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## Shipping Australia Traces Origins Back 100 Years!

"Whilst Shipping Australia was formed in 2001 as a result of a merger between the Australian Chamber of Shipping and Liner Shipping Services Ltd, both organisations can trace their origins back to the first meeting of the Oversea Shipping Representatives Association (OSRA) held on 17 July, 1912", Llew Russell of Shipping Australia said today.

To mark this centenary, a luncheon will be held in Sydney on 17 July, coinciding with the anniversary of the first meeting of the OSRA. The reunion will involve former staff of the Association along with serving and retired shipping industry personnel whose work involved regular contact with OSRA.

"OSRA was established at a time when Australia's major trading partner was the United Kingdom which bought large volumes of wool, meat, hides, fresh and canned fruit, dairy products as well as general cargo from Australia.

"Under the Industries Preservation Act of 1916 shipowners were allowed to co-operate and collectively negotiate with Australian exporters on the terms and conditions of service", Mr Russell said.

OSRA expressed the views of their members on a wide range of shipping policy issues including industrial issues. The Australian Chamber of Shipping emerged in the 1960's as did the Association of Employers of Waterside Labour.

"In 1969, the revolutionary introduction into the Australian trade of containerisation, coupled with the passage through the Commonwealth Parliament of the then Trade Practices Act in 1974, heralded a new operational and policy environment in the liner shipping industry at large. This led ultimately to the reorganisation of OSRA, resulting in, among other things, in its name change to the Australia to Europe Shipping Conference in 1978", he said.

Mr Russell added that serving and retired shipping industry personnel whose work brought them into contact with OSRA/AESC including those from interstate would be welcome to attend the Sydney reunion on 17 July.

Further information and booking details can be obtained from Martin Orchard – telephone 0438 010 748 or by email to [mkorchard@bigpond.com](mailto:mkorchard@bigpond.com).

Editor's note:

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