



Word from the President

December 2020

Welcome to my last column for 2020 – it has been a year of challenges, uncertainty, and more importantly, adaptability.

And thankfully, the year ahead is paved with opportunities to further strengthen the crane industry.

With that in mind, I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge all our members and the wider construction industries' commitment to providing such incredible service during the COVID-19 uncertainty.

The CANZ Council recently had its second face-to-face meeting – the first one since the pandemic hit – in Auckland which was a good opportunity for the councillors to meet Sarah.

Sarah is doing an excellent job of getting out and about to meet members, so I encourage you to continue taking the time to speak with her.

Those conversations – straight from the horse's mouth, effectively – about what your expectations are and what you need from the Association to support you are imperative to our future direction.

The Council meeting was also a good opportunity to solidify said direction, thanks in large part from your ongoing feedback. So, keep it coming.

There are new regulations on the horizon which will replace the current "PECPRs", being the Plant and Structure Regulations.

It is likely that cranes will be categorised as a high-risk activity. The Association will be consulting with government to ensure that there is a fit for purpose outcome for our industry.

A very exciting development has been the crane industry's eligibility for funding following the Government's announcement of the \$380 million Apprenticeship Boost Fund which supports employers to retain and take on new apprentices.

Work done by CANZ and Skills NZ has resulted in crane training being included. This means training is free of charge for Level 3 and Level 4 certificates. There are some conditions but most of our members would be eligible.

I urge all members to take up the opportunity to undertake more training and develop your team.

One of the benefits of being the Association's President is having my finger on the pulse', and it seems that there is a reasonable volume of work still out there with more on the horizon as our industry helps lift the economy out of its recession.

Please, be aware that the most prudent thing to do is to continue providing an excellent service and at a reasonable rate. The only people who will get harmed if we start cutting our prices is ourselves.

And one last small reminder that our subscriptions for the year are due. We've received many already, which we greatly appreciate.

However, if there is uncertainty about the value of your membership, or there are any issues surrounding accounts, please speak with Sarah.

Stay safe out there throughout the Christmas break, whether you're working or holidaying. Hopefully, the start of 2021 will mean the beginning of a return to a slightly better business as usual.

Tony Gibson
President

Crane Association of New Zealand