



AMWS E-News November 2023

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

It is traditional at this time of year to look back over the last 12 months and summarise our activities. Instead I wish to make some brief comments on the future....

[View David's comments for November here >>](#)



Patrick, a AMWS & Sydney Cove Rotary Club “Trevor Haworth” Tall Ship Sail Training Recipient (2018), achieves “Gold”. 16th November 2023.

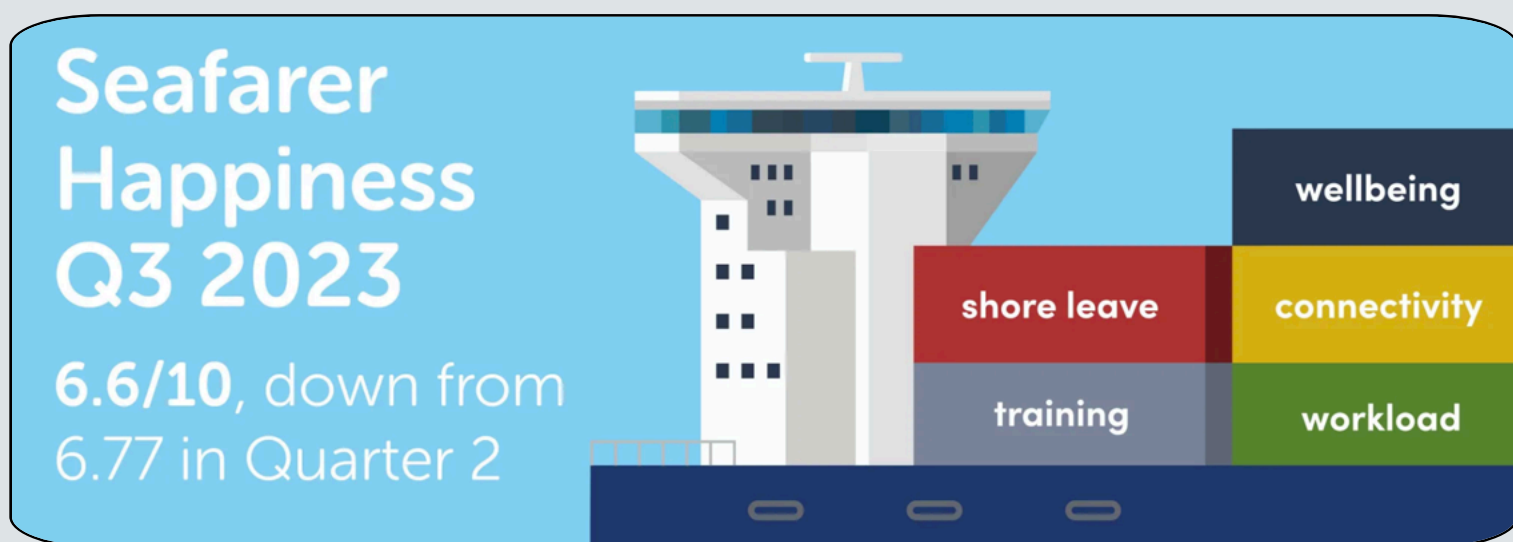
In 2018, Patrick, a long term Stepping Stone House resident, was jointly sponsored by the Australian Mariners Welfare Society and Sydney Cove Rotary to undertake a voyage on the STS Young Endeavour. Following the voyage and as direct result of his experiences on board, he volunteered at the Sydney Maritime Museum and completed a Deck Hand Course at TAFE NSW. This led to full time employment with Captain Cook Cruises. Both AMWS and Sydney Cove Rotary are now delighted to report that Patrick has just received his Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award, presented by none other than the current Duke of Edinburgh, Prince Edward..

In reporting on this significant event in Patrick's life, the Sydney Morning Herald noted that; *"Patrick was the first person living in out-of-home care to complete a Gold Duke of Ed. Award. The 25-year-old left home at 12, and was shaking with excitement and nerves when the prince handed him his certificate of completion".*

Patrick achieved this goal with the support and assistance of Stepping Stone House.

The Australian Mariners Welfare Society and Sydney Cove Rotary congratulate Patrick on achieving this significant milestone.

[Read the SMH Report here >>](#)



Alarm for Crew Welfare as latest Seafarers Happiness Index Report reveals further fall in Q3, 2023. NorthStandard P&I, November 2023.

The latest Seafarers Happiness Index, published by The Mission to Seafarers, indicates a continued decline in seafarer happiness, marking the third successive quarterly drop. The report for Q3 2023, sponsored by NorthStandard and Idwal, as well as supported by Inmarsat, reveals an overall fall in happiness to 6.6 out of 10, compared to 6.77 in Q2 2023 and 7.1 in Q1 2023. Wages, workload, and onboard connectivity experienced significant drops in happiness levels, while shore leave, training, and food showed marginal improvements.

Key recommendations from the report focus on facilitating shore leave, addressing remuneration concerns, promoting diversity and inclusion, managing workloads, and using technology to enhance work-life balance. Concerns arose about salary inadequacy for senior roles, catering budget constraints affecting nutrition, and the need to maintain well-provisioned ships. The report also emphasized the double-edged impact of connectivity on seafarers, enabling contact with loved ones but potentially facilitating micromanagement. Overwhelming workloads, driven by expanding regulations and administrative tasks, were identified as a significant stressor.

[Access the full Report here >>](#)

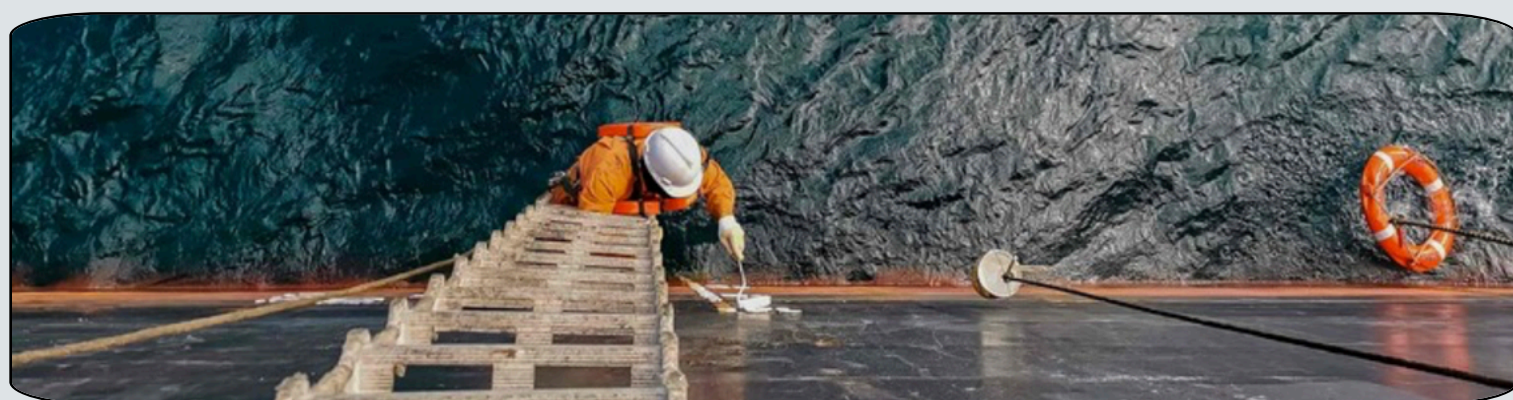


Responding to the issues raised by Yacht Crew. ISWAN October 2023 (Follow-up to Sept 2023 Yacht Crew ISWAN / AMWS E-News article)

The maritime sector is starting to address issues of abuse, bullying, harassment, discrimination, and violence (ABHDV) at sea, with growing awareness of its impact on seafarer health. The Seafarers Happiness Index, particularly in the yachting industry, has shed light on ABHDV issues. Privacy concerns, the financial influence of yacht owners, and the industry's public image have historically impeded discussions about abuse in yachting. The close-knit nature of the industry and the use of non-disclosure agreements (NDAs) further discourage individuals from sharing their experiences. The establishment of Yacht Crew Help in 2020, a 24/7 helpline by ISWAN, has provided a confidential space for yacht crew to seek support, and experiences of ABHDV accounted for a higher proportion of contacts than in the shipping industry. The prevalence of ABHDV-related contacts is likely influenced by gender imbalances, power hierarchies, blurred professional and personal boundaries, and the relative lack of support services available to yacht crew compared to those in merchant shipping.

The higher prevalence of ABHDV-related contacts via Yacht Crew Help is attributed to the disproportionate impact of ABHDV on women, who constitute a larger proportion of the yachting industry workforce. The less defined boundaries between professional and personal life, pronounced power hierarchies, and the influence of individual owners or captains in yacht culture contribute to an environment where abuse can occur. Additionally, the relative lack of support services for yacht crew, compared to those in merchant shipping, may further contribute to the higher proportion of ABHDV-related contacts.

[Read to complete ISWAN October 23 article here >>](#)

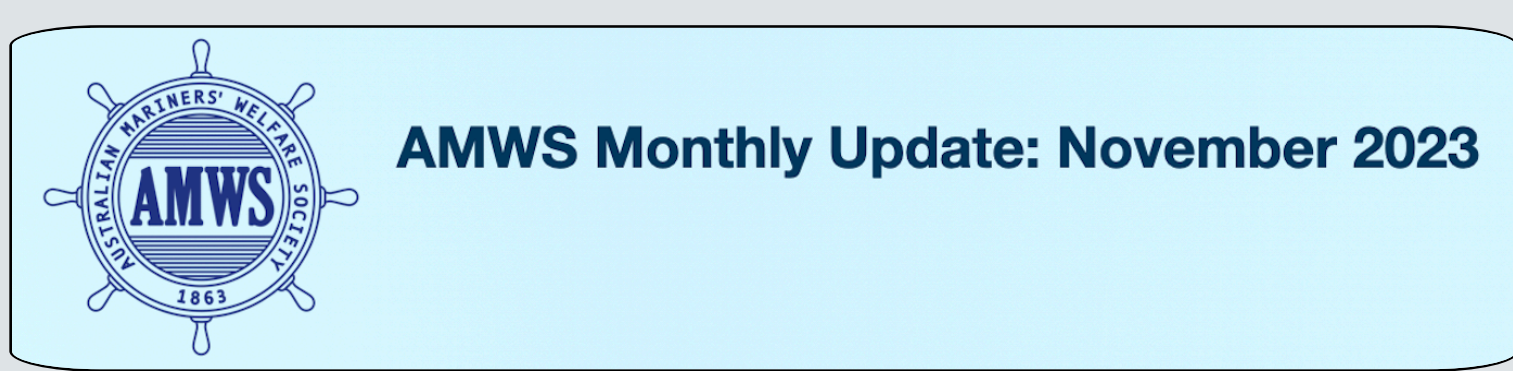


Seafarers Welfare. Sustainable Funding Model - Mission to Seafarers and Stella Maris Australia Proposal. October 2023.

The objective of the proposal is to secure sustainable funding for the ongoing provision of essential shore-based seafarer welfare in Australian ports.

Brief Overview of the 15 page Proposal.

Seafarers play a crucial role in Australia's national supply chain, and providing welfare services for them is deemed a national obligation. Traditionally, charitable volunteer-based organizations have fulfilled this role, relying on community donations and in-kind support for over a century. However, the existing model is no longer sustainable due to various factors. Dwindling revenues, declining volunteer rates, and rising costs have severely impacted the ability of welfare service providers to maintain their offerings, leading to reduced hours and limited services in most ports. The Australian Maritime Safety Authority emphasizes the importance of shore leave under the MLC, but diminished services in many ports pose risks to seafarers' health and well-being. While current providers (MTS & AOS) are committed to supporting seafarers in Australian ports, they are stretched beyond capacity, necessitating an urgent and sustainable solution.



AMWS Council meeting held on the 28th November 2023.

Agenda items discussed included;

Future directions and strategy, Membership and Council Roles & Structure, Communications; (Mariners' Lifeline, AMWS E-News, AMWS Webpage & Face-book page), Grants to Welfare Providers, Australian Seafarers Welfare Council and Port Welfare Committee Reports, Scholarships, Tall Ship Traineeships, Financial Report and Property Report.

Ms Sue Dight, the National Convenor of MTS, attended the second half of the meeting as an invitee of the Chairman. She provided Councillors with an update on the status of the recently submitted MTS / AOS Sustainable Funding Model (see article immediately above for more detail).



AMWS Chairman David Parmeter inducted into the Australian Maritime Hall of Fame. MIAL, DCN ASMI Awards. 16th November 2016

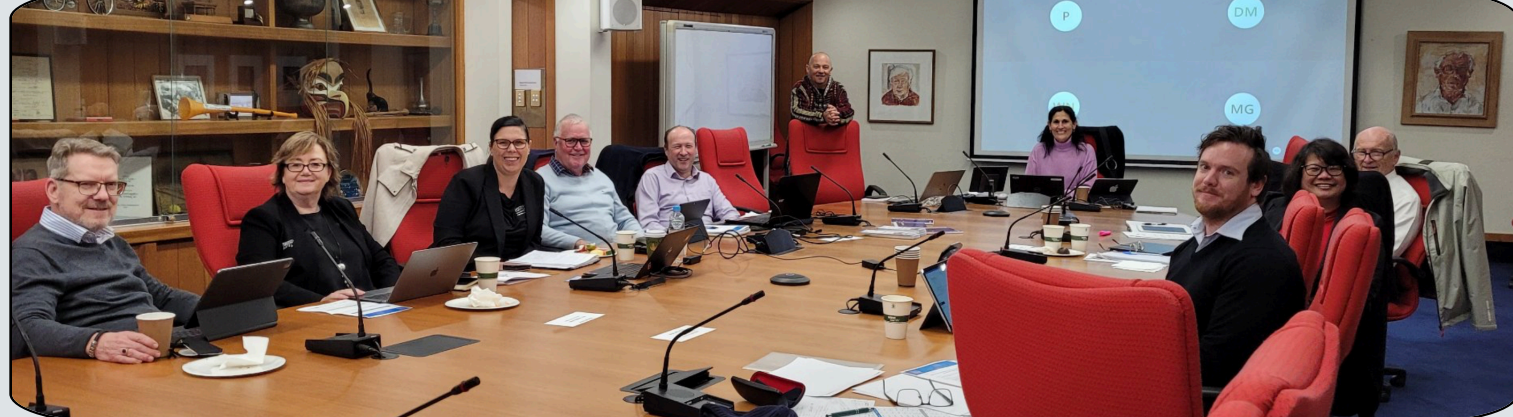
Mr David Parmeter, the Chairman of the Australian Mariners Welfare Society (AMWS), has been honored with induction into the esteemed Australian Maritime Hall of Fame. This recognition was announced at the DCN 2023 Australian Shipping & Maritime Industry Awards, held in Sydney on the 16th of November.

Over the decades, David has played a pivotal role in shaping Australia's maritime industry. In his current capacity as the Chair of the Australian Mariners Welfare Society, he continues to make a significant contribution to the maritime sector.

[Read More >>](#)

The Beacon:

Monthly Section Illuminating Interesting Activities, Trends, and Developments within the Australian Maritime Industry



The Australian Seafarers Welfare Council (ASWC).

The Australian Seafarers Welfare Council (ASWC) plays a crucial role in supporting the well-being of seafarers, who are integral to the global shipping industry. Historically, there was a lack of a unified national approach to address the welfare needs of these maritime workers. However, in response to the Maritime Labour Convention 2006 (MLC), which mandates the establishment of welfare boards at various levels, Australia has taken significant steps.

The Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA) has established the ASWC to ensure the adequacy of existing welfare facilities and facilitate coordination among port and regional welfare committees. The primary goal of ASWC is to enhance the welfare services provided to seafarers visiting Australian ports.

ASWC's vision encompasses:

Providing leadership in implementing Australia's obligations regarding seafarers' welfare under the Maritime Labour Convention 2006.

Assisting in the creation of a national network of seafarer support arrangements.

Promoting, encouraging, and supporting the delivery of seafarer welfare services at Australian ports.

The Australian Mariners Welfare Society is a valued member of the Australian Seafarers Welfare Council.

[Read more about the Australian Seafarers Welfare Council at the following link. >>](#)



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 >>](#)

