

# ASPECTS

HOUSE JOURNAL OF THE ASP SHIPS GROUP

January 2026



• AUSTRALIA • NEW ZEALAND • SINGAPORE • UNITED KINGDOM • INDIA •  
• PHILIPPINES • UKRAINE • MYANMAR • BANGLADESH • CROATIA • GERMANY •



**From the desk of  
David Borcoski**  
Executive Chairman

Welcome to the latest issue of ASPECTS recapping the events of the year since our last edition.

We are so proud to have been awarded management of two new-build bulk carriers from our existing client, Abo Shoten Ltd., during the year, and look forward to providing our continuing best quality assurances and long-term commitment of our services from our Mumbai operations.

It is not very often that we are called upon to execute our duty at sea under SOLAS so it is with pride that we can share the heroics of the Master and team on-board Champion Pomer who recently demonstrated outstanding seamanship and humanity during a rescue operation that saved five fishermen adrift at sea off the coast of Brazil.

Our sea staff conferences continued with well attended events in Mumbai for Al Seer Marine and Melbourne for our Rio Tinto fleet providing a platform for good interaction, dialogue and mutual learning with our clients and management staff.

In Manila we officially opened our Training Center and we are grateful to IMEC and the International Training Fund for their support in our efforts to continuously develop our seafarers.

I am also happy to share that our Melbourne operation participated in an Environment, Social & Governance, ESG, rating program for the first time with ECOVADIS and achieved a Commitment Badge.

Please don't forget to keep providing us with your stories and experiences and don't forget the photo competition.

Enjoy the read!

## ASPECTS

House Journal of the ASP Ships Group

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**Design:** Paul Miller Illustration & Design

PDF versions also available at [www.aspships.com](http://www.aspships.com)

FLIPBOOK versions at [www.flipsnack.com/aspships](http://www.flipsnack.com/aspships)

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### Cover Images:

ASL Ace &  
ASL Ark  
on trials

## New feathers in our cap

# ASL ARK & ASL ACE

It was indeed a very proud moment to take over the management of newly constructed ASL Ark on the 12<sup>th</sup> of June, 2025. Ship owners ABO Shoten Ltd. commissioned this handy size, geared bulk carrier, built at the highly reputed Shipyard; Onomichi SY in Japan.

Planning and execution of taking over the project involving sea trial, arrival of crew in batches, pre-delivery supplies, etc. was made relatively easy and smooth with well-coordinated assistance provided by the owners' team.



Owners signing the contract with the shipyard.

The vessel was delivered by Onomichi SY's senior management with great fanfare. Distinguished members from the owners' side attended the ceremony. ASP seafaring staff along with the Superintendent, were brimming with pride to be part of the ceremony.



Words of wisdom from Mr. Ren Wada, Chief Executive Officer ABO Shoten, before raising a toast.



ABO SHOTEN, LTD.

*ASL Ark and ASL Ace pictured on Cover.  
RIGHT: ASL Ace.*



Over the background of customary tunes in Japanese being played, and with flags being waved, everyone wished Master and Crew of *ASL Ark* Bon Voyage.

ASP Ships India officially took over the management of *ASL Ark*. It is both an honour and a privilege to be entrusted once again with the management of another vessel from one of our most valued partners. This milestone stands as a testament to our enduring commitment to operational excellence, reliability and the trusted relationships we strive to build and maintain.

We extend our heartfelt best wishes to the Master and Crew of *ASL Ark* as they embark on their new journeys. May you always sail with fair winds and following seas.

While this issue of *ASPECTs* was being produced, ASP India was busy in the preparation of taking over of yet another new-built handy size bulk carrier from ABO Shoten. Delivery of *ASL Ace* is scheduled for the 26<sup>th</sup> of November, 2025.

*Various dignitaries with ASL Ark in the background departing for her maiden voyage.*



*Group photo of ASL Ark team along with Owners and ASP Supt.*



# CHAMPION POMER – CHAMPIONS AT SEA!

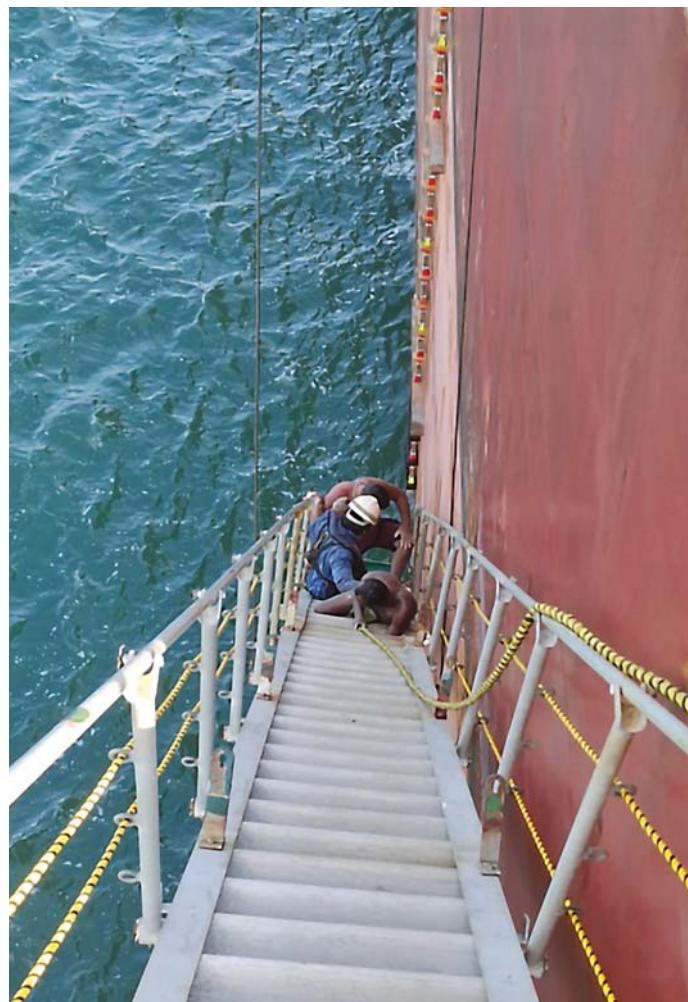


## Heroic rescue operation off the coast of Brazil saves five lives

On 13 October 2025, the crew of *MT Champion Pomer* demonstrated outstanding seamanship and humanity during a rescue operation that saved five fishermen adrift at sea off Vila do Conde, Brazil.

At around 07:45 LT (GMT-3), while transiting near the Espadarte Pilot Station, the vigilant bridge team sighted a small group of people stranded on an improvised floating device. Without hesitation, the Master and crew initiated rescue operations, executing the manoeuvre safely and efficiently.

By 08:30 LT, all five persons were brought on-board in good condition. Coordination was swiftly established with the Brazilian Navy, ensuring the rescued men received prompt medical evaluation and assistance. Four of them were later transferred to the Navy patrol vessel *NPA Guaruja* at 11:10 LT, while one requiring medical attention was airlifted by a Brazilian Navy helicopter at 12:54 LT.





The operation concluded successfully by 13:00 LT, with *Champion Pomer* resuming her passage. At the time of the incident, the vessel was in ballast condition, having completed the discharge of Caustic Soda Solution (UN No. 1824) at Vila do Conde, and was en route to Corpus Christi, USA (ETA 25 October 2025).

This remarkable event reflects the crew's professionalism, vigilance, and strong safety culture, embodying the true spirit of the SOLAS obligation to assist persons in distress at sea.

We extend our sincere appreciation to the Master and crew of *Champion Pomer* for their exemplary conduct and seamanship. Their quick actions ensured five lives were saved—a proud moment for the ASP family and a reminder of the values that unite us across all our ships and offices.

## Korimako achieves 1,000 DAYS LTI-FREE!

The bunker vessel *Korimako* has proudly achieved a remarkable milestone of being 1,000 days LTI free. This achievement reflects the crew's strong safety culture and commitment to SFSL's objectives outlined in the HSSE policy. Silver Fern Shipping Ltd commends both the vessel and shore-based teams for their continuous focus on safe operations and Ship-Shore teamwork that made this milestone possible.



The commemorative plaque was presented by Ship Manager Sachira Kumarasinghe to Capt Chris Alexandru, Master of *Korimako*, in recognition of the vessel's outstanding performance.

# THE HUMAN COMPASS

## The art of crew handling at sea

By Irene O. De Guzman

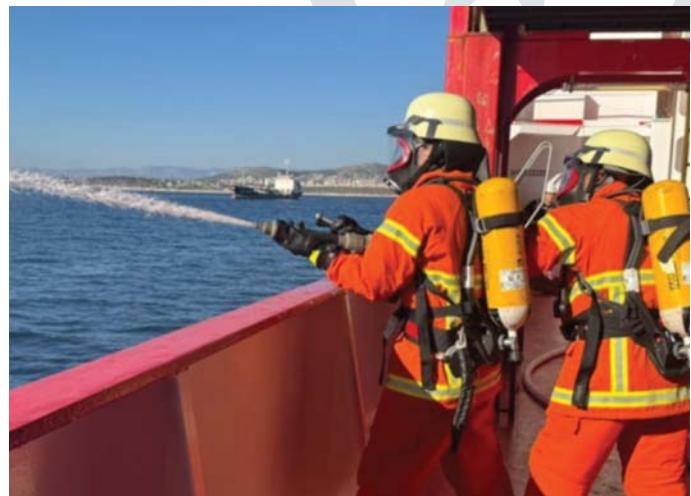
**"Ships don't sail by steel and engines alone—they sail on human spirit."**

Far from the shore, where the sky meets the endless blue, a ship becomes a world unto itself—small, self-contained, and utterly dependent on its people. The success of that world rests not only on skill or machinery, but on how its crew is led, cared for, and united. Leadership at sea is more than command; it is presence. The best Masters lead with calm in crisis and humility in calm waters. They keep communication clear and respect flowing, steering not just the vessel but the hearts of those aboard.

Crew welfare anchors morale. Thoughtful companies make life at sea liveable—reliable internet, good food, laughter in the mess hall, and recognition for hard work. When seafarers feel valued and supported, they give loyalty in return.

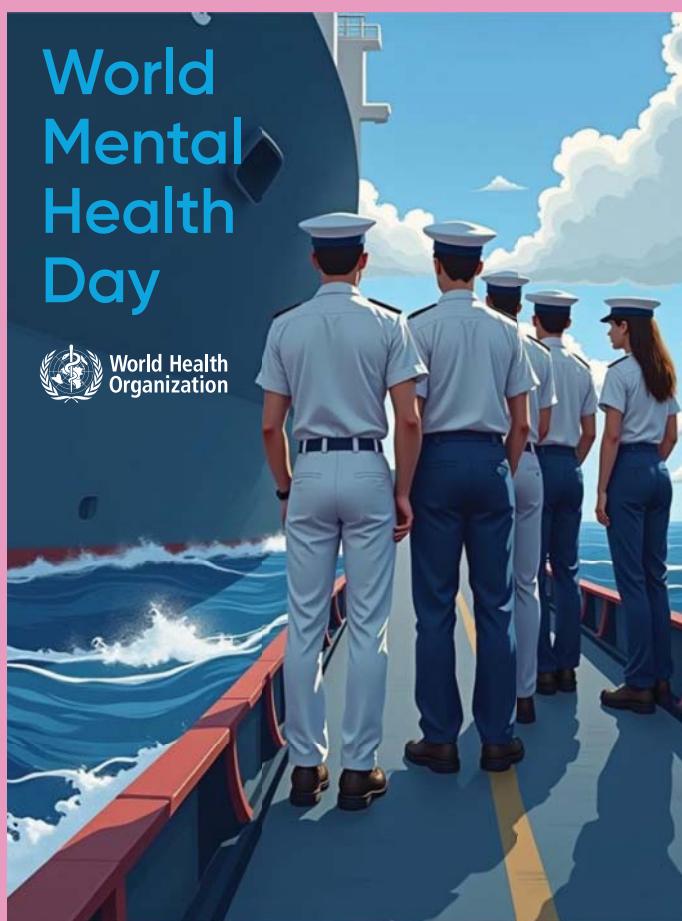
Safety is not a rulebook but a culture—a way of thinking that treats vigilance as second nature. It thrives where leaders stand beside their crew during drills and where every sailor believes their actions protect life.

Modern ships sail under many flags, carrying crews of different nations and stories. The best managers turn diversity into strength, fostering respect, fairness, and shared purpose. Onboard, English may be the working language, but empathy is the universal one.



The sea never stops teaching—and those who keep learning stay ready for its lessons. Mentorship, training, and open curiosity keep the crew competent, confident, and courageous. In the end, effective crew handling is both science and art—the art of seeing the human behind the uniform.

Ships may cross oceans, but it is the spirit of the crew that truly carries them home.



### On ships, we follow PMS: The Planned Maintenance System.

On this World Mental Health Day, let us embrace a new PMS: Positivity, Mental Wellbeing and Sensitivity. Just like our machinery needs regular checks and care, our minds do too. This proactive self-care builds resilience. At ASP, Mental Health is treated with equal importance as Safety.



Being away from land can sometimes mirror a feeling of deep isolation. Being away from family, the pressure of feeling left out of shore social life, poor sleep routines and unhealthy diets can cause a seafarer to withdraw. Discrimination, or bullying, can feel like navigating through a constant storm, leading to depression.

Safety is not just about procedures or checklists; it is the reflection of one's mental well-being. Most incidents onboard do not happen by chance but often trace back to fatigue, stress, or emotional strain that went unnoticed. When mental health is neglected, focus is lost, decisions falter, and Safety suffers. In such moments, Resilience is your anchor.

Simple acts like a good healthy meal, a kind word, a shared laugh, being sensitive towards others' feelings, care, and compassion can make a big difference. The most advanced ship is only as safe as the minds operating it. Prioritising mental health is the most logical and effective investment we can make in our safety culture. Together, we celebrate World Mental Health Day and wish every seafarer good overall health.

# UKRAINIAN MARITIME NIGHT held in Singapore



ASP Ships Group supported the Marine Transport Workers' Trade Union of Ukraine (MTWTU) in organizing the Ukrainian Maritime Night in Singapore on 28 October 2025.

The event was held with the support of the Embassy of Ukraine in Singapore, the Singapore Maritime Officers' Union (SMOU), the Singapore Organisation of Seamen (SOS), and the International Maritime Employers' Council Ltd (IMEC).

The evening was dedicated to highlighting the vital role of Ukrainian seafarers in the global maritime industry during wartime. It underscored that Ukrainian maritime professionals remain an essential part of international shipping—demonstrating professionalism, determination, and resilience even under the most challenging circumstances.



Vitalii Chaika, Her Excellency Kateryna Zelenko, and Oleg Grygoriuk.



The event brought together representatives from trade unions, shipping companies, charitable organizations, diplomats, and the Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore (MPA). It was a powerful demonstration of the unity of the international maritime community and its continued support for Ukraine.

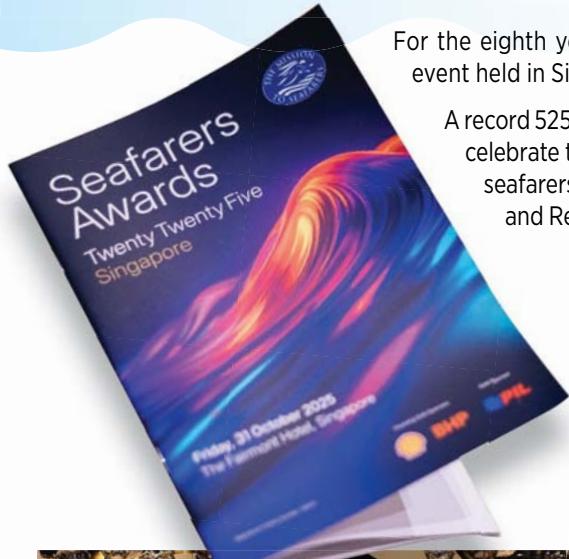
Participants emphasized the outstanding contribution of Ukrainian seafarers to maintaining global maritime transport and the importance of strengthening cooperation between trade unions, shipowners, and maritime educational institutions.

As part of the evening, MTWTU Chairman Oleg Grygoriuk, Ambassador of Ukraine to Singapore Her Excellency Kateryna Zelenko, ASP Crew Management CEO and IMEC Director Vitalii Chaika, IMEC Immediate Past Chairman Capt Belal Ahmed, and representatives from SMOU and the Mission to Seafarers expressed their continued support for Ukrainian seafarers and their commitment to developing further cooperation.

Additionally, a joint educational project between MTWTU and IMEC was presented. Through this initiative, the National University "Odesa Maritime Academy" and Kherson State Maritime Academy have gained access to Wärtsilä Cloud Simulation, a cutting-edge system designed to develop cadets' digital skills and enhance maritime training.



## MtS AWARDS 2025



For the eighth year running ASP Ships Group supported the annual Mission to Seafarers Awards event held in Singapore in October 2025.

A record 525 attendees from various sectors of the Marine Industry came together to recognise and celebrate the achievements of individuals and companies going the extra mile in contributing to seafarers' welfare. Awards were presented for individual Seafarer, Company, Innovation, Cadet, and Rescue during the evening.

The Mission's Secretary General, The Venerable Dr Peter Rouch, in his opening speech, said: "Tonight, we celebrate those who have gone above and beyond in serving seafarers, and we have some wonderful people to introduce to you. But I also want to thank all of you – the individuals, the companies, the partners – whose generosity and compassion make our service to seafarers possible. May you take real pride, and deep joy, in the lives you are touching."



Enjoying the Reception, from Left to Right:

Denzil D'Souza, Nilam Sari, Yogyata Kapoor (ISF Group), Adrian Whatley, Prantika Sengupta (Legal SeaLead Shipping), Elina Karavan (Ukraine Marine Transport Workers Union), Sheryl Vacena, Oleg Grygoriuk (Ukraine Marine Transport Workers Union) and Andrew MacLeod.



A lighter moment at the ASP table, Left to Right: Takashi Abo (Abo Singapore), Henry Mytton-Mills (Aries Singapore), Vitalii Chaika, Christian Riis, Elina Karavan (Ukraine Marine Transport Workers Union), Sheryl Vacena, Andrew MacLeod and Oleg Grygoriuk (Ukraine Marine Transport Workers Union).



The compass binnacle, donated by the Nautical Institute Singapore Branch's founding father, Capt Venkat Padmanabhan for the fund-raising silent auction.

The final award, the Secretary General's Special Award, was presented to our very own Captain Rob Walker, Executive Director, in recognition of 50 years dedicated service to seafarers' welfare, at sea and ashore, and serving as a volunteer for over 26 years with the Mission to Seafarers in Singapore, including 9 years as chairman. Capt Rob said: **"This is truly an honour and I will treasure this award very close to my heart. It's one thing being judged a winner of this award, but it's another very special moment to receive it from the Secretary General himself. My thanks to my colleague Vitalii Chaika for nominating me and to ASP for supported me throughout the years. Let's all keep up the good work!"**

This year also presented an opportunity to include a silent auction of a compass binnacle, donated by the Nautical Institute Singapore Branch's founding father, Capt Venkat Padmanabhan. The winner of the auction keeps the binnacle for one year with all proceeds going to the Mission in Singapore.

Capt Rob also said that: **"We are on the eve of the Mission in Singapore celebrating 100 years of service in 2026 and look forward to many events throughout the year including the Awards Dinner."**



*ASP Ships Group Executive Director Capt Robert Walker receives his Award from MtS Secretary General Dr Peter Rouch.*



*On Stage, from Left to Right: Oleg Grygoriuk (Ukraine Marine Transport Workers Union), Vitalii Chaika, Elina Karavan (Ukraine Marine Transport Workers Union), Christian Riis, Rob Walker, Andrew MacLeod, Takashi Abo (Abo Singapore), Belal Ahmed (Western Shipping), Denzil D'Souza and Adrian Whatley.*



***Congratulations to Capt Robert Walker, Executive Director of ASP Ships Group, on receiving the Secretary General's Award at the Mission to Seafarers (MtS) Awards 2025!***  
***A truly well-deserved recognition of a life spent supporting those at sea.***

# Inauguration of the

# ASP TRAINING CENTER

## in Manila



It is with great pleasure that we share moments from the inauguration of the ASP Training Center, proudly supported by IMEC, on October 2, 2025. This day marked a significant milestone for our organization as we officially opened a Training Center dedicated to growth, excellence, and the continuous development of our Seafarers. The event was filled with meaningful moments and insightful messages that underscored our commitment to empowering seafarers through world-class training and resources.

The highlight of the ceremony was the symbolic ribbon-cutting, performed by Mr. Michael Estaniel, IMEC Philippines Representative, assisted by ASP CMS CEO Vitalii Chaika. This moment signified not only a fresh start for the ASP Training Center but also the strengthened collaboration between ASP and IMEC in advancing crew training and professional development. The blessing was officiated by Rev. Fr. Akim Jay Mendoza of The Mission to Seafarers Philippines, whose words echoed the voyage ahead for all attendees.

The welcome address was delivered by Ms. Sheryl Mabini, President, who set the tone with a warm vision for the center's role within the ASP Group. Brief messages were then shared by Mr. Vitalii Chaika, CEO; Mr. John Eyre, ASP Group CFO; and Mr. Michael Estaniel, IMEC Philippines Representative. Closing remarks were given by Mr. Dennis S. Dalida, ASP CMS General Manager, who thanked all who contributed to bringing the training center to fruition.

The event was graciously hosted by Irene De Guzman, Sr. Crewing Manager, whose coordination ensured a smoothly run program and a welcoming atmosphere for all attendees. We extend a special note of gratitude to our stakeholders from SVITZER, ADANI, Ippokratis, and our esteemed seafarers who attended the ceremony; their presence added warmth and meaning to this milestone and reinforced our shared commitment to the seafaring community.



*Cadets passing through the assessment and training at the ASP Training Center*



The moment was further amplified by the collective pride and resolve of everyone involved. As we look ahead, we remain dedicated to delivering exceptional training, fostering professional growth, and reinforcing safety and excellence at every voyage.



ASP CMS is profoundly grateful to IMEC and the International Maritime Training Fund for making this vision a reality. The inauguration is not merely a celebration of our achievement but a reaffirmation of our mission to elevate the standard of maritime education and training.



*From left: Dennis; Sheryl; Mr. Jake Barinan Amog, IMEC Philippines, Training Manager; Vitalii; John; Capt Allan Sarmiento, Blumenthal Asia, Owners Representative; Michael Estaniel, IMEC Philippine Representative; Mr. Virgilio Rendon, Port Manager, ADANI; Mr. Clark Arenas, Country Manager, BBTI-SVITZER; Ms. Liza Vinoya, AD&V Business Consultancy; Ms Lailani Tolentino-Rahon, Country Manager; Rev. Father Akim Jay Mendoza, Mission to Seafarers Philippines and Mr. Romar Bien Tamayo, IMEC, Career Development Officer.*

# AL SEER MARINE

## ASP Ships Group Tanker Sea Staff Forum 2025

The ASP Ships Group – Al Seer Marine Tanker Sea Staff Annual Forum 2025 was a landmark gathering that brought together our most valuable asset, our people, under one roof to share knowledge, strengthen bonds, and chart the course for continued operational excellence.

Held in Mumbai, the event drew an exceptional turnout of seafarers, senior management, industry leaders, and subject matter experts from across the maritime spectrum. These experts, being key stakeholders of the very ships that we manage, touched upon important aspects like Owner's perspective, Charterer's views and TC expectations, Insurance aspects, anti-corruption and anti-bullying/anti-harassment insights and much more. In-house speakers also touched upon contemporary and upcoming topics that are crucial to the seafarers of today. Hearing out the seafarers and listening to their concerns formed the very foundation of this forum.

From the very first session, the atmosphere was charged with collaboration and purpose. The forum featured a powerful line-up of speakers. Interactive sessions, case studies, and open fora encouraged two-way knowledge sharing, giving our officers a platform to voice ideas, share challenges, and explore innovative solutions. Best practices in risk management and sustainability strategies are aligned with global shipping standards. Beyond the technical sessions, the event was a celebration of team spirit and recognition. The gala night created opportunities for informal interactions, reinforcing the camaraderie that defines the ASP Ships Group–Al Seer Marine culture.

The forum concluded with a renewed sense of purpose to navigate the future together with skill, resilience, and integrity. It reaffirmed our shared commitment to excellence, safety, and innovation, ensuring that our crews remain among the most prepared and professional in the global maritime industry.



From left - Capt Jitu, Capt Wasu, 2/E Kundan and Ship Manager Vamsi.



Ch. Off. Pinchu meets Al Seer Director, Kaushik Neogy.



First Group: Crew alongside ASP senior management, owners, and DG Shipping India officials during the ASP Ships Group forum.

Second group: Group photograph of all participants who attended the ASP Ships Group – Al Seer Marine Tanker Sea Staff Annual Forum.

# ASP UNDER SAILS

## @ the 42<sup>nd</sup> Peter Gast Schiffahrtsregatta

By Björn Borbe

This year, I had the privilege to represent the ASP Ships Group at the prestigious 42<sup>nd</sup> Peter Gast Schiffahrtsregatta aboard the beautiful Faurby 36 sailing yacht, *BALOU*.

The regatta, held on September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025, began in Schleimünde (Germany) and finished in Ærøskøbing (Denmark), covering a challenging 30 nautical mile route under nearly perfect sailing conditions with moderate southerly winds and wind speeds between 0 to 15 knots.



Our group consisted of nine yachts, and with strong competition and changing wind conditions, *BALOU* finished 6<sup>th</sup>. In the overall yardstick ranking of 65 participants, *BALOU* proudly secured 39<sup>th</sup> place.

The race proved to be a delightful mix of tactical sailing and camaraderie among all participants, set against a backdrop of a maritime network event known for its friendly and festive atmosphere. The unique weather conditions played a significant role in the race's outcome, allowing smaller yachts like *BALOU* to gain ground as fluctuating winds challenged the fleet.



Our crew navigated these conditions skilfully, demonstrating teamwork and sailors' spirit throughout the race.

The event was more than a race; it was an opportunity to mingle with fellow shipping professionals and sailing enthusiasts, strengthening connections in an enjoyable setting.

After the race, participants were warmly welcomed in Ærøskøbing with traditional ceremonies, music, and an award celebration that highlighted the importance of fun and community over competition.

Competing in the 42<sup>nd</sup> Peter Gast Schiffahrtsregatta aboard *BALOU* was an unforgettable experience that combined the thrill of racing with the joy of maritime fellowship.

LEFT: RightShip speaker and crew sharing insights on safety and performance at the Rio Tinto & ASP Sea Staff Conference 2025.  
RIGHT: Ranjit Dillon addresses the group.



## Rio Tinto & ASP Sea Staff Conference 2025



# RIO TINTO

## ASP Sea Staff Conference 2025

The Sea Staff Conference was successfully held over two days on 18–19 November 2025 at the COMO, Melbourne. The conference was attended by the sea staff from the ASP managed RTM fleet.

Senior members from Rio Tinto Marine and ASP also attended the conference.

A diverse programme ensured meaningful engagement and open dialogue throughout the sessions.

Day 1 began with a focused meeting for the Senior Shipboard Leadership Team, followed by combined sessions involving all participants for the remainder of the day and the entirety of Day 2.

In his welcome address, Adrian Whatley, Group Commercial Director, ASP Ships, thanked the sea staff for their tireless efforts in ensuring the smooth and efficient operation of the ships.

**Across the two days, attendees benefited from a series of presentations delivered by industry specialists, covering an extensive range of topics:**

- Inspections and Safety Score – Ranjit Dhillon, Vetting Superintendent, Rightship
- Trainees and Maritime Workforce Development – Kevin Hunt, CEO, Maritime Employees Training Limited (METL)
- Workplace Culture – Catherine Flannery-Sweet, Senior Associate, HWL Ebsworth Lawyers
- Mental Wellness – Christine Field, CEO, Hunterlink
- Superannuation Funds – Matt Adlam, MLC
- Leadership and Team Dynamics – Gareth Jekel, Director, Performia Asia

Senior leaders from Rio Tinto - Menand Karsan (General Manager, Marine Operations and Performance), Santosh Kumar Kalyanaraman (Manager, Fleet), Kelly Hodges (Senior Advisor, HSE), Chris Caskey (Principal Advisor, Human Rights and Value Chains) and Kevin Cockrell (Manager Operational Risk Management) also addressed the gathering, sharing key updates and strategic priorities.

Owner's Representative Santosh Kalyanaraman reflected saying: "The recent Sea Staff Training Seminar in Melbourne was a powerful reminder of the strength and spirit that define our maritime community. As the owner's representative, I had the privilege of engaging with our dedicated crew across sessions that explored safety maturity, leadership, mental wellness, and workplace culture.

Delivering my presentation on Leadership through Accountability during the RTM session was a moment of deep reflection. I emphasized that true safety begins with ownership—when every individual, regardless of rank, embraces their role in creating a safe and supportive environment. The conversations that followed were candid, insightful, and filled with a shared determination to elevate our safety culture.

What stood out most was the genuine commitment from all participants to move beyond compliance and foster a mindset of proactive care. The Safety Maturity Model discussions reinforced that safety is not a destination but a continuous journey—one that thrives on care, courage, and curiosity.

Let us carry forward the energy of this seminar into our daily operations. Whether on deck or ashore, let's lead with authenticity, challenge the status quo, and build a culture where safety is second nature. Together, we can turn aspiration into action and make "Zero injuries" not just a goal, but a lived reality."

The seminar provided a good opportunity for the shipboard staff to share thoughts and provide feedback over the two days of interactions with the ASP shore-based team and vessel owners Rio Tinto. The constructive engagement over the two days further strengthened collaboration and reinforced a shared commitment to operational excellence, safety, and crew wellbeing.

## RioTinto



# GLOBAL SAFETY DAY 2025 **SVITZER**

It was a day of dual celebration aboard the Svitzer Warunda as the crew marked a significant personal milestone alongside a global initiative. Capt Kaife was congratulated by everyone for his remarkable achievement of completing ten years of dedicated service with the vessel.

The occasion was made even more special with a visit in honour of Global Safety Day 2025. The vessel welcomed esteemed guests Fleet Personnel Officer Sharanya Pillai and Crewing Manager Chitra Nair, along with General Manager (India) Bikramjit Sandhu. Their visit sparked insightful conversations and facilitated a valuable exchange of safety information among the crew.

The day served as a powerful reminder of the importance of maintaining the highest safety standards at sea. The discussions on-board reinforced the crew's commitment to creating a secure working environment.



## COMMITTED BADGE Ecovadis

ASP Ship Management Pty Ltd (ASP Melbourne) participated in an ESG rating program with ECOVADIS and achieved a 'Committed Badge'.

This is a significant leap forward in the ASP's ESG journey. The rating methodology measures the quality of a company's sustainability management system through its policies, actions, and results.

ECOVADIS provides sustainability ratings and intelligence used in more than 1000 global finance and commerce value chains, offering detailed insights into the environmental, social, and ethical risks across more than 200 industry categories and 175 countries. ECOVADIS Ratings engage companies in benchmarking and monitoring to mitigate risk and improve their sustainability performance. The methodology covers 21 criteria and a 360° watch that scans external inputs yield reliable ratings on a 0-100 scale that are easy to integrate into company's procurement and business decisions. Detailed scorecards provide feedback and guidance for improvements. The Carbon Action Module engages deeper on measuring, reporting, and reducing GHG emissions.

ASP Ship Management Pty Ltd scored above 45 (out of 100) to secure a 'Committed Company' badge by way of entity's submission of the data spread over those 21 criteria points.

# ISO 9001

## Training session in Mumbai office

A Training Session was conducted on the ISO 9001 Audit for the Training and Crewing teams in Mumbai.

“Customer Focus and Satisfaction” play a crucial role in the Business Sustainability and Growth. ASP CMS is already an ISO 9001 compliant Organisation, and a continued xcompliance is ensured through the routine audit regime. ISO 9001 site office audit of ASP CMS Mumbai was conducted on 26<sup>th</sup> September 2025.

An opportunity was taken to conduct a refresher training session on the standard itself, the concepts, terminology, processes, and an overall compliance with the standard.

The training conducted by Capt Vaibhav Rupade (GM, CMS Singapore) was attended by a full house of Crewing, Training and Mariner Travel team members. The training revolved around taking the attendees through a complete walk through of the structure of the standard, context of the organisation, interested parties, clauses, and exclusion, risk-based approach, the PDCA cycle and an overall mapping of ASP Crewing processes vis-à-vis ISO 9001 standard. Customer focus was discussed in detail. The attendees were made to interact and ask questions on the topics covered and the session turned out to be quite interactive and enlightening as per the feedback received from many of the attendees.

*Capt Rupade addressing the attendees during the training session.*



# ecovadis





# ASL LUNA

The vessel was redelivered by the charterers as planned and could dock as scheduled at Ruitai, Nantong shipyard in China. With close involvement of the owners, ship staff and ASP SI Girish Rao, the vessel was well prepared for the docking.

For better performance & emission compliance, the boot top & vertical sides were blasted 100% and AF paint was applied. Being critical in trade, cargo hold coatings were also upgraded with sand blasting and hard coating.

To make the ship more contemporary, the owners took the initiative and fitted new monitoring equipment, whereby Main Engine power could be accurately computed, fuel consumption could be accurately measured and some of the data could be remotely viewed. Plus, an enhanced security CCTV monitoring system was installed.

The owner's superintendents attended the docking for close monitoring and expeditious decision making. The vessel was scheduled to be in the shipyard for 17 days and maintained her itinerary.

*All set for the maiden voyage after docking.*



*First look after docking.*



# MARATHA PRESTIGE

## dry-docking & 3<sup>rd</sup> Special Survey

Docking of *Maratha Prestige* for her 3<sup>rd</sup> Special Survey was always going to be a significant one as there were indications of the vessel requiring steel renewal.

A suitable Chinese shipyard was identified in consultation with the owners and was stemmed accordingly. Realizing the scope and criticality of various activities, ASP deputed experienced DPA Capt Dixit along with vessel Superintendent Bharat Shriram to attend the vessel during Survey planning and invoice negotiations.

Owners' representatives Mr. Deshpande and Mr. Kap also attended the vessel for a brief period during the docking.

Besides steel renewal, major repairs, beyond the scope of ship staff such as winch & windlass and deck cranes repairs were attended to by the shipyard.

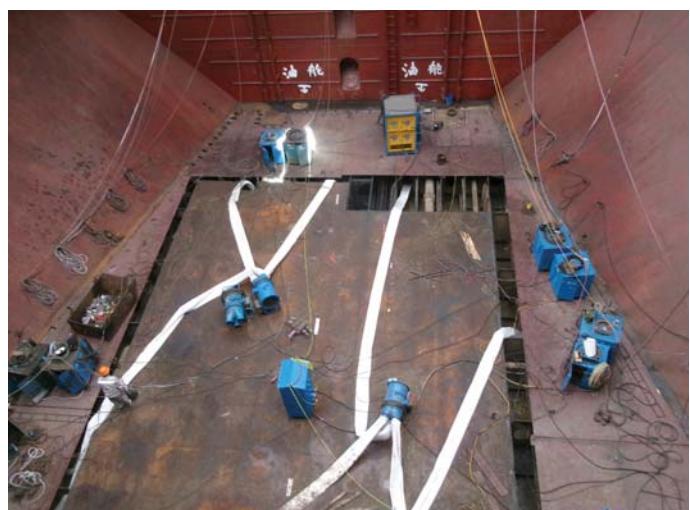
The total expenses for the docking were well within the projected estimate. So were the off-hire days as envisaged.

We expect the vessel to trade reasonably trouble-free for the three years before the next docking.



Final touches of paint.

Steel renewal of cargo hold tank tops.



Close up inspection immediately after docking & wash.



Hull painting in progress.



# Green patina crashes the fire drill

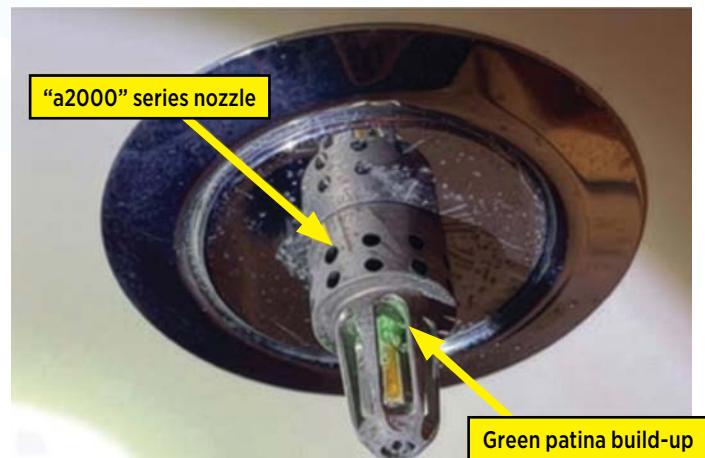
**Excerpt from MARS Report No 202545, 30 October 2025**

As edited from USCG Safety Alert 16-25

A passenger vessel was undergoing a US Coast Guard inspection, including a test of the high pressure water mist nozzles (part of the HI-FOG fire suppression system). The high-pressure water mist nozzles are designed to hold the standard line pressure of 25 bar (363 PSI). When the glass bulb thermal actuator reaches a certain temperature, it breaks, activating the release mechanism which allows water to flow through the nozzle at the standing pressure. The system then senses the drop in pressure and automatically activates the high pressure pumps, increasing the pressure to 140 bar (2,031 PSI). This increased pressure is required for the system to achieve an effective release of water as a mist.

Due to past failures, the manufacturer (Marioff) released a Service Bulletin (001/2012) recommending that if a nozzle fails to release at the standing pressure of 25 bar after the glass bulb is broken, the high-pressure pumps must be manually energised to raise the pressure to 140 bar. This should activate the release mechanism, allowing water to flow through the nozzle. During the examination this recommended action was taken, but did not activate the release mechanism of the nozzles as expected.

Upon closer inspection, it was found that the high-pressure water mist nozzles had accumulations of green patina, a sign of corrosion, which rendered them unable to release water after the glass bulb broke, even with 140 bar pressure.



## Points to learn:

- Does your vessel have high-pressure water mist nozzles? Check for green patina!
- Sprinklers at the highest risk of corrosion include sprinklers more than 10 years old and those located in high moisture and corrosive atmospheres. Areas of high moisture could include outer decks, spas, pool areas, galleys, or even normal passenger and crew areas close to external doors.
- Contact the manufacturer if any signs of green patina build-up are observed on high-pressure water mist nozzles. Consider replacing the affected nozzles.

# Ro-ro loading fatality

**Excerpt from MARS Report No 202546, 30 October 2025**

As edited from MCIB (Ireland) report 273

A ro-ro vessel was in port and crew were loading trailers. A Terberg tractor unit (four-wheel drive truck type) is used to pull 40-foot trailers onto the vessel and to place them in position for the voyage. They are then secured for transit.

The Terberg tractor, often referred to as a Tugmaster, is a specialised piece of equipment where the driver can rotate the seat through 180° to face the direction of travel. In this instance, the Tugmaster used the port side ramp from deck three to deck five. On deck five, the load was reversed into position with a crew member guiding the driver.

The driver had restricted vision when reversing due to the size of the trailer. The guide used a whistle to signal to the tractor driver that the load was in position. The safety procedures called for the guide to position himself on the right-hand side of the load, standing in the safety zone provided by the adjacent ventilator shaft.

As the driver reversed, he had to place his head out of the side window of the tractor to maximise his range of vision. His seat was rotated to face aft and he reported that he did not hear the whistle telling him to stop. There were no other factors identified that could have distracted the driver from his task of placing the trailer in position.



*Image for representation purpose only.*

Something caused the crewmember guiding, an experienced seafarer, to move directly behind the load he was directing into place. He was crushed and died from his injuries. The investigation found, among other, that the victim's blood alcohol level was significant.

## Points to learn:

- Loading trailers is a particularly hazardous job under the best of conditions. Several deaths have occurred on ro-ro carriers while undertaking guiding operations. Having an elevated blood alcohol level while guiding a load is a ridiculously foolhardy gesture that the victim paid for with his life.

# Mariner hits the EXPO CIRCUIT IN 2025



Mariner has been busy throughout 2025 attending expo to further promote the wide range of services Mariner offers.

Starting in Brisbane at the Australian Energy Producers Conference in May 2025 which highlighted many suppliers within the oil and gas offshore industries and was a great forum for Mariner to push into the sector.

The events year ended in November in Sydney at the bi-annual Indo-Pacific Maritime Expo which is heavily focused on the Navy Defence sector.

This was the fourth time Mariner had a presence at this conference in which Mariner CEO Aaron Watts commented **"This event is important from a brand perspective for Mariner within the maritime sector and the opportunities to partner with the various SME businesses within the sector is huge."**

Aaron advised ASPects **"Both events were well attended, and we gathered some great leads that we will continue to work with into 2026 as well and look at new events to attend within both sectors."**

Aaron was joined by Mariner Australia team members Aasha Wigham (pictured), Jillian Quinn and Jemima Kalapac at the events.

## ONLY ABOUT CHILDREN signs with Mariner Australia

Australian based childcare provider Only About Children signed with Mariner Australia in May 2025 and following a successful trial period have extended for a further 2 years.

Only About Children is a purpose-led provider of early years education and childcare with over 20 years' experience in Australia and operate over 80 campuses across Sydney, Melbourne, and Brisbane.

Owned by US company Bright Horizons the travel requirements for Mariner span from domestic Australia to the USA.

Mariner CEO Aaron Watts advised **"We are thrilled to have Only About Children come on-board our growing list of non-marine Corporate Travel clients and we are always on the lookout for more across all the Mariner offices."**



## New Team Member at Mariner Australia

Jemima Kalapac commenced with Mariner in August 2025 as a part-time Senior Travel Consultant.

She has over 11 years of experience in the travel industry, with a strong focus on leisure travel.

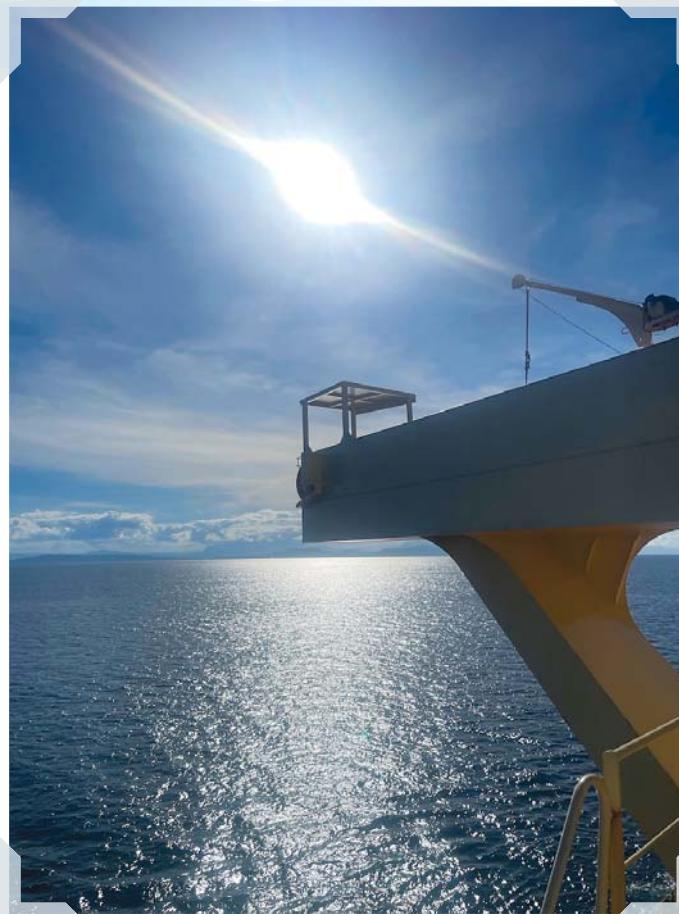
Jemima has previously worked at various leisure agencies and has a passion for curating bespoke holiday itineraries.

At Mariner, Jemima will be helping our SME corporate clients, and promoting holiday experiences for all clients. Her favourite destination is the Maldives and has travelled extensively to gather first-hand knowledge.



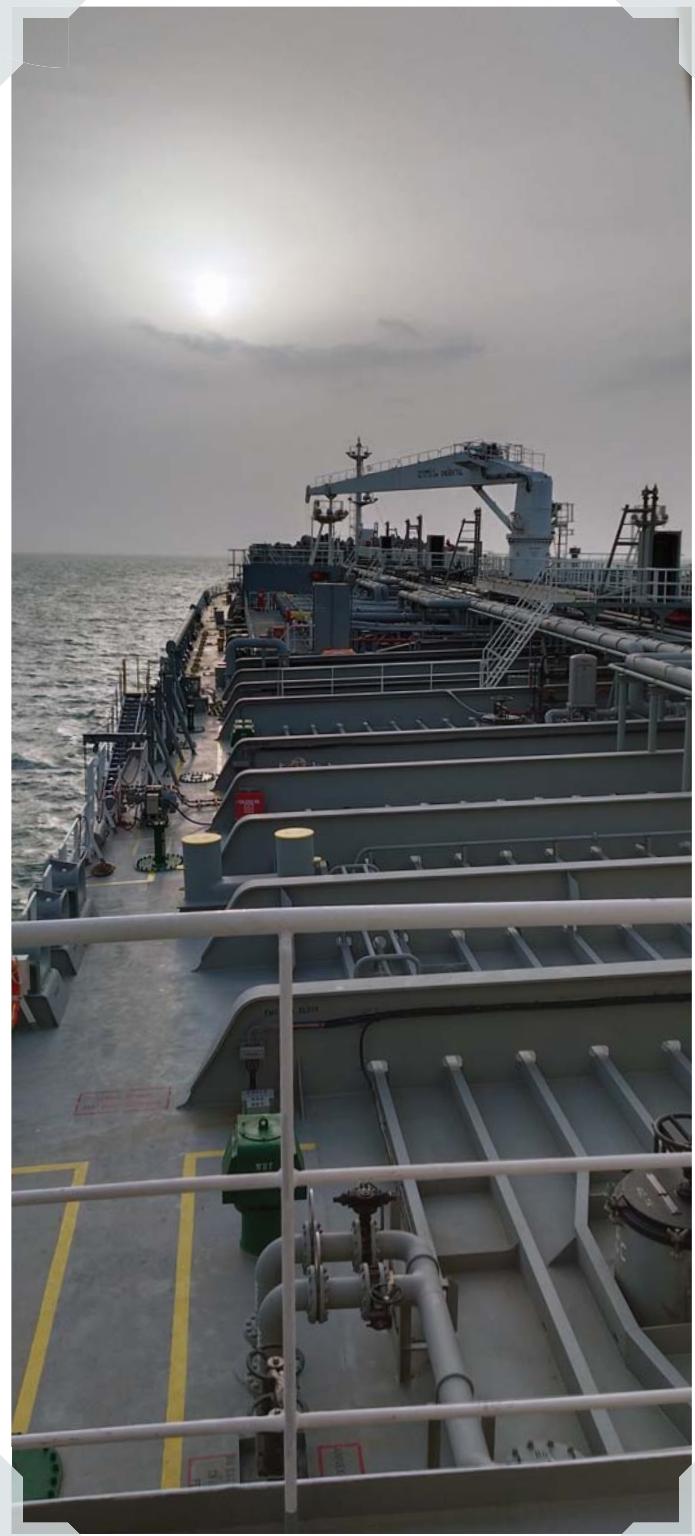


The ASPECTS photographic competition for an annual prize of \$US500 is for the best photograph received in a calendar year. The competition is open to all crews of the ASP fleet and any family members on-board. Subjects may cover life on-board a working vessel, fellow crew members at work (with their permission), seascapes, docks and ports etc. Photographs of high resolution (approx 2-5 megabytes [mb] or more in file size or 'Superfine' setting on some cameras) are preferred and please send photos from phones in their largest file size, watching out for social media or MMS minimisation. The judges' decision will be final and submissions may be used for future ASPECTS or ASP use. [Submit photos via email to: The Editor, ASPECTS, ASP Ships Group, email: rwalker@aspships.com](mailto:rwalker@aspships.com)

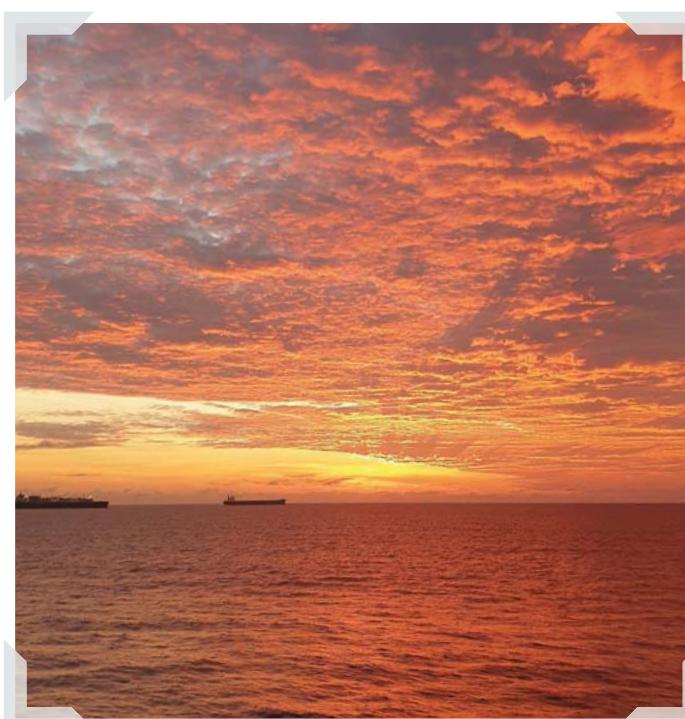


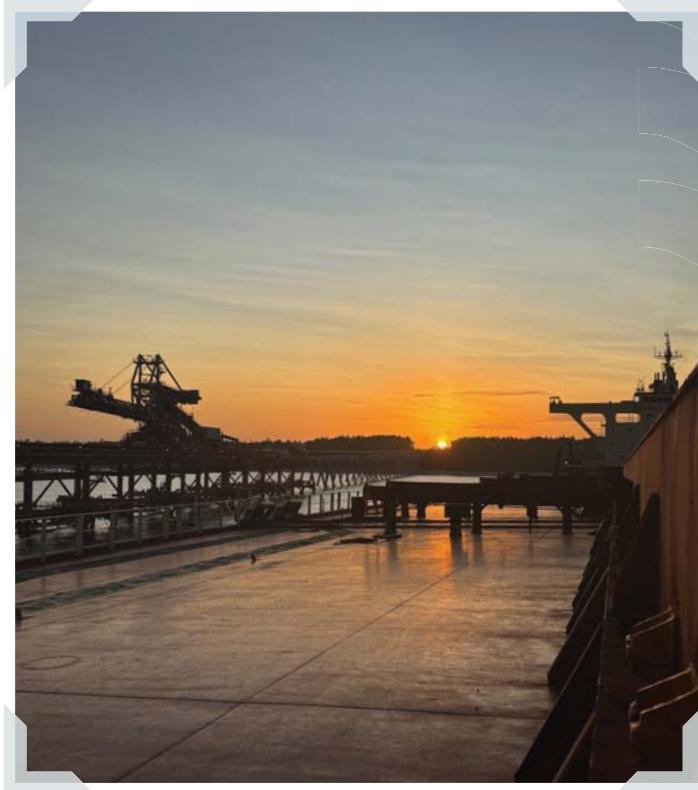
▲ **"Recharging the RTM Twarra"**  
Jedd Portsmouth, Master, RTM Twarra.

▼ **"Gladstone, Australia"**  
Garry Ketchell, RTM Weipa.

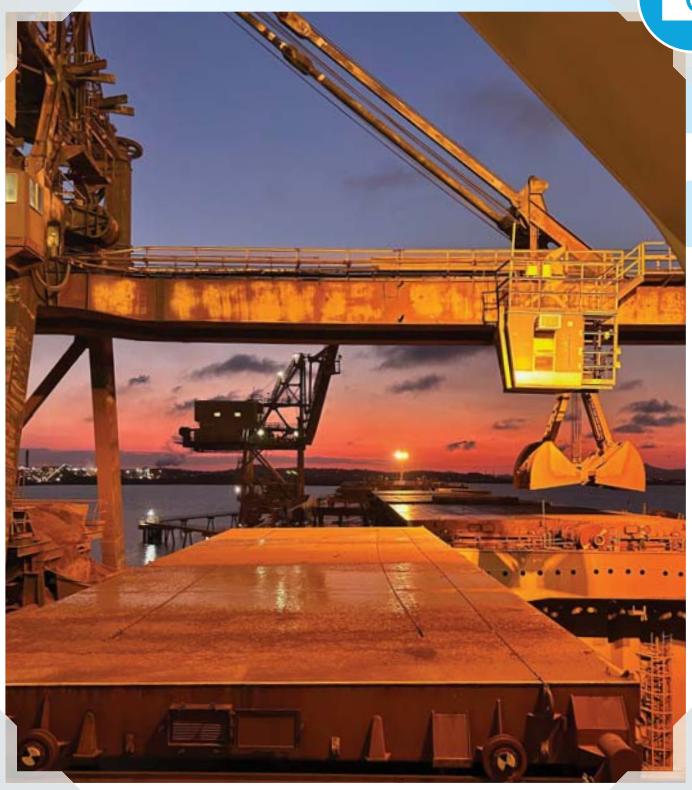


▲ **"MT Betelgueze, Sikka Anchorage, Gujarat India"**  
Rahul Singh, AB, MT Betelgueze.





▲ **"Loaded Off & Away Summer Sunrise Let Go"**  
(In the Gulf of Carpentaria), Kirk Harris, Operational Caterer,  
*RTM Weipa.*



▲ **"Unloading at Gladstone"**  
Joanna Tavita, TIR, *RTM Twarra.*

**"The Maiden Voyage of Spirit of Tasmania IV."** ▶

Departing Leith (Edinburgh) Scotland to Australia. Daniel Augustyniak, Second Officer,  
*Spirit of Tasmania IV.*



▼ **"Life Boat"**  
Stifan Fernandes, 4<sup>th</sup> Engineer, *MT Saiph.*



**WINNER!**

Congratulations and \$500USD goes to  
the winner of the last round of entries:  
**Capt Franciss Saron** for  
**"Compass Repeater with Rainbow"** ▼





## Karthik Sivashankar

We are pleased to welcome Mr. Karthik Sivashankar, to the ASP Singapore team as Ship Manager, effective 10<sup>th</sup> of July 2025. Karthik brings over 20 years of experience in the Maritime industry having sailed on tankers, chemical carriers, bulk carriers, and newly delivered product tankers and has served as Chief Engineer on various vessel types.

Making his move to a shore-based role in 2020, he has gained extensive experience in technical operations, including machinery troubleshooting, dry-dock planning, class coordination and managing new-build vessel deliveries from shipyards. In addition, Karthik has contributed significantly to QHSE functions in his previous organisation, supporting bulk carrier, container, and LNG dual-fuel vessel operations. His work included auditing, internal investigations, and the development of documentation and compliance systems. This strong combination of engineering expertise and safety-management experience enables him to bring a practical, steady, and crew-focused approach to vessel operations.

We warmly welcome Karthik to ASP and look forward to the valuable perspective and professionalism he will bring to the fleet.



## Sujay Goswami

We are pleased to welcome Sujay Goswami back to the ASP Singapore team. Sujay, a highly experienced maritime professional, has joined ASP Ships Group Singapore as Fleet Manager, taking on a pivotal role in overseeing fleet operations and driving performance excellence across the Singapore-managed fleet. His extensive technical and managerial expertise makes him a valuable addition to the organization.

With over 31 years of experience in the maritime industry, Sujay's career began at sea, where he progressed through the ranks and served as Chief Engineer on product and chemical tankers. His strong technical foundation and operational insight paved the way for a successful transition to shore-based management roles. Over the past 13 years, Sujay has held key positions including Ship Manager at ASP and senior leadership roles at Seateam, OSM Maritime and OSM Thome, where he managed complex fleet operations and implemented robust safety and compliance frameworks.

Sujay holds a Class 1 Certificate of Competency (Chief Engineer) and has extensive hands-on experience with tanker and bulk vessels, including chemical and bitumen carriers. His leadership philosophy emphasizes collaboration, innovation, and continuous improvement, ensuring operational efficiency and adherence to international standards. A strong advocate for sustainability and technological advancement in shipping, Sujay is committed to enhancing fleet reliability and safety while mentoring the next generation of maritime professionals. His career reflects a dedication to excellence and a vision for future-ready ship management.

## Dinis Seah

We are pleased to welcome Dinis Seah to the ASP Singapore team as Financial Controller.

Dinis is a Chartered Accountant (Singapore) with over 10 years of experience in group finance leadership within the shipping and maritime services sector, as well as energy, property, and investment industries.

Dinis started his career as an auditor in KPMG Singapore. Throughout his career, he brings deep expertise in managing complex, multi-jurisdictional finance operations, supporting ship management and chartering businesses, and strengthening financial governance across international subsidiaries. Dinis has extensive experience partnering closely with commercial, technical, and operational teams to drive cost discipline, improve financial visibility, and support strategic restructuring initiatives within shipping groups.

Dinis has led initiatives focused on operational efficiency, system and process optimisation, and organisational restructuring, delivering sustainable cost savings while enhancing compliance and reporting standards. His experience in working with cross-border teams enables him to provide practical, commercially grounded financial insights in fast-paced maritime environments.

Dinis looks forward to contributing to ASP's continued growth and supporting the business in navigating an evolving global shipping landscape.



### In Memory of:

## Nigel James St. C. Porteous OAM

21<sup>st</sup> June 1938 to 4<sup>th</sup> December 2025

*The ASP Ships Group mourns the passing of Nigel Porteous, who recently passed away peacefully.*

*Amongst his many accomplishments, Nigel was a founding member of the ASP team when it was acquired by Pratap Shirke in 1997 and became the ASP as we know it today. He was an integral part of property management and involved in the purchase of 'Majella', the iconic building in Melbourne which became our headquarters.*

*He was a tireless advocate of crew welfare through his work as Vice Chairman of the Mission to Seafarers in Melbourne and as previous Editor of ASPECTs.*

*Family members, friends and a host of mourners recently said their farewells in a moving service at the Memorial Chapel of St Peter at the Melbourne Mission. Where a plaque to celebrate his valuable contributions is also dedicated.*

*Loved and missed by his family. His memory will remain.*



# DMW Honours ASP Crew Management Representative for Excellence



The Department of Migrant Workers (DMW) recently recognized Hydee R. Fernandez, HR Manager and Liaison Officer of ASP Crew Management Services Inc. (Philippines), for her outstanding professionalism and service.

The awards were conferred on December 17, 2025, highlighting exemplary performance among over a hundred DMW-accredited agencies.

Notably, only 2 representatives received 2 awards, with ASP Crew Management Services Inc. (Philippines) proudly among them.

Hydee was presented with the Excellence in Courteous Service Award, which honours her respectful, empathetic, and professional engagement with DMW and SBAB staff, and the Excellence and Orderliness in Documentation Award, recognizing her consistent submission of accurate, well-organized, and fully compliant documentation that contributes to efficient processing.

The awards were formally presented (see photo) by Mr. Vincent Peneyra of the DMW Maritime Standards Compliance Division (in purple), Ms. Aldine De Jesus, DMW Evaluator (in pink), and Mr. Pelagio Sanchez of the DMW Sea-Based Employment Accreditation Division B (in grey).

In her message of appreciation, Hydee expressed heartfelt gratitude for the recognition, sharing that the awards affirm the value of dedication and perseverance from early mornings at the DMW, ensuring timely and compliant submissions.

She also thanked DMW personnel for their guidance, patience, and continued commitment to quality public service.

## Celebrating 20 Years of Dedication at ASP Ships Group

This year marks a remarkable milestone for Vitalii Chaika, CEO of ASP Crew Management, who recently celebrated 20 years of service with ASP Ships Group.

To honour this achievement, the Singapore team surprised Vitalii at a special lunch. The event featured Capt Robert Walker, Executive Director, presenting the Milestone Award in recognition of his long-standing commitment and contributions to the company.

Reflecting on his journey, Vitalii shared that he has many wonderful memories and expressed sincere gratitude to all his colleagues at ASP Ships Group for their support over the years.

Here's to celebrating this milestone and looking forward to many more years of success together!



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**Crew Management Offices**



**Mariner Travel Offices**

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