



3 SHORT BLASTS

Just when you thought we were making headway...

THE OFFICIAL BULLETIN OF THE AMOU WESTERN AREA BRANCH



Wise Tide II (more affectionately known as Waste Tide II) at Victoria Quay discharging 800m³ of effluent from the accommodation vessel Finnmarken anchored off Barrow Island in support of the Gorgon project.

3 SHORT - BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND

By Capt. Dan Pearson (Area Secretary)

It has been over a year since the last edition of 3 Short Blasts was published. Many of you have asked why it stopped and the simple answer is the time that it takes to put together.

When I began publishing this bulletin, it was intended that the executive of WA Branch would work together to put something out on a regular basis.

Unfortunately the Branch President was forced to resign due to personal reasons and this left me one out trying to provide the membership with an entertaining, informative, and up-to-date round-up of the goings on in the Branch.

The industrial workload in the Branch made this very difficult, and the last couple of issues reflected this by having mostly articles gleaned from other publications. The bulletin was never meant to be a device to regurgitate articles from industry sources. Although we may use an article from another source from time to time, the intention is to publish articles that give an insight into industrial matters from the perspective of a deck officer.

For those of you who did contribute to the first attempt at the bulletin, I would like to personally thank you for your efforts. It is very difficult to write an article, let alone one that is peer reviewed, but it is efforts like this from the membership that make this publication possible. I hope that we can draw on this support in the future.

I can hear you say that the underlying cause of the initial demise of 3 Short Blast's has not been rectified. But alas it has. During the last 12 months there has been significant push from the Western Area End of Month Meetings to have an Area Executive put in place.

At the March 2010 End of Month meeting, nominations for the positions of acting WA Branch President and Vice President were called for and endorsed by the meeting.

After much support from the WA members the Federal Executive agreed at their last meeting to install an acting President and Vice President into the WA Branch under rule 48(c).

As Western Area Branch Secretary, I would like to welcome Capt. Al Heyne and Mr Nathan McNee to the positions of acting President and Vice President respectively. These gentlemen have been active in the WA Branch for some time and I have asked them to provide a brief overview of their background and where they think the Union should be headed.

Before I allow them to introduce themselves, I would like to ask all members to think about submitting an article for this bulletin or even suggest a topic that you would like to see written as member input will be vital to ensuring the continuation of this bulletin.



Geosea mobilising in Fremantle prior to heading to the Pyrenees field.

AN INTRODUCTION FROM THE ACTING WA PRESIDENT

G'Day Members,

The best thing for me to do at this stage is to introduce myself.

I'm 48, happily married and have lived in White Gum Valley (Fremantle) for 18 years.

I grew up in a small town on the shores of Lake Macquarie, NSW. Most of my spare time was spent creating fun and mischief on and in the lake.

At 17 I decided it was time to explore other places and my first trip to sea was with my eldest brother delivering his 22ft open Dory up the East Coast to Cairns, he was a Barra Fisherman out of Karumba and this was his new boat. Conditions on board were pretty basic. When we reached Cairns I hitch-hiked to Karumba. My brother and the Dory followed by truck. Soon after arriving I got a job as a "Tucker Decky" on a prawn Trawler, the start of my working career.

As the years flew past I put myself through various tickets and got promotions. I'd heard about WA and decided to come for a look in 1983, I had no trouble getting work fishing with a bit of Charter Boat Skippering in the off seasons. The Maritime Industry intrigued me, especially the stories of equal time, interesting work and good pay.

I put my name on the "D Roster" at the Guild in Mouat Street, Freo and started sitting at the back of meetings at the P & O, where I got to meet a few people. Skippering a local Charter Boat and fishing paid the bills.

7 years later (1996), I got a start as Master on a crew boat working a Pipelay Barge at Varanus Island, off the "D Roster" and away at last!!

Various jobs as master on small utility vessels doing Survey, light construction and Dredging followed.

During a particularly nasty transit to Dampier in 2001, the one where the coffee doesn't stay in the cup you're trying to juggle and it's too hard to toast the bread, I got a phone call asking if I'd go 2nd Mate on a Seismic Survey vessel. Why not!

After a short time on board I had to ask, how long's this been going on??

I booked myself in to the Freo Maritime College and studied my Master Class 3, my wife worked to pay the bills.

Occasionally I'd say a few words from the back of the Union Meetings.

My first play on a DP desk was at the anchorage in Dampier, doing small moves & heading changes on the Captains instructions. He was down at the TV on the phone, an important footy match was about to start and the best reception was essential.

A trip to England for a DP course was next.

This opened the door to sea time with tonnage, mostly on DP construction & Dive Support vessels in Offshore Oil & Gas.

I've been very fortunate to have worked with and been taught by some of the best operators on the coast.

Promotions and another stint at Freo College put me in the position where I'm now permanently employed as a Master with a Perth Based Offshore company.

I live a modest but comfortable life and feel secure, being part of the Union is a big part of that security.

After the last AMOU election I was impressed by the attitudes of the newly elected officials and started to get more involved with the Union. Due to the lack of a Vice President in the WA branch, Dan & Vic invited me to sit in on Executive meetings as an extra head for bouncing ideas around, no voting rights.

When on leave I've been chairing the Monthly meetings in Freo and spending some spare time at the office and out & about with the officials, sitting in on some of the EBA negotiations etc.

I want the AMOU to be a part of the Australian Maritime Industry for generations to come.

To do this we need to re-gain our forward momentum and look to the future, using the huge wealth of experience of our membership and the fresh ideas of the new.

I am looking forward to being a part of this.

Hope to see you around,

Al Heyne.

INTRODUCTION TO THE ACTING WA VICE PRESIDENT

I would like to say hello to all our members, my name is Nathan McNee, VP of the AMOU WA branch. For those of you who don't know me I would like to take this opportunity to give you all a brief intro of whom I am and how I got to where I am.

I originally started at sea on the STS Leeuwin II as a trainee during my school holidays. I carried on to do a number of trips aboard the Leeuwin before moving into the dive industry and working as a dive master and deck hand on dive charter vessels out of Fremantle and Hillarys. I worked both in commercial and recreational diving for a few years before moving overseas. For the next few years I lived in Ireland and Spain and worked in the Mediterranean where I was mate and engineer for a tour operator based on the island of Menorca. After a few years enjoying the lifestyle of the Med my partner and I moved back to Perth.

I started working for a ferry company as an engineer travelling between Perth, Fremantle and Rottnest. It was while working for Oceanic I joined AIMPE and was involved in a campaign with the AMOU and the MUA for better safety conditions and procedures on board the ferries. Very soon after this I joined OMS as an engineer doing chase boat and supply work. I can't say that I ever wanted to be an engineer and it was more of a means to an end. I always wanted to be navigating and driving so after a few emails, (started as a few emails and then turned into a few emails a week) I was offered a deck cadetship with OMS. I began my cadetship in 2006 and promptly became a member of the AMOU. In 2008 I obtained my Watchkeepers and since then I have sailed on supply boats, anchor handlers and ROV/construction vessels. I obtained my DP unlimited ticket in 2009, and since September 09 have been 2nd mate/DPO aboard the Nor Australis.

Outside of work and away from the sea I keep myself fit and pretty busy. I am a keen cyclist doing many k's around Perth and the surrounding hills.

However my biggest love (after my wife of course) is dog sledding. I own 2

Siberian Huskies and help train and race 6 others here in Perth. I know we don't have any snow here but ask me about it and I will be happy to explain all. Be careful though I could speak on the subject of hours.

Back to the AMOU and what I would like to see happen. Whilst I was a cadet I saw a lot of confusion and very little communication between companies, colleges and the AMOU. There is also the perception from a lot of the younger cadets and officers that the AMOU is an old guys blue water club. I would like to see both of these things change and hope to be able to use the time as area VP to try and help this to happen. To try and bring in some new blood to the union cause if we don't get new blood and train new people in our industry, our union are as good as finished.

I look forward to meeting as many of you as possible and listening to any ideas you may have on improving our union.



Finnmarken alongside Victoria Quay prior to mobilisation to the Gorgon Project for Boskalis.

SUBMISSIONS, SUGGESTIONS, AND ENQUIRIES

Please feel free to send any feedback, articles or enquiries to sec@amouwa.com. Any articles submitted should indicate whether you want the name of the author published. Thanks for your support and remember that the Western Area End of Month meeting will be held at the Flying Angel club on Tuesday 29th June 2010. Meeting starts at 1000hrs.