



The Voicepipe

**The Company of Master Mariners of Australia
QUEENSLAND BRANCH
June 2026**

Next Meeting will be held on

Thursday 25th June 2026

At

**Mission to Seafarers
2 Seafarers Street
Port of Brisbane**

12:00 for 12:30 hours to 14:00

Registration to attend is with the notice from WISTA on Page 2

This Meeting at The Mission, our fifth for the year, is to celebrate the International Day of the Seafarer with WISTA and Nautical Institute Queensland Branch

Queensland Branch Court and Member Responsibilities 2026 - 2027

<u>Position</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Mobile</u>	<u>E-mail</u>
Branch Master	Capt. Kasper Kuiper	0409 322 484	kkuiper@ozemail.com.au
Past Master	Capt. Ernest van Buuren	0419 403 263	Ernest.van.Buuren@clydeco.com
Hon. Secretary	Capt. Arthur Diack	0412 220 698	diackaj@bigpond.net.au
Hon. Treasurer	Capt. Mike Handfield	0407 177 419	michael.handfield@gmail.com
Archivist	As above		
Branch Registrar	As above		
Court Member	Capt. William Burton	0418 712 239	burton7@bigpond.com
Hon. Editor	As above		
ANZAC Day Rep	As above		
Court Member	T B A		TBA
MN Welfare Soc.	T B A		TBA
Court Member	Capt. Charles Lunn	0412 749 518	candplunn@optusnet.com.au
Seafarers Day	As above		
Seafarers Day	Capt. Peter Marchbank	0424 674 740	pmarchba@bigpond.net.au
Seafarers Centre	Capt. Bochenski	0418 290 812	minsbski@gmail.com
Web Master	Capt. Mike Tyler		mrt Tyler90@outlook.com
Chaplain	Rev Stephen Briggs	0428 136 116	stephen.briggs@anglicanchurchsq.org.au
Qld Maritime Museum	Capt. Kasper Kuiper		ceo@maritimemuseum.com.au

MASTER MARINERS' WEBSITE.

Please note that with the appointment of Capt. Francis Castellino as Federal Secretary, the newsletters / magazines from other branches will be available on our website.

<http://www.mastermariners.org.au/>

Members' Anniversary and Birthday in JUNE

CONGRATULATIONS FOR

37 years P. Dann

15 years B. Gray

MANY HAPPY RETURNS TO

N. Bellamy

M. Tyler

Thursday 25/06/2026: International Day of the Seafarer – Mission to Seafarers – and WISTA for a charity lunch, networking and industry updates.

Lunch will be hosted by Mission to Seafarers with lunch, dessert provided
and drinks available at the Mission's bar. Time: 12:00-14:00hrs

Location: Mission to Seafarers, 2 Seafarers St, Port of Brisbane QLD 4178

Members tickets price: \$45 Non-Members ticket price: \$55

For any questions about the event, please contact any of the following:

Nicola Murray (WISTA Qld) at nicola.murray@portbris.com.au

Ross Nicholls (Mission to Seafarers) at secmtsbrisbane@gmail.com

Tickets / Registration

[WISTA Australia - Day of the Seafarer 2026 – Hosted by Mission to Seafarers and WISTA Qld](#)

**THE COMPANY OF MASTER MARINERS OF AUSTRALIA
QUEENSLAND BRANCH**

BRANCH MASTER REPORT

Welcome to the June edition of the Voicepipe.

I have returned from my trip to WA which was a lovely break. The infrastructure is very hot in the west - Iron ore export is very high in output and money is very well spent.

Because I was in WA, I missed the May branch meeting dinner. I would like to thank Capt Lunn who took the honours in leading the evening. There were 8 members who were able to make it, and I thank you for your support.

As it is June, we would normally hold a "Ladies Lunch" however this year we are doing it a little differently. WISTA had already organised a luncheon for the last Thursday of the month, so this year we will join their fundraising lunch rather than them joining ours.

You are all invited (and your ladies, if you would like) to join us at the luncheon to be held at the Mission to Seafarers, next Thursday 25th June from 1200h to 1400h. Tickets for members are \$45 pp and non-members are \$55 pp. Mission to Seafarers is located at 2 Seafarers St, Port Of Brisbane.

I hope to see many of you there, to show your support.

Capt Kasper Kuiper
Branch Master

**THE COMPANY OF MASTER MARINERS OF AUSTRALIA
QUEENSLAND BRANCH**

**Minutes of the General Meeting held at the Royal on the Park Hotel on 28th
April 2026.**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Captains Kuiper, Bailey, Bochenski, Burton, Diack, J. Ellis, Lunn, and Murday.

APOLOGIES: Captains Ballantyne, Coy, Handfield, Kavanagh, Langford, Mackey, Marchbank, Thompson, Tyler, Dr M. White and Reverend S. Briggs.

The meeting was opened by Captain Kuiper at 1240 hours. Captain Kuiper welcomed the members attending our first lunchtime meeting of the year. He noted that several of our regular attendees are travelling at the moment. He extended our best wishes to members who are unwell and wished them a speedy recovery.

Grace was said by Captain Diack.

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING: The minutes of the general meeting held on 26th March 2026 were circulated in the April 2026 edition of the "Voicepipe". They were proposed by Captain Kuiper as a true record of that meeting. Seconded by Captain Ellis and carried.

TREASURERS REPORT: In the absence of the Hon. Treasurer, his report was presented by Captain Burton:

Business Account Balance 1 st January 2026				\$5,486.94
1	Meetings	\$1,810.00		
2	Catering and room hire		-\$1,875.00	
3	2026 Subscriptions	\$3,805.00		
4	Catering Gratuity		-\$40.00	
5	Transaction Fee		-\$10.00	
	16th April Closing Balance			\$9,176.94

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	Investment Account Balance at 16th April 2026		\$24,239.74
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- To date 2026 Subscriptions from 36 Members totalled \$3,890. One Subscription of \$85 was paid in 2025 and not included in the above total.
- There is only one standard expense expected in 2026, the Federal Levy.
- The Post Box Hire and Membership of the Maritime Museum have been discontinued and the Post Box key returned.

I propose that this report be accepted as a true record of the Branch finances.

Michael Handfield, Hon. Treasurer. 16th April 2026

Captain Burton proposed that this report be accepted as a true record of the Branch finances since the beginning of the current year. Seconded by Captain Bailey and carried.

BRANCH MASTER'S REPORT: This was published in the April 2026 edition of the Voicepipe.

FEDERAL COURT REPORT: Captain Burton advised that the Federal AGM was held on Saturday 18th April by videoconference. He confirmed that the proposal to amend the Constitution to remove the requirement for an annual financial audit was accepted at the AGM. These amendments are now in effect. ASIC will be notified of the changes..

GENERAL BUSINESS:

1. Captain Murday expressed concern about the Branch's shrinking membership and asked what we are going to do about it. This led to a general discussion about the similar problem being experienced by many organisations. The involvement of master mariners in the maritime industry in the Brisbane area has virtually disappeared, other than pilots, who have their own organisation. Captain Bochenski commented that lifestyle changes have meant people have moved away from industry organisations. The discussion provided no solution to the matter, which needs to be addressed at a federal level as it is a nationwide issue.
2. Captain Bochenski advised that he has been elected to the Mission to Seafarers Management Committee. He reported that the committee is continuing to negotiate with the Port of Brisbane to reach agreement on the level of support for the MTS. He also reported that the number of volunteers has fallen, due to the rising cost of fuel. The MTS also needs to reconsider the way its bus service to the seafarers operates.
3. Captain Kuiper commented that the number of marchers at the ANZAC Day parade was very low this year, probably due to the unsettled weather.

There being no further general business, members enjoyed a fine meal and engaged in general discussion on a range of topics.

In closing, Captain Kuiper thanked members for their attendance at a very enjoyable meeting. He wished everyone a safe journey home and closed the meeting at 1415 hours.

The next general meeting will be held on Thursday 28th May 2026 at the Royal on the Park Hotel, commencing at 1800 for 1830 hours.

Arthur Diack,
Honorary Branch Secretary.

NOTE: Omitted from the minutes as published in the May Voicepipe were three membership applications which were read:

Benjamin Francis DAVIS Ordinary Melbourne

Tod Ian SHEAVES Ordinary Queensland

Neal Rodney AITKEN Associate Sydney.

Minutes of the General Meeting held at the Royal on the Park Hotel on 28th May 2026.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Captains Lunn, Burton, Coy, Diack, J. Ellis, Mackey, Marchbank, and Thompson.

GUEST: Captain Chandra Godakanda Arachchige, prospective member.

APOLOGIES: Captains Kuiper, Ballantyne, Bochenski, Handfield, Kavanagh, Murday. Dr M. White and Reverend S Briggs.

In the absence of the Branch Master, Captain Lunn took the chair. The meeting was opened by Captain Lunn at 1835 hours. He welcomed the members attending the meeting. He noted that several of our regular attendees are travelling at the moment. He extended our best wishes to members who are unwell and wished them a speedy recovery.

Grace was said by Captain Diack.

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING: The minutes of the general meeting held on 28th April 2026 were circulated in the May 2026 edition of the "Voicepipe". They were proposed by Captain Lunn as a true record of that meeting. Seconded by Captain Ellis and carried.

TREASURERS REPORT:

Business Account Balance 1 st January 2026				\$5,486.94
1	Meetings	\$2,495.00		
2	Catering and room hire		\$2,475.00	
3	2026 Subscriptions	\$3,805.00		
4	Catering Gratuity		-\$40.00	
5	Transaction Fee		-\$10.00	
	14th May Closing Balance			\$9,176.94

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Investment Account Balance at 28th May 2026			\$24,239.74
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- To this date 2026 Subscriptions from 36 Members totalled \$3,890. One Subscription of \$85 was paid in 2025 and not included in the above total.
- The Investment Account matures on 18th September.
- There is only one standard expense expected in 2026, the Federal Levy.
- The Post Box Hire and Membership of the Maritime Museum have been discontinued and the Post Box key returned.

Acting Treasurer Captain Burton proposed that this report be accepted as a true record of the Branch finances from the beginning of the current year. Seconded by Captain Marchbank and carried.

BRANCH MASTER'S REPORT: This was published in the May 2026 edition of the Voicepipe.

FEDERAL COURT REPORT: Captain Burton advised that the minutes of the Federal AGM had been circulated. The minutes of the Federal Court meeting are not yet available.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION: Captain Diack advised that he had one membership application to be read:

Chandra GODAKANDA ARACHCHIGE Ordinary member Queensland Branch.

GENERAL BUSINESS:

4. Captain Coy expressed his sadness over the passing of Peter Morris, former Federal Minister for Transport and a true friend of the maritime industry. His published book "Ships of Shame" exposed the dirty underbelly of the shipping industry. Peter was also a strong supporter of the Newcastle Maritime Museum. Unfortunately, even his support was not sufficient to save it.
5. Captain Coy also spoke about the close links between the Warsash Maritime Training School and the University of Southampton. He expressed his dismay that many of the training units were designed to prepare maritime students for working ashore. He was surprised to learn how few people in UK knew anything about the Merchant Navy.
6. Captain Mackey commented that the Port of Hamburg has just celebrated its 837th birthday as a port. It remains one of the largest ports in Europe.
7. Captain Thompson reported on the variety of training being carried out at Smartship. He cited training for tug masters from Nhulunbuy and for crew from the expedition ship Nuyina.
8. Captain Burton reported that he had just returned from attending the Sanctuary Cove Boat Show, representing the Australian Institute of Marine Surveyors. He commented that a boat builder from PNG had inquired about training people to be surveyors using an online course.
9. Captain Burton confirmed that for our June general meeting we would join WISTA and the Mission to Seafarers at a special luncheon to celebrate the Day of the Seafarer 2026. This will be held at the Seafarers Centre at Fisherman Islands commencing at 1200 hours. Our normal Ladies Lunch will be held in July.

There being no further general business, members enjoyed a fine meal and engaged in general discussion on a range of topics.

In closing, Captain Lunn thanked members for their attendance at a very enjoyable meeting. He wished everyone a safe journey home and closed the meeting at 2040 hours.

The next general meeting will be held on Thursday 25th June 2026 at the Mission to Seafarers Centre, Fisherman Islands, commencing at 1200 hours.

Arthur Diack,
Honorary Branch Secretary.



Stage 5 Laidley Creek completed

We've completed another catchment management project in the Lockyer Valley as part of a decades-long partnership with Healthy Land & Water.

It's the fifth stage of works delivered through the Laidley Creek Restoration Master Plan which stabilised and restored a one-kilometre stretch of degraded creek bank, replanting with native vegetation sourced from a local Lockyer Valley nursery.

In addition to improving local habitat and water quality at the site, it also improves the resilience of adjoining prime agricultural land, making it less vulnerable to erosion – particularly after severe weather events.

Over the last 10 years with Healthy Land & Water, local landowners and other partners, we've rehabilitated a total of 3.8km of degraded creek banks along Laidley Creek, helping to prevent, on average, almost 20,000 tonnes of sediment entering the regional catchment annually. Read more on our website.



Channel Enhancement Project

Work is progressing on studies for Port of Brisbane's Channel Enhancement Project's Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

The EIS involves a comprehensive program of technical studies to understand any potential impacts and inform project planning. Many of these studies include the collection of new data, field surveys and investigations. As an example, water quality instruments are currently deployed at seven locations across the Bay to measure natural turbidity levels.

The draft EIS is expected to be lodged with the Office of the Coordinator General (OCG) for review in mid-2027.

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First vessel for Strategic Fleet announced

The *ANL Kokoda*, a medium sized, geared container vessel, will be the first to participate in the Strategic Fleet Pilot Program. This sovereign shipping capability is intended to strengthen Australia's economic sovereignty and improve national security. The vessel will be available to Australian Government agencies to requisition in times of need, emergency or crises, such as natural disasters and supply chain disruptions.



Source: Google

As part of the five-year pilot, the vessel will become Australian-flagged and crewed, helping to rebuild our national shipping industry. It will bolster resilience and help grow our sovereign maritime workforce ensuring Australia has the skills and capabilities to operate our ports and maritime services into the future.

The Strategic Fleet is the central component of a broader program of work that aims to revitalise the Australian maritime industry. This includes the establishment of the Maritime Skills and Training Initiative, cracking down on wage theft aboard foreign-flagged ships, and reviewing the *Coastal Trading Act*.

Guiding Star: Singapore risks losing touch with the sea, veteran warns



Kuet Ee Yoon at Marina South Pier, overlooking the Singapore Strait, where he says the sea remains central to the city-state's identity and survival. **Photo: Huaqing Ma**

At Singapore's Marina South Pier — where crew boats shuttle seafarers to and from vessels — Kuet Ee Yoon pauses frequently as he walks, greeting familiar faces from the city-state's maritime community. "Uncle Kuet," several call out — reflecting the quiet influence he has built over decades. The 67-year-old former Republic of Singapore Navy officer now advises marine engineering firm OceanMaster Engineering, sits on a Maritime & Port Authority of Singapore (MPA) pleasure-craft safety working group and at the Singapore Shipping Association. Kuet also co-founded the Singapore Maritime Heritage Interest Group.

He has become an unlikely but persistent advocate for maritime awareness in a city-state whose fortunes remain tied to the sea. Kuet is **TradeWinds' fourth Guiding Star** in recognition of his long-standing advocacy for maritime awareness, heritage preservation and safety culture in Singapore — though he would be the last person to seek such recognition.

Despite his low profile, he agreed to this interview, joking that it felt more like an "interrogation — like I owed you money".

"For Singapore, we exist because we have the waterway right in front of our doorstep," he told TradeWinds, arguing that this fundamental reality is still not fully understood by the wider public.

Singapore's blind spot

That same mindset now underpins his advocacy work, particularly his belief that Singaporeans must better understand their maritime environment. He said disruptions — from Covid-19 to rising costs — have briefly heightened awareness, but only at a surface level. "It's the tip of the iceberg ... because ... the sea line of communication ... has always been there," Kuet said, pointing to centuries of maritime activity that shaped the island's development.

Despite Singapore's status as a global port and bunkering hub, he believes awareness remains uneven rather than absent. "I will say no, not disconnected ... but it's not wide enough, not deep enough," Kuet said, adding that the real gap lies in education. His solution is simple but emphatic: start young.

"You must start young," he said, describing how direct exposure to the sea — from rowing to simple activities like walking along the shore — can build lasting connections. This emphasis on lived experience extends to his work with the Singapore Maritime Heritage Interest Group, which he co-founded, where he advocates preserving maritime history not as nostalgia, but as a foundation for identity.

"If you don't know the past, you can't 'chart' the future ... it's a country without a soul," he said, warning that neglecting maritime heritage risks eroding Singapore's sense of itself. He has also called for stronger measures such as mandatory heritage impact assessments for major coastal developments, arguing that Singapore's "sea story" remains underexplored.

New MD for ANL Container Line

After the recent resignation of Shane Walden, the CMA CGM Group has announced the appointment of Esra Bora as managing director of ANL Container Line Pty Ltd and general manager of CMA CGM Oceania agencies, based in Melbourne. In her new position, Ms Bora will oversee the Group's activities across the Oceania region, as well as the strategy and operations of ANL Container Line Pty Ltd.

Ms Bora brings more than 18 years' experience in the maritime industry, including over eight years within the CMA CGM Group. Since joining the Group as general manager in Türkiye, she has held several commercial and regional leadership roles in Marseille and across Asia. Her career notably includes serving as general manager of the Vietnam cluster and, most recently, as general manager of CMA CGM China.

AMSA bans another vessel

The Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA) is continuing to safeguard the wellbeing of seafarers through its ongoing enforcement of international regulations. Using what has now become a familiar tool, for the third time in less than two months AMSA has banned a vessel from Australian waters for three months due to violations of the Maritime Labour Convention, including accusations of not paying seafarers and charging them for potable water.

In the latest case, the Liberia-flagged vessel *FPMC B Forever* (180,099 dwt), which is operated by Formosa Plastics Marine Corporation (FPMC), has been banned from entering Australian ports or waters until 28 July. A detention order followed by the immediate ban came after AMSA boarded the bulk carrier recently at the Port of Newcastle for a port state control inspection.

Inspectors reported they found that the ship's crew had been underpaid by almost A\$15,000. In addition, they reported that the crew was being charged for potable water, among other unlawful violations of the Maritime Labor Convention.

"Underpaying seafarers – by any amount – is unlawful and will trigger enforcement action," said Greg Witherall, AMSA Acting Executive Director Operations. "This action should serve as a clear warning to operators who think they can cut corners at the expense of their crew. The law is clear: if you underpay your crew, the cost will be far higher than the wages you tried to withhold."

REGISTRAR'S REPORT

The Chairman and Board Members, Company of Master Mariners of Australia.

Please find attached the report to the Federal Court meeting as of 1st April 2026.

We have once a nett 2 membership losses (Ex Off +1, Ret -4, Ord -1, Assoc +1, Not Ratified +1) since the 2025 AGM. This is generally a good result, due largely to the new members recruited over this period, and it is encouraging to see regular new applications which replace the losses through resignations and deaths.

Change on Membership Status AGM 2025 to AGM 2026

	AGM 2025 Total	Ex Off	Life	Hon	Ret	Ord	Assoc	Student	Not Ratified	AGM 2026 Total
Melbourne	92	0	2	3	26	48	9	0	1	89
Queensland	40	1	1	2	14	16	3	0	1	38
Former SA	12	0	2	0	3	3	1	0	0	9
Sydney	50	0	2	1	24	23	4	0	1	55
WA	106	1	2	4	22	60	17	0	0	106
Federal	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Total	300	3	9	10	89	150	34	0	3	298

I apologise for the lateness of this report, but unfortunately, I again had to await replies from some state registrars, who are subject to working, family and social pressures. I am very grateful for their efforts and can confidently say that the details of this report truly reflect the current membership.

If any member of the Federal Court has a need of membership information at any time, I'd be happy to assist. Below is the variations in membership since the last Federal Court meeting on 14 February 2026.

Membership Status as at 14 February 2026

	Total	Ex Off	Life	Hon	Ret	Ord	Assoc	Student	Not Ratified	Total
Melbourne	90	0	2	4	26	48	9	0	0	89
Queensland	39	1	1	2	16	16	3	0	0	39
Former SA	9	0	2	0	3	3	1	0	0	9
Sydney	51	0	2	1	24	22	3	0	0	52
WA	104	1	2	4	20	61	17	0	0	105
Federal	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Total	294	3	9	11	89	150	33	0	0	295

Membership Status as at 01 April 2026

	Total	Ex Off	Life	Hon	Ret	Ord	Assoc	Student	Not Ratified	Total
Melbourne	89	0	2	3	26	48	9	0	1	89
Queensland	39	1	1	2	14	16	3	0	1	38
Former SA	9	0	2	0	3	3	1	0	0	9
Sydney	52	0	2	1	24	23	4	0	1	55
WA	105	1	2	4	22	60	17	0	0	106
Federal	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Total	295	3	9	10	89	150	34	0	3	298

Membership Changes Between 14/02/2026 and 01/04/2026

		Ex Off	Life	Hon	Ret	Ord	Assoc	Student	Not Ratified	Total Change
Melbourne		0	0	-1	0	0	0	0	+1	0
Queensland		0	0	0	-2	0	0	0	+1	-1
Former SA		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sydney		0	0	0	0	+1	+1	0	+1	+3
WA		0	0	0	+2	-1	0	0	0	+1
Federal		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total		0	0	-1	0	0	+1	0	+2	+3

Members Age Analysis as at 01/11/2025

		To 40	41 - 50	51 - 60	61 - 70	71 - 80	81 +		Total	Av Age
Melbourne		5	16	9	18	21	21		90	66.5
Queensland		2	1	5	8	11	12		39	71.4
Former SA		0	1	0	1	5	2		9	74.8
Sydney		0	6	3	8	17	19		53	73.1
WA		9	14	25	23	28	6		105	62.1
Federal		0	0	1	0	0	0		1	
Total		16	38	43	58	82	60		297	

Royce Spencer

Federal Registrar

11 April 2026

DATE CLAIMERS FOR 2026

PLEASE NOTE THESE DATES AND VENUES IN YOUR DIARY

Thursday	11 June	10:30	Court	Hamilton
Thursday	25 June	12:00	WISTA Intl Seafarer Day	Mission to Seafarers
Thursday	09 July	10:30	Court	Hamilton
Thursday	30 July	12:00	Ladies Lunch	Royal on the Park
Thursday	13 Aug	10:30	Court	Hamilton
Thursday	27 Aug	18:00	General	Royal on the Park
Sunday	6 Sept	13:00	Seafarer Service	St Johns
Thursday	10 Sept	10:30	Court	Hamilton
Tuesday	29 Sept	12:00	General	Royal on the Park
Thursday	08 Oct	10:30	Court	Hamilton
Thursday	29 Oct	18:00	General	Royal on the Park
Thursday	12 Nov	10:30	Court	Hamilton
Thursday	26 Nov	18:00	LADIES	T B A