



# The Voicepipe

The Company of Master Mariners of Australia  
QUEENSLAND BRANCH  
August 2025

Next Meeting will be held on

**Thursday 28th August 2025**

At

**Royal on the Park,  
The Walnut Restaurant  
152 Alice Street, Brisbane CBD**

**1800 for 1830 hours**

**Two Choices from Three Course menu with 2 Drinks and Coffee at \$ 75.00 per person**

PAYMENT BY EFT TO: - BSB: **064-012** ACCT NO: **0080 0150** NAME: **COMPANY OF MASTER MARINERS OF AUST**

**This Meeting, our seventh for the year, is to plan for the Boulton lecture**

If you are attending, or need to lodge an apology, please advise Captain Kasper Kuiper as soon as possible during business hours or at the latest by Noon on MONDAY 25th AUGUST 2025 by

Phone (07) 3839 7551 or Mobile 0409 322 484

or [kkuiper@ozemail.com.au](mailto:kkuiper@ozemail.com.au)

or to PO Box 251, HAMILTON, Qld 4007

## Queensland Branch Court and Member Responsibilities 2025 - 2026

Position	Name	(Home)	(Business)	(E-mail/Fax/mobile)
Branch Master	Capt. Kasper Kuiper	3268-6616		<a href="mailto:kkuiper@ozemail.com.au">kkuiper@ozemail.com.au</a> 0409 322 484
Past Master	Capt. Ernest van Buuren	3899 0869	3234 3023	<a href="mailto:Ernest.van.Buuren@clydeco.com">Ernest.van.Buuren@clydeco.com</a> 0419 403 263
Hon. Secretary	Capt. Arthur Diack	3264 1674		<a href="mailto:diackaj@bigpond.net.au">diackaj@bigpond.net.au</a> 0412 220 698
Hon. Treasurer	Capt. Mike Handfield	3263-8487		<a href="mailto:michael.handfield@gmail.com">michael.handfield@gmail.com</a> 0407 177 419
Archivist	As above			
Branch Registrar	As above			
Court Member	Capt. William Burton	3886 9744		<a href="mailto:burton7@bigpond.com">burton7@bigpond.com</a> 0418 712 239
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	3871 0782		<a href="mailto:candplunn@optusnet.com.au">candplunn@optusnet.com.au</a> 0412 749 518
Seafarers Day	As above			
Seafarers Day	Capt. Peter Marchbank	3300 1884		<a href="mailto:pmarchba@bigpond.net.au">pmarchba@bigpond.net.au</a> 0424 674 740
Seafarers Centre	Capt. Bochenski			<a href="mailto:minsbski@gmail.com">minsbski@gmail.com</a> 0418 290 812
Web Master	Capt. Mike Tyler	3378 5234		<a href="mailto:mrt Tyler90@outlook.com">mrt Tyler90@outlook.com</a>
Chaplain	Rev Stephen Briggs	3267 5329		<a href="mailto:stephen.briggs@anglicanchurchsq.org.au">stephen.briggs@anglicanchurchsq.org.au</a> 0428 136 116
Qld Maritime Museum	Capt. Kasper Kuiper	3268-6616		<a href="mailto:ceo@maritimemuseum.com.au">ceo@maritimemuseum.com.au</a>

### 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 SEPTEMBER

CONGRATULATIONS FOR

34 years        W. Burton  
11 years        G. Dunnett  
49 years        P. Marchbank

MANY HAPPY RETURNS TO

A. Diack  
J. Ellis  
C. Mackey  
K. Soares

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

**BRANCH MASTER REPORT**

Welcome to the August edition of the Voicepipe.

Our meeting on 31 July was well attended with a total of 14 in attendance - a full house! The food was excellent and there was plenty of good wines making for much talk amongst the table.

Much of the talk revolved around the future for the Company of Master Mariners, especially in a few states where there is no new recruiting of new members. For new officers there is the lack of Australian owned ships and relevant training . We met two cadets in July at the Mission to Seafarers who had received a job on an iron ore bulk carrier for Rio Tinto. That was good music to our ears, which we unfortunately don't get to hear too often.

Our August meeting will be next week Thursday the 28<sup>th</sup> of August at the Royal on the park, 1800h for 1830h.

For our members who aren't able to drive and need transport please consult with each other for transport and share a lift or taxi or a Uber. We would love to see you at the meeting.

I hope to see many of you on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> August at the Royal on the Park.

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 31<sup>st</sup> July 2025**

**MEMBERS PRESENT** Captains Kuiper, Bochenski, Burton, Coy, Diack, J. Ellis, Handfield, Littler, Lunn, Mackey, Marchbank, Thompson and Rev. S. Briggs.

**APOLOGIES:** Captains Bailey, Crisp, Crowsley, Kavanagh, Langford, Tyler and Williams.

The meeting was opened by Captain Kuiper at 1830 hours. Captain Kuiper welcomed members and expressed his pleasure at the larger than usual attendance. He extended our best wishes to members who are unwell and wished them a speedy recovery.

Grace was said by Rev. Briggs.

**MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING:** The minutes of the general meeting held on 26th June 2025 were circulated in the July 2025 edition of the "Voicepipe". They were proposed by Captain Kuiper as a true record of that meeting. Seconded by Captain Handfield and carried.

**TREASURERS REPORT:**

<b>Business Account Balance 1<sup>st</sup> June 2025</b>				<b>\$8,001.29</b>
1	Meetings	\$2,375.00		
2	Catering May and June Meetings		-\$1,650.00	
3	Bank Charges		-\$15.00	
	<b>30<sup>th</sup> July Closing Balance</b>			<b>\$8,711.29</b>

<b>Investment Account Balance at 1<sup>st</sup> January 2025</b>			<b>\$27,375.63</b>
	\$5,000 was transferred from the Investment Account on 20 <sup>th</sup> January	-\$5,000.00	
	Interest earned at maturity on 20 <sup>th</sup> .January 2025 was \$1,166.65	+\$1,166.65	
	<b>\$23,542.28 reinvested on 20<sup>th</sup> January for 8 months at 4.45% interest</b>		<b>\$23,542.28</b>

Captain Handfield proposed that this report be accepted as a true record of the Branch finances. Seconded by Captain Burton and carried.

Captain Handfield reported that he has an invoice to pay \$2,775.00 to Federal Court as our annual membership levy.

He also reported that he had an invoice to pay from the Seafarers' Day Service Committee for \$200.00. He has prepared a cheque for this amount but has been advised that the Committee does not accept cheques. He proposed that the invoice be paid in cash, drawn from the meeting payments. These payments were seconded by Captain Burton and carried. The \$200.00 and the invoice were passed to Captain Marchbank, Treasurer of the Seafarers' Day Committee.

**BRANCH MASTER'S REPORT:** This was published in the July 2025 edition of the Voicepipe.

**FEDERAL COURT REPORT:**

Captain Burton reported that a meeting of the Federal Court was held on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> July on Teams.

Among matters discussed were the level of annual subscriptions, the federal levy and also the membership application fee.

It was agreed to raise the Federal levy to \$80.00 per eligible member. Annual subscriptions were recommended to be a minimum of \$130.00 for ordinary members and \$85.00 for retired members.

Branches would individually set their subscriptions based on that recommendation.

The membership application fee was discussed at some length with Captain Kuiper advocating it be raised to \$180.00. Finally, it was agreed to raise the fee to \$160.00.

**GENERAL BUSINESS:**

1. Captain Kuiper advised that there was as yet no firm date from the prospective Boulton lecturer, Dr Andrew Forrest. He requested the Branch Secretary to contact Dr. Forrest's office seeking an update.
2. Captain Marchbank reminded members that the annual Seafarers' Service will be held on 14<sup>th</sup> September starting at 1300 hours. Reminders will go out to invitees at the beginning of August.
3. Captain Littler gave an update on the Brisbane River ferry service. There is a process of fleet replacement in progress. These plans do not currently include electrification. At present there is no extension of the services planned. This led to a discussion about the future of Cairncross Dock. Rev. Briggs advised that it has been taken over by Defence and will serve as a base for Army landing craft. The drydock will not be reopened.
4. Rev. Briggs reported on activities at the Mission to Seafarers. A function at the centre marking International Seafarers Day was attended by 60 to 65 people including a number of WISTA members and two cadets from Rio Tinto in WA. He acknowledged that Patricks are very supportive of the MTS. He also reported that the Port wants the land on which the present building stands. The committee is currently in discussion with POBA about a future location. The committee also is rethinking the operating arrangements at MTS due to a serious lack of volunteers. Currently the centre is only open from 10am to 6pm daily.
5. Captain Coy tabled a report in the current "Seaways" magazine on the grounding of the Ro-Ro ferry "Marco Polo" on the Swedish coast. He expressed his dismay that such an incident could occur on a Swedish ship as they pride themselves on being highly professional seamen. The accident happened when the ship lost its GPS signal, but this loss was not noticed by the officer on watch or the master. (The report can be found on the Swedish Accident Investigation Authority website.)
6. Captain Kuiper reported that 20+ sailors from the visiting USN ships in port helped at the Maritime Museum, cleaning out and reorganizing the wooden boat display shed. He has attended functions related to these ships and has spoken to the US Consul-General about possible grants for the museum. He also commented that the museum had welcomed over 1200 visitors during the recent Open Day. He is also pleased to report that the museum now has a healthy bank account, after being on the brink of bankruptcy 5 years ago.

7. Captain Diack advised that he has been asked by the Federal Secretary to review the Company constitution. The main focus of the review will be removing some of the unrealistic Objects and Powers in the current document, simplifying a lot of the language, and where possible removing the operating provisions into regulations or by-laws. He invited members who wished to make suggestions to contact him.

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 members a safe journey home and closed the meeting at 2100 hours.

The next general meeting will be held on Thursday 28th August 2025 at the Royal on the Park Hotel, commencing at 1800 for 1830 hours, TBC.

*Arthur Diack*  
Honorary Branch Secretary.

<b>DATE CLAIMERS FOR 2025</b>				
<b>PLEASE NOTE THESE DATES AND VENUES IN YOUR DIARY</b>				
<b>Thursday</b>	14 Aug	10:30	Court	Hamilton
<b>Thursday</b>	28 Aug	18:00	General	Royal on the Park
<b>Sunday</b>	14 Sept	13:00	<b>SEAFARERS SERVICE</b>	<b>St Johns Anne Street</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	11 Sept	10:30	Court	Hamilton
<b>Thursday</b>	25 Sept	12:00	General	Royal on the Park
<b>Thursday</b>	9 Oct	10:30	Court	Hamilton
<b>Thursday</b>	30 Oct	18:00	General	Royal on the Park
<b>Thursday</b>	13 Nov	10:30	Court	Hamilton
<b>Thursday</b>	27 Nov	18:00	<b>LADIES</b>	<b>T B A</b>