



## A year of changes... but full steam ahead

By SCOTT HENDERSON

The first part of 2018 has been an historic one for liner shipping in Australia. The sudden withdrawal of lines from the major Discussion Agreements operating between Australia, New Zealand and the USA was quickly followed by a similar exodus from the north Asia Trade Facilitation Agreement and the southbound Asia Australia Discussion Agreement. Later in the year the Australia Fiji Discussion Agreement was also closed. As a result, we have had to reduce staff in the liner services division, and in June Andrew Chittenden, our liner services manager for the past 30 years, took early retirement. On behalf of the SAL Board and all our liner services members, I thank Andrew for his years of dedicated and professional service.

Despite these changes, Shipping Australia maintains the capability to support continuing Discussion Agreements, bunker calculations, regional trade statistics (by subscription) and ongoing registration service for consortia agreements under Part X. We also continue to be the industry point of contact for the Registrar of Liner Shipping and provide advice and support on liner matters to our members.

You might say that Shipping Australia has returned to our roots. The company was formed in 2000 as the amalgamation of the Australian Chamber of Shipping and Liner Shipping Services but throughout, our policy and technical departments remain unchanged and will continue to provide information, advocacy and training services to our members and the wider shipping industry, as we have done for the past 18 years and 20 years before that as the former Chamber.

In May, our Queensland state chairman, Geoff Dalglish, stood down when his position with K-Line was dissolved, as the company merged container operations into the Ocean Network Express. A month later, Bill Guest, our Queensland state secretary, retired after holding this position since the formation of SAL. We have been very fortunate to engage Geoff Dalglish as Queensland state secretary, and with his intimate knowledge of the SAL Queensland operations he has maintained continuity without missing a beat. The SAL Queensland Golf Day earlier this year is an industry favourite and again attracted a sell-out crowd. Geoff's first event, the SAL Queensland Maritime Industry Ball, was also very successful and raised a donation of \$8,000 for this year's supported charity, the Tangalooma Eco Marines, an organisation that engages school children as "Eco Marines" to promote protection of the marine environment.

In Western Australia, Robert Boyce (MSC) completed his term as state chairman and was succeeded by Kristy Craker (Ship Agency). In South Australia, Paul Paparella (Asiaworld) continues in the role of SAL state chairman and represents SAL on the South Australian Freight Council.

Our Victoria state secretary, Charles Masters, has maintained routine quarterly committee meetings under the guidance of state chairman, Captain Sunil Dhowan. Last year, Charles took on the challenge of upscaling the SAL Christmas luncheon from an intimate event at the Railway Hotel to a very successful event with more than 100 guests at the historic West Brighton Club. This year it stepped up another notch to the iconic Kooyong Lawn Tennis Club with entertainment by comedian

Des Dowling. Other activities have included industry Golf Day and most recently a well-attended cybersecurity breakfast.

In New South Wales, Bill Rizzi (MSC) continues as state chairman, strongly supported by state secretary, Melwyn Noronha. After a very successful meeting with Minister Melinda Pavey last year, Bill has been invited to represent SAL in State Government's Freight Advisory Council. On the social side, the New South Wales Golf Day is building in support, and two lunches at Parliament house and one at Wollongong, have continued to prove popular and excellent networking opportunities. The usual sell-out New South Wales Christmas luncheon on 7 December capped off the year with comedian Vince Sorrenti bringing down the house.

In closing, I would like to thank my fellow Board members and on their behalf recognise the work and support of our volunteer state chairmen for their leadership on shipping matters in their States. I also thank the chairmen of our national steering groups, Eddy Declercq (OOCL) - Human Resources Steering Group, David Pratt (ISS) - Bulk Shipping Group, and Dorian Moga (MSC) - Maritime Legal Steering Group). Finally, a special thanks to Ross McAlpine (MSC) - Border Agencies, Technical and Public Relations Steering Groups, who formally retired from MSC this year. In my second year as Chairman it has been a bit of a challenge to fit the work of SAL into my busy role at GAC and I am happy to be supported by the tireless and professional SAL team. Their work importantly influences policies and provides support to members but often goes under the radar, well done team. ▲