

# The Mariners' Lifeline

NEWSLETTER OF THE AUSTRALIAN MARINERS' WELFARE SOCIETY (ABN 86 000 008 122)

Founded 1863 as the Sydney Sailors' Home.

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## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Hello everyone and welcome to this edition of *The Mariners' Lifeline*.

It is appropriate at this time, with the end of 2021 rapidly approaching, that we take stock of the year that has past, as well as having a look at the future. And this bumper edition of the AMWS newsletter certainly does that.



David Parmeter,  
Chairman of the  
Australian Mariners  
Welfare Society

The critical issue affecting seafarer welfare in 2021 has been the ongoing impact of the COVID pandemic. In terms of practical measures that can assist seafarers, the focus has been on providing access to vaccinations wherever possible, and facilitating joining and leaving vessels. There are two articles in this edition that discuss these important issues. We have reproduced a report by Wendy King from the Sydney Mission to Seafarers, on the pressures faced by seafarers due to COVID. Also, Martin Orchard, with input from our colleague Conrad Saldanha, describes the efforts of industry and stakeholders to address the situation. These articles are relevant and timely.

Also, Martin has contributed two other pieces on current issues. One is a summary of the Piracy issue in 2021, which is a global problem and a great concern for seafarers. Mercifully the number of incidents is trending

downwards. In addition, Martin has provided a description of the work carried out by AMWS. It is important to promote the contribution made by the Society and we want all stakeholders to be reminded that AMWS plays an important role in seafarer welfare.

In that regard, there is an article on the approach AMWS is taking to Communications and Marketing. This involves a greater use of social media platforms to get our message out. We are keen to encourage like minded-individuals who share our concerns and want to support our work, to join the Society. Flowing from this is the development of an on-line application process for new Members, a recent innovation which is explained in this edition.

It is important to acknowledge those who have

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