly hope for all our members that everyone's getting through alright. We're hanging in there and I think we will continue to hang in there. Hopefully, the overall economy bounces back reasonably well, and quickly.

CJ Mahony

Director

Agtrans Ltd

How did you manage your time through the lockdown?

We continued working on a reduced capacity. From a staffing point of view, we only had one staff member choose to completely remain at home - all the other staff did, roughly, three half days a week each on a rotating basis. So, everyone got a turn outside of their house.

What have been some of your reflections, from this situation?

One thing our management team have talked about quite a bit is we were very much a digital business, paperless, before this crisis. And there was very little we had to do or change to be able to operate. We noted that a lot of our customers that we worked with had a phenomenal upheaval in how they did things. Whereas being a bit more digital and paperless from day one, there was very few issues for us from that point of view.

Post COVID-19 what does the future hold for you, your company and that of the wider Crane industry?

I'm not sure, I really am not sure. I think there may be some consolidation; I'm not sure if all of the competition to us in this area will survive.

Jason Dennison

Director

JD Rigging Services

How did you manage your time through the lockdown?

I chased my kids around, it was good. And I actually got some rest; the first two weeks were brilliant because we were doing 90-hour weeks right up until lockdown. And then everyone started wondering whether they'd have a job or not.

What have been some of your reflections, from this situation?

Personnel was a hard task, it was quite hard to keep them happy.

Post COVID-19 what does the future hold for you, your company and that of the wider Crane industry?

Short-term it looks pretty positive here, especially here in Wellington because there are a lot of building going on. We had a couple of layoffs the near the beginning of the lockdown, but now we're back to the point where we don't have enough staff again. Hopefully, it's a good problem to have. That's why short-term, yes, we'll be pretty good because we had a lot of long-term jobs going anyway. Everybody's come back into work and they're actually quite excited about being back at work and you see the production from everybody. As for the wider industry, it seems pretty good as far as I see and those I've spoken to. They're all out working but we still don't have enough staff in our industry.

Newsletter Disclaimer:

The information in any CANZ newsletter is for general use only. The information has been provided by CANZ and by third parties including CANZ members. While CANZ has reasonably endeavoured to provide accurate information, neither CANZ nor the third parties provide any guarantees regarding the correctness, currency, completeness or suitability of the information for any particular purpose. It should not be relied on in place of appropriate specific advice or verification. Opinions provided by third parties on any matter do not necessarily represent the opinion or policy of CANZ.

The newsletter also contains promotional information about third parties and their products and services, including references to CANZ sponsors, and links to third party websites. CANZ does not endorse third party products or services, and any dealings with third parties, including accessing their websites, will be at the user's sole risk.