



Amidst change – still getting the job done

By SCOTT HENDERSON

This year has been a significant one for Shipping Australia Limited, with changes to the Board, staff and office location, whilst the business of influencing shipping policies and protecting members' interests continued without interruption.

At the Board level, Gerard Morrison stepped down following his departure from Maersk in January. To fill this vacancy, we welcomed Tsukushi Sato from NYK, who's experience spans container, PCC and bulk sectors. Sato san provides direct bulk sector representation to the Board for the first time. In August, Simon Aynsley was succeeded at CMA-CGM by Shane Walden, and Shane was also appointed to replace him on the SAL Board. At the end of the year we also farewelled Adrian Petersen, as a result of being made redundant through a restructure at WSS. Suitable candidates for this casual vacancy will be considered in the new year.

At the staff level, former policy officer, Matthew Whittle, resigned in April, to relocate to Brisbane for family reasons. The remaining staff have covered the additional workload while his position has remained vacant and the SAL structure has been under review. Initial advertising for a full-time Policy and Communications position in August, did not yield a candidate that met the full expectations of the selection panel and the position will be re-advertised in the new year.

I am particularly pleased to welcome Michael Travers (MSC) as the new SAL Queensland State Committee chairman. Travers is well supported by Queensland State Committee secretary, Geoff Dalglish, who has kept members engaged and informed through State committee meetings and social events. Geoff has continued to corral members, associates and supporters to maintain the tradition of

an extremely well attended Shipping Industry Golf Day and another successful Shipping Industry Charity Ball, which raised a combined total of \$10,000 for the Brisbane Mission to Seafarers and Stella Maris.

In New South Wales, Bill Rizzi (MSC) continues as SAL New South Wales State Committee chairman and has been expertly supported by New South Wales State secretary, Melwyn Noronha. The State committee meetings have dealt with some important and sensitive matters, such as the innovative double-charging of navigation services charges for some ships in Port Jackson, Port Botany and Port Kembla, which have driven a huge workload on the secretariat, who have sought to get the true facts into the open through archive searches and freedom of information requests. On the social side, information and networking lunches at New South Wales Parliament House and Newcastle, continue to draw the crowds, and the Annual New South Wales State Committee Christmas Lunch was sold out midway through November. Our company secretary, Bryan Sharkey, has got the ball rolling in revitalising the SAL New South Wales Shipping Industry Golf Day at the Coast Course, Little Bay, and we hope to have a full course for the event on 04 March 2020.

Rod Begley (Swire CNCo) is continuing as SAL Victoria State Committee chairman and is ably supported by Victorian State secretary, Charles Masters and deputy chairman James Kurtz. Victoria has been a focus of much attention by SAL this year, particularly over proposals to amend the Port Pricing Order to support early investment in on-dock rail, and a State coastal shipping review. That said, I congratulate the Port of Melbourne, Victorian Ports Corporation Melbourne,

Melbourne harbourmaster and Port Phillip Sea Pilots for their combined efforts to enable big ships to traverse the Yarra. It was certainly encouraging to see 49 metre beam Bosporusmax container ships taken up the Yarra River to Swanson Dock, after this size vessel being previously considered impossible. Socially, the mid-year information and networking breakfast and the State Christmas Lunch were both well supported and greatly enjoyed by the maritime community.

In South Australia, Paul Paparella (Asiaworld) continues to wear the mantle as State chairman, and in Western Australia, Christy Kraker (Ship Agency), is in her second year as State chair, and with three committee meetings under her belt is looking towards what improvements can be made to improve the impact of the committee and its value to members.

After more than a decade in Sussex Street, at the end of June, the SAL headquarters moved to a smaller but more modern office at 80 William Street, Woolloomooloo, the same building as the Fair Work Commission, so many of our members will no doubt be familiar with it! The office maintains a full-sized meeting room with modern video conference facilities. To mark the move, a small office warming was held on 24 October following the first Policy Council meeting held at the new office.

It's been a challenging year for the shipping industry, and no-doubt 2020 will be equally as demanding. I would like to thank my fellow Board members, voluntary office holders and the energetic and enthusiastic SAL staff and for their continuing hard work to prevent obstructive regulation, to amend practices that inhibit efficient international trade and to help our members conduct their business fairly and sustainably throughout the year. ▲