



SEMAPHORE

Newsletter of the Maritime Law

Association of Australia and New Zealand



President's Message

Getting things done

My theme for this newsletter is simply about achieving progress in MLAANZ objectives, or in simple terms, 'getting things done'.

As many of you will know, the York-Antwerp Rules 2016 were approved at the CMI conference in New York in early May. I have written about my thoughts on that process and value that the CMI brought to it, elsewhere in this newsletter. It is a significant achievement that compromise between commercial interests has been reached and the results implemented so quickly.

In contrast, it has been of concern to the CMI that, a number of new draft international conventions prepared in recent times by the organisation have failed to gain traction, by which I mean that they sit on a shelf and are not ratified or implemented by States. Stuart Hetherington, President of the CMI, has just written to all presidents of MLAs and his letter can be found on the [MLAANZ website](#). You will see from Stuart's letter that the Executive Council has made some significant decisions in relation to the CMI's role in drafting conventions, and we will hear from him soon.

Meanwhile a number of you participated on 24 May at the Federal Court in Sydney, in the presentation by the Marine Insurance sub-committee relating to the reform of the Commonwealth Marine Insurance Act. This was also connected by video link to Perth and Adelaide. There are to be further presentations in Melbourne on June 21 and Brisbane in late June. The draft amendment Bill has been formulated in a fashion that appears to present little controversy, but once we have consulted with members on the draft, there is then the challenge of persuading the legislature that this is both necessary and deserving of priority in the legislative timetable. I will report further on that later in the year.

The memorandum explaining the issues and the draft Bill are on our [website](#).

Since I last wrote, New South Wales and New Zealand have held successful conferences of their own. I was unable to attend the NSW conference, but heard it was well attended and the presentations were of interest. The New Zealand conference in April was attended by about 65 people in at Taupo. There was a balance of very useful information sharing (in particular from Maritime New Zealand as to how they prioritise their convention and other work) and 'hard' law presentations. Congratulations to the local committees for producing such high quality events.

The Queensland committee, chaired by Michael Fisher, has been working hard on the programme for our Federal conference at Noosa from 28-30 September. The thinking behind this conference is to provide a thought-provoking product, but also making sure we have time to catch up with old friends, and make new ones, in an enjoyable and relaxed environment away from city life which is the norm for many of us. We are also reducing the early bird price to encourage attendance. The conference has deliberately been scheduled over the holiday period in the hope that some will take advantage of what Noosa has to offer. Bookings will open in the next month or so and we will be writing to you then. I hope to see you there.

Neil Beadle
President, MLAANZ

June 2016