



SEMAPHORE

Newsletter of the Maritime Law

Association of Australia and New Zealand



NZ Branch Report

Kia ora and welcome to a New Year.

Planning Sessions

The New Zealand Branch continues to have a very active committee and last week held a planning session where we discussed and agreed the work and activities we wanted to undertake over the next 12 months. It was great to see the energy going into this proactive initiative.

Seminars

March 2020 is a very busy time for the branch with our hosting of Richard Turner, president of International Union of Marine Insurance (IUMI) Auckland, providing a lunchtime presentation last week. This was an excellent opportunity for members and friends of MLAANZ to hear direct from Richard on the work of IUMI, global priorities and other topical marine insurance issues.

Branch Conference 2020

We will be holding our annual branch conference on March 26-27 at Parliament House in the Legislative Council Chamber, in Wellington.

We are very excited that for the first time in a number of years the MLAANZ conference will be held in Wellington again.

We are very excited to offer a varied programme with a range of presentations on current issues relating to the maritime and related industries.

Neil Beadle will be considering implications following the tragic events at White Island, while Harry Stronach is speaking to some challenges posed by the increase in cruise activity in New Zealand and Emily Ferguson, a young CMI essay entrant, will highlight some of the liability questions relating to shipping in Antarctica.

The threat from marine pests and diseases on vessel hulls is very real, and the Ministry of Primary Industries will provide an update on measures in place to protect New Zealand.

In light of the ever-growing effect of COVID-19 on the supply chain, and global economy, the conference will hear first-hand from our local industry on the challenges they are facing, and from Paul David QC and Matthew Flynn on the corresponding contractual and insurance issues that arise.

We have our usual “case notes” session, with three young members providing an update on recent cases of interest, and we’ll get a surveyor’s perspective from the frontline.

One of the principal objectives of MLAANZ is supporting and advancing reforms in maritime law and its administration, which provides a backdrop for a discussion on the recent Maritime Transport Offshore Amendment Act 2019.

Challenges Ahead

I wish all our colleagues in New Zealand, Australia and around the world all the best as we all learn to cope with the disruption of coronavirus and the uncertain times ahead. This will add personal and professional challenges and I'm sure in 12 months' time we will all be reflecting on the past year and the learnings and experiences had.

The great thing about MLAANZ is the strong collegial environment and in these uncertain times don't be shy to call upon them.

Nga mihi

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