



Information Item	Passion for industry hasn't lost its spark
Sponsor	CEO
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### Passion for industry hasn't lost its spark

"Shut up and listen."

That's what Grant Moffat – who received a Life Membership Award at the latest Crane Association of NZ's (CANZ) 2019 conference – would have told his younger self.

"That would be my life lesson; there are many people within the crane industry who are quite strong-minded, passionate and arrogant – in a good way. Tenacity is also high.

"We all value our own opinion maybe more than we should, especially myself – I've been guilty of saying something before thinking. But the collective knowledge of our industry is hugely invaluable."

Investing more than 27 years in the industry, Grant started out as a diesel mechanic for Albert Smith Industries.

Finishing his apprenticeship, he was then sent to Guam in Micronesia before heading to Tiwai Point at the bottom of the South Island.

Now aged 44, his passion for the industry hasn't lost its spark – he put his hand up again to join the CANZ Council: "simply to share the passion and to keep people honest."

"I hate people who sit on the side lines and whinge, if you've got something to say then get involved – which is why I've tried to lead by example, I guess."

But it hasn't been without its struggles.

Taking over the CANZ presidency in March 2011 after the Christchurch earthquake when then President Tristan Williams stood down, the industry was dealt a blow when then Chief Executive Ian Grooby passed away in 2013.

"So, not only were we completing a restructure of what was an ITO and Association joined together – which was uncomfortable – but we were also dealing with the loss of your one and only staff member and leader of the Association for many years. It was very hard."

Despite losing one of the industry's greatest players, Grant says the Association is in good hands – thanks in part to an open-door policy.

Throughout his career, there have always been people willing to share their experiences and knowledge. And Grant has always reciprocated.

"I know a lot of people who have asked for help and there have been plenty of times where we've asked for help, too.

"One of the things I used to say when I led the Council was 'leave your company hat at the door – it's about the industry.' And that was the mentality that we always try to portray.

"If anybody rings, we're always willing to help in any way we can."

As for winning his recent Life Membership Award, it left him speechless.

"I'm not great with words but it was definitely something special; it made me speechless there for a little bit as I gathered my thoughts.

"But it wouldn't have been possible without the huge support from my wife and kids. As well as the support from my employer, HEB Construction Ltd, who encourages my involvement to better the industry for all.

"But it's also really important that we acknowledge the people before us, there are a number of Life Members who were there before us – 1975.

"And I would hate for them to think that their life memberships were devalued by the younger guys coming on. I think it's important to acknowledge the work that has been achieved in the past, but also acknowledge that the intent, sentiment, passion and feeling is still there.

"It may look different it may feel different but – believe me – it's still there. And in going forward, the Association is going to be strong and what we do, we do for the right the reasons."

Grant Moffat  
HEB Construction Ltd

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