Vice-President’s Message

Dear Members

It is my pleasure to join the MLAANZ Board as New Zealand Vice-President. I look forward to working with the Board, and continuing to work with the New Zealand Branch Committee, in pursuing the objectives of the Association. By way of introduction, I am a lawyer at Wilson Harle, a commercial litigation firm based in Auckland. One of the firm’s areas of speciality is shipping law. I joined the New Zealand Branch Committee in 2011 and have been the secretary of the New Zealand Branch for the last 3 years.

The New Zealand Branch held its annual conference and AGM on 1 May 2015 at Lake Taupo with over 70 people attending. Thank you to everyone who contributed to another successful conference. The speakers were of a high calibre and presented on topics that were interesting and of value to those attending. Hennie van Schoor from Maersk NZ gave an informative presentation about “slow steaming” and the impact the slowdown of ships has on shipping industry stakeholders. Robert Springall, a partner at Holman Fenwick Willan in Melbourne, journeyed across the Tasman to speak to us about the APL Sydney case, involving a rupture of a gas pipeline in Port Phillip Bay, which was both factually interesting and legally significant. The impact of the proposed Health and Safety Reform Bill, presented by Darren Guard from Sealord and Keith Manch from Maritime New Zealand, provided an enlightening perspective from both industry and regulator viewpoints. Other presentations included advising mariners following a maritime casualty, an update on the Maritime Conventions Project which the NZ Branch has underway and summaries of recent maritime cases of interest. Copies of the presentations will shortly be available here. The conference concluded with the annual branch dinner which, as always, was a great night: an opportunity to catch up with old friends as well as become acquainted with new colleagues. I would like to extend our appreciation to John Lucas, of the Insurance Council, for capturing the conference and the equally important social events. Photos appear below.

At the AGM, Neil Beadle stepped down as Chair of the New Zealand Branch. We are very grateful to Neil for his hard work as Branch

[Image of Darren Guard discussing the industry perspective of the proposed Health and Safety Reform Bill]
Chair and New Zealand Vice-President over the last three years and are pleased that he will remain on the Board and the New Zealand Branch Committee. I have stepped into Neil’s shoes as Chair of the New Zealand Branch and Stacey Fraser of Maritime New Zealand, in turn, was elected into the Branch Secretary position. The New Zealand Branch has a number of initiatives and events under consideration and we will be confirming the details of these shortly. I also look forward to seeing many of you at the Perth Conference in September.

Kind regards

Kerryn Webster
New Zealand Vice-President
MLAANZ

July 2015

Hennie Van Schoor of Maersk NZ presenting at the NZ Branch conference

Photographs continued on next two pages
Robert Springall of Holman Fenwick Willan speaks to his presentation at the NZ Branch conference.