

CATEGORY WILL GROW MEMBERSHIP



BY ALAN MOORE

I have a confession to make. You will note that the photograph at the top of this page is different from any you have seen before. When I took over the role of secretary of the Marine Transport Association I had just undergone bariatric surgery, a fancy name for a stomach staple.

I was considerably overweight. In fact my nickname around the industry was Porky, although no-one said it to my face. At 133kg I had some health problems that were causing me concern and inevitably would shorten my life, and I decided to do something about it.

The first story of my new *Professional Skipper* publishing career was produced and the editor, Keith Ingram, asked for a photograph to accompany the article. I used my flash new digital camera and held it out at arm's length in front of me to produce the image that was shown. Most people who saw it did not recognise me. Not only did I look different but it was a dreadful reproduction and portrayed me looking like death warmed up. Keith had readers asking him if I was dying. He also showed it to my brother, who didn't know me.

For the next issue, Keith asked me for another photograph, and I dug up an old one that at least was good quality but didn't really look like me now. All this did was confuse you. So now I come clean. Above is a true picture taken by Keith in August and shows me a lean 75kg but fighting fit and healthy. I have the same voice and the same personality, I'm just thinner and healthier.

Down to business. The MTA has been busy this month and those members who are on the association's email list will be getting the weekly newsletters. This is a compendium of local and international marine news and gossip and appears to be appreciated by all recipients. If you want to be included in these, please send me your email address and I will do the rest.

The annual conference is to be held next month at the Bucklands Beach Yacht Club from September 15 to 17. The proposed programme is:

Monday, September 15

1730-1930 Registration and sponsored cocktail party. Dinner at the club on your own account.

Tuesday, September 16

0900 Official opening by the Hon Harry Duynhoven

0945 Morning tea

1000 Bridge management practices training seminar by Mark Rothwell MTI. This will be an excellent training session for skippers of all types of vessels.

1200 Lunch

1300 Breakout sessions:

Small-boat operators:

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Engine management presentation by Transdiesels Ltd

1430 Transport Accident Investigation Commission. By Captain Doug Monks

1515 Afternoon tea

1530 EECA Biofuels presentation

1630 Hella Marine presentation

1700 North-South Contest. Sponsored by Transdiesel

1900 Dinner on your own account

Wednesday, September 17

0900 MTA annual general meeting

1000 Morning tea

1015 Kordia Vessel Identification Management Systems presentation

1015 Repeat session of bridge practices by Mark Rothwell MTI

1100 Maritime NZ Target "B" Safety Forum

1200 Lunch. Sponsored by Maritime New Zealand

1300 Maritime NZ Target B Safety Forum. This is an opportunity to hear the statistics of our sector of the industry, the proposed changes to service delivery of safe ship management and to have an input to proposed rule changes.

1630 Conference ends

1830 Cocktail party. Sponsored by MGE Engineering Ltd

1900 Conference dinner. The National Party spokesperson for Transport, Maurice Williamson, has been invited as the speaker and has yet to confirm.

The conference is being supported by sponsors from the following companies. They are all participating in a trade display as

well as contributing to the enjoyment of the delegates by supplying refreshments for the social activities being held during the event.

The sponsors are:

Hella Marine Ltd. TransDiesels Ltd. Rocna Anchors. Absolute Marine Ltd. Maritime Management Services Ltd. *Professional Skipper* magazine. NZ Fishing News. MGE Engineering Ltd. Kordia Ltd. Catamarans International Ltd. Mahurangi Technical Institute. Whiting Power Ltd.

NEW MEMBERSHIP AFOOT

It is proposed to change the membership by introducing a category named maritime professional. This will permit skippers, engineers and professional crew employed in the industry to become part of our organisation, and let them participate in professional development, have an input to the direction of the industry and the association and share in the learning process.

The bridge practices seminar run by Mark Rothwell of the Mahurangi Technical Institute is an example of this. Skippers will be able to participate in this programme and learn the best practice for managing the many tasks involved in that important part of their vessel, regardless of whether it is a single-man operation or a large, complex busy control area.

Accommodation is available at Half Moon Bay Marina Motel 09 534 5396 and at the Bucklands Beach Chalets Motel 09 535 5213.

The marine trade seminar application form is included in this issue, and we invite you to fill this in and come and enjoy this first-class industry programme to advance your knowledge, the understanding of our regulators and some good camaraderie and enjoyment.

Or contact AJ on 09 520 2727 or 021 942 850. Email alan.j.moore@ihug.co.nz



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