

Young Shipping Australia 2025 in review

By the YSA NSW COMMITTEE



Rev Un Tay and Young Shipping Australia members at Grain Corp Port Kembla. Photo credit: supplied.

Young Shipping Australia (YSA) is a non-profit organisation for young professionals working in the maritime industry. Our aim is to foster connection and growth for young people across all areas within the shipping industry. YSA has a diverse membership with representatives from liner companies, terminals, freight forwarders, marine insurers, as well as lawyers, engineers and consultants.

As always, this year YSA hosted a number of social, networking and educational events where our members had the opportunity to discuss important industry news and socialise with likeminded individuals.

Our first event was a tour of GrainCorp's Port Kembla Grain Terminal Export Facility, which is the state's largest grain export terminal. Members were given a tour led by Damien O'Connell, Port Operations Manager at GrainCorp. The tour included the control room, rail hoppers, the famous 10 MT siloes and grain loading facility, which includes 9 km of conveyor belts! It was fascinating to learn about the massive operation of coordinating vessels, grain delivery, biosecurity and export checks that GrainCorp provides to its customers all at the one location.

We extend our warm thanks to GrainCorp for hosting us for a tour

and lunch, and to Reverend Un Tay of Mission to Seafarers for driving the bus with members from Sydney to Port Kembla and back!

Inspired by conversations on the bus from Port Kembla to Sydney, our second event was a breakfast seminar in May hosted by CSL Australia and titled "Shipping in Sydney Harbour and Glebe Island: Reflections on History, Present Use and Future Directions". Members heard from CSL Australia Vice-President Dan Wilson, Government Relations and External Affairs Director Emily Pointon and Scheduling and Customer Service Senior Manager Mark Hughes about the current and future significance and use of Glebe Island as an industrial port, which is currently subject to an uncertain future due to significant pressure to develop the area into residential housing.

The presentation left us more informed about the economic, industrial, environmental and strategic value of retaining a deep-water port in Sydney and the need for any future development on Glebe Island to be done in consultation with port users.

The committee extends our sincere thanks to CSL Australia for hosting members and providing us with valuable insight into the long-term challenges facing Sydney's Glebe Island, as well as the consequences facing the shipping industry and Sydney more broadly as a result.

The balance of our events this year were much more social in tone. In July, YSA joined forces with the Women's International Shipping & Trading Association (WISTA) NSW for our annual Mexican Fiesta End of Financial Year Party, hosted this year by Mills Oakley. We were delighted to be joined by many in costume and celebrate a great night of shipping-related trivia, paper plane competitions and delicious Mexican food with our friends from WISTA NSW.

To conclude the year, YSA is hosting its end of year celebrations with the Maritime Law Association of Australia and New Zealand (MLAANZ) NSW Branch at the 18 Footers in Double Bay. We can't wait to catch up with our members and friends at a veritable sailing institution and reflect on the year that has been!

Thank you very much to those who have given their time to host, present at and attend our events this year. The YSA Committee is grateful for your ongoing support and we are looking forward to another exciting year in 2026. We look forward to seeing you at our next event.

We also extend our sincerest thanks to outgoing committee members who have served our members faithfully, including India Stuerzl of CSL Australia, Sara Menzies of Mills Oakley and Amber Albrecht of HWL Ebsworth who concluded her term as Chair of the Committee. This year, we have also welcomed new committee members Kasia Czarnota of Mills Oakley, as well as James Stewart and Zachary Norgard of HWL Ebsworth. We also congratulate long-time committee member Michael Tatham on his recent appointment as our new Chair.

If you are interested in joining YSA or renewing your membership, you can do this through the Shipping Australia website on the "YSA – New South Wales" page at www.shippingaustralia.com.au/young-shipping-australia/ysa-nsw/.

Finally, we are seeking new committee members for YSA! This opportunity is open to anyone in the broader young shipping community, particularly anyone on the operations side of shipping. If you are interested or would like to discuss what's involved, please do not hesitate to contact us at ysa@shippingaustralia.com.au. ▲

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