



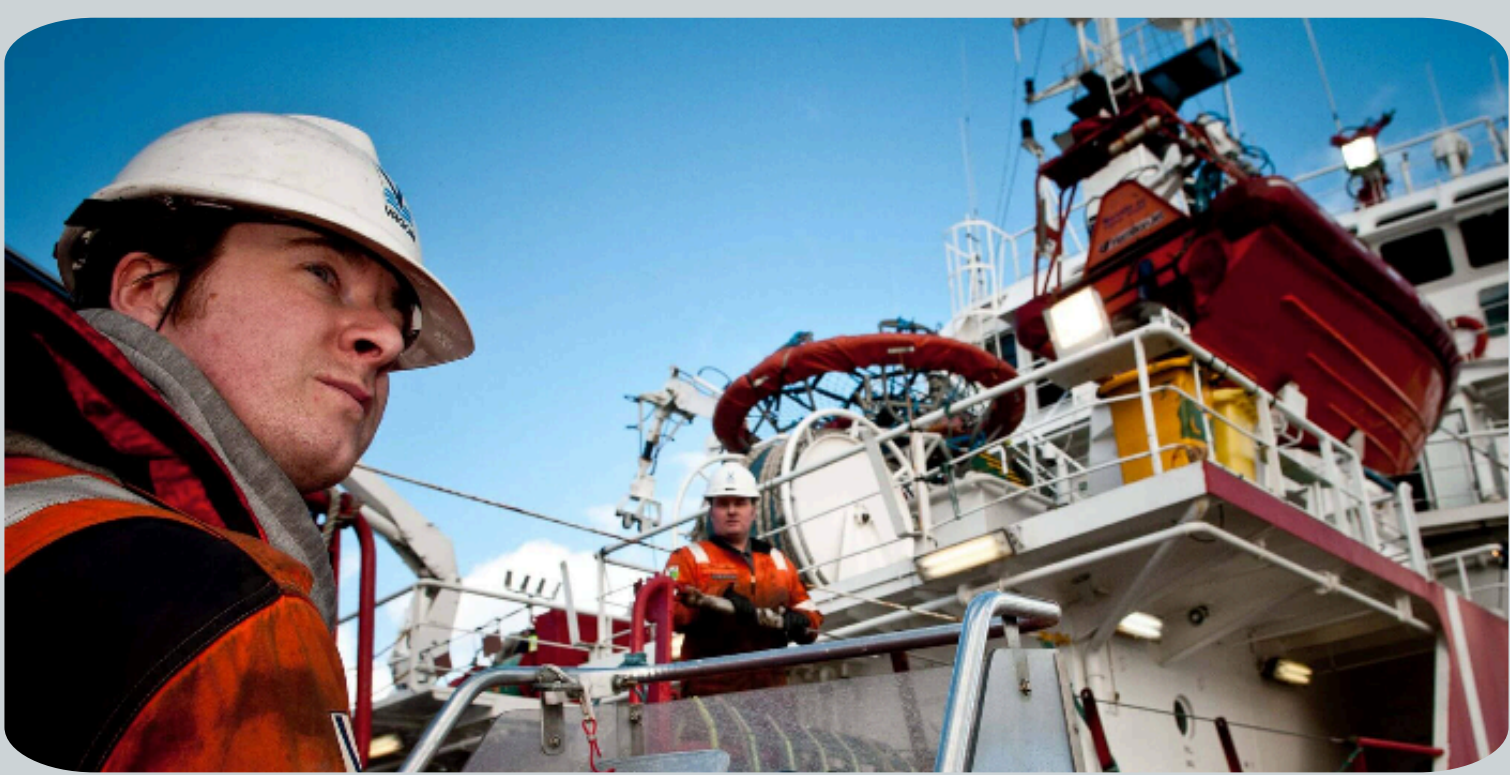
Latest AMWS E-News for October 2022

"Welcome to the October 2022 Edition of the AMWS E-News" - Chairman, Mr David Parmeter



"In this message I want to focus on the mental health and psychological wellbeing of seafarers. Concern about this issue has been growing in the industry for some time. The nature of modern shipping with small crew sizes and quick turnarounds in port, means that the opportunity for meaningful social interaction is reduced and seafarers are more likely to suffer from feelings of isolation and exclusion....."

[View David's Introduction for the October 22 AMWS E-News here.](#)



Maritime DEI – Focus on People with Disability - What adjustments are needed?
Special Report by Jeanine Drummond, AMWS Councillor

Disability affects many Australians directly and indirectly with 1 in 6 Australians living with disability¹. Disability is defined by [NDIS](#) as 'total or partial loss of the person's bodily or mental functions (The Disability Act 1992), describing a person's impairment of body or function, a limitation in activities or a restriction in participation when interacting with their environment. This could be the result of a condition someone was born with, grew into, had an accident, or illness, or part of growing older, and can often be invisible.

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) has been receiving increased attention in recent years, particularly as the work being done by advocates, and those within organisations, associations and government to address ongoing disparity, discrimination and disadvantage to those often found to be a minority in the workplace, community and homes. In maritime this has been visibly apparent with the work to address the significant disproportion of women to men across the industry and around the globe. Gender diversity becomes a relatively easy topic for people of all generations and most backgrounds to understand and relate to initiatives to address the lack of female participation in maritime. However, other people representing different diversity, or backgrounds and often found in a minority at maritime workplaces, such as LGBTQI community, first nations and people with a disability to name only a few, are progressing representation much slower due to what may be considered as a lack of awareness or understanding, and the ability to tackle uncomfortable conversations. These learnings and conversations are crucial to understanding what maritime workplaces can do from recruitment to retirement to provide safe, inclusive, and productive workplaces for all people and businesses to thrive. Maritime industry leaders determining policies and making decisions today must continue to evolve and increase their awareness of issues and barriers that will impact attracting the next generation of people to maritime. In way of a mini exercise in helping to find our blind spots, it is encouraged we all read up on [Four ways to improve your company's disability – inclusion](#), [Inclusive Language for Disabilities](#) and [Do your DEI efforts include people with disabilities](#).

Felicity Landon's article '[Could owners and crewing agencies do more to support less able seafarers?](#)' brings attention to the work of International Labour Organisation (ILO) and maritime industry sector in 'broadening minds' and 'asking these questions is important because it can help promote the opportunities for people with disabilities and highlight the issues'.



National Merchant Navy Memorial Commemoration, 23rd September 2022

On Sunday 23rd October, the 31st annual commemoration at the National Merchant Navy War Memorial took place. The venue was the National Merchant Navy War Memorial at Kings Park, Canberra. Due to COVID, this is the first service held since 2019. In the words of David Field, Chair of the Merchant Navy War Memorial Fund, the centrepiece is the "installation in bronze on the National Merchant Navy War Memorial, Kings Park Canberra of the names and respective ships of the 862 Australian Merchant Mariners that sacrificed their lives for their country in WWI (184) and WWII (678). As a result.....the National Merchant Navy War Memorial, now records for the generations that follow, the individual names of those who demonstrated such cold courage and heroism, in taking merchant ships into harm's way." Lest We Forget.



Neptune Declaration Update.
Vaccination Rates Up, Crew Changes in China Still a Problem. DCN 20th October 2022

THE NUMBER of seafarers able to leave their vessels has improved in the past months, but Covid restrictions in China are still causing crew change problems.

The first Quarterly Neptune Declaration Indicator reported continued improvement in vaccinations and timely repatriation.

Initially a monthly publication, the indicator has been ongoing throughout the pandemic to gauge the impact of the so-called crew change crisis, but in July transitioned to a quarterly publication to reflect the easing crisis.

Data for the third quarter of 2022 suggests the number of seafarers working beyond the expiry of their contracts has decreased from 4.2% in July to 3.3% in October.

[Read More >>](#)

HUMAN RIGHTS AT SEA

Human Rights at Sea <https://www.humanrightsatsea.org/> is an NGO advocating for the human rights of all people at sea globally. Their goal is to raise awareness of human rights abuses at sea, help victims of abuse and their families access justice, and advocate for more effective laws and policies to protect people at sea. In its latest publication, HRAS addresses the implementation of the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights in the global maritime sector. The conclusion reached is that a lot more work is required. A copy of the publication is available via the link below.

While headquartered in the UK, HRAS has active representation in Australia. Through the Chair and Deputy Chair, AMWS maintains a dialogue with HRAS to discuss issues of mutual interest and relevant industry developments. HRAS has been prominent in calling for a sustainable resolution of the funding issues facing welfare providers.

[Link to HRAS' "All at Sea" Report.](#)



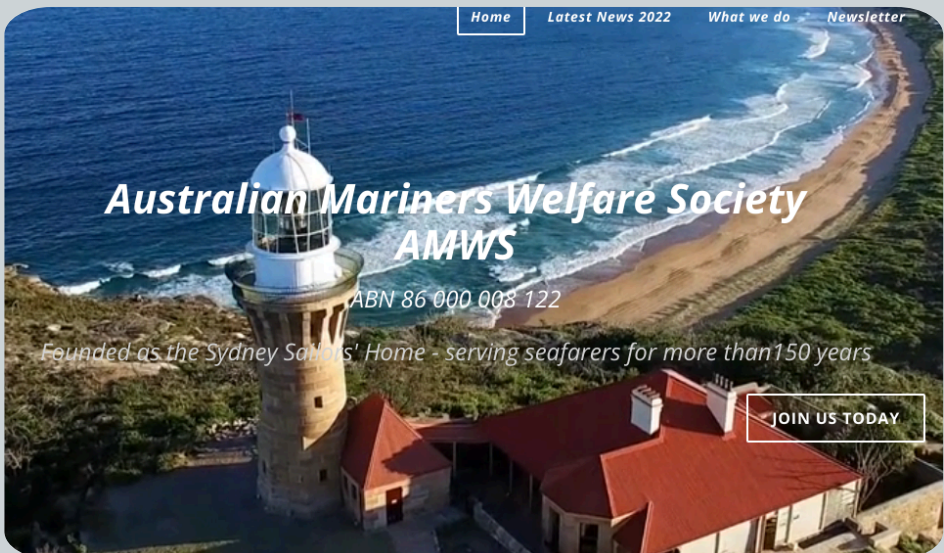
Can you help?

To save on postal costs, AMWS recently introduced an electronic distribution system for its magazine "Mariners' Lifeline". This system has also allowed AMWS to establish and publish a monthly members newsletter titled "AMWS E-News". The key to the ongoing success of this programme however is the maintenance of an accurate Reader data-base. The AMWS Council is therefore looking for support to assist in this area.

For someone familiar with marketing email / distribution systems, it is estimated that this would take no more than 3 to 4 hours effort twice a year.

If you are in a position to assist or know someone who may be interested, your Council would much appreciate if you could make contact with the AMWS Secretary on secretaryamws@gmail.com

With the holiday and Christmas period approaching, the next edition of the AMWS E-News will be published at the end of December 2022. We wish all our readers a safe and happy Christmas. - Ed.



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