

## **President's report to AGM - 2020**

First, I'd like to thank the Secretary, Rob Gehling, and the Treasurer, Craig Boulton, for the considerable work that they've been putting in to the Institution over the years. Both do this "behind the scenes" and my guess is that most members are not aware of all the time that they put into the Institution.

I'd also like to thank the Council members, many of whom have been particularly active this year in supporting Division activities.

I would like to thank Gordon MacDonald for agreeing to step into the role of Vice President, and congratulate him on his election as President for the coming two years.

### ***Sections***

One of the most important aspects of the Institution is the Section Technical Meetings. Of course, these are run by the Section Committees, but it is the job of the Division to support these Committees as best it can.

I'm pleased to say that all the Sections are very active, and have held a number of Technical Meetings throughout the year, as follows:

ACT: seven technical meetings  
NSW: eight technical meetings, and the SMIX Bash  
QLD: five technical meetings and a social gathering  
SA-NT: eight technical meetings  
TAS: four technical meetings  
VIC: eight technical meetings and a social gathering  
WA: five technical meetings and the knowledge forum at AOG.

Some of the sections are holding their meetings on University premises, which I hope will encourage students to attend. This is important, as students are the future of our profession, and of course of our Institution.

### ***On Line Technical Section Meetings***

I'm very pleased to say that some of the Section Meetings are being recorded and available on line now. As there are many Members who are not able to attend Section Technical Meetings this is proving to be quite popular. It is worth mentioning that the initiative taken by the Australian Division has led to a system for remote viewing of technical meetings being available across the whole of the Institution.

### ***Networking Events***

The annual SMIX bash held in Sydney just before Christmas was as successful as ever, and I was very pleased to present the inaugural Bob Campbell prize to Michelle Greche at this.

The Victorian Section also held an end of year networking and Christmas drinks, as did the Queensland Section.

## **Conferences**

### *Pacific 2019*

The International Maritime Conference (IMC) was, as usual, a great success, and I would like to thank John Jeremy, Adrian Broadbent, and their teams for the work behind the scenes.

### *Australian Oil and Gas Conference*

The Western Australian Section organised a stream again at the Australasian Oil and Gas Conference (AOG) in Perth again in March 2019. The success of such an event was only possible due to efforts of the WA Section led by Sammar Abbas.

## **Submissions**

### *Naval Shipbuilding Strategic Workforce Discussion Paper*

The Institution contributed a discussion to the Federal Government discussion paper on the requirements for the workforce for naval shipbuilding in February 2019.

### *Senate Inquiry*

In December the Institution made a submission to the Senate Economic References Committee Inquiry into Developing and Delivering Australia's Sovereign Naval Shipbuilding Capability.

One of the important points that we made in our submission is that it is naval architects and maritime engineers that have the training and experience to plan for, and understand the engineering, production, and sustainment of ships. We noted that as the demand for maritime engineers is only just being met by current supply levels the increase in naval ship production, operation and sustainment will be well beyond current supply levels of graduates.

### *Naval Shipbuilding College*

This is an extremely interesting development, and the Institution has been in discussions with the new CEO, Ian Irving. It is hoped that we may be in a position to develop a good relationship with the NSC in the near future.

## **Interaction with AMSA**

The Division now has very good relations with AMSA.

The working group advising AMSA on Domestic Commercial Vessel (DCV) issues continues to remain active under the leadership of our Secretary, Rob Gehling and Violeta Gabrovska. AMSA has indicated that it really appreciates our feedback as a representative body compared with input from individuals.

## **Prizes and awards**

### *Walter Atkinson Award*

The Walter Atkinson Award for 2019 to Ahmed Swidan, Tristan Bauer and Dane Christophersen, for their paper entitled: *A New Centrebow Design to Enhance the Performance of High-Speed Catamarans in Rough Seas*. This paper was presented to the ACT section on 19<sup>th</sup> of March 2019, and was selected as the best written paper presented in 2018 – 2019. I presented this Award to the authors at the Pacific 2019 cocktail party.

### *Bob Campbell Prize*

Michelle Grech was the winner of the inaugural Bob Campbell Prize for the best presentation and paper at the Pacific IMC on the topic of: *Assessing the Determinants of Safety Culture in*

*the Maritime Industry.* This paper was written with her co-authors: Daniela Andrei; Mark Griffin; and Andrew Neal, but as a large component of the criteria was the presentation, the prize only goes to Michelle. I was very pleased to be able to present this to her at SMIX 2019.

#### *Undergraduate prizes*

Neil Rothwell was awarded the Division's prize for the best undergraduate research project at AMC, and Isabella Yan was awarded the Division's prize for the best design project at UNSW.

#### ***Revised list of relevant courses on website***

The Council has undertaken was to revise the list of relevant courses on our website. This has now been uploaded onto the website, and is a useful summary of the Australian courses in naval architecture, maritime engineering and related subjects. This work was led by Jason Steward and I'd like to thank him for all the work that he has put into this.

#### ***Australian Naval Architect***

Yet again we have had four bumper issues of *The Australian Naval Architect* throughout the year. This is often cited as being one of the most valuable features of membership of the Australian Division, and we are incredibly indebted to the editors: John Jeremy, AM; and Phil Helmore. I know that they put a fantastic effort into each edition, and this is greatly appreciated by the membership.

Fortunately, due to the circulation of the *ANA* to most members electronically, and the success in attracting adverts for this, the cost of the *ANA* to the Division is minimal. I'd like to thank the advertisers for continuing to support the journal.

I'd also like to encourage all members to consider advertising in the *ANA*, and/or for them to persuade their employers and clients to do so. The journal is very widely read throughout the Australian maritime industry, and so advertising in it is particularly good value.

#### ***Financial Position***

The Division remains in a strong financial position. However, although we do have adequate reserves in case of emergencies, it is important to note that our annual grant does not cover our expenses, as I'm sure the Treasurer will comment on in his report.

I'd like to thank the Treasurer, Craig Boulton, for his ongoing extensive efforts in managing our finances. This is no mean task, and I am aware of the effort that he puts into this.

#### ***Concluding Remarks***

I'm pleased to say that the Division is, on the whole, in a very good shape.

We're making quite a bit of progress with the various initiatives that we've undertaken, and it's great that a number of members are offering to take leadership roles with many of these.

Most of the Sections are very active now, with interesting Technical Sessions and useful networking events. One of the challenges for the Division going forward is to continue to support the Sections.

In conclusion, I particularly want to thank our Secretary, Rob Gehling, for all the work that he has done to support me, and to ensure that everything has gone so well over the four years of my Presidency. I don't think that many members realise quite how much work he puts in to ensure the success of the operation of the Institution in Australia, and that our links with the HQ in London go smoothly.

I look forward to continuing to be involved with the Institution, and I wish the incoming President, Gordon MacDonald, well.

Martin Renilson  
President,  
Australian Division,  
Royal Institution of Naval Architects.