

# The LOG

April 2012



MELBOURNE BRANCH



Kindly sponsored by: Victorian Regional Channels Authority

Next Meeting will be on  
THURSDAY 26th April 2012

And will be at our new venue

CQ Functions,

113 Queen Street, Melbourne.

18.00 for 18.30 hours.

THE CHANGE OF DAY IS DUE TO  
ANZAC DAY FALLING ON OUR  
REGULAR WEDNESDAY

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**Company of Master Mariners of Australia Ltd**

**Master**

**Her Excellency Ms Quentin Bryce AC Governor -General  
of the Commonwealth of Australia**



From Captain David Shennan.  
New Branch Master of the  
Melbourne Branch



David was educated in the UK and Jamaica, running away to sea at the age of 17 to join the Royal Fleet Auxiliary (1969 - 1988), serving world-wide on a variety of vessel types including replenishment tankers, general cargo, logistic support, ammunition, helicopter support and landing ships. During his RFA years he was a Royal Naval fleet navigator, helicopter controller and flight deck officer.

Returning to shore for family reasons, David became a marine pilot in Portsmouth for ten years, spending some of his spare time as a part-time Senior Lecturer at Warsash Maritime College instructing in radar, pilotage, ARPA and manned model shiphandling.

He then became pilotage manager with Harwich Haven Authority from 1998 – 2000, adding Harbour Master to the role in 2000. He served as one of the two executive board members and Deputy Chief Executive, until leaving for Australia in 2008. During this time he was also chairman of the Marine and Pilotage Group of the combined British Ports Association/UK Major Ports Group.

David was poached by Port of Melbourne Corporation and served four years as GM Marine & Navigation Services and Harbour Master. After settling on the beautiful Bellarine Peninsula west of Geelong and starting to resent the 5am commute into Melbourne, David left to set up North & Trew Marine Consultancy with partner Joanna in mid 2011. They have found themselves fairly busy so far and very much enjoying the variety of work.

During his tenure as Branch Master, David intends to rally his contacts and drum up new ordinary and associate members for the branch, and will be encouraging his CMMA colleagues to do the same. He is keen to develop better two-way communication between the branch and federal court, so local members are well versed on federal plans, and the experience and expertise of all members of CMMA are utilised at federal level. Along those lines he would like to see the creation of a register listing the specialist knowledge existing in all branches, which could be of great use when CMMA is developing a position on relevant matters.

He intends to seek a mandate from Melbourne branch members on federal issues and to clearly present the branch's views to the Federal Court, but he also believes that the company needs to better understand the nature of its membership and more clearly identify any issues facing its survival. Armed with a clear understanding of what CMMA is in 2012, he would then like to see a steady, thorough process of review, after which possible changes can be discussed by the membership. He believes any changes should protect those aspects of the company that are important to existing members, particularly those who have supported CMMA the longest.

David was elected unopposed to the position of Branch Master at the Annual General meeting of the Branch on 28th March 2012. Capt Euan Crawford has reluctantly relinquished the position due to pressure of business. He has however, elected to stay on as a Deputy Branch Master.

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE MELBOURNE BRANCH.

The meeting was held at CQ Functions, 113 Queen Street, Melbourne and commenced at 18.30hrs.

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 30th March 2011 at the RACV Club were read and accepted.

The Secretaries and Treasurers report were read and accepted with reservations from the Hon. Auditors regarding the Federal Court proposals ( see later in this issue).

All Court members then stood down and the following were elected unopposed as the new Branch court.

David Shennan	-	Branch Master.
Euan Crawford	-	Deputy Branch Master ( Past Master).
Patrick O'Sullivan	-	Deputy Branch Master ( Seagoing).
Alexandra Evered	-	Hon.Branch Secretary.
Ian French	-	Hon.Branch Treasurer.
Dick Francis	-	Hon.Editor ( The Log).
Peter Bosman	-	Hon. Branch Registrar.
John Carroll	-	Warden.
Nigel Porteous	-	Warden.
Francis Castellino	-	Warden.
Toby Shelton	-	Warden (Seagoing).

The Hon.Auditors remain as Keith Dann, David Wharington and Dick Cox.

The thanks of the Court were extended to Capt Detlef Koepke who has stood down and did not seek re-election. Detlef has expended a lot of time and energy on court matters and his contribution and good humour will be sorely missed. Detlef feels it is time some of the younger members put their hand up so come on- - - - any takers????????

The above is a brief summary of the meeting compiled by the Editor. Our secretary is overseas and no doubt will produce proper minutes once she returns. If there is anything in the minutes that members should be aware of the full details will appear in the next Log.



The Hon.Editors position is still available. Surely somebody fancies their skill at keeping the company informed and entertained. It is a lot easier than you think... If you have a computer. Talk to any of the Court members.



The following document has been received from the Federal Court

## Company of Master Mariners of Australia

### Centralised Registration

All applications for the Master Mariners to be processed via Secretariat. No need for local registrar. Applicants will be registered as a member of the company of Master Mariners Australia and referenced to a state group.

### Common Membership Fee

(Active \$250, Retired \$80, Student \$80)

This is to be staged in over three years.

Year 1 150/60

Year 2 200/70

Year 3 250/80

Retired member is anyone over the age of 65years.

No additional levies are to be imposed on members at branch level other than meals at meetings.

Branches will be provided with a yearly budget of \$3000

### Centralised Accounts

All Company funds to be centralised (approximate value (\$150000))

Each branch provided with a float of \$5000 and then supplemented with a yearly budget injection of \$3000

Branches may make application for underwriting or funding of specific projects to be conducted in their area.

### Federal Court Composition

The Federal Court is to be structured as a board. With 6 possibly 5 board members

QLD

NSW (potential to have one representative for Newcastle and Sydney)(ACT members under NSW)

VIC

SA

WA (NT members under WA or SA)

The chairman of the board will be rotated annually from state to state however there will be no additional members it will remain as 5 with one acting as chair.

The federal Secretariat will be the executive officer for the Company and represent the board and do the day to day business under the direction of the Board.

### Funded National Secretary

Suggested 20 hours per week at \$32000/year.

This role will perform the duties of Executive officer which will include;

- Treasury Role
- Registrar Role
- Secretary Role
- Editor Role
- Company spokesperson and representative as delegated by the Board.

## Simplified Branch Court Structure

The following structure will exist in the Branch;

Branch Master (Board Member)

Deputy Branch Master (delegate for BM)

This simplification will mean it will be easier to fill essential positions in the branch and still be able to function as other key functions will be done at federal level.

## Standardised Meeting Format for Branches

With a simplified branch structure and that the business of the company will be centralised at the federal level there is no need for the formal and complex meeting structure that exists currently in branches. In some branches there is a formal court meeting which is effectively repeated at the general meeting.

Branches should focus on the social and professional networking side formality should exist only in the transfer by the branch master or his/her delegate of company business to the members for discussion or resolution.

## Centralised Publication (News Letter)

One central publication. Branches to contribute their activities to the secretariat for publication in the Master Mariner. With the simplification of branch structure and meeting format it may not be necessary distribute anything locally however if it is necessary to distribute notice of meetings it could be a simplified one sheet black and white notice.

Some of the benefits listed.

1. Reduced fees for accounts and auditing functions
2. Common fee structure across all states demonstrating that the company is not fragmented but a single unified body.
3. Maintain and lift profile of the Company through a focused attention from a federal secretariat.
4. Modern Organisational Structure through a board structure common to other professional bodies.
5. Alleviate the burden of court functions on branches and allow them to focus on the social and professional networking benefits of being a member of a professional organization.
6. Paid Person to run the day to day business of the organization and represent the organization at industry meetings. This person will be able to identify key areas for which the company should be vocal and provide input on behalf of the board and membership.
7. Reduce burden from Members through simplified branch structure with a focus on networking and professional development rather than complexity of meeting structure.

## Benefits of membership to CMMA

1. Membership of a national professional body raising the professional status of the Master Mariner
2. Representation at IMO through CMMA membership to IFSMA
3. Access to master protect insurance/legal presentation through IFSMA
4. A professional voice through federal secretariat to AMSA and government as represented by the Board

5. Professional and social networking with peers
6. Access to peer advice through email or web request to peers
7. Register on or get access to the professional register to seek or be available to provide professional consultancy based nonspecific areas of expertise.

## Actions

Review National accounts and identify funding structure

Develop an operating budget based on structure changes (Establish Memb Fees)

Develop the new Structure of Federal and Branches

Develop a proposal by end March 2012 for a full vote by Feb 2013.

Rewrite of Constitution for endorsement at 2013 AGM.

\*\*\*\*\*

After deliberation by the Court members and remembering that little time was given to present this document to the branch members before the Federal AGM on Saturday 14th April, a response has been formulated for the Branch Master to present at that meeting.

### Melbourne Branch – Comments on proposed changes to CMMA

#### 1. Centralised Registration

- No problem
- Yes, that should be done on a Federal level, as it ALREADY is. But there is still a requirement for "readings", as we want to ensure that we only sign up people of "good repute", and experience has shown that local or interstate info has been able to keep some undesirable characters out. Please don't forget that we have such obligation if we want to keep the Fed. or State Governors as our Patrons, since those people have to be very careful of any adverse media flak re perceived connections with rogues.
- There is indeed no requirement for a Branch Registrar, other than that it shares the burden of work. In a practical sense, the Branch Treasurer who gets most of the updates when he collects the yearly fees, is in the best position to update the membership list.
- This may be feasible only if the applicant can submit his/her application directly to the Secretariat (Federal Court), bypassing the Branch Court. However, if the Secretariat still requires the Branch Court to accept and collate applications then we are effectively not changing anything.
- The application fee should be scrapped. Does it really cost \$80 to administer each application?

#### **Position –**

1. Support centralised registrations but stating reasons above, vote against proposed change to readings.
2. Discuss details of how centralised registrations are to be administered
3. Raise application fee issue as discussion point and report back to court

#### 2. Common fee structure

- Will make us a unified body. How many members know or care what other branches currently charge as membership subscriptions? That all branches regardless of membership numbers will receive the same revenue is more likely to be the issue
- \* How does this compare with what other branches are currently paying? It may well be an unacceptable increase for some and thus reduce the membership further.
- There will be some members resigning or not signing up in the first place. I am a bit puzzled by the following sentence, 'Retired member is anyone over the age of 65 years'. As far as I understand it, this is not the current regulation, at least not here in Melbourne; otherwise I would not pay more than a hundred dollars per year.
- Membership fees should be standardised across all Branches but must be reasonable and subject to the lowest common denominator.

**Position –**

*Express concern at the size of the membership fee increases (especially for active members), stating reasons above*

*Find out how much other branches charge*

*Support standardised membership fees if set at a reasonable level*

**3. Centralised Accounts**

- It appears that centralised accounts will only benefit the Federal Court's expenditure program. Branches will be stifled in the type and scale of events / projects that they can organise locally, because they would not have ready access to funds unless applied for from the Federal Court. This practice will be very inconvenient to the Branch Courts and highly time consuming to the Federal Court.
- Also, the paper makes no mention of how each Branch is to deal with unspent money from its yearly entitlement or whether the Branches may retain profits made by hosting local events / seminars / etc.
- Centralised Treasury / Common Fees: Yes, indeed, that's a great idea. But don't stuff it up with ideas of "a float" or "a yearly budget" for branches (of varying sizes?), which would still require "someone" (a Branch Treasurer?) to administer same. If you want to go "Federal", there should NOT be a "local kitty" We should be able to pay costs incurred direct from Fed Treasury to the service provider. That means that if I pass on an invoice from the RACV Club for a meeting, or from the florist for arranging some flowers for a funeral, this gets paid straight away. Otherwise we lose credibility with local suppliers.
- This also means that if, e.g., the local members find that they should make a donation to a specific local "good cause", they should be able to make such commitment and pass this on for payment to the "Fed Treas".
- This proposed system provides no incentive for the Branch Courts to grow in membership, if they are guaranteed a yearly entitlement, irrespective of size or activities.
- This proposal is not just a change to the way our finances are handled but will alter the very nature of the Company. I think there are a number of questions to be asked before we are in a position to make an informed judgement.

- Each Branch pays a percentage of the subscription fee to the Federal Court to fund the Federal Court's activities.

**Position –**

1. *Do not support the proposed changes.*
2. *Propose that before the structure is changed, the Federal Court clarifies, (through research and company-wide discussion) what CMMA 'is' and where it needs to go, and formulates a clear and specific plan for achieving identified goals.*
3. *State the branch's support for reviewing all aspects of the structure at a time when any changes can be measured against their ability to meet the identified goals.*

#### 4. Federal Court Composition

- \* Is already a board. Each of the Branch Masters is a director. Some tradition should surely be retained and the name Federal Court retained along with the title Federal Master.
- Accepted. However, it would make more sense if the Chairman takes on the Secretariat role.
- It is a good idea for the Federal Court to be made up of the six Branch Masters incorporating a rotating Chairperson or Federal Master.

**Position –**

1. *Do not support changes to the board structure at this time, as it is premature to make such changes without a clear future direction.*
2. *Note that at the appropriate time, Melbourne would support in principal*
3. *If it is decided that CMMA is to become more involved in influencing maritime matters, Melbourne would suggest that the Federal Master rotate in line with governments, in order to allow meaningful relationships with key stakeholders to be developed*
4. *Note the branch's strong support for keeping the titles of Federal Master, Branch Master and Federal Court, as these are important traditions which do not need to be lost.*

#### 5. Funded National Secretary

- Will this give us greater access to industry and government organisations and will our views be held in higher regard? Is this just wishful thinking?
- The proposed plan shows a very poor understanding / appreciation of the work put into the Company by its many volunteers. If one thinks that most of the work currently done by the many court members could be replaced by someone putting in 20 hrs/week, it would be an insult to those volunteers.
- WE MUST NOT UNDER ESTIMATE OUR VOLUNTEERS....THEY KEEP THE COMPANY AFLOAT.
- When I call the "Funded National Secretary" a mythical figure, I am not joking. There is no way you will find anyone sensible to do all in the "job description" for \$32000/year, unless he is someone dedicated to the cause (and, yes, they do exist, Michael Bozier as Administrator of AIMS being a good example) , who doesn't count his hours/efforts. You may find someone suitable initially, but when he gets under the proverbial green tram next month, what then? You are talking about a "thin streamlined organisation", with no back up. You may, after a few paralysed months, find someone similar, but most likely some dithering old character who wants to supplement his retirement income. Is he going to be computer literate, and be the "Company Spokesman"?:

- Is the "Funded National Secretary" going to arrange the local guest speaker, the venue , last minute bookings or cancellations? If not, who is? Is that an extra one to the "simplified branch court"?
- First, it is highly unlikely that the roles detailed for the National Secretary can be fulfilled in 20 hours per week. Second, if the Chairman to the Board is rotated annually, where will the Secretary be based, such that he/she can work closely with the Chairman and at the same time ensure that all Branches are provided a similar level of service?
- It has also been mentioned that this 'paid person' will represent the Company at industry meetings, identify key areas for which the Company should be vocal and provide input on behalf of the Board. Could the proposer provide detailed information on how this may be more effective than members of the Federal Court taking on the roles mentioned?
- Perhaps the proposer is suggesting that we retain a professional lobbyist?
- Irrespective of the above, there is a lot of merit in having a paid Secretariat solely to undertake the day to day administration of the Company and maintain the accounts. [The Institute of Chartered Shipbrokers (ANZ Branch) employs one for about 16 hours a week at \$22,000 (including GST)]. However, all other roles and business is conducted by the Committee including representation, presentations, networking, etc.

**Position –**

1. *Do not support the proposal as it is premature to make such changes without a clear future direction.*

## 6. Simplified Branch Court Structure

- The Branch Court is to consist of only the Branch Master and his Deputy. The work performed by the Branch Secretary will still have to be done as will the Treasurer's duties with the exception of collecting membership subscriptions. Who is to do this work?
- \* It can hardly be called a court with just two members. Is it suggested that the Branch Master and his deputy fill the roles of Treasurer and Secretary also?
- \* Branch meetings are essential to discuss and vote on the Federal's decisions and actions which should be approved by the company membership as a whole. Not just the five on the Federal Court
- The "burden of Court functions" sounds pretty ugly. If there wouldn't be Court members and Court meetings, the monthly Branch meetings would really end up as "social networking", a sort of a debating club with dinner, drinks and a speaker.
- I don't know where the reference of "complex meeting structures" comes from. Yes, I do remember rather formal time wasters in the Melbourne Harbour Trust building, but that was 30 years ago. Surely no one still does that sort of thing? So what benefits are we talking about?
- We still need a local "Court". If it makes you happier to call it a local "Committee", go ahead, but don't waste too much time on semantics.
- The simple business of even organising a monthly meeting/guest speaker/ advise the members of meeting details/contact with local entities takes A LOT OF TIME. If the "simplified branch structure" Master is any good he is probably involved with shipping full time. That means that he will be called away on short notice, and has to be able to rely on a backup provided by a court. Current experience has shown we are struggling as it is.
- And that just goes for the "Masthead". The real "nuts and bolts" work goes to our Secretary, and this is many, many hours of work. Do we really think we can do away with that?

- The proposal is that there is no need for court meetings or any form of formality. All we have to do is socialise and network.
- Activities and events don't just happen. They have to be planned and organised. Unless the Branch Master does it all himself he will need assistance. Those who assist need to do so within some formal structure and with some authority. This is provided by the existing court system.
- It could hardly be called a 'Court' if it consists of just two elected / nominated members. For a Branch to remain vibrant and pro-active, there must be a committee of persons driving the Branch, and taking charge of its day to day needs to keep it running. Accounting, managing Branch finances, writing the minutes of meetings, preparing reports, assisting in fund raising or managing events or just representing the Branch at local events requires a committee of people working for the common good.
- Is it really the intention that after centralisation the Federal Court will be responsible to search for and organize the monthly guest speaker for all branches ?? We all know how difficult it is to attract and coordinate interesting speakers for our meetings; and this cannot be left with the Branch Master and his/her Deputy. I don't think so ....
- Is the "Funded National Secretary" going to arrange the local guest speaker, the venue , last minute bookings or cancellations? If not, who is? Is that an extra one to the "simplified branch court"?
- Guidelines on the structure of Branch Courts and the holding Branch Court meetings may be drawn up however it should be the prerogative of the Branch as to how it wants to structure its Court and how to conduct its meetings.

**Position –**

1. *Do not support proposed changes as the branch does not believe it is realistic to operate under the new structure*
2. *Register the branch's wish not to become a forum for dinners and speakers only*

## 7. Standardised Meeting Format for Branches

- Perhaps the Federal Court does not understand how the Branch Courts conduct their meetings. The system in Melbourne appears to work extremely efficiently with the Court meeting preceding the dinner meeting. I do believe that the Melbourne Court already operates in exactly the same manner as the paper suggests that we do (the second paragraph in that section).
- The Federal Court may suggest how meetings are to be run and provide guidance on its format but eventually it should be left to each Branch to organise its meetings in a format that is effective for them and in accordance with their local members' preferences.

**Position –**

1. *Support the Federal Court giving guidance on how meetings could be run and suggestions as to format, but note the branch's satisfaction with how meetings are currently scheduled and run.*

## 8. Centralised Publication (Newsletter)

- It would have to be a vast improvement on the current one. Branch Members who are not regular or are unable to attend branch meetings look to the branch monthly newsletter to keep them informed.
- They have budgeted \$12,000 ie \$3000 per edition of the *Master Mariner*. From their 2011 draft budget it currently cost \$2750 per edition but the cost of distribution is borne by the branches. It cost us \$200 per

edition for distribution ie \$800 per year. Their budget does not allow for distribution and with an annual allowance of only \$3000 we cannot afford the cost.

- The current productions of the "Master Mariner" are good, and in time. They can, however, not replace the local notices required to keep the members advised of monthly meeting details. The feedback from old members about receiving our local "LOG" as being their only link with the Company surely indicates that we should keep this going. It's not expensive! In a centralised treasury system we should be able to simply send the bill for this to Fed Treas., rather than extracting this from a "float".
- I understand that there is already one centralised publication. Again, I do not see why the Federal Court is attempting to stifle the initiative of some Branches to run a newsletter out of the Branch funds and packed with local interest information.
- Members associate better to local news in a local newsletter, which will be lost if the newsletter is centralised.
- The Federal Court should retain the status quo on publications and newsletters.

**Position –**

1. *Do not support this proposal at the current time, as it appears to be an emotive issue with opinions wide and divided.*
2. *However we do believe there is potential in the concept, which can be better sold to members once a clear future direction has been decided and the publication's role in achieving this can be explained.*
3. *At that point, Melbourne would support a full review of publications and their cost/benefits to both Federal Court and branches.*

**9. Comments on benefits listed.**

- Reduced accounting and auditing fees.
  - This is not supported by the budget which shows no reduction.
  - The level of financial activity will not be reduced. Branches will still have to keep accounts to show how the float and annual allowance are spent. All our activities involve the collection and /or payment of GST and must be reported.
- Common fee structure
  - In theory it is good practice to have a common membership fee across all Branches. However the rate suggested is exorbitant and we will lose a vast number of members. We cannot justify the inflated fees when we provide very minimal benefits to members (a \$5 discount on the monthly dinner can hardly be classed as a benefit).
  - In Melbourne, a 'retired' person is one who is no longer in full time employment and not anyone who is over the age of 65. (David's note. Melbourne appears to be wrong – check for implications)
- Maintain and Lift Profile of Company
  - Without providing further detail on the proposal, it is difficult to envisage how this proposed Federal Secretariat could "maintain and lift the profile of the Company" more effectively than our current Federal Court?
- Modern Organisational Structure
  - We already have a board with directors listed with ASIC.

- Alleviate burden of court functions
  - Is it a burden?
- Paid person to run day-to-day business
  - Not sure about this one
- Reduce burden on members through simplified branch structure.
  - Not even sure what this means.

**Position –**

1. *That the Federal Court undertake robust analysis to back up our instinctive reactions to the nature of the issues facing CMMA and the plan we need to put in place to resolve them and set a safe course for the Company, before any significant changes to the fabric of the Company are contemplated.*

**10. Comments on Benefits of Membership to CMMA**

- The paper makes reference to 7 Benefits of Membership to CMMA – is there any evidence that members are actually enjoying those benefits?
- The contention that we are a professional body is dubious. CMMA is a broad based organisation which cannot claim to represent any profession or section of the shipping industry. That's why many members such as our lawyers, surveyors and pilots also belong to their own professional body.
- Master Mariner is a qualification – Shipmaster, Pilot, Harbour Master could be viewed as professions. Not all Master Mariners are IFSMA (International Federation of Shipmasters Associations) people.

Item 1           Why isn't that happening now? We are already a national body?

Item 2 & 3       This should happen regardless.

Item 4           Again why haven't we got that now?

Item 5, 6 & 7 This should also be happening. All of these items should be pursued rather than a reorganisation with doubtful or hard to see benefits.

**Position –**

1. *The Seven benefits of membership to CMMA should be reviewed and members surveyed as part of the research into 'who we are', to ensure a) their relevance, b) The company's ability to provide and c) what other benefits could/should be offered today's CMMA member.*

**11. Comments on CMMA proposed operating budget**

- The budget assumes that the current level of membership continues. The over 65's may not be a problem but will all the under 65's see \$250 value in their membership. A 10% loss of under 65's will result in a shortfall of \$5000 in income.
- At the start of this year we had \$18,946 in the bank. This will be reduced to \$5000. How long is this float expected to last?
- Until we know which expenses will be taken over by the Secretariat we can't say if the yearly allowance of \$3000 will cover our costs. I suspect we will have less disposable income.
- South Australia with 34 members will receive the same money as Melbourne with 120 members.
- Melbourne and West Australia subsidise the other branches. If a branch is too small to be viable then perhaps it should close or amalgamate with another organisation and remain as an affiliate

- The budget doesn't seem very realistic, with many expenditure items not moving for four years and an operating loss evident for several years even though new expenditure (such as overseas conferences) are still in there. Not saying we shouldn't do conferences, but how have they helped us influence anything? Can we afford them? Prove it please!

**12. General comments**

- There is no doubt that we do have to make some big changes to remain viable as an organisation representing the Master Mariners.
- Because members have operated under a Branch mentality for so long, many see the funds they have built up as theirs. Even if by point of law the Federal Court can prove it is not, to take it all away is going to upset some members and cause distrust, at a time when we're trying to unify. Such things have to be treated very carefully.
- Melbourne has some trust money which is believed to have been meant for the branch, although no records survive. Would that money be taken?

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Editors Note.

No apologies for the length of this item. It is important and deserves to be widely circulated amongst the members. Any comments or suggestions can be forwarded to the Editor on [wendick@hotmail.com](mailto:wendick@hotmail.com) and they will be passed on to the Court.

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**INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE SEAFARER**  
 MONDAY 25TH JUNE, 2012  
 AN EVENING OF GREAT FOOD • BOUTIQUE WINES • ENTERTAINMENT

THE MISSION TO SEAFARERS

THE MISSION TO SEAFARERS INVITES YOU AND YOUR GUESTS TO JOIN US

**THE CAIRO CLUB ORCHESTRA:**  
 a Vintage Dance Orchestra comprising Ten Specialist Musicians Dedicated to the Faithful interpretation of the Hot And Sweet sounds of the 1920's, 30's & 40's.

**BOOK NOW !**  
 TICKETS \$70 ( \$50 for Crew 717 members )  
 717 FLINDERS ST, DOCKLANDS  
 6PM - 9:30PM

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 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
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 Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_  
 No. of tickets: \_\_\_\_\_

My cheque is enclosed. (Cheques to be made payable to Mission to Seafarers Victoria)  
 Please debit my credit card / debit card:  Visa  Mastercard  
 Card no: \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ Expiry date: \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_  
 Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Crew 717 Membership No. if applicable \_\_\_\_\_  
 Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

## THE NAUTICAL INSTITUTE SE AUSTRALIA BRANCH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

When: 9th May 2012. Where: NSW Sports Club, Hunter Street, Sydney.

Time: 1700—1800 hrs. We will adjourn and then proceed to the regularly scheduled CoMMA/NI dinner and NI SE Australian branch sponsored speaker.

Speaker: Shankar Ramanathan presenting on : 'The NSW approach to Safety Culture and Safety Management Systems on Commercial Vessels.

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Joint function with MLANZ for 30th May with speakers on the ending of the permit system on 1st July 2012.

Merchant Navy Day. 3rd September 2012. Details later.

Cathedral Service. 21st October 2012. Details later.

### NORTH RANKIN B JACKET INSTALLED BY FLOAT OVER METHOD



After 4 years of preparations the 24.250 ton **NRB deck** was installed onto the jacket in just over 6 hours by means of the float-over method. This will be the largest to date open water float-over done and a huge achievement by the crew and projecteam of the **H-851**. Accompanying tugs were the **DEEP SEA 1** (28.000 HP) seen in the picture and the **MAERSK PROMOTER, FAR GRIP** and **LEWEK SWAN**. Many thanks to the projecteam and crew of the **H-851**  
Photo : Willem van Woercom (c)



## News Flash

SOMALI PIRATES REFUSE TO BOARD CRUISE SHIPS.

Fire, Capsizing top pirates concerns spokesman says.

In yet another public relations setback for the beleaguered cruise industry, Somali pirates today said they would no longer board cruise ships, citing "unsafe working conditions."

"If the cruise ship industry thinks that it is going to be business as usual between them and the Somali pirates, they need to have their heads examined," said Somali pirate spokesman Sugule. "We Somali pirates may be bold but we are not crazy".

The pirates said that the recent fire that crippled the cruise ship Azamara Quest "has sent a shiver through the pirate community."

We Somali pirates face enough risks without dealing with boats bursting into flames," he said. "And don't get me started on capsizing. If you want to call us rats deserting a sinking ship, so be it."

When asked if the Somali pirates might attempt to board cruise ships in the future, he responded "I am telling my pirates that if they were thinking of pillaging a cruise ship over the Easter break, they should make alternative plans."

Carol Foyler, a spokesperson for the cruise industry said that cruise ship companies "would be working overtime to win back the pirates trust"

## Shipping containers engulfed in port blaze

FIRE-FIGHTERS are battling an uncontrolled blaze in Fremantle Port that has engulfed at least 11 sea containers. A Fire and Emergency Services Authority spokeswoman said the stack of containers in the Rous Head Harbour on North Mole Drive, North Fremantle, caught fire about 4pm today. Original reports from fire officials suggested 20 containers were ablaze, but the number was rounded down to 11 late today. At 7pm, the fire is contained but not controlled. FESA says 13 fire crews with about 40 fire-fighters are on the scene applying water to the sea containers to stop the fire spreading and flare-ups.



One of the containers, which are found in the commercial section of the port and belong to a hire and servicing company Container Refrigeration, contains oil, according to the FESA spokeswoman. The majority of the containers are empty. Investigators are yet to determine the cause of the blaze, but motorists have been told to avoid the area because of the large amount of thick smoke. The Department of

Environment and Conservation's Pollution Response Unit has conducted air monitoring and analysis after concerns were raised about the thick smoke coming.

Unit inspectors have reported that there are no chemicals of concern detected downwind of the fire, but they will remain on-site and container conducting tests. Police Duty Inspector Neil Blair said motorists should avoid the area.

"At this stage there is a fire in the container holding yard," Insp Blair said. "There is a heap of smoke there. We've got (patrol) cars there doing traffic management." All roads off North Mole Drive have been closed. A spokesman for Container Refrigeration declined to comment late today, telling PerthNow that he was "busy working on the fires".

According to the company's website, Container Refrigeration specialises in the hire, sales, service and modification of shipping containers both for refrigerated and general purpose.

## Ship of shame's \$200m price tag

Australian taxpayers can expect to be billed \$200 million to keep **HMAS Success** - the navy's "ship of shame" - at sea because Defence has neither maintained her properly or made provision for a replacement. Defence has confirmed a "mid-life extension", to keep the 26-year-old oil tanker and refuelling and replenishment vessel operational after its use-by date, will cost at least \$200 million. This would be additional to the \$35.8 million spent on the vessel since November 2010, the last time the ship was operational. There is already confusion over when **HMAS Success** will reach the end of its life without a major refit. Navy provided two different dates; 2017 and 2018. Both conflict with information provided by a Defence source who wishes to remain anonymous. "She [**HMAS Success**] never had a mid-life refit and her end of life is 2016, but there isn't a new ship on the horizon to replace her," the source said. The original plan was to commission a replacement by 2016, but that hadn't happened. "The Defence Capability Plan presently says her replacement will enter service in 2021-2022."

That can only work if **HMAS Success** is kept operational long past her original retirement date. "So how much will it cost to extend the life of **HMAS Success** until her replacement arrives you might ask? Would it be value for money? Should the government spend more money on an old ship or pay her off and buy a new one?" the source asked. That option is worth considering. The British, at least partly cashed up with the \$100 million Australia paid for the Largs Bay (now **HMAS Choules**), have reportedly done a deal with Daewoo for four "fleet oilers" at a reported cost of \$150 million each. "Why don't we buy in?" an industry figure said. "It's got to be cheaper [than patching up **HMAS Success** and then buying a replacement]." Defence has been quick to say it has not asked the government for an extra \$200 million to spend on **HMAS Success** just yet. Already a household name for sex scandals and a record number of Defence inquiries, **HMAS Success** is now headed for a new round of ignominy. Of the \$35.8 million spent on **HMAS Success** since November 2010, \$17.8 million was spent in Singapore to make it compliant with International Maritime Organisation Standards. A further \$13.8 million went on maintenance from June to November last year and a further \$4.1 million is now being spent on work to return the ship to operational readiness by July or August. Source : Canberratimes

### UNBREAKABLE LAWS OF NATURE

The Law of Mechanical Repair. After your hands become coated with grease, your nose will itch and you need a pee.

The Law of Probability. The probability of being watched is directly proportional to the stupidity of your act.

The Law of Random Numbers. If you dial a wrong number, you never get a busy signal and someone always answers.

The Law of Variation. If you change traffic lanes the one you were in will always move faster than the one you changed to.

From the Editor.

Please remember that this is your newsletter and contributions are always in short supply. Any little tit-bits of nautical information is welcome and also any respectable nautical jokes. Remember the e-mail

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