

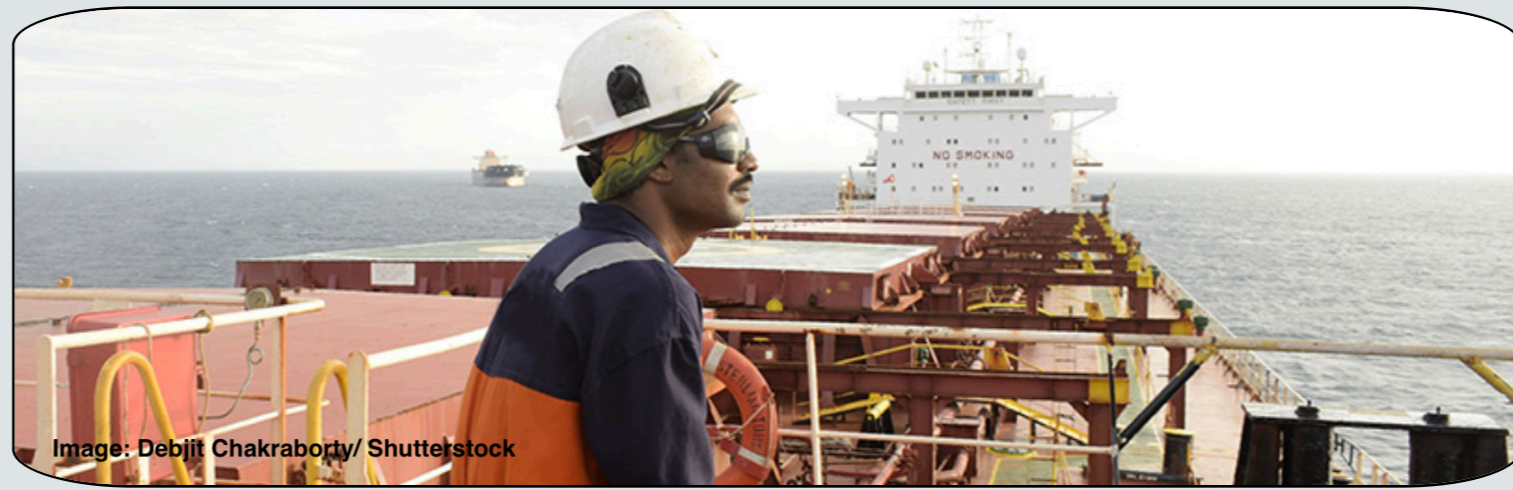


AMWS E-News April 2024

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"Welcome to the April 2024 Edition of the AMWS E-News" - Chairman, Mr David Parmeter

At this time of year, we are obviously conscious of the significance of Anzac Day as the occasion to honour the memory of those who served and those who made the ultimate sacrifice, in defence of our nation. In that regard I refer you to the report in this edition of the service held on 14 April at the Merchant Navy War Memorial at Rookwood....." I trust you will enjoy this edition of the newsletter. Video of David's remarks for April 2024 can be viewed here >>



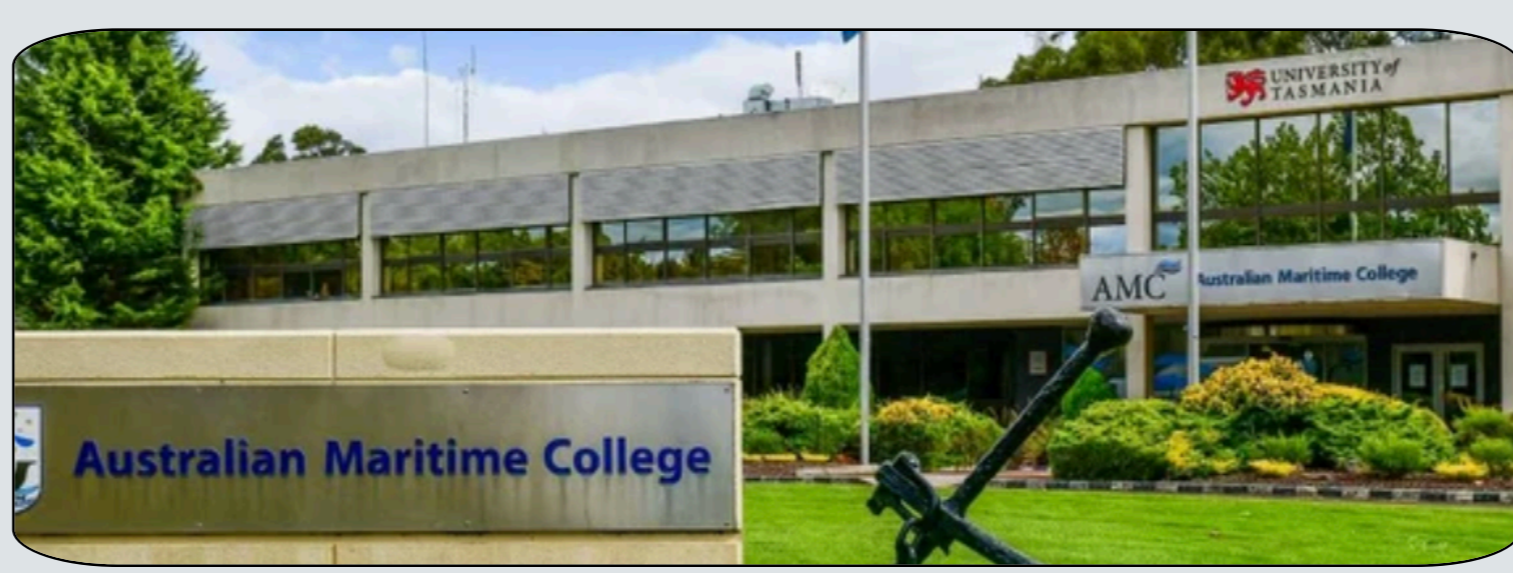
AMSA to Scrutinise Seafarer's Employment Conditions. DCN, 3rd April 2024

The Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA) plans to launch a concentrated inspection campaign (CIC) in collaboration with Tokyo and Indian Ocean MoUs to address seafarers' employment conditions. They note that issues related to these conditions, such as employment agreements, wages, hours of work and rest, leave entitlements, repatriation, and crewing levels, remain prevalent despite Maritime Labor Convention (MLC) regulations. AMSA highlights the importance of respecting seafarers' rights for safe and secure work environments. They cite cases of vessel detention due to wage disputes and inadequate provisions, emphasizing their commitment to enforcing MLC standards. Complaints regarding employment conditions continue to be the majority, although there's a slight decrease in specific areas like employment agreements and repatriation, indicating improved industry awareness and AMSA's effective response. AMSA plans to conduct the CIC from September to November 2024 to ensure shipping companies comply with MLC provisions. Read the DCN Report here >>



Green Light for Funding New Port Hedland Seafarers Centre. West Australian Government Press Release. 10th April 2024

The Cook Government is backing a \$13.5 million investment for a new Seafarers Centre in Port Hedland's West End. The procurement for this project will begin this year, with the industry collaborating with Pilbara Ports to design, finance, and build the new facility. The government plans to recover the initial costs from industry through a shipping charge, with contributions from major port users. Pilbara Ports will oversee the project and ensure its maintenance after leasing it to the Mission for Seafarers. The current center, built over 50 years ago, is inadequate for the tens of thousands of seafarers who visit Port Hedland annually. The new center will offer accommodation, recreational spaces, dining facilities, and a chapel, aiming to support seafarers on shore leave. Construction is expected to commence in the first half of 2025 after finalizing design and procurement processes in 2024. This initiative not only addresses the needs of seafarers but also aims to enhance community amenities and stimulate economic development in the West End of Port Hedland. View the WA Press Release here >>



Two Malcolm Longstaff Memorial AMC Scholarships Awarded, April 2024 - Semester 1.

One of the principal and long-standing objectives of the Australian Mariners Welfare Society (AMWS) is to provide educational scholarships and training opportunities for emerging seafarers who need financial support.

Via the Malcolm Longstaff Memorial Scholarship programme and consistent with the AMWS selection criteria, two students at the Australian Maritime College have recently been awarded scholarships for semester 1, 2024. Both recipients are studying for Bachelor of Applied Science (Nautical Studies).

Further AMWS scholarship opportunities at AMC for semester 2, 2024, remain open. (Full details of the AMWS Scholarship Selection Criteria can be found on the AMWS webpage.>>



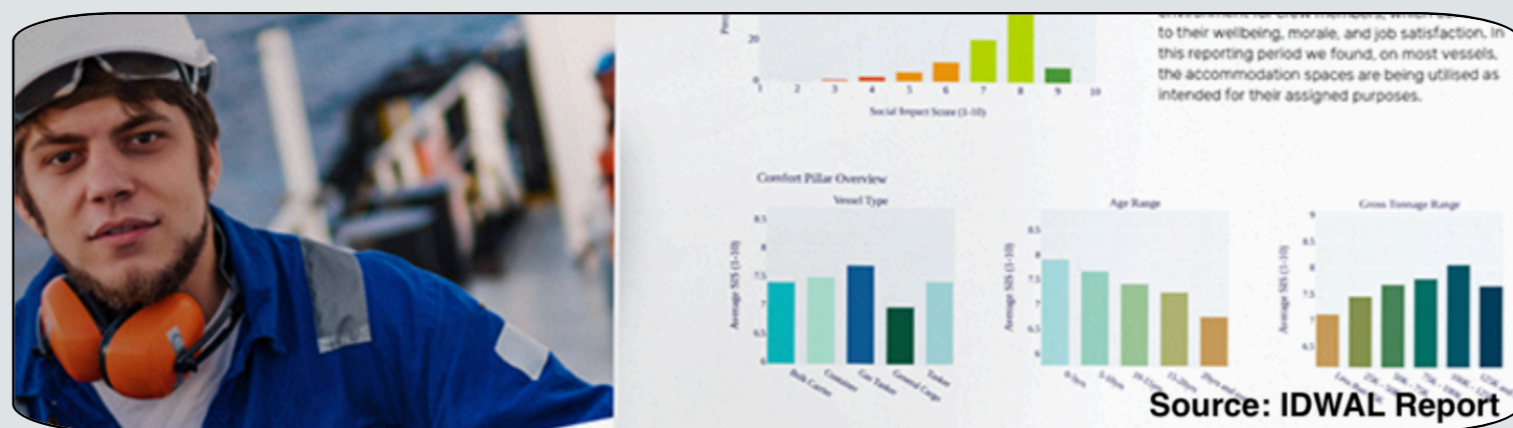
Maritime Community Commemorates Merchant Navy War Losses. Lindsay Reed DCN, 15th April 2024

On April 14th, during the 59th Annual Commemoration at the Merchant Navy War Memorial in Rookwood cemetery, newly installed stone plaques were unveiled. Representatives from naval and maritime organizations attended the event. Sister Mary Leahy initiated the ceremony with prayers, acknowledging the recent tragic events in Bondi Junction. Finola McMahon uplifted the atmosphere with a spirited rendition of "God is Our Strength and Refuge," accompanied by the Bankstown and Yagoona Brass. Captain Ted van Bronswijk delivered a gospel reading, followed by MNMWF Chairman-elect Sean Barret introducing NSW Governor Margaret Beazley as the guest of honor. Governor Beazley praised the enhancements made to the memorial, particularly the addition of four stone tablets containing the names and ships of 864 Australian Merchant Mariners who lost their lives in the World Wars. She highlighted the crucial role of merchant mariners, quoting Australian wartime Prime Minister John Curtin. The Governor emphasized the significance of their contributions and the sacrifices they made for Australia's well-being. Access the DCN Article here >>



AMSA: Inspections Annual Report for 2023. Published 24th April 2024

The Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA) plays a vital role in ensuring the safety of vessels, protecting the marine environment, and safeguarding seafarers and passengers. This report summarizes AMSA's inspection activities, evaluating the performance of shipping companies, flag States, Recognised Organisations (ROs), Accredited Marine Surveyors (AMS), and various vessel types. Established under the Australian Maritime Safety Authority Act 1990, AMSA's functions include promoting maritime safety, enforcing ship operation standards, preventing pollution, and providing search and rescue services. AMSA implements rigorous flag State control (FSC) and port State control (PSC) regimes to regulate maritime trade, ensuring compliance with safety standards and protecting Australia's extensive coastline. AMSA collaborates closely with Australian state authorities, the International Maritime Organization (IMO), and PSC partner nations to share information and participate in international policy development, aiming to maintain transparency and trust within the maritime community. Access the Report via this link >>



IDWAL Unveils Seafarers Social Impact Report. Cardiff UK. 18th April 2024

Idwal, a prominent Cardiff based player in ship inspection and data services, has launched a groundbreaking Social Impact Report, offering unprecedented insight into the living and working conditions of seafarers worldwide.

Drawing on data from over 13,000 vessel inspections, the report introduces a Social Impact Score (SIS) framework, evaluating ten key aspects of seafarer welfare. The findings reveal significant gaps between industry commitments and actual conditions, particularly in connectivity and recreation. Despite variations across vessel types, ages, and sizes, the report highlights best practices and opportunities for improvement. By providing actionable insights, the report empowers maritime stakeholders to make socially responsible decisions, enhance ESG credentials, and improve conditions for seafarers, thus fostering long-term sustainability in the industry. Access the IDWAL Report here >>

The Beacon: Monthly Section Illuminating significant Activities, Trends, Personalities and Developments within the Australian Maritime Industry



Graham Lightfoot AM, former AMWS Deputy Chair and long-serving Councillor, to retire at the May 2024 AGM

Captain Alan Tait OAM, reflects on Graham's significant contribution to AMWS "A short story about a fine man

We go through life meeting and working with people that leave a lasting impression. My fortune is to be able to say Graham Lightfoot AM is one of those!

Whilst we both worked in the Shipping Industry our paths rarely crossed however I was acutely aware he was a very successful and influential Chief Executive of the famous Blue Star Line here in Australia.

When I became Chairman of AMWS my luck was to have his agreement to support me as Deputy. He brought to the position many years of seafarer welfare experience.

Graham has given the role much more than just advice. I would hesitate to say not only a guiding hand in a lion's share of our activities but most particularly in the provision of grants which are extremely time-consuming.

Having said this, I do believe he has always got pleasure, in helping, where there is a need! He has decided at a very young age to hang up his boots but to be honest, I don't see him going too far.

I am a fortunate man" Alan Tait OAM April 2024



The AMWS Vision "To ensure all seafarers and their dependents, irrespective of nationality, gender, or beliefs, are treated with dignity, respect, and compassion". Interested in this AMWS vision and want to know more? Consider becoming an AMWS member >>