

## Melbourne Branch

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

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Victorian Regional Channels Authority



### NEXT MEETING

Mail Exchange Hotel

Wednesday 26th May 2021 @ 1830 hrs

Speaker Dr Peter Cook

Fighting Fire on a ship at Berth

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## From the Branch Master

The Federal AGM was held in Sydney on 17<sup>th</sup> April. The minutes of that meeting will be made available to the members so I will not give a full report on the meeting but just comment on some of the matters discussed.

In his Federal Secretary's Report Stuart Davey mentioned the various committees of which he is a member. Most of them go back to when he was Deputy Harbour Master at Fremantle. Serving on these committees is not part of his duty as Federal Secretary but having a senior member of CMMA on these committees does increase our profile and relevance.

The Federal Registrar's report showed that 5 years ago we had 499 members. We are now down to 365. Last year 6 members passed away, 12 resigned and 10 had their membership terminated. On the positive side we did gain 10 new members. We are an ageing group with 42% of members listing their occupation as retired and 171 of us are over 71 years of age.

The Treasurer reported that the Company is in a strong position financially with assets of \$243,477. The surplus for the year was \$20,687 of which \$14,844 was from the Federal Branch and reflects the lack of activity and hence the decision to reduce the Federal Levy for this year to \$50. It is expected that the levy for next year will increase to \$70 but this will depend on costs associated with the Master Mariner Magazine.

A trial edition of the Master Mariner magazine was produced by Carol Shannon the CEO of the Leeuwin Foundation. It has been circulated to members in electronic form. Since the AGM Carol has agreed to produce a second edition later in the year provided she receives contributions from the members. The subject for the next edition is Australian Shipping. As the second largest branch we will be expected to provide 2 or 3 articles for the magazine. Carol will not start work on the magazine until after the end of the financial year so you have time to work on your contribution. The question of whether to produce the magazine in printed or in electronic form will depend on costs but it has been pointed out that most similar organisations distribute their magazines electronically.

The proposed changes to the constitution were discussed at length and it was the proposal to change the criteria for retired membership that received the most discussion. Any change to the rules would disadvantage some members and alienate others. It was decided that the only change would be to require retired members to have ceased full time employment. The proposed changes will be properly drafted and then submitted to the members to vote on.

Sydney was the only branch to nominate someone for the Outstanding Achievement Award.

Captain Michael Kelly is a marine pilot with Sydney Ports and is committed to developing the marine industry in Australia. He has been active in promoting Australian Shipping and has had meetings with a number of prominent politicians. He has assisted many Australians gain employment as deck officers on foreign vessels and helped develop cadetship opportunities with companies such as Royal Caribbean Cruises. Michael set up and manages the cadetship program for NSW Ports. His Facebook site "Think Tank of the Australian Seafarer" gives information about opportunities within the industry. Michael is also involved in the delivery of goodwill packages to seafarers on vessels visiting the port who cannot go ashore due to COVID restrictions. These packages are made up by Stella Maris and contain toiletries, reading matter and other items that various charities have donated. Michael's nomination was unanimously approved.

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There are still a number of members who have not paid their subscription for this year. It has been reported that on occasions the subscription notices have gone into the Junk folder so if you think that you have not received a notice it may be there. If you have not paid this year please do so promptly.

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The Mail Exchange Hotel is now opening its kitchen on Wednesday nights so our meetings will now be held on our preferred last Wednesday of the month at 1830. The speaker at our May meeting will be Dr Peter Cook who will speak about a hypothetical fire on a ship at a berth.

# April Speakers Report

The speaker at our April meeting was Captain Rob Anderson who spoke about OSSA's initiative "Introducing School Children to the Maritime Industry"

He started by referring to the findings of the MIAL Seafarers Skills Census. Based on their 2018 census they estimated that by 2023 the demand for seafarers at sea would increase by 11.6% and the demand for seafarers in jobs ashore would increase by 17.7%. The forecast shortage was 560 and with an ageing workforce and limited training opportunities this situation would not improve. Traditionally the shortfall has been made up by recruiting people from overseas. In the current environment COVID makes this difficult.

OSSA's interest in informing school children about the maritime industry and the types of employment it offers came from Patrick O'Sullivan giving a talk at the school his children attend. OSSA decided to make this a major project and so needed an approved course that would appeal to the current generation of high school students. They engaged the Australian Centre for Career Education to develop and approve their course. The Centre charged \$19,000 so a major fund raising was required.

It was realised early on that it was no point just talking about jobs on ships particularly large ocean going ships because there are already plenty of applications for the limited number of training berths available. The course was expanded to include harbour and river craft and all manner of shore based jobs within the maritime industry.

Webinars were held to introduce the course to career guidance teachers before it was shown to students.

Feedback was good but high school students were not interested in listening to old superannuated seafarers they wanted younger presenters and for some of them to be girls. The program is interactive and fast paced to maintain the student's interest.

Through the program students have access to information about a wide range of occupations. To date it is estimated that 1000 students have downloaded information from the site. Plans are underway to expand the program interstate.

## 50 Year Member



Captain Trevor Bryans was presented with a plaque commemorating his 50 years of membership of The Company of Master Mariners of Australia by Cmdr. Graeme Furlonger.

Trevor went to sea as an apprentice with King Line in 1952 and served his apprenticeship on the “King Stephen”. He remained with the Clan Line/Union Castle Group where he gained command before leaving to migrate to Australia in 1966. He worked for Melbourne Tugs for a short period before becoming a planner with OCAL. In 1969 Trevor joined ANL as a planner and worked his way up to Director Operations. In 1982 he joined the P&O Group and was appointed Managing Director Queensland. He set up the International Ports Division which privatised the Port Kalang Container Terminal. In 1996 the Buenos Aires Container Terminal was privatised and Trevor became President of the Terminal Company and South America Regional Director. He retired in 2001. From 1990 to 1996 Trevor was the Queensland Honorary Consul General for the Philippines. We congratulate Trevor on his 50 years of membership.