



The Voicepipe

The Company of Master Mariners of Australia
QUEENSLAND BRANCH
September 2025

Next Meeting will be held on

Thursday 25th September 2025

At

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

1200 for 1230 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 eighth, is to enjoy our second Lunch of the year

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 22nd SEPTEMBER 2025 by

Phone (07) 3839 7551 or Mobile 0409 322 484

or 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		kkuiper@ozemail.com.au 0409 322 484
Past Master	Capt. Ernest van Buuren	3899 0869	3234 3023	Ernest.van.Buuren@clydeco.com 0419 403 263
Hon. Secretary	Capt. Arthur Diack	3264 1674		diackaj@bigpond.net.au 0412 220 698
Hon. Treasurer	Capt. Mike Handfield	3263-8487		michael.handfield@gmail.com 0407 177 419
Archivist	As above			
Branch Registrar	As above			
Court Member	Capt. William Burton	3886 9744		burton7@bigpond.com 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		candplunn@optusnet.com.au 0412 749 518
Seafarers Day	As above			
Seafarers Day	Capt. Peter Marchbank	3300 1884		pmarchba@bigpond.net.au 0424 674 740
Seafarers Centre	Capt. Bochenski			minsbski@gmail.com 0418 290 812
Web Master	Capt. Mike Tyler	3378 5234		mrt Tyler90@outlook.com
Chaplain	Rev Stephen Briggs	3267 5329		stephen.briggs@anglicanchurchsq.org.au 0428 136 116
Qld Maritime Museum	Capt. Kasper Kuiper	3268-6616		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 OCTOBER

CONGRATULATIONS FOR

22 years N. Bellamy

51 years J. Ellis

23 years J. Kavanagh

18 years R. Pincott

MANY HAPPY RETURNS TO

J. Dicker

M. Handfield

P. Murday

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

BRANCH MASTER REPORT

Welcome to the September edition of the Voicepipe.

Our August meeting was well attended with about 10 of our regulars in attendance. Capt. Diack was absent from the meeting and our Treasurer, Capt. Handfield, acted as Secretary and Treasurer for the meeting. Thank you Capt. Handfield. As usual, the food, drinks and conversation were great and there were plenty of stories which you can read in the recorded minutes.

On Sunday, 14th September, I attended, along with many others, the 87th Annual Seafarers Service & Wreath Laying Ceremony at St John's Cathedral in the city. The church was well attended with the crowd larger than last year, in my estimation.

My thanks to the members of the Company who attended the service, giving up their precious weekend time to show their support.

Unfortunately, there isn't any news about our planning day for the Boulton lecture due to the commitment of dates for the speaker. We continue to work on this in the background.

Our next meeting will be a lunch meeting – next week Thursday 25th September at the Royal on the Park, 1200h for 1230h.

If anyone would like to attend but would need assistance, please reach out so that we can find a solution for you. Parking is available.

I hope to see many of you next week at our lunch meeting at the Royal on the Park.

Capt. Kasper Kuiper

Branch Master

Hon Ed: I thank Capt. Peter Marchbank for attending the Naval Assoc ceremony at the Jack Tar Memorial honouring the Merchant Navy losses since World War 1. And for providing the attached ceremony briefing.

With other PPW members, was attending the Safety 1 Forum held annually by the Port of Brisbane.

Following on from that Page 8 has the photos from the Seafarer Service.

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

**Minutes of the General Meeting held at the Royal on the Park Hotel
on 28th August 2025**

MEMBERS PRESENT Captains, Kuiper, Burton, Crowsley, J. Ellis, Handfield, Mackey, Marchbank and Thompson.

APOLOGIES: Captains, Bailey, Ballantyne, Bochenski, Coy, Diack, Dunnett, Kavanagh, Langford, Lunn, Tyler, Williams and Dr M. White.

The meeting was opened by Captain Kuiper at 1850 hours. Captain Kuiper welcomed members and extended our best wishes to members who are unwell and wished them a speedy recovery. He noted the presence of Capt. Crowsley and welcomed him back after a twelve-month absence due to ill health

Grace was said by Captain Marchbank.

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING: The minutes of the general meeting held on 31st July 2025 were circulated in the August 2025 edition of the "Voicepipe". The minutes were proposed by Captain Kuiper as a true record of that meeting. Seconded by Captain Handfield and carried.

TREASURERS REPORT:

Business Account Balance 1st July 2025				\$8,176.29
1	Meetings	\$1,275.00		
2	Catering July Meeting		-\$975.00	
3	Federal Levy		-\$2,775.00	
4	Donation to Seafarer's Day Service		-\$200.00	
5	Bank Charges		-\$5.00	
	30th July Closing Balance			\$5,496.29

- A cheque for catering the July Meeting in the sum of \$875 has not been banked but has been deducted in the above balance.

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

- The Investment Account is due for renewal on 20th September. Currently the best re-investment rate is 3.80% for 12 months. The money in the Investment Account plus Interest earned will be reinvested on 20th September.

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

BRANCH MASTER'S REPORT: This was published in the August 2025 Voicepipe.

FEDERAL COURT REPORT:

There was nothing to report on from Federal Court.

There were five new membership applications to be read:-

- | | | |
|-------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| 1. Arun ANTHONY | Associate | Melbourne |
| 2. Oleksandra BOHOMYAKO | Ordinary | Melbourne |
| 3. Vikram Jeet SINGH | Ordinary | Melbourne |
| 4. Car Peter GONSALVES | Ordinary | Melbourne |
| 5. Dominic MARTIN | Associate | Melbourne |

Captain Burton advised that the Federal Branch is looking at using XERO for the Company accounting.

GENERAL BUSINESS:

1. Captain Marchbank advised that the 87th Seafarers' service will be held in St John's Cathedral on Sunday 14th September, commencing at 1300 hours.
The service will mark the 80th Anniversary of the end of WW2.
2. Captain Handfield raised the subject of a Debit Card for the use of the Branch Treasurer. He uses a Debit Card with Probus Club finances and finds it convenient, and this does away with the use of cheques, which are being phased out soon.
If the Branch has a Card transactions could be approved beforehand, or shortly afterwards, by another Court Member.
This should comply with the 'two to sign' requirement.
Captain Handfield proposed a motion to acquire and Debit Card for Branch use.
This was approved unanimously by those present.

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

- Captain Ellis produced a series of photos of Brisbane taken in about 1970 when he first visited Brisbane. His impression of the city then created his intention to return here to live.
- Captain Thompson gave a summary of his day on the Simulator at Smartships.
- Captain Kuiper gave an insight into his recent visit to Amsterdam and spectacle of the tall ships at SAIL Amsterdam, which is held every five years.

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 a Lunch Meeting and will be held on Thursday 25th September 2025 at the Royal on the Park Hotel, commencing at 1200 for 1230 hours, TBC.

Michael Handfield
Relief Secretary.

Statement on the death of Sir Eric James Neal, AC, CVO, KStJ, FTSE

Release date: 02/09/25

It is with great sadness that we learned today of the death of the 32nd Governor of South Australia, Sir Eric James Neal, AC, CVO, KStJ, FTSE.

He passed away peacefully aged 101, a remarkable life defined by longevity, resilience, and contribution.

Reaching 101 years of age is an achievement that few attain.

Sir Eric Neal was born in Rotherhithe, London, to James and May Neal on the 3rd of June 1924.

He was the oldest of four children and had three younger sisters: Enid, Gwenda and Yvonne, he came to Australia as so many do: a very young migrant aged just two years old.

Sir Eric was educated at Largs Bay and Hindmarsh Public Schools before attending Thebarton Technical School.

He concluded his secondary schooling at the age of just 16 to enter the workforce but subsequently advanced his education by undertaking engineering studies at the South Australian School of Mines.

Encouraged by his father James Neal, Sir Eric pursued an apprenticeship at the South Australian Gas Company. He learned the trade of plumbing and gas fitting there under an apprenticeship with his father.

A successful engineering career led to an impressive business career including as CEO of Boral for 14 years. He served as a board member of several companies including BHP, Atlas Copco, Westpac and John Fairfax Ltd.

In 1996, he became the first South Australian appointed Governor from a business background. He brought expertise, skills, connections and experience to the role that no one had before.

His appointment was of great benefit to the state's business community, and he led several successful trade missions to Europe, Asia and the United States.

Following his retirement as Governor in 2001, Sir Eric was appointed as Chancellor of Flinders University until 2010. He was chair of the South Australian Government Road Safety Advisory Council between 2003 and 2011.

Sir Eric Neal's last role in public office was to chair the Veterans Advisory Council in South Australia. He oversaw the opening of the ANZAC Centenary Memorial Walk on Kintore Avenue during this time.

For his many accomplishments, Sir Eric received numerous honours and awards, including a Knight Bachelor for his services to industry and a Companion of the Order of Australia for service to Commerce and to the Community.

Importantly not only did he serve our state in an outstanding manner, but also his football club. He was a passionate Port Adelaide supporter through his life and provided important support to the club through the years, including serving as patron.

Speaking during his centenary celebrations, Sir Eric credited much of his longevity to his wife of 72 years, Lady Thelma “Joan” Neal, his lifelong companion with whom he had two sons, and who passed away in 2023 aged 91.

As is customary for former Governors, the South Australian Government has made an offer to the Neal Family for a State Funeral to honour his remarkable life and to honour the enormous contribution that he made to our State. I am pleased to advise that the family has accepted this offer.

Further details will be released in the future.

As we mourn his passing and keep his family and friends in our thoughts, let us also acknowledge – and celebrate – Sir Eric’s contribution to our state and our nation.

I pass on my sincere condolences to Sir Eric Neal’s son’s Peter and James, his five grandchildren and five great-grandchildren, extended family and friends.

May he rest in peace.

Hon Ed: also attached is the letter from Fed Sec to Sir Eric on achieving 100 years of age.

World Shipping Council reinstates cargo inspection deficiency data, urges stronger safety measures

<https://shippingaustralia.com.au/news/2024/09/11/world-shipping-council-reinstates-cargo-inspection-deficiency-data-urges-stronger-safety-measures>

The World Shipping Council has released a new report summarising deficiencies found in government cargo inspection programmes, reviving a vital data series that the International Maritime Organization (IMO) discontinued last year.

The 2024 report shows that 11.39% of inspected cargo shipments were found to have deficiencies.

These include mis-declared and undeclared dangerous goods, incorrect documentation, and improper packing – all of which can lead to serious safety incidents, including ship fires.

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

87th Annual Seafarer Service with thanks to Kaye Sauer for her photos to supplement Hon Ed efforts



Red Ensign delivered by Colour Party to join the White Ensign



Regional Hbr Master and C.O. HMAS Moreton presenting Sextant and GPS



Preparing for the Intercessions



Branch Master for the Company



wreaths laid



Bugler after One Minutes silence



Capt. P Marchbank presenting Certificates of Appreciation



Colour Party retrieves the Red Ensign