

"Hello everyone, I am David Parmeter, the Chair of Australian Mariners Welfare Society and it is my great pleasure to welcome you to this function. I wish to thank my fellow Councillors, the members of AMWS and our guests who have been able to join us today.

AMWS is a charity dedicated to supporting the welfare of seafarers and their families both in Australia and internationally. We trace our origins back to 1863 and the establishment of the original Sydney Sailors Home. We are an organisation that has withstood the test of time and changed with times.

The Council is always looking at ways of enhancing the operation of the Society. For example at our recently completed AGM, the members approved an amendment to the Constitution creating a class of membership for Corporate entities. So now all fraternal organisations can join AMWS and support us in our work.

In discussing the changes that have occurred to AMWS, there is one name that stands out in our recent history, and that is Alan Tait. The reason we are here today is to acknowledge and thank Alan for his outstanding leadership of AMWS.

Alan joined the Society in 1984, became a Councillor in 1992 and took over as Chair in 2005. Alan fulfilled that role for 15 years before stepping down from the position 12 months ago. Alan was tireless in support of seafarer welfare and generously gave of his time. To paraphrase one of Alan's favourite sayings, "you kept the flag flying high."

I am delighted to say Alan has remained a Council Member and is as active and engaged with seafarer welfare as ever. I certainly appreciate his ongoing support and guidance.

Last year, Alan was made a Life Member of AMWS in recognition of his service and contribution.

This honour was also awarded to another long serving Councillor Malcolm Longstaff. Sadly Malcolm passed away recently, but we are delighted Margaret Longstaff has been able to join us. You are very welcome.

It is with great pleasure on behalf of AMWS that I give Alan his framed Certificate of Life Membership. Alan I ask that you accept this as a small token of the respect, admiration and