



SEMAPHORE

Newsletter of the Maritime Law

Association of Australia and New Zealand



Report on 2015 Annual MLAANZ's Conference, 16-18 September 2015, WA

The 42nd Annual MLAANZ's Conference was held in Perth from 16-18 September 2015.

The conference was a great success, with an outstanding list of high calibre international and local speakers and interesting topics. The feedback received from delegates has been very positive and encouraging. Thank you to all who participated and to the generous support of our sponsors.

We were privileged to have Justice Steven Chong of the Singapore Supreme Court deliver the annual F.S. Dethridge Memorial address. His Honour's paper was insightful and inspirational. Other notable international speakers included Professor Martin Davies of Tulane University, New Orleans, Philip Cable, CEO of Maritime Asset Security & Training (MAST) Ltd, UK and Chris Edwards from Singapore. The number of local speakers who participated is too long to name them individually — suffice to say that their presentations were, without exception, informative and interesting. We express our appreciation to each of the speakers.



Mike Utsler, Chief Operating Officer, Woodside

The program covered a broad spectrum of topics, ranging from future shipping trends, international security threats and challenges, recent developments in maritime arbitrations and alternative dispute resolution, a review of risk allocation clauses in shipping and offshore oil and gas contracts and charter parties, production sharing in East Timor, piracy, salvage, cabotage, international trends regarding management of port risks, recent developments in insurance law and time charters.

Some of the many highlights included the opening of the conference, which for the first time was combined with the Annual AMTAC address given by Dr Kate Lewins, Associate Professor School of Law, Murdoch University on "A View from the Crow's Nest: Maritime Arbitrations/Maritime Cases and Development of the Common Law". The address was followed by a drinks co-hosted by the Federal Court, AMTAC and MLAANZ.

Another highlight was the session on Pollution OH&S and Regulatory Breaches, which included a fascinating talk by Michael Utsler, Chief Operations Officer Woodside, who spoke of his experience in dealing with the aftermath of the Deepwater Horizon disaster and emphasised the imperative of process safety in the offshore oil and gas and maritime context. An update from Clinton Mackenzie of AMSA also to be popular, as was the topic on regulatory and OH&S issues in LNG projects, and that on the trials and tribulations of the production sharing in East Timor.



Maurice Thompson of Clyde & Co, Melbourne and Gavin Vallely of Holman Fenwick Willan, Melbourne



Clinton McKenzie, General Counsel of AMSA, Captain David Shennan, Harbour Master, Port of Portland, Victoria and John Riding of Marico Marine

The round up session included an informative update by Stuart Hetherington, President of the Comité Maritime International (CMI).

The post conference social events were fun filled and enjoyed by all. The wine tasting and informal dinner at Pinelli's Winery in the Swan Valley enabled delegates to enjoy a taste of local Western Australian wines. The formal Gala dinner was held at the iconic Frasers at Kings Park, with its splendid views overlooking the Swan River and its delectable cuisine.

This year there was the introduction of sessional passes and day passes proved popular particularly amongst the industry participants.

Thank you to all those who attended the Conference in whatever capacity, and helped make the conference the success it was.

Dr Pat Saraceni
Australian Vice-President
MLAANZ

November 2015

