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Word from the President

- **Tony Gibson**

The Crane Association's new Chief Executive, Sally Dunbar, and Immediate Past President, Scott McLeod, had a very beneficial visit to Australia in recent weeks.

Visiting the Crane Industry Council of Australia (CICA), the pair were quite impressed by their operating licencing system, called Crew Safe.

CICA expressed an offer to assist us devise a similar platform, so we will continue to keep you updated with our ongoing progress.

The 2019 CANZ Conference, scheduled for July 17-19, is to be held at the Marlborough Convention Centre in Blenheim.

It will be a celebration of all the hard graft that goes on throughout our industry, so if you haven't registered yet, do so now as registrations are nearly full.

Conference accommodation is split over two hotels – the Scenic Hotel Marlborough and the Chateau Marlborough, both of which are within walking distances of the venue.

For those of you who don't know, we have one of the best business MCs in the New Zealand conference and events market taking care of us – Greg Ward.

And keynote speaker, Mike Allsop, will inspire us to plan, plan, plan – as the title of his talk suggests.

An airline pilot, Everest mountaineer, adventurer and extreme marathon competitor, he has narrowly dodged a fatal avalanche in Peru, risked being shot in Russia, and returned a replica of a stolen Yeti hand to a monastery in Nepal.

Also, a member has put up a remit which will be circulated next month for you all to consider.

And please remember that an election of councillors is to be held at the AGM, so we're asking for people to support the Association and get involved.

On to other matters – myself and Managing Director of Transport Specifications Ltd, Mike Brown, attended an Axle Weight Loading Advisory Group (AWLAG) meeting held by the LTSA.

There, the New Zealand Transport Agency (NZTA) staff seemed to be a bit despondent with the current Government.

However, they are focused on appointing an industry liaison representative, which is great for us. Because as some of you will have experienced, it is difficult navigating your way into different regulatory departments.

But, hopefully, this industry liaison representative will remedy that situation.

Their other focus is on safer journeys and journey travel time. So, they were planning on aggregating maintenance contractors to undertake work simultaneously to avoid congestion.

This was trialled on the Rimutaka Hill Road, closing it for eight consecutive nights rather than three months of stop/go activity.

We are still working through the Swept Path issues with the AWLAG. But all parties involved want to get this right, so we will keep you informed with updates in the future.

To finish off, be aware the North Canterbury Weigh-in-motion is now up and running at the Glasnevin weigh station.

You might remember this follows NZTA's six to eight month Weigh Right Trial in November 2016, testing heavy vehicle weight compliance technologies.

That's it for now, so until next month.

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