



SEMAPHORE

Newsletter of the Maritime Law

Association of Australia and New Zealand



Book Review

**Michael White, *Australian Maritime Law, 3rd edition*,
The Federation Press, 2014.
Australian RRP A\$225.**

When it comes to textbooks, no area of the law appears to be so well served as shipping law. Whether it is the succinctly expressed Scrutton on Charterparties or the breadth of the Lloyd's Maritime Law Library, few areas of the law can boast so many excellent texts.

I have an old copy of the second edition of Australian Maritime Law, edited by Dr Michael White QC and published in 2000. It has assisted as a useful starting point to get across various topics of shipping law. Michael is well known to MLAANZ members for his expertise in maritime law and for his numerous writings in the area. After extensive re-writing by Michael, the third edition of Australian Maritime Law was published earlier this year.

The third edition includes topics on Admiralty jurisdiction, arrest of ships, charterparties, carriage of goods, carriage of passengers, marine insurance, the Navigation Act 2012 (Cth), maritime labour law, collisions, salvage, wreck, towage, pilotage, pollution, piracy and prize (forgive the alliteration).

This does not read as a dry text book. Michael has injected a lot of information about shipping practices and trade. There is also a lot of very interesting history covered in some of the chapters. I particularly enjoyed reading the chapter on prize, which gives a potted summary of the history of Australian prize courts. I still await a brief in this jurisdiction.

The book does not delve too deeply into all maritime areas — that would be an impossible task in 700 pages. But it is a practical and readable discussion on aspects of shipping law that will cross most lawyers' desks. Michael is to be complimented on his hard work and dedication in this area.

Reviewed by Matthew Harvey.

Special offer (valid to August 31, 2014)

Publishers, The Federation Press, have kindly offered this valuable read to MLAANZ members at a discounted price of A\$185 (plus freight) for a limited period.

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