



'Southern Sojourn'

The visit by H/O to the Australia-New Zealand Branch

After several months of planning, the visit to Australia and New Zealand by our Director, Julie Lithgow and Vice President, Bruce Ogilvy got underway with Julie's arrival in Perth, WA on Monday, 11th August.

Perth:

Joined by Bob Hawkins, Chairman of the ANZ Branch, the journey began with a meeting with local shipping identities at the offices of Clarksons Australia. It was particularly informative, getting an overview of the massive trade volumes that are being exported through West Australian ports in particular.



Figure 1: A happy group of Brokers.

A very social curry lunch brought back memories of how business was conducted a few decades ago, with discussion on how the broking world has changed.

An early evening cocktail function was organised by Tony Pegum, at which some 34 local ICS members, students and shipping personalities gathered to listen to both Julie and Bob speak about the ICS successes and developments both locally and internationally.

An Excellence Award along with a cheque for A\$250 was presented to Alex Blott, a broker with Pacific Basin, for attaining a Distinction in Shipping Finance in the recent ICS Qualifying Examinations.



Figure 2: Alex Blott receiving his award from the Director Julie Lithgow. To his left is Bob Hawkins.

Melbourne



Figure 3: The Branch AGM (l to r) Yoyo Chu, Bill MacDonald, Nick Vann, Robert Hill, Bob Hawkins, Julie Lithgow, Francis Castellino.

The next ‘port of call’ was Melbourne, on Wednesday 13th. A full itinerary meant little rest. Thursday 14th August started with the Branch AGM followed by the business meeting at which Julie was invited and asked to give an overview of various education matters. A worthy contribution and I’m sure will be of value to the Branch committee.

Bruce and his wife Wendy arrived in Melbourne that evening and joined us for a river-front BBQ dinner organised by Rohan Stagg of the YPM group (Young Professionals Melbourne) – a forum created by the ICS to facilitate the networking of our students with other ‘under 35s’ in the industry.

Friday, 15th presented with clear blue sky and a crisp winter morning ideal for the River Yarra cruise arranged by Francis Castellino and hosted by the Harbour Master, Port of Melbourne. Viewing the working Port of Melbourne was certainly a highlight, followed by a lunch meeting with the Deputy Director of the Australian Maritime College at which we were able to discuss mutual cooperation and recognition of qualifications between the College and the ICS – a work in progress.



Figure 4: Kitted out for a cruise on the bay. Bruce Ogilvy is on the extreme left.

The Gala Dinner

The Branch annual gala dinner event later that evening proved to be exactly that with some 98 members and guests attending at the Langham Hotel on Melbourne's glamorous South Bank. The Keynote Speech was delivered by Mr David Hodgett, MP, the Victorian Minister for Ports, Manufacturing and Local Infrastructure. A very informative and interesting after dinner speech by our Vice President on behalf of the Institute rounded off a lovely evening.



Figure 5: The gala dinner, Robert Hill introduces Julie Lithgow. At far right, seated, is Anton Andrado.

Saturday, 16th was a 'lay day' and a well-deserved rest day.

Sunday, 17th.

Rustling up the 'delegates' for a morning flight to Sydney with a reminder this was the half-way point in the tour!



Figure 6: Tim Polson receiving his membership certificate from Bruce Ogilvy.

Sydney

An evening ‘private dinner’ function on 17th August was arranged by Bill MacDonald for local Sydney committee members and students to meet with Julie and Bruce. The dinner was held onboard the faithfully restored Manly ferry, *South Steyne*, moored permanently in Darling Harbour. A cosy and informal dinner, including ‘inclined’ dinner tables made for an interesting discussion point with nautical influences!

New ICS member, Tim Polson from Brisbane was presented with his membership certificate.

Monday, 18th.

The weather had deteriorated overnight, with the rain a serious distraction to the functions on the day. Morning visits to shipping and brokerage companies proved to be a ‘lively’ few hours.

- MUR Shipping – a relatively new entrant to the Australian shipping scene.
- Simpson, Spence and Young. Long-established broking house.
- R.S.Platau. Shipbrokers with an International presence.

We did manage to enjoy a welcome ‘pub lunch’ break between visits.



Figure 7: A group of Owners and Brokers aboard the brigantine *SV Soren Larsen*, Sydney

The inclement weather meant we held serious doubts for the planned Tall Ships Cruise on Sydney Harbour, organised by Steve Randall. Fortunately the weather moderated sufficiently and with a cheery bunch of some 52 members and guests we were entertained to a BBQ dinner aboard the statuesque brigantine, *SV Soren Larsen*.

Auckland

Tuesday, 19th.

A quick dash out to Sydney airport for the flight across the Tasman to Auckland. An evening free to catch up with the time zones as much as anything!

Wednesday, 20th.

A luncheon function had been organised by the New Zealand Chapter, attended by 32 members, students and guests – with Bruce Ogilvy giving the key note address. I'm sure all present were encouraged by Bruce's message of support on behalf of the ICS, especially the students present.

New member, Belinda Snell, from the Port of Tauranga, was presented with her membership certificate by Bruce.



Figure 8: Belinda Snell receiving her membership certificate from Bruce Ogilvy.



Figure 9: Dinner at Mikano's, Auckland.

An evening 'private' dinner held in the Mikano's restaurant adjacent to the Port of Auckland container terminal kept Julie enthralled with the continuing port activity during the dinner. This event, the final on the busy tour, was attended by 11 local committee members, our legal tutor, students and guests.

Epilogue

As a Branch, we were indeed honoured to have the opportunity to show our head office team something of our Branch, its personalities, shipping groups and activities spread over a territory larger than any other branch of the Institute.

To the future – the incentive presented was to encourage membership, students and all the benefits of the Institute and to encourage the formation of a new chapter in Perth, WA, and to re-build the original Sydney chapter.

As Chairman I think I can say on behalf of the committee, that the overall effort by all concerned has been worthwhile and we can only gain from the direct input and attendance at the functions, events and meetings attended by our Institute leaders.

I thank all the names mentioned above for their unstinting efforts to make the trip a memorable one for our London dignitaries; and especially to Ajit Fernandes and Nigel D'Souza for their hard work behind the scenes.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'R.J. Hawkins', written in a cursive style.

R.J.(Bob) Hawkins FICS
Chairman
ANZ Branch.