



AMWS E-News for February 2023

"Welcome to the February 2023 Edition of the AMWS E-News" - Chairman, Mr David Parmeter

[View David's welcome here >>](#)



Hello everyone,

Today I want to send a message to all the members and supporters of AMWS. Our organisation is a charity committed to the welfare of seafarers everywhere. We put this objective into effect by supporting a range of activities that promote and protect the welfare of seafarers, past, present and emerging. One of the strengths of AMWS is a great culture of voluntarism. Over many years, countless individuals have willingly given of their time to support the valuable work we do.

In that spirit I am sending an invitation to all AMWS members to become directly involved with the activities of our Society. These include:

Providing direct financial contributions to charitable organisations that specifically deal with the needs and welfare of current seafarers.

Providing educational scholarships and training opportunities for emerging seafarers who need financial support and meet the eligibility criteria.

Providing accommodation for retired seafarers in need of financial support.

and provide a voice to ensure the concerns of seafarers are heard.

There are a number of ways AMWs members and supporters can assist with this work. This could include being an active ambassador of the work of AMWS in your own community and interactions with those in the maritime industry, or representing AMWS at local port mariner welfare levels, or even helping us getting our message out through working on our communications strategy, especially social media, amongst many other opportunities.

If you are interested you are asked to register using the link below

On behalf of the AMWS Council, we thank you for your support.

[Please use this link to register >>](#)



Shipping industry call for help to evacuate the 300+ seafarers still trapped in Ukraine ports.

International Chamber of Shipping. 22nd February 2023

The 24th of February 2023, marked one year since the onset of the war in Ukraine. The International Chamber of Shipping, in collaboration with over 30 other organisations and companies, have written a joint open letter urgently calling on the UN Secretary-General – His Excellency António Guterres – to prioritise the immediate release of the 331 seafarers and 62 ships that remain trapped in Ukrainian ports.

[Read the joint industry open letter here.](#)



103 vessels and 1682 seafarers were abandoned in 2022, the worst year on record.

RightShip: Seafarer Abandonment Report. 7th February 2023

As of May 2022, 247 vessels remain abandoned worldwide, with 3,623 seafarers stranded and unable to return home, some for more than a decade. The figures collected by RightShip's Marine Assurance team are believed to underestimate the true extent of the issue. Seafarers are vital to the global economy, with 90% of goods transported by ship. The majority of stranded seafarers are from India, and the UAE and Panama have the highest numbers of abandoned vessels. One of the main concerns is the extended time it takes to settle an abandonment. RightShip is encouraging the maritime sector to prioritize crew abandonment and has released a crew welfare self-assessment tool to encourage organizations to improve crew welfare.

[The full Rightship report can be accessed via their webpage here.](#)



RAN's Iconic Sail Training Ship "Young Endeavour" to Retire, Replacement Vessel to Launch in 2023

The STS "Young Endeavour," the sail training ship operated by the Royal Australian Navy (RAN), is set to retire soon. A replacement ship, yet to be named is currently being built and is expected to be launched by the end of 2023.

Since its inception in 1988, the STS "Young Endeavour" has been highly successful in providing an ethnically diverse youth development programme. According to LCDR Adam Charlie Farley, the current Commanding Officer, participants on the ship leave with new skills, greater persistence, resilience, and adaptability, as well as the realization that they can accomplish difficult tasks. They also develop strong relationships, with some of their shipmates becoming lifelong friends.

The Australian Mariners Welfare Society (AMWS) has supported the ship's youth training program for a number of years. This has been achieved in collaboration with the Salvation Army, Sydney Cove Rotary, and Stepping Stone House. This support will continue.

When the new ship enters service, it is expected to continue to train and develop young Australians for decades to come. Therefore, the time may be right to suggest to Government that the new ship's name, when determined, should reflect the nation's current cultural diversity, its period of service from early 2024 through to the mid-2050s, and the 60,000 years of First Nations peoples' unique history.

Comments & Suggestions welcome. Editor



An Industry Opinion. "A way forward for Australian Seafarer Training". By Tony Cousins, Principal Anteres Marine and AMWS Councilor.

Daily Cargo News Magazine January 2023.

The maritime industry in Australia is facing a critical shortage of qualified seafarers. This situation is due to the decline of seafarer training investment over the past two decades. While many sectors, such as oil and gas majors, iron ore and coal exporters, and port authorities, are relying on experienced professional seafarers, shipping companies have limited capacity to provide training berths or future employment. The Australian industry needs to shift towards a system where all stakeholders play their part in developing future skills. As such, Tony has suggested that a group training organization (GTO) that brings together peak industry bodies, maritime unions, and other stakeholders could offer a way forward.

[Read Tony's DCN article here](#)



International Seafarers' Welfare & Assistance network

The International Seafarers' Welfare and Assistance Network (ISWAN) is an international maritime charity that works to improve the lives of seafarers and their families with services, resources, strategies, and advocacy.

They work to drive change within the maritime industry for better health and well-being amongst seafarers, using data from our helplines to identify areas of need and inform new projects and research.

ISWAN also provides Maritime Mental Health Awareness training, offering both in-house training for companies and open access sessions for individuals or smaller groups.

They also deliver bespoke crew support helplines for a number of shipping companies and organisations within the industry.

They are funded by grants from foundations, membership subscriptions, sponsorship, and earned income

If you wish to know more about the organisation, the link below will take you to its extensive webpage and monthly newsletter subscription form.

[Link to the ISWAN Webpage](#)



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