



SEMAPHORE

Newsletter of the Maritime Law

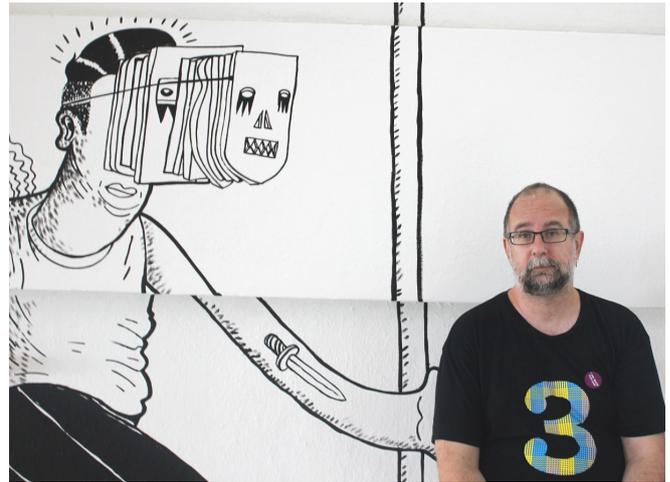
Association of Australia and New Zealand



Slinging My Hook to Singapore

I fell into admiralty by accident, as far away from the sea as is possible. A lecturer returned from London to the University of Pretoria with an evangelical zeal for maritime law. I took his LLM course, and I was hooked for life.

When I arrived in New Zealand fresh off the boat (ie plane, cf the New Zealand Court of Appeal decision in *Danzas v Halley Press*) in 1988, the Hague Rules were still in place and New Zealand had barely shrugged off the imp of the Colonial Courts of Admiralty Act. Tom Broadmore and Brad Giles were kind to me, and I was allowed to join the Maritime Law Association of Australia and New Zealand.



My association with the Association is now older than both of my children, and has significantly outlasted my marriage. It has provided me with the most amazing memories, and the most wonderful friends. It would be invidious to single out individuals, but I will probably never forget the elaborate indignities to which Frazer Hunt subjected the New Zealand flag at various CMI meetings. I could count on Pauline Barratt and Piers Davies to step in and teach my maritime law course at a moment's notice when I learned that my father had died half a world away. And there were many others who indulged my esoteric academic interests and kindly pretended that I knew what I was talking about.



It has been a privilege to teach maritime law, first at Victoria University of Wellington for 7 years, and then at the University of Auckland for 20 years. Despite German LLM students who thought that I was talking about "maritime lions", and New Zealand Vice-Chancellors who utterly failed to recognise the import of ports they could clearly spy from their ivory towers, I would echo the words of Professor David Sharpe who said: "There is nothing — absolutely nothing — half so much worth doing as simply messing about in Admiralty". I am profoundly and sincerely grateful for

MLAANZ's generous support of maritime law education in New Zealand by sponsoring a prize for the top students in my courses over the years. Many of those who won have gone on to do spectacular things, as have those who didn't. My only hope is that my former students don't try to enforce sea lions, or avidly arrest aircraft.

At the end of April, I take up my new role as Deputy Director of the Centre for Maritime Law at the National University of Singapore. If you are ever passing through that entrepôt, please do look me up. I promise you pratique, free berth and necessaries.

Paul Myburgh

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