



# SEMAPHORE

Newsletter of the Maritime Law

Association of Australia and New Zealand



## Update on Scheduled MLAANZ Events

COVID-19 has unavoidably interrupted various events scheduled by the MLAANZ Branches as well as the deferral of this year's Federal Conference until next year. We provide members with some updates in the following.

### **NSW Branch**

Fresh from a virtual branch meeting on May 5, NSW Branch secretary Alexis Cahalan confirms there are currently no plans to this year reschedule the physical mini-conference, which had originally been planned for March 20.

"Depending on what transpires over the next couple of months we may consider hosting part of the seminar via video link, subject to speaker availability and agreement," says Ms Cahalan.

### **New Zealand Branch**

Only once it is clear how New Zealand is progressing through the COVID-19 Alert Levels, will the local branch be able to properly consider plans to reschedule its annual conference – originally planned for March 26-27 – says New Zealand Branch secretary Stacey Fraser.

"Realistically, we'd have to be at least at Level 1 or out of the Alert System before we could consider a conference, I think," says Ms Fraser.

"However, the New Zealand Branch committee is actively developing alternative ways to deliver content to its members and we're looking forward to providing more detail on that soon – we also welcome any suggestions from members."

### **Queensland Branch**

Options are also being considered for the rescheduling of a book launch and discussion on the law of wreck originally planned for the end of March in conjunction with the Federal Court in Brisbane, adds Queensland Branch chair Matthew Hockaday.

"The launch was for a book titled 'The Law of Wreck' authored by MLAANZ members Craig Forrest and Nick Gaskell," says Mr Hockaday.

"The intention is to reschedule the launch to later in the year when some sort of normality resumes."

"With the cancellation of the national conference, Queensland is also considering holding a seminar/mini-conference – similar to other branches – possibly during October/November 2020."

### **Victoria**

Victoria Branch chair Matthew Harvey SC reports that, depending on COVID-19 restrictions later this year, the branch is hoping to convene a day-long mini-conference in late October.

An update will be provided to members as soon as the position clarifies.

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