



SEMAPHORE

Newsletter of the Maritime Law

Association of Australia and New Zealand



NZ Branch Report

Kia ora

A Happy New Year from Aotearoa/New Zealand to all members and wishing you all a busy maritime year.

The New Zealand Branch has been focusing on the two conferences it will be holding in 2019.

The first is the NZ Annual Branch Conference to be held on Thursday 11 April (from 1-5pm), at Five Knots, Tamaki Yacht Club, Orakei, Auckland. Dinner will follow at the Soul Bar in Viaduct Harbour.

The conference programme will include Port Nelson CEO Martin Byrne speaking about the challenges the port industry is facing, including both a national and provincial perspective and the role technology is playing, case studies by three junior maritime lawyers and two other guest speakers.

The second is the MLAANZ 46th National Conference which is being held in Auckland on 12-14 September 2019 at the Hilton Hotel. Planning is well under way and a call for papers on the conference theme is about to be circulated. The theme for the conference is focused on future challenges in the rapidly changing area of maritime commerce. Legal principles aim to bring certainty for commercial operations but how is the law and legal process coping with change? We are inviting proposals for papers to cover any area of relevant law and maritime activity such as:

- international trade
 - for example, commodity sales, potential new trading routes, implications for pollutions and liabilities in the polar regions and charterers and cargo in the use of latitude routes
- technological change in maritime commerce
 - for example, automation, electronic bills of lading, port community systems, legal issues in relation to contract formation, transfer of rights to goods, payment, carrier's liability
- current shipping problems
 - for example, insolvencies, issues in admiralty jurisdiction relating to arrests, charter party bill of lading/seaway bill issues
- contractual issues in maritime commerce and dispute resolution
 - for example, application of damages principles, issues under shipbuilding, offshore installation contracts
- dispute resolution
 - arbitration and mediation current procedures and how this area will develop
- marine insurance
 - for example, legal developments, cyber security risks, product liability, autonomous shipping, electronic communications, current issues
- environmental, international and regional maritime law developments

The Branch Committee is excited about hosting the Federal Conference and will be looking to add some social sporting/competitive activities to the programme to get the trans-Tasman juices flowing.

So a busy year for the Branch as we prepare for what will be challenging but exciting conferences.

Nga mihi

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