



SEMAPHORE

Newsletter of the Maritime Law

Association of Australia and New Zealand



President's Message

It's been a couple of months since our last edition of *Semaphore*, and in that time the world of shipping – indeed, the world – has been turned upside down. We've rushed out this latest edition to provide a round-up of how COVID-19 is affecting our profession and the shipping, logistics and insurance sectors we serve.

Some of the leading lights of our Association have kindly contributed articles which provide practitioner perspectives on the volatile change being caused by COVID-19. Paul David QC from Auckland analyses the prospects of the international mercantile community trading its way out of the turmoil and finding a path to recovery. He anticipates a sharpened focus on the finer detail of contracts. Our Australian vice-president Michelle Taylor, writing from Brisbane, details ways the pandemic has caused courts and tribunals across Australia to actively change the ways they are operating.



MLAANZ president David Goodwin

Anyone interested in the broader picture globally should take a look at the country summaries now set out on the Website of the Comité Maritime International (CMI) at <https://comitemaritime.org/corona-virus-covid-19/>. The CMI has announced the postponement of its Tokyo conference, originally scheduled to be held in October this year, to 2021.

We've also summarised some perspectives on the implications of COVID-19 from major containerlines, cruise line representatives, exporter, importer and carrier bodies, regulators, Ports Australia and from organisations which represent seafarers. Thanks go to our Wellington-based correspondent Iain MacIntyre for compiling this series of stories.

The Federal Court of Australia has introduced special measures for the issue of warrants for the arrest of a ship in response to COVID-19. We cover this.

In another item, we learn that the University of Queensland's Marine and Shipping Law Unit is chasing some missing papers from past MLAANZ conferences. Details of the missing papers are provided. If anyone can help fill these gaps in the record of our proceedings we would be very grateful.

Speaking of conferences and seminars, an article in this edition addresses the prospects of interrupted MLAANZ branch events being rescheduled for later this year. We hear from our New South Wales, New Zealand, Queensland and Victorian branches. If face-to-face events continue to be problematic it's likely our branches will move to convene video-linked seminars in the months to come.

Once travel restrictions are lifted we will move ahead with preliminary planning for our postponed annual conference which we're aiming to hold in August 2021 in Perth, Western Australia.

Please enjoy this special COVID-19 edition of *Semaphore*.

Let's hope we don't have to issue too many more.

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