



# The Voicepipe

The Company of Master Mariners of Australia  
QUEENSLAND BRANCH  
October 2025

Next Meeting will be held on

**Thursday 27th November 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 \$ 80.00 per person**

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

**This Meeting, our tenth and final for the year, is with Our Ladies**

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 24th NOVEMBER 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 DECEMBER and JANUARY

### CONGRATULATIONS FOR

29 years C. Coy  
 32 years K. Kuiper  
 25 years R. Littler  
 35 years G. Martin  
 8 years A. McClymont  
 22 years P. Murday  
 4 years M. Pearce  
 50 years D. Williams

### MANY HAPPY RETURNS TO

December B. Bailey  
 January S. Ballantyne

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

**BRANCH MASTER REPORT**

Welcome to the November 2025 edition of the Voicepipe.

Our October meeting was well attended with 11 members able to enjoy our dinner meeting. It is always good to see the masters who come along to enjoy themselves with great food and drinks, mixing with their colleagues and exchanging stories from the good ol' days. A time when there were still Australian shops and Australian ship owners. When the Commonwealth countries were sailing regularly between Europe and Australia with wealthy produce both ways. Aah, those were the days.

At this meeting we also celebrated some birthdays for members that had turned 70 – there may have been singing and cake involved.

By 2120h the meeting was closed and the branch master thanked everyone for their attendance and contribution to storytelling.

Our next meeting is on 27<sup>th</sup> November for the annual “Ladies Dinner”. You are, of course, most welcome to bring a friend for the evening. Note that if there are more than 20 attendees, we will need to pre-order from the menu or allow for an alternative drop. I will let you know what needs to be done.

I look forward to seeing many of you, and your ladies, at the Royal on the Park next week Thursday, 27<sup>th</sup> November at 1800h for 1830h.

Capt. Kasper Kuiper  
Branch Master

**DATE CLAIMERS FOR 2025**

**PLEASE NOTE THESE DATES AND VENUES IN YOUR DIARY**

<b>Thursday</b>	<b>13 Nov</b>	<b>10:30</b>	<b>Court</b>	<b>Hamilton</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>27 Nov</b>	<b>18:00</b>	<b>LADIES</b>	<b>T B A</b>

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

**Minutes of the General Meeting held at the Royal on the Park Hotel on  
30<sup>th</sup> October 2025.**

**MEMBERS PRESENT** Captains Kuiper, Bochenski, Burton, Coy, Diack, Handfield, Lunn, Mackey, Marchbank, Murday, and Thompson.

**APOLOGIES:** Captains Bailey, Ballantyne, Crowsley, J. Ellis, Kavanagh, Langford, and Nicholls.

The meeting was opened by Captain Kuiper at 1835 hours. Captain Kuiper welcomed members He extended our best wishes to members who are unwell and wished them a speedy recovery.

Grace was said by Capt. Arthur Diack.

**MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING:** The minutes of the general meeting held on 28th August 2025 were circulated in the August 2025 edition of the "Voicepipe". They were proposed by Captain Kuiper as a true record of that meeting. Seconded by Captain Handfield and carried. There was no meeting in September due to insufficient numbers available. (See Branch Master's Report.)

**TREASURERS REPORT:**

<b>Business Account Balance 1<sup>st</sup>September 2025</b>			<b>\$5,171.29</b>
1	Meetings	\$975.00	
2	ICHCA Forum		-\$300.00
3	Bank Charges		-\$15.00
	<b>30<sup>th</sup> October Closing Balance</b>		<b>\$5,831.29</b>

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	<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 2025	-\$5,000.00	
	Interest earned at maturity on 20 <sup>th</sup> .January 2025 was \$1,166.65	+\$1,166.65	
	\$23,542.28 reinvested on 20 <sup>th</sup> January for 8 months at 4.45% interest		<b>\$23,542.28</b>
	Interest earned on maturity on 18 <sup>th</sup> September 2025 was \$697.46 which was reinvested for 12 months at 3.5% interest	+\$697.46	<b>\$24,239.74</b>

- The money in the Investment Account plus Interest earned was reinvested on 18<sup>th</sup> September at 3.5% for 12 months.
- Following the vote at the August Meeting, the business bank account is now changed to 'one to sign' instead of 'two to sign' and a Debit has been organised to facilitate easier banking for the Branch now that cheques are being phased out.
- The first use of the new debit card was on 22<sup>nd</sup> October.

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

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

**FEDERAL COURT REPORT:**

There was no Federal Court business to report. The next Federal Court meeting will be held on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> November.

**GENERAL BUSINESS:**

1. Captain Marchbank reported that the Seafarers Day Service Committee has now finalized the donations and offerings received. The actual offering at the service was over \$600. As a result, they have donated \$5,500 to the Mission to Seafarers, Brisbane. He commented that this may go towards a new bus. The plan is that one of the existing buses, which is aging, could be transferred to Thevenard, where there is need for a bus, but it is much less busy than Brisbane. It would be replaced with a new bus here.
2. Captains Burton and Handfield spoke briefly about their recent holidays in China and Tasmania respectively.
3. Captain Kuiper congratulated Captain Murday on his 70<sup>th</sup> birthday.
4. He also asked members if they were happy to hold our November Ladies Night at the Royal on the Park Hotel. This was agreed by all present.
5. Captain Kuiper advised the meeting that our efforts to arrange a Boulton Lecturer have so far been unsuccessful. This will be further discussed at the November Branch Court meeting.
6. Captain Marchbank reported that the Port of Brisbane has agreed to assist the Mission to Seafarers. They are planning to make a number of changes. This may include funding to support a manager. They have also decided against relocating the Mission.
7. Captain Thompson reported on his recent travels to UK. He also advised that the Nautical Institute is about to introduce a Bridge Resource Management system. This is designed to focus on the future role of watchkeepers as technological advances bring change.
8. Captain Murday advised that he is no longer Branch Secretary of the NI. The recent AGM saw Captain Pelecanos reappointed as President.
9. Captain Kuiper reported that the Queensland Maritime Museum has applied for a government grant of \$200,000. He is also seeking more support from the government to improve the museum. There are currently a group of students from QUT helping to streamline the museum's IT system and to catalogue all the artefacts in the museum's collection.

There being no further general business, members enjoyed a fine meal and engaged in general discussion on a range of topics. A special dessert was served to Captain Murday in recognition of his birthday. Members serenaded him with a rendition of "Happy Birthday"

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 2105 hours.

The next general meeting will be our Ladies Night, to be held on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> November 2025 at the Royal on the Park Hotel, commencing at 1800 for 1830 hours,

*Arthur Diack,*  
Honorary Branch Secretary.



## NOTICE sent 7 November 2025 by email

With love and sadness we share the passing of **Captain Hugo Koenraad Labrie**, born 8 January 1935 in Fort de Kock, Sumatra, Dutch East Indies.

Hugo passed away peacefully on **18 September 2025**, at the age of 90.

Hugo's childhood was marked by both hardship and adventure. He endured the war years in POW camps with his mother and sisters, while his elder brother was held in the men's camp and his father imprisoned in Japan. After liberation, the family returned to Holland before making their way back to Medan, where Hugo embraced the freedom of school life in Indonesia.

He then followed his sense of adventure to sea, serving with **Royal Interocean Lines** and later **Nedlloyd**, rising to the rank of **Captain**. The ocean gave him friendships, challenges, and a lifetime of stories.

In later years Hugo made his home in Australia, moving from the sea to the land. There he found peace in farming, surrounded by animals of all kinds, and carried forward the qualities that defined him — a loving and gentle soul, with resilience and kindness.

Hugo leaves behind his loving wife, three sons and four grandchildren, who will continue to cherish his memory.

He will be dearly remembered by family and friends across continents, and for the warmth, courage, and devotion he shared so freely.

### – **The Labrie Family**

Hi Michael .i put the information and informed 4 weeks ago to the federal Francis and Ted about his passing . I did know Hugo very well for over 45 I worked for these company's 50 years ago before I joined the dredging industry .years .i had contact with Hugo and the family and we met few times a year and had to sign his superannuation forms every year .

And he and his family went to a stud farm and a small farm he loved at with his children Nobby Jandowy .he was a lovely kind and happy fellow .

cheers regards Kasper.

On 8 Nov 2025, at 9:50 pm, Michael Handfield <[michael.handfield@gmail.com](mailto:michael.handfield@gmail.com)> wrote:

Gentlemen,

Captain Hugo Labrie	Membership Ratified No. 2074, Ratified 09/03/1983
Birth Date	08/01/1936
Birth Place	Fort de Kock, Bukit Tinggi, West Sumatra
Master's Certificate	No. S33085, The Hague Netherlands 01/11/63
Deck Officer with Royal Interocean and Nedlloyd; Master with Nedlloyd	

This is all the information that I have, Best regards, Michael H

Hon ED: please note mention of Capt. Hugo Labrie in Capt. John Crowsley "History of Brisbane and Queensland Branch"

## MASTER MARINERS – ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION 2026

The Annual Subscription to the Queensland Branch of the Company of Master Mariners become due on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2026. Our Bye Laws require the subscriptions to be paid during January or February.

Subscriptions for 2026 are \$130 for Ordinary and Associate Members  
or \$85 for Retired Members.

You are requested to make your payment promptly during January or February by EFT to BSB 064-012, Account 0080 0150 or by cheque posted to the CMMA at P.O. Box 251, HAMILTON, QLD. 4007

REMEMBER - PROMPT PAYMENTS MAKE A HAPPY TREASURER!

MKH