



MLAANZ NSW Branch
(ABN 97 054 923)

Chairperson's Report 2021/2022

The reprieve from Covid in the early part of 2021 permitted a return to in person events and on the strength of this the NSW branch set about planning its events for 2021.

Seminar Programme

Much effort was made to organise a Marine Insurance seminar which was due to be held on 14 July 2021 at Greenway Chambers. Due to the Sydney Covid lockdown, the decision was made not to proceed with the seminar. Instead, the seminar was successfully delivered as a spring seminar via webinar on 1 September 2021 and virtually hosted by Greenway Chambers. Over 120 people from - overseas, New Zealand and across to WA registered to attend the seminar. We were very grateful to Justice Stewart of the Federal Court of Australia for his engaging introduction to the seminar and to the following speakers for their presentations and willingness to adapt to fluctuating arrangements :

- Edward Cox SC (Greenway Chambers),
- Peter Craney (Kennedys) and
- Maurice Lynch (Mills Oakley).

I would like to especially thank Greenway Chambers for their digital, design and technical expertise in producing and managing the registration for the seminar. The successful delivery of the seminar would not have been possible without the generous support of Greenway Chambers.

While many states continued to experience a lockdown due to Covid and with the cancellation of the Brisbane national conference, the Branch hosted a webinar on 25 November 2021. This provided an opportunity to hear about the maritime industry from experienced industry participants. We were grateful for career insights provided by:

- Kerryn Woonings (Crawford & Company),
- Captain Drew Shannon (United Salvage Pty Ltd) and
- Mike Wilson (TMC Marine).

The Committee was eager to host an in person conference and booked the Harbour View Hotel, North Sydney for such an event in March 2022. However, with confidence of in person attendance lacking due to Covid, the booking was postponed and the venue still holds a deposit for a future event. Instead, the seminar was delivered to over 65 attendees via webinar on 17 March 2022. We were grateful to have presentations from:

- Peter McQueen (Arbitrator and Mediator) Review of the latest English maritime law decisions on passage planning / seaworthiness; demurrage / detention; and time bars / time zone ; and.
- Dr Robin Bowley UTS, Sydney delivered a timely paper on recent developments in war risk policies; a case study of *Suez Fortune Investments v Talbot Underwriting Ltd [2019] EWHC 2599 (Comm)*; the investigation of fraudulent marine insurance

claims; and an update on the current maritime security situation around the Gulf of Aden.

Young MLAANZ

The Federal MLAANZ initiative to promote the involvement of young members was embraced in the Maritime Highlights Panel Seminar which the Branch held on 20 July 2022. This was followed by dinner at the Royal Exchange Club, Sydney where over 40 people, including members and some new faces, attended to hear papers from:

- Lorna Anderson (Solicitor, Mills Oakley) – APL England Class Action in the Federal Court of Australia
- Michael Swanson (Barrister, 9 Selborne Chambers) – Incorporating the Hague or Hague-Visby Rules Before you Hold a Bill of Lading/Sea-Carriage Document
- Melanie Long (Associate, Holding Redlich) and Michael Tatham (Associate, Holding Redlich) – Ship Arrests: A Comparison Between Australia and South Africa.

During the COVID period, NSW Branch members have been appreciative of their ability to access a range of seminars offered remotely by interstate MLAANZ branches. We thank the state branches and presenters for their generosity in delivering a diverse and interesting programme of seminars and Federal MLAANZ and Iain Macintyre for distributing information across the membership.

On behalf of NSW Branch members, we would like to very much thank the Queensland branch for their efforts in preparing for the 2022 conference and look forward to connecting in person for the event.

Vale Mr Norman Lyall and Mr Tony Scotford

The Branch was saddened to learn of the passing of Mr Norman Lyall and Mr Tony Scotford in the early part of 2022. Both were former partners at Ebsworth and Ebsworth who helped form the NSW Branch of MLAANZ and were long standing and supportive members of the NSW Branch. Many in the legal community are the grateful beneficiaries of their contributions and legacies in the field of maritime law.

Expression of Thanks to Committee

On a final note, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the members of the NSW Branch Committee for their support and enthusiasm for the work of the branch. The Committee members are:

Tim Rout (Secretary), Peter Craney (Treasurer), Paul Farrell (Federal Court representative), Edward Cox SC, Robert Wilson, Charles Street, Maurice Lynch, Amber Albrecht and Ryan Hunter. Special thanks to Ryan Hunter and Amber Albrecht for their contributions towards the Young MLAANZ events. We also thank Federal MLAANZ for their support of these initiatives.

The MLAANZ community continues to grow and the contributions and strength of the Committee and branch members is integral to its prosperity.



Alexis Cahalan

Chairperson

30 August 2022