

Melbourne Branch

The Log
The Monthly Newsletter of the Melbourne Branch of
The Company of Master Mariners of Australia Limited



NEXT MEETING
FEBRUARY 2022
DETAILS TO BE ADVISED

In this issue:

- From the Branch Master
- The Christmas Spirit
- Desecration of the Red Ensign
- November Speakers Summary
- End of Year Dinner
- New Ships for Antarctica
- How to set yourself right for 2022

Hon. Sec., Alexandra Evered
Email alex@baysideshipping.com
Tel 03 5424 1224

From the Branch Master

A relaxing of COVID restrictions allowed us to hold our end of year dinner on the 24th November. During the evening Norm Boreham the President of the Alma Doepel Supporters Cub was presented with a donation to assist with the cost of the vessels rigging.

Congratulations to Ports Victoria who have been awarded the AMSA 2020-21 Vessel Traffic Service Award.

On 27th December 2020 a sudden severe weather front hit Melbourne. With limited towage and pilotage resources available, the Melbourne VTS team managed to prevent a number of collisions from ships which were parting lines and drifting from their anchorage under the intense weather conditions. In total, four near misses involving five ships were avoided as a result of the fast and effective action taken by the Melbourne VTS team.

Andrew Pinto, the leader of the winning team said “The award is a big surprise but it’s nice to be acknowledged for the outcome and the teamwork. The result on the day was due to teamwork not only within the VTS but also with the port service providers such as the coastal ships’ masters, pilots and tug operators.”

Captain Oladipupo Olubowale has applied for ordinary membership of the Melbourne Branch. Ola who was born in Nigeria obtained his Australian Master Certificate in 2012 and is employed as a Marine Technical Advisor with Viva Energy Australia.

We wish all our members
**Merry Christmas and a
Happy New Year**

THE CHRISTMAS SPIRIT

Four years ago Sydney Pilot Captain Michael Kelly came up with the idea of giving a Christmas gift bag packed with chocolates and toiletries to as many visiting seafarers as possible.

Initially he did it with the support of his fellow pilots and the crew of the pilot cutter but word of the project got around and today contributions are received from the Port Authority of NSW, the Tas Bull Seafarers Foundation, Stella Maris, The Australian Mariners Welfare Society, Hutchinson Ports, DP World and Patrick wharfies.

Over the past four years Captain Kelly and his supporters have handed out nearly 8000 gift bags to seafarers over the holiday season.

Michael Kelly was awarded the COMMA Outstanding Achievement Award at the Federal AGM last April. Marine pilots are the first and last people the ships' crew see when they enter or leave port – we can make a huge difference to their welfare.

One of his greatest supporters is the Stella Maris Port Chaplain Sister Mary Leahy who is also the ex officio Chaplain of our Sydney Branch.

In Melbourne the Mission to Seafarers will provide a Christmas Bag of goodies to all visiting seafarers to keep their spirits up over the Christmas Season.



Bernie Farrelly of the Tas Bull Seafarers Foundation, Sister Mary Leahy of Stella Maris, Michael Kelly and Sydney Harbour Master Myron Fernandes

Desecration of the Red Ensign

The Registrar of the Western Australian Branch, Captain Steve Harris has written to the Federal Court about the disrespectful misuse of the Red Ensign and National Flag by demonstrators in Melbourne. He was particularly outraged by the Ensign being shown alongside a mock gallows and being carried reversed by various demonstrators on the steps in front of the Victorian Parliament.

He has called for the issue to be brought to the attention of the media and the national executive of the MUA whose members served under the flag during the war and suffered many casualties. The Federal Secretary will prepare a response for the Court to consider.

The RSL has condemned the misuse of the National Flag and Red Ensign by Melbourne anti-vaccination and anti-lockdown protesters and their deplorable action of occupying the Shrine of Remembrance. RSL President Greg Melick said "They are not protest flags and flying them during the unruly and lawless protests in Melbourne is unauthorised and yet another deplorable act by an irresponsible and shameful mob. There are no Federal Laws providing sanctions for the misuse or desecration of the National Flag or Ensigns. The most recent attempt to introduce such a law was a private members bill in 2003 but it failed to pass into law.



November Speakers Summary

During the End of Year Break Up Dinner on the 24th November the CEO of the Mission to Seafarers Sue Dight gave us a talk on how the Mission has operated during the pandemic.

Seafarers are not allowed to go ashore and that has changed the whole dynamic of the Missions work. There has been only one seafarer through the door since March but the need for chaplaincy and other services is greater than in normal times.

The requests for shopping services has been so great that a person has been put on just for that task. The Chaplains have been particularly busy with over 3000 contacts. Mental health of seafarers is a growing problem and the Mission and other welfare organisations are continually lobbying the Government to get better recognition of seafarers' problems.

While crew changes are taking place vaccinations are not and this is causing problems repatriating seafarers because you cannot board a plane unless you are double vaccinated.

The missions other activities like hiring out its venue for private and commercial activities is going well but without seafarers in the Mission the number of volunteers has fallen off. We wished Sue and her staff all the best for the year ahead and presented her with a donation to assist the Mission in its work.



End of Year Dinner



New Ships for the Antarctic

There will be two new ships operating in the Antarctic this summer. The Australian RSV NUYINA and the British RRS SIR DAVID ATTENBOROUGH.

Both ships will resupply research stations with food, cargo and fuel, transfer station teams and conduct scientific research.

The ships have a wide range of specialist scientific facilities, instruments and laboratories to enable scientists to study the ocean, seafloor, ice and atmosphere.

	Technical features	
	Nuyina	Sir David Attenborough
Length	160 m	129 m
Beam	26 m	24 m
Gross Tonnage	20,200	15,000
Endurance	90 days	60 days
Range	16,000 nm	19,000 nm
Ice breaking capacity	1.65 m @ 3 kts	1.0 m @3 kts
Crew	32	30
Passengers	117	60



Nuyina and Sir David Attenborough undergoing sea trials off Falmouth

How to Set Yourself Right for 2022

Here's a list of things to do on New Year's Eve to make sure that 2022 is a great year.

- Burn a scarecrow. It burns away bad energy from the last year. [Ecuador]
- Wear polka dots. The dots look like coins and will bring you wealth and success. [Philippines]
- The first person to enter your home after midnight foretells the kind of luck you'll have the next year. A tall, dark, handsome man bringing gifts is the best. [UK, called 'firstfooting']
- Watch the weather. If the wind blows from the south, the next year will be prosperous. If the wind blows from the north, there will be a year of bad weather. Wind from the east brings famine. Wind from the west will bring you loads of milk and fish BUT someone important to you will die. [Northern Hemisphere so those wind directions will be wrong for us]
- Eat grapes at midnight. It brings you good luck for every month of the new year. [Spain]
- Throw dishes at your neighbour's house. Break dishes on the doorstep of your family and friends to bring good luck. The more doorsteps you visit, the luckier you will be. [No, not Greece; it's Denmark]
- Throw furniture, pots and pans out of a window. Do this at midnight. It makes room for positive energy for the next year. Don't hit anyone! [Italy]
- Stock your cupboards. Empty cupboards mean you will struggle, especially financially. [Common]
- Make a lot of noise. The noise wards off evil spirits. [Hungary]
- Carry an empty suitcase. Do this at midnight and you will travel throughout the next year. [Colombia]
- Eat 'galette des rois' (cake of kings) at midnight. It means you're satisfied with the end of the Christmas season and ready for the new year. The next year will be especially wealthy and prosperous if your slice has a gold coin in it. [France and New Orleans]
- Wear red underwear. It brings passionate relationships for the next 12 months. [Latin America and Italy]
- Wear red underwear. It brings good luck. [Turkey]
- Gather a group together. Put a key, money, some water and a ring on a plate each. One person at a time blindly chooses a plate. Whoever gets the ring will get married. Whoever gets the water gets an alcoholic spouse. A key means you're moving house and the money means you'll be rich. [Lithuania]

Note: You may need to speak to the neighbours before following some of these suggestions or your year might start badly!

Thanks to David Wharington for passing this on.