



# SEMAPHORE

Newsletter of the Maritime Law

Association of Australia and New Zealand



## President's Message

As we head towards Christmas, the only way of ending the year confident that we have covered what needs to be done is to work to a list. So my apologies if this message reads a little like one.

### **Noosa 2016**

Those of you who attended the Noosa conference will, I believe, have thoroughly enjoyed both the conference sessions and the social events hosted by our Queensland members culminating in a beautiful headland walk (and attached selfie opportunity with Queensland chairperson Michael 'the Fish' Fisher, Kate Byrne, Richard Arrage, Fiona Cameron, Justin Hogan-Doran, Sergey Kinchin and Royale Thompson).



While the atmosphere was relaxed, there was real substance to the presentations. While we are grateful to all our speakers, I convey my thanks in particular to our academic members for their scholarly contributions. Professor Sarah Derrington framed the legal issues of the theme of our conference, Resources vs Reef, with her Dethridge Memorial address, 'Of Reefs & Men' which I am sure will be published in the MLAANZ journal in due course. Professor Nick Gaskell

and Associate Professor Kate Lewins made an important presentation in relation to one of our current projects, which is advocating adoption of the Athens Convention into Australian law. Engagement with government is on foot, and we are optimistic of progress this year.

In a similar vein, Professor Derrington presented on our Marine Insurance sub-committee's progress in promoting a MLAANZ Marine Insurance Amendment Act by way of response to the changes in marine insurance in the UK. Work is almost complete, and we will soon be approaching the Australian government.

The Federal conference presents a significant work-load to the local committee. While all play their part, I would particularly like to thank Michael Fisher and Rosemary Gibson at Thynne & Macartney for the many hours spent making this happen.

I also thank all our sponsors but in particular Clyde & Co, HWL Ebsworth and Clifford Chance who provided key funds in support of the conference, resulting in a modest profit which I propose we use to ensure it is all the more affordable to members next year.

***Call for Papers for Melbourne 2017***

Plans are already afoot for the conference in Melbourne. The proposed dates are 4-6 October 2017 so put those dates in your diary now. We have carefully avoided other legal conferences around that time with the aim of ensuring as many members as possible can make it to the conference. Aside from a first class programme, the Melbourne committee is also hoping to entice members on a Saturday trip to the Yarra Valley, so there is much to look forward to.

The board invites those with an interest in speaking at the Melbourne conference to submit an abstract (of less than 200 words please) as to their proposed title and subject-matter. Please submit your abstracts before 9 February 2017, as that is the date of the next board meeting.

***New Zealand Branch Conference 2017***

Meanwhile, the New Zealand branch has resolved to move its venue from Taupo up to Waiheke Island in 2017. Waiheke is well known to Kiwis as a beautiful island with its own micro-climate in the Hauraki Gulf. It produces some world class wines (I see a theme developing) and we will be hosted at the Goldie Vineyard. While Waiheke is only a short ferry ride from downtown Auckland, and most will return home at the end of the day, there should be plenty of accommodation available on the island for those who want to make a weekend of it.

***ICMA XX 2017 Copenhagen***

The Twentieth International Congress of Maritime Arbitrators (ICMA XX) will take place in Copenhagen, Denmark from 25 to 29 September 2017. Details are available on the MLAANZ website at [www.mlaanz.org](http://www.mlaanz.org) (and related articles are available here [1](#), [2](#), [3](#)).

***Law Reform***

In my September message I expressed concern over New Zealand's slow progress in adopting legislation enacting increased compensation in the event of oil pollution. Entirely coincidentally, a Maritime Transport Act Amendment Bill has been introduced into Parliament to address this very issue. Should members wish to make a submission, the deadline for submissions is 1 February.

I wish all members an enjoyable break over the Christmas period, and a prosperous 2017.

Neil Beadle  
President, MLAANZ

December 2016

