



SEMAPHORE

Newsletter of the Maritime Law

Association of Australia and New Zealand



President's Message

Kia ora

Another bumper issue of *Semaphore* for September 2024 has been produced by editor Iain MacIntyre and contributing writers.

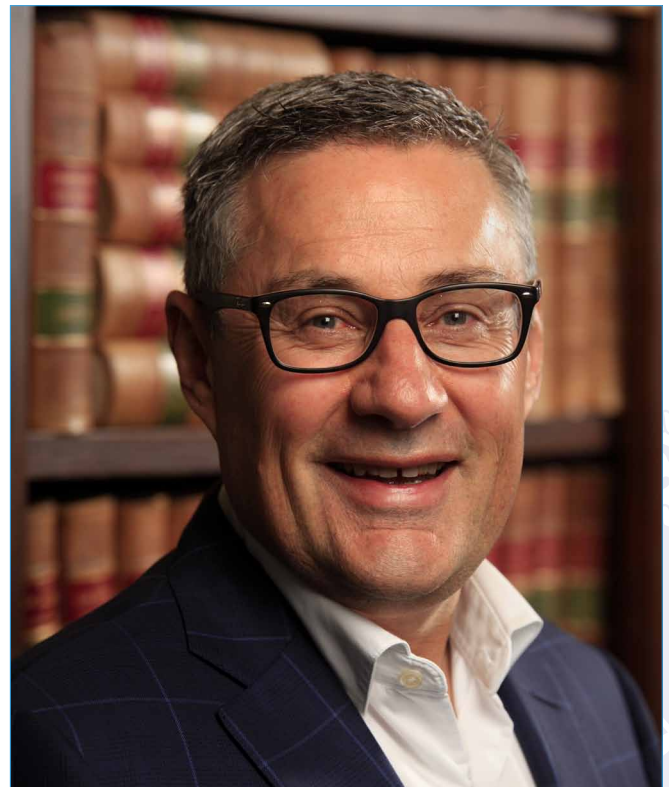
I hope you enjoy Ron Salter's interview, where we learn more about one of the MLAANZ legends.

It is now less than a month until the 49th MLAANZ annual federal conference in Queenstown, New Zealand.

Momentum has been building for the last three months as we closed in on finalising the programme for the conference. The organising committee, led by Colin Hunter, has been meeting regularly with Mecca, our conference organisers, and we are proud of the published programme.

The conference will explore:

- topical themes including the current geopolitical crisis occurring in the Red Sea, 100 years of the Hague Rules, the necessity of jurisdictional disputes and the past and future of maritime commerce
- the role of the regulator goes under the microscope with Maritime New Zealand director and chief executive Kirstie Hewlett as well as Australian Maritime Safety Authority senior legal advisor Mary Dean sharing their objectives and tools (including prosecutorial) used to meet their safety objectives, while barrister and defence counsel Honour Lanham will provide an industry perspective
- international speaker Surani de Mel from Singapore will provide a very important insurer's perspective on the modern challenges and opportunities in marine insurance
- barristers Paul Heath KC, Greg Nell SC, Matthew Harvey KC, Paul David KC and Charles Street, academics professors Paul Myburgh and Khylee Quince as well as Dr Robin Bowley will provide significant gravitas to the lectern as they present on their specialist subjects



MLAANZ president Hamish Fletcher

- we are privileged to have Justice Stewart, leading Admiralty Judge in the Federal Court of Australia, headlining the continuing relevance of admiralty – effective admiralty practice and procedure session
- specialist maritime lawyers and senior MLAANZ members such as past president Michelle Taylor, Australian vice-president Naraya Lamart, Ashwin Nair, John Kavanagh, Matthew Flynn and Colin Hunter as well as younger members Chanté Fourie and Morgan Brady (two talented lawyers forging successful maritime careers) round out an impressive line up

I know the New Zealand Branch is excited to welcome all delegates and speakers to Queenstown and we look forward to a great conference, and most importantly sharing each other's company. It is not too late to register and I encourage you if you have not done so – do not miss out on our association's highlight event for 2024 and register now.

Domestic Activities

MLAANZ domestic activities in the last quarter are set out in Naraya Lamart's Australian vice-president's report – needless to say, the MLAANZ Western Australia Branch continues to lead the way in ongoing legal education seminars. Daniel Jackson's report also highlights maritime activities in New Zealand.

International Developments

Following the very successful Comité Maritime International (CMI) Colloquium in Gothenburg in May, a booklet of the Hague and Rotterdam Rules-related papers presented has now been published and MLAANZ will receive five hardback copies (we will request further copies to ensure all Branches have one).

There is also an electronic copy on the CMI [website](#), where Rotterdam Rules Committee information is located, labelled "Rotterdam Rules Convention Booklet". The booklet contains the convention as well as Professor Michael Sturley's Francesco Berlingieri Memorial Lecture and the presentations made by the speakers of the two Hague Rules sessions held on the first day.

In addition, they have included some excellent papers written in the last few years by Michael Sturley and Kate Lannan – the latter a legal officer at the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law and secretary of Working Group II.I during the Rotterdam Rules negotiations. Please check out the booklet online.

MLAANZ pays an annual membership fee to CMI. This year it is €\$6500, as per the schedule decided at the 2009 assembly in Rotterdam.

As announced during the Gothenburg general assembly, the CMI Executive Committee will submit a proposal to increase the subscription to the virtual general assembly of 16 October 2024. If that proposal is accepted, we will receive an additional invoice for 2024-2025. So, it is very important that our members are prompt with their membership payments.

2024 United Nations (UN) Treaty Event and the Convention on the International Effects of Judicial Sales of Ships

Between 24-27 September, the 2024 Treaty Event will be held at the UN headquarters in New York.

The Treaty Event is an event held every year by the UN, normally in conjunction with the holding of the general assembly of the UN. This year it will take place in conjunction with the general debate of the 69th session of the UN general assembly. The event provides the perfect opportunity for states to sign up to any of the treaties of which the secretary general of the UN is the depositary.

CMI has encouraged states to use this occasion to sign up to the Convention on the International Effects of Judicial Sales of Ships. It is being said that the process involved in the negotiation, adoption and signing of this convention was one of the most efficient ever.

MLAANZ efforts to get the Australian Government to sign the treaty are set out in Naraya Lamart's Australian vice-president's report.

Nga Mihi
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