

Melbourne Branch

The Log
The Monthly Newsletter of the Melbourne Branch of
The Company of Master Mariners of Australia Limited



NEXT MEETING

22nd FEBRUARY 2023

Speaker Martina Gassner

Star of the South Offshore Wind Farm

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Victorian Regional Channels
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From the Branch Master

Welcome all to 2023

We start the New Year with our first Branch Dinner Meeting on 22nd February. I am looking forward to catching up with members at this event. The subject of windfarms should be very interesting and topical.

We will be coming up to our AGM in a short time. The position of Deputy Branch Master is vacant. I would encourage thought be given to nominating for the role. In particular, though not limited to some of our younger branch members. The success and continuance of the branch is dependent on member involvement.

Fair winds

Graeme

Branch News

Regular monthly meetings will resume on Wednesday 22nd February at the Mail Exchange Hotel. The speaker at that meeting will be Martina Gassner who is working on the enviromental impact of the Star of the South which is Australia's first offshore wind project which will be located off the south coast of Gippsland.

The Branch AGM will be held during the March monthly meeting. The main items of business at the AGM will be the annual accounts and the election of office holders for the coming year. Should you wish to nominate for a position on the Branch Court please let the Branch Secretary know.

The Federal SGM will be held in early April in Sydney. Amongst the items of business at that meeting is the awarding of the Outstanding Achievement Award. The award is open to people from all sections of the shipping industry. We are currently seeking nominations.



End of Year Break Up and Christmas Party

The end of year break up and Christmas function was held on 30th November at the Mail Exchange Hotel. It was a most enjoyable night.

Francis Castellino did a great job as MC and selling raffle tickets for the hampers which were provided as prizes.

Dick Francis entertained us with a talk about his career at sea starting as an apprentice in 1955. He spoke about his time with Jardine's and with Strick Line part of the P&O Group. He spent time with Ports and Harbours before joining Australian Offshore Services. When he retired Dick became involved in the restoration of the steam tug 'Wattle' which is coming close to fruition.





Marine Bio-Security

In December the cruise ship “Viking Orion” suffered considerable cost and disruption to its itinerary because of biofouling concerns. Biofouling refers to the accumulation of microorganisms, plants, algae or small animals on a vessels hull.

“Viking Orion” was in Wellington on 26th December when the biofouling issue was identified. The ship was denied permission to berth at Christchurch, Dunedin and Hobart and it headed towards Adelaide where 12 miles out to sea the vessels hull was cleaned by divers engaged by the ship’s agents. Having completed the cleaning “Viking Orion” was allowed to berth in Melbourne on 2nd January and resume its cruising program.

When I retired from the sea 20 years ago concerns were being raised about the spread of marine pests through ballast water. Today vessels operating in Australian waters are required to manage ballast water prior to arrival in Australia and between Australian ports. Ships must have a ballast water management plan, ballast water management certificate and maintain ballast water records. Some vessels may be required to install an IMO approved ballast water management system.

The Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF) implemented new, mandatory biofouling requirements for international vessels on 15 June last year. Vessels must submit pre arrival reporting using the Maritime and Aircraft Reporting System so that the biosecurity risk can be assessed. In doing so DAFF will consider

- (1) The presence and age of anti fouling systems used to prevent marine growth
- (2) Record keeping and biofouling management plan
- (3) Previous itineraries before visiting Australia including layover times.

The Department has produced anti fouling and in water cleaning guidelines.

The DAFF website states “The introduction and spread of marine species into Australian waters through biofouling or in ships ballast water can harm fisheries, threaten healthy fish habitats and have widespread economic and health effects”.