

Queensland Branch Nautical Institute contribution for Seaways

The Queensland branch of the Nautical Institute had great pleasure in hosting the incumbent president, Capt Richard Coates, and the incoming president, Capt James Robinson, in Brisbane over the Anzac Day long weekend, April 25-27.

There was a challenge for the branch to organise a suitable range of activities because ANZAC Day – 25 April – is probably Australia's most important national occasion. It marks the anniversary of the first major military action fought by Australian and New Zealand forces during the First World War and surpasses the importance of both the national holiday (Australia Day on January 26) and Remembrance Day (11 November). It is also a public holiday and many people take the opportunity of the holiday long weekend to go away.

The branch organised a number of activities around the Anzac Day theme, including:

- attendance at the dawn service in Anzac Square
- marching with the main parade through the centre of Brisbane with the Honourable Company of Master Mariners and the British Merchant Navy contingents
- luncheon at United Service Club

On Monday 26th April, the branch hosted the two presidents at a barbecue at the Brisbane Maritime Museum on the banks of the Brisbane River. In that picturesque and informal setting, Capt Coates gave a short talk to members and prospective members that was well received.

On Tuesday morning, 27th April, the two presidents were given a tour of the Brisbane vessel traffic services centre at Pinkenba. The VTS centre, managed and operated by Maritime Safety Queensland, schedules and monitors all shipping movements for the Port of Brisbane. The branch thanks Capt Glenn Hale for facilitating the tour.

The Queensland branch has a full programme of activities planned for the rest of the year, including:

- a technical meeting in North Queensland (Townsville) in July 2010;
- World Maritime Day Presentation on 6 October 2010 on the “Year of the Seafarer” in Brisbane
- AGM, in November (date to be confirmed)
- Annual Dinner (in conjunction with Master Mariners) in November at the Marco Polo restaurant, Treasury Casino.

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