



SEMAPHORE

Newsletter of the Maritime Law

Association of Australia and New Zealand



New Zealand Branch Conference

The New Zealand Branch held its annual conference on the 25th May 2018 on Waiheke Island. The conference began with a meet and greet drinks in the old ferry building overlooking the harbour on the Thursday evening.

For the second year running, the conference was held at the Goldie Estate, Waiheke's oldest vineyard, which again proved to be an excellent venue for a conference hosting 80 attendees.

The lead speaker for the conference was Professor Nick Gaskell of the TC Beirne School of Law, University of Queensland, who gave a presentation on "International Liability Compensation Regimes for Work and Passenger Claims". Nick gave the conference comprehensive analysis of New Zealand's accession to WRC 2007 and Athens.

"The Edge of Maritime Law Offshore, Energy and Mineral Exploration in New Zealand" was presented by Patrick Teagle, head of Commercial Legal, OMV New Zealand Limited, who presented the industry perspective. Peter Dawson provided insight into the effect of launching satellites into space on the shipping industry and the exclusion zones that apply, while Duncan Currie from Globe Law provided legal discussion, and Sibonne Quayle provided a Government perspective in respect of her position with the Environmental Protection Authority.

In keeping with the New Zealand Branch's encouragement of young maritime lawyers, Emily Fergusson, Hamish Parry and Richard Belcher all presented case studies of the highest quality.

Kerryn Webster discussed the MBIE's Insurance Contract Law Review that was currently underway and encouraged members to participate in the review.

Late afternoon involved the interaction of technology with maritime shipping and law with Andrew Colgan asking the question: "Are Autonomous\Unmanned Vessels Seaworthy?". His paper reviewed the legal obligations of ship owners to ensure their vessels were seaworthy, and if this can be achieved with no person on board.

In the last session of the day, the topical subject was the presentation of "Block Chain and Shipping". This rounded out the day with Simon Cartwright providing a legal perspective on what we may expect to see in the future. Ernest Young provided details of how Block Chains are currently being utilised, issues involved that still need to be ironed out, and what can be expected in the future as it may impact on shipping.

The AGM saw the retirement of our chair Kerryn Webster after a number of years of dedicated and quality leadership of the Branch, including representing the Branch as a vice-president of MLAANZ. Kerryn agreed to stay on the Branch Committee assisting Stacey Fraser with the secretarial and treasury duties. At the conclusion of the conference the work of both Kerryn and Stacey were formally acknowledged, and they were presented with a bouquet of flowers.

James Churchill was the recipient of the MLAANZ prize. Some students from the Maritime Law Course at Auckland University also attended the conference.

The annual dinner followed with a fantastic jazz band playing throughout the evening.

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