

Readers Letters



New standards in New Zealand

November 18th 2015

Dear Members

The EWPA are pleased to advise industry that the REVOCATION of the Approved Code of Practice for Power-Operated Elevating Work Platforms is now complete. The ACOP was superseded by the Best Practice Guidelines for Mobile Elevating Work Platforms in August 2014. It is important all of industry recognise this important change and the existence of the Industry Best Practice Guidelines. Please share this announcement when and where appropriate.

A copy of the official notice of revocation can be viewed here - <https://gazette.govt.nz/notice/id/2015-au6655>

Best Regards,

Phil

P D Tindle | CEO

Elevating Work Platform Association of New Zealand (Inc.)

Web: www.ewpa.org.nz

Nice finance

Liked the finance article in the latest mag - Mr Eisenberg is infamous and has been around the block a few times - but the fact that he has had as many failures should not be held against him as this is when you learn the most. Those that have never failed or faced the depressing choices that business failure usually offers are short on experience and not fully rounded. One thing I do know is that he has managed to get finance many times that others could not and sadly to say in the past for some who should not have had it at all. But on the one side that shows skill, maybe misdirected but skill all the same. I think he has benefited from all that and is the better for it. But most of all I thought that this was a good article - simple to read, thought provoking and useful. I would like to see more simple guides to subjects like this.

We responded to this asking if we might use the email in our letters section and was told that we could but that he would rather that we not disclose his identity as he did not want to "get those people who hold a different view on Mr Eisenberg on his back". While we did not have his full details anyway we did ascertain that it was not from the articles author.

Oh and we do plan to run more articles like this so if you have any ideas on content please do let us know. Ed

Cranes recovered?

Dear Sir,

I was wondering if the two cranes that collapsed in Holland last month have been recovered yet? Would you happen to know how the recovery was undertaken? It would make a very interesting story for your website.

The two All Terrain cranes that went over in Alphen aan den Rijn in August, were finally recovered in October. A large floating crane was brought in, along with three large telescopic All Terrains from Mammoet. The two stricken cranes were then cut into sections and lifted on to barges by the floating crane. We are still hoping to receive more details on this recovery and will publish it in the magazine when we do. Ed

Better training for instructors

Dear Sir,

I have only just found time to catch up with my reading and my eye was caught by a letter in the September magazine from Craig A Ihde on the training of operators and his words struck a chord. I think he is right in much of what he says and I wonder how many of those who could change the system took notice? I would just like to add my voice to his call. Manufacturer's need to have training courses for instructors with tough practical and written tests at the end for instructors on a train the trainer basis but a test with real teeth. Those 'passing out' from the course would have a certification that really meant something. This would raise the standards throughout the industry. They also ought to be looking at tough courses for delivery drivers on safe loading and unloading and on conducting a proper handover.

If manufacturers provided these types of courses rather than duplicating the sort of training that rental companies already do, they would not only provide a very valuable service, but also learn a great deal about their machines in the process. Imagine if they had to put their reputations on the line to instruct drivers on safe unloading, tie-downs and other such things - they might also learn a little more about their own equipment and discover some points on their machines?

It strikes me that it has been a long time since we have seen any real progress in this area just more of the same thing. Anyway I just wanted to say I agree with Craig. Both about the above and also what he said about the magazine - nice work, always a good read.

Winston Henry

Charlotte, NC

Mr Henry makes a good point it. It would help though if manufacturers pooled their knowledge on this and ensured that their training and testing was as rigorous as each other, or rather it met a minimum standard. This is where one of the associations such as IPAF, ESTA and EWPA can make a very valid contribution.

Ed

Dear Ed,

Great cover picture on the latest Cranes & Access, shame the ones inside are so small, but good issue, keep up the good work.

Finn K



Patrick Van Seumeren

Patrick Van Seumeren R.I.P

The former chief operating officer of Mammoet, Patrick Van Seumeren, passed away on November 4th after a fight with cancer.

His mother, Henneke van Seumeren, was one of Jan van Seumeren's four children, which also included the boys Frans, Jan Jr and Roderik. Jan van Seumeren founded Van Seumeren Kraanbedrijf in 1966, which took over Mammoet in 2000 and eventually adopted the Mammoet name for the whole group. Frans Van Seumeren took over as chief executive from his father and when he was preparing to retire he appointed Patrick as chief executive describing him as "a commercial wizard, able to combine the technical with sales, making him a cornerstone of the business".

Patrick quit Mammoet along with his uncle and cousins in 2011. More recently he founded a charity for cancer sufferers - 'Stichting Weg Met Kanker' - or 'Out with Cancer'/Away With Cancer' - a play on words, which among other things supported those suffering from the disease by treating them to weekend breaks away in order to help them try and forget their illness for a few days.

In an interview he said: "Last year I was diagnosed with

cancer and I soon had the idea to do something positive with this bad situation, as the physical and mental pressure from the disease is very big. Suddenly everything seemed to be about treatments and results, while daily life continues uninterrupted around you."

"I found that taking a break away from it all was the best remedy for me, it was as though I was leaving the sickness behind me and found new energy for the next round of chemo. Not everyone is in a position to be able to afford what I did, so for those young and old, I started my foundation 'Stichting Weg Met Kanker'. The name says it all. Beyond the fact that we are working to fight to banish the cancer from our body, I would like others who otherwise would not have the means to get away from it for a few days to take a holiday trip. To get away from the environment of the hospital, away from the daily grind, together with loved ones to enjoy a fully catered weekend in one of the participating hotels. To recharge and gain the much-needed positive energy and strength."

We believe he was still in his 40s. His passing was certainly premature.

Falcon FS330Z

- * Working height of 33 meters
- * Reaches 19 meter at an up and over height of 11 meters
- * Wireless remote control of all functions

TCA LIFT
Tall Compact Aerial
The original Falcon Spider 29-52 m

www.tcalift.com

OVER FIFTY YEARS
50 YEARS
EXPERIENCE