



SEMAPHORE

Newsletter of the Maritime Law

Association of Australia and New Zealand



President's Message

Dear Members

MLAANZ is the only trans-national maritime law association affiliated to the Comite Maritime Internationale. I was fortunate enough to attend the CMI conference in Hamburg last year. At our AGM, as at past gatherings, there was broad support for MLAANZ actively participating in the CMI, and I anticipate attending its conference in New York in May 2016, with Australian Vice President, Pat Saraceni. At the Perth conference, Matthew Harvey gave a marvellous advertorial to encourage members to attend CMI conferences, which I endorse, and a 'save the date' website for the conference is [here](#).

In addition to running a great conference in Perth, MLAANZ is busy pursuing various projects.

The United Kingdom has recently undertaken reform of its insurance law including marine insurance. While Australia modernised its general insurance law a while back, marine insurance remains based on the original UK statute from 1906, as in New Zealand. A MLAANZ committee is to review the UK legislation with a view to identifying whether and if so how those reforms might be a model, or at least an inspiration, for change in Australia as to whether aspects of marine insurance. Any reform in New Zealand would, I believe, likely have to coat-tail on reforms of insurance law generally. Derek Luxford is chairing the Australian committee, and I look forward to seeing that progress.

As part of a CMI project to promote adoption of Maritime Conventions, we have recently sent to the CMI a response which summarises the current status of various conventions in Australia and New Zealand. The response is accessible [here](#).

Work is also being undertaken in responding to requests for information relation to wrongful arrest, offshore regulation/pollution, and pandemic response — the effect on seafarers and passengers at sea. This is important to the CMI as it is the source information by which CMI understands the national law of its MLA members.

Nick Gaskell and Kate Lewins have done a lot of work with a view to prompting the Australian government into signing or enacting the Athens Convention. We are doing what we can to support them in their work.

To all those who volunteer their time and energy in these matters, thank you.

I have been a member of this association for many years now, and consider that I am the net winner in terms of what I have learned, the people I have met, the places I justified to my firm in visiting for our conferences, and the fun I have had. It is my intention as President to do what I can to ensure that we as an association continue to provide those opportunities to both our existing members, but also get other people involved. Please get in touch with me or any member of the Board (all our contact details are available on the website at www.mlaanz.org) if you have any proposals consistent with MLAANZ's objectives which you consider worthy of our promotion or support.

Best wishes

Neil Beadle
President
MLAANZ

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Footnote: AMTAC is holding a seminar on Hot Issues for Maritime Law Practitioners in Sydney on 26 November. Details are available [here](#).