



# SEMAPHORE

Newsletter of the Maritime Law

Association of Australia and New Zealand



## President's Message

Welcome to the December edition of *Semaphore* from Mianjin (Brisbane). I respectfully acknowledge the traditional custodians of this land, the Turrbal and Jagera/Yuggera peoples, and I pay my respects to all Elders past, present and emerging.

As the pre-holiday season frenzy starts to fade away, it's important to take a moment to reflect upon 2022.

It has been a very busy year for the MLAANZ Board and I would like to thank each of the Board members for their contribution in making the last 12 months such a success – Hamish Fletcher, Stacey Fraser, Naraya Lamart, David Goodwin, Clinton McKenzie, Maurice Lynch, Gemma Tually, Ashwin Nair and Janine Lang.

### ***Russia Invasion of Ukraine***

The year began with the Board receiving a request for assistance from the Ukraine Maritime Bar Association (UMBA) as a result of the Russian invasion. The MLAANZ Board resolved to support UMBA by endorsing appropriate government action, distributing the UMBA message to its members and offering pro bono assistance to advise on humanitarian rights pertaining to maritime law.

### ***Sexual Harassment Prevention Policy***

The Board resolved to develop a suite of policies, beginning with a Sexual Harassment Prevention Policy. This policy has been substantially developed by the Board's sub-committee members – Hamish Fletcher, Stacey Fraser, Naraya Lamart and David Goodwin – and the draft is ready for external review. Once the draft has been finalised we will circulate it to members for consultation and feedback.

### ***47th Federal Conference – Brisbane, October 12-14, 2022***

In September the Brisbane Conference, themed "Sustainability in Shipping", received overwhelming support. The conflation of environmental science with legal issues, whilst not customary for MLAANZ, certainly struck a chord. Approximately 130 delegates attended – including from New Zealand, Vanuatu, Fiji, Singapore, Hong Kong and the United Kingdom.

In addition, the conference attracted ten corporate sponsors – the Port of Brisbane, the Australian Maritime Safety Authority, the TT Club, OceanLaw New Zealand, Hemmant's List, Thynne & Macartney, Pacific Maritime Lawyers, Wotton & Kearney, Hall & Wilcox and Sparke Helmore.

Once again, I would like to thank the corporate sponsors, the speakers and all attendees who contributed to the success of the conference. In particular, I would like to thank Emeritus Professor Nick Gaskell for delivering the 2022 Dethridge Address on "LLMC: Living with Limitation". The topic was timely and the presentation exceptional.

### ***48th Federal Conference in Perth 2023***

The 48th MLAANZ Federal Conference will be held in Perth and we look forward to your support once again in 2023. Any enquiries about next year's event can be directed to [Pat Saraceni](#), chair of the MLAANZ Western Australia Branch.

## **Young MLAANZ**

During the year the Board worked to increase the number of Young MLAANZ members by funding events, creating speaking opportunities at the federal conference and developing a Young MLAANZ column in *Semaphore*. Following this year's conference, the membership of Young MLAANZ has significantly increased. Recently, MLAANZ has welcomed over 20 new individual members as well as two new corporate members, TT Club and TMC. MLAANZ now has approximately 300 members with 21 corporate memberships.

## **CMI**

MLAANZ has been active with Comité Maritime International (CMI). This year MLAANZ had the honour of nominating Ann Fenech as the first female president of the CMI. Ann was formerly that association's vice-president and is also the president of the Malta Maritime Law Association. Ann's contribution to the work of the CMI has been exemplary, including chairing an international working group for the Cape Town Convention and most recently, her work on the Judicial Sales Convention. Ann has shepherded this convention, from the organisation of the highly-successful CMI Colloquium in Malta on Judicial Sales, to the finalisation of the Convention on the International Effects of Judicial Sales of Ships which attained United Nations Commission on International Trade Law approval on June 30, 2022.

A recent letter sent to all maritime law associations (MLAs) from Ann is attached [here](#) for the attention of MLAANZ members. Ann has requested that all national MLAs appoint a person within their committee to be responsible for social media. It is hoped that MLAs will post news on the CMI [LinkedIn](#) page. All members of MLAANZ are encouraged to visit and "follow" this page. This is a great opportunity for us to connect with our colleagues internationally and stay informed with what is happening in other MLAs.

MLAANZ immediate past-president David Goodwin represented our association at the CMI Antwerp Conference held from October 18-21, 2022, where his Honour Chief Justice James Allsop AO was accepted as a Titular Member of CMI by nomination of the MLAANZ Board. As a Titular Member, Chief Justice Allsop has been recognised for his outstanding contribution to the cause of international uniformity in maritime law over an extended period of time. His Honour's significant contribution to international maritime law includes actively participating as a delegate at international conferences and assemblies of the CMI, notably, the delivery of the 13th Nicholas J Healy Lecture on Admiralty Law in New York in 2016.

The next CMI Assembly will be held in Montreal (Canada) from June 14-16, 2023.

## **MLAANZ/MLAS**

I recently met with Mr Kah Wah Leong, the president of the Maritime Law Association Singapore (MLAS). As president of MLAANZ, I have been invited to be a member of adjudication panel for the final of the 5th MLAS Maritime Mooting Competition 2023 being held in Singapore in January 2023. MLAS is keen to foster closer ties with MLAANZ and the Board is supportive of this initiative.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a happy Christmas and a safe holiday season. I look forward to engaging with you all again in 2023.

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