



Richard Toone and Peter Dann



Liesl Baldock, Victoria Fabian, Rory Cunningham, Josh Favaloro and Steph Outteridge



Allen Dobie, Andrew Whitfield, Lucy Zheng, Lily Belova and Sandy Herriot



Rob Dunn, Paddy Crumlin and Clayton Strong

MtS Sydney Annual Luncheon

Mission to Seafarers Sydney's second annual parliamentary luncheon last month had an impressive turnout and a thought-provoking presentation

THE LOCAL MARITIME COMMUNITY

and supporters of the seafaring workforce gathered at New South Wales Parliament House last month for Mission to Seafarers Sydney's 2023 Annual Luncheon.

The event on 16 June was the second of its kind for MtS Sydney and the biggest so far, with a turnout of 177 guests.

In the keynote speech for the event, Paddy Crumlin, president of the International Transport Workers' Federation and national secretary of the Maritime Union of Australia, highlighted the role of welfare providers and supportive agencies which continued to reach out to seafarers amid tough pandemic restrictions.

He reminded industry of its collective responsibility to seafarers and encouraged them to act on those responsibilities regardless of personal, political, industrial or professional perspectives.

"If we're rebuilding a world around environment and social and governance ... if we have a situation where if we don't cope with our responsibilities today, tomorrow won't look after itself," Mr Crumlin said.

"Part of the importance of today is that we're pulling each other together through our responsibilities, that we are the operators of the international industry."

Robert Dunn, the recently appointed chair of MtS Sydney, pointed out that he and Mr Crumlin were once on opposite sides of a certain waterfront dispute.

"Twenty-five years ago, I was a senior executive of Patrick," Mr Dunn said. "You'll remember what happened then ... it comes around, doesn't it?"

"The people that you care about [are who] we in the mission, and this room care about. Your people are our people too, and it's good to be on the same team.

"We are a room that can take responsibility for others and get it done. And despite our differences, we're here to stand together for others," Mr Dunn said.

Captain John Bradley, MtS Sydney board member and chair of the fundraising committee, described the challenging circumstances many crewmembers face at sea while sea transport changes and grows.

"We now have very large ships berthing at remote, specialised terminals; quick turnarounds, and this means limited opportunity for the crew to get ashore," he said.

"Ships and crew are today out of site and out of mind."

Another highlight of the parliamentary luncheon was a special viewing of a new video produced for MtS Sydney, and an opportunity to contribute financially to its wellbeing work. ■



Rev Tay, Abby Williams, special guest, Katie Wheatley, Holly Saunders, Liesl Baldock, Victoria Fabian



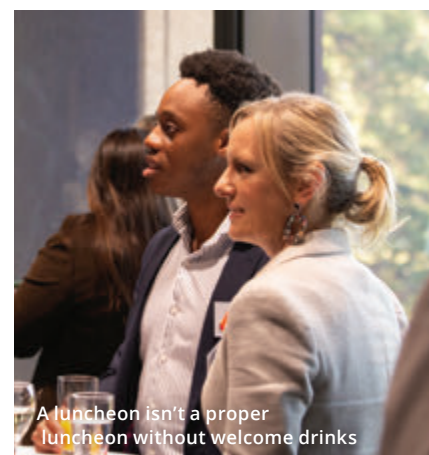
John Bradley speaking during the luncheon



Phil Barker, Lily Harrison, Katie Wheatley, Lachlan Rousell, Nina Carraro



Tom Harris-Brassil, Mich-Elle Myers, Robert Coombs, Yasmin Catley and Bill McNally



A luncheon isn't a proper luncheon without welcome drinks



Tony Willis, John Kewa, Lisa Wiley Strong



Tony Cousins, Sue Dight, Stan Moriarty and Howard Clark