



AUSTRALASIAN INSTITUTE
OF MARINE SURVEYORS

Shipshape

March 2026



**WORLD'S LARGEST BATTERY-ELECTRIC SHIP
POWERS UP IN TASMANIA**

Looking forward to a busy 2026

THE next 12 months will be busy, with a key focus on delivering our biennial conference.

1. AIMS Strategic Plan

The Board met in early January to review work against the key pillars of the AIMS Strategic Plan 2026-2031. It is well worth sharing the Forward to the plan.

This Strategic Plan coincides with a significant milestone for the Institute. It is a plan that has been developed to shape how our Institute grows and evolves over the next five years, focussed on meeting and delivering on its strategic aims whilst delivering operational stability to our members. Whilst the plan provides the Board with a detailed framework, we as a governance group are also conscious that we need to remain both strategically and operationally flexible, able to identify and meet new opportunities and challenges, and be agile in how we approach them.

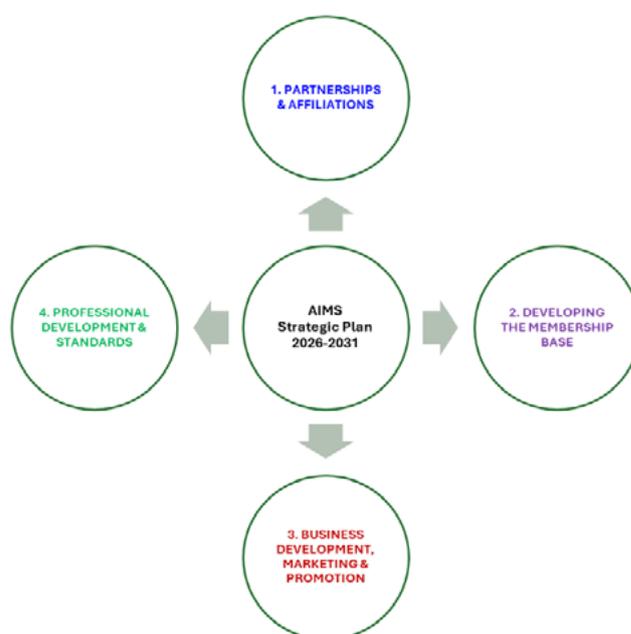
The development and publishing of this Strategic Plan is testament to the significant evolution and enhancements to the Institute's capabilities in both the operational management and governance arenas. Whilst many would assume that many of these capability enhancements are due to the deep technical expertise that exists within the Board, Management Team and wider surveyor community (all of which is true), we fully believe our members' passion for the industry is a crucial success factor.

This passion manifests itself in many ways, such as the time invested to support the management team and the time commitment invested by what is a volunteer Board. Australasian Institute of Marine Surveyors (AIMS) is very simply an organisation which is run by the members for the members to promote, enhance and support our place within the maritime domain.

The Board represents you and your industry, and therefore this is your Strategic Plan. Each and every member of the Institute is therefore a stakeholder, and engagement with both the Management Team and Board is essential if the Institute is to continue delivering positive outcomes and success for its members. We look forward to your feedback and support as we implement this plan over the coming years.



You can access the full plan here: https://aimsurveyors.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2026/02/AIMS-Strategic-Plan_2026-to-2031_v2.pdf



2. Conference Update

Our final conference program and supporting information can be found here: <https://aimsurveyors.com.au/conference2026/>

Conference Program: <https://aimsurveyors.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2026/03/Conference-Program.pdf>

Speakers List: <https://aimsurveyors.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2026/03/Speakers-List-5.pdf>

Partners Program: https://aimsurveyors.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2026/03/AIMS_Fremantle_Perth_Partners_Guide_Final.pdf

Accommodation Options: https://aimsurveyors.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2025/12/Conference-Accommodation-Options_Update.pdf

Sponsorship: https://aimsurveyors.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2025/12/1_AIMS-Conference-Sponsor.pdf

3. Building industry presence through social media and strategic alliances

AIMS was established in 1986 and is the largest industry body for marine surveyors in the Southern Hemisphere. The organisation represents professional marine surveyors across all sectors of the industry and strives to ensure that consumers and stakeholders are properly informed on marine survey standards and ethics: essentially, building an industry presence requires multiple considerations.

3.1. Industry context

Marine surveyors typically work across three sub-sectors: (1) Shipping marine surveying; (2) Domestic commercial vessel (DCV) marine surveying; and (3) Recreational marine surveying.

Shipping surveyors inspect and survey, acting as an expert witness or examining ocean-going vessels to oversee cargo loading and unloading operations. They also assess damage or inspect and record the condition of the vessel or onboard cargo, machinery or equipment.

DCV marine surveyors are accredited by the Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA) and Maritime New Zealand, for example, to undertake statutory surveys on DCV in accordance with national law and regulations.

Recreational marine surveyors undertake surveys of recreational vessels on behalf of an owner, insurer, insurance surveys or potential purchaser with the purpose of assessing their condition and / or value.

The breadth and depth of work undertaken by marine surveyors includes:

Ocean Going Vessels

- Cargo
- Loading and discharge
- Draught and trimming
- Classification
- Insurers and P&I Clubs
- Condition and on / off hire

Specialist Survey

- Compass adjusting
- DPS surveys
- Off-shore rigs and support vessels
- Electrical
- Maritime lawyers
- Dive surveyors

Government

- Class societies
- ISPS
- Port / State control
- Flag State
- Grain

Domestic Commercial Vessels

- Tugs, barges and cargo vessels up to 35 metres
- Fishing vessels
- Passenger vessels

Recreation Vessels

- Pre-purchase and damage surveys
- Recreational vessel general surveys

High levels of competition across these sectors in Australia remain a concern for marine surveyors, reflecting the level of activity involving the sale and purchasing of leisure vessels, commercial vessel surveys as required by AMSA, and shipping activity across Australasia requiring the knowledge and skills of shipping surveyors.

3.2. Social media

A key consideration in selecting an appropriate social media platform is this: does the audience you wish to influence, promote to or represent interact with social media platforms? A secondary, but no less important, consideration is: how do you intend to integrate posts across social media platform? You will also need to consider how you integrate social media platforms and your organisation's website. Finally – and, again, no less importantly – what resources will you need to allocate to manage your social media channels?

AIMS has been developing its LinkedIn, Facebook, and YouTube presence to achieve multiple purposes, including:

- promoting the marine surveying profession;
- promoting continuing professional development workshop / webinars of the organisation;
- promoting professional development courses;
- sharing key organisational events; and
- the promotion of alliances.

In addition to our social media infrastructure, posts (when relevant) are linked to the AIMS website to drive marine surveyors and the public to our content. Our activity on social media posts is geared to promote the profession, provide information to marine surveyors who engage with

these platforms and advertise the benefits of marine surveyors being part of a professional association. We have found that sharing our industry newsletter, *Shipsshape*, has helped promote the vast range of work undertaken by marine surveyors on a local, regional and international level.

3.3. Alliances

It has become increasingly important for AIMS to build alliances with organisations in the maritime industry. We are not the first to do so but we have taken our time to consider the interests of members, the profession more broadly and our partner organisations.

The first of these alliances was developed with Austbrokers Countrywide. The aim of working together remains the building of a marine insurance pool that benefits members and, more broadly, non-member surveyors by lowering insurance costs as the pool of marine surveyors grows. In addition to cross-promotion, the team at Austbrokers deliver workshops and support AIMS by providing funds that help deliver our biennial conferences. This alliance was the start of building future alliances with organisations in the maritime sector.

AIMS has also partnered with the Boating Industry Association (BIA) and the BIA of Victoria and BIA of Western Australia. The focus here is vessel safety and the promotion of recreational marine surveyors to the Australian recreational vessel community. These alliances have led to workshops and the promotion of marine surveying at boat shows.

The most recent was established with the Women's International Shipping and Trading Association (WISTA) Australia. The focus of the alliance is to foster the promotion of gender diversity, industry talent development and professional excellence.

3.4. Government agencies

We also group our work relating to alliances with the ongoing engagement with government agencies: AMSA; the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries & Forestry (DAFF); and Maritime New Zealand.

Providing industry feedback to AMSA is ongoing and critical work for AIMS, particularly with the current Marine Surveyor Accreditation Framework Review. Our links with Maritime New Zealand continue to strengthen through our New Zealand-based Vice-Chair Greg Marsden.

Our work with DAFF has led to the introduction of the Accredited Grain Surveyor Assurance (AGSA) Scheme. The AGSA Scheme was introduced in 2023 to implement a regulated approach to the qualifications and experience required to perform fitness-to-load surveys.

On 1 July 2023, the Export Control (Plants and Plant Products) Rules 2021 (Plant Rules) were amended to provide greater assurance to the shipping industry and Australia's grain exporters that bulk vessels comply with agricultural export legislation.

3.5. Learnings

Building an industry presence is no small feat; it requires a concerted, collaborative effort. AIMS highlights that, through strategic social media engagement and successful alliances, we can advocate for and promote the vital role of marine surveyors.

The benefits have been significant for both AIMS and our partners, and our ongoing initiatives guarantee continued progress and collaboration within the maritime industry. As we move forward, the collaborative approach will be essential in shaping a resilient and recognised marine surveying community

4. AIMS Code of Conduct

The AIMS Code of Conduct ("the Code") is a voluntary, self-regulatory sector code of good practice. The Code aims to improve marine survey outcomes and increase stakeholder trust by enhancing the transparency, accountability and effectiveness of the Australasian Institute of Marine Surveyors members. The Code will contribute to the realisation of our self-regulatory approach to the official formal certification of commercial marine surveyors.

The Code also sets standards for practice rather than standards for results. It goes beyond the minimum standards required by government regulation and focuses on good marine surveying practice, including integrity, leadership and competency. Members are required to act in an ethical and professional manner and in doing so promote the AIMS as the professional body it is.

The Board has updated the Code to include Best Practice Principles (BPPs):

BPP 1. Independence and Impartiality

Surveyors must act without favour, influence or conflict of interest. This means making objective assessments regardless of client, broker, insurer or contractor expectations.

- Avoid conflicts of interest at all costs.
- Uphold ethical standards, even under commercial pressure

BPP 2. Integrity

- Maintaining professional conduct and factual reporting.
- Surveyors must uphold the highest ethical

standards, treating all stakeholders with fairness and respect.

- Integrity also extends to honest marketing, transparent pricing and avoiding misrepresentation of qualifications or services.

BPP 3. Continuing Professional Development

- Surveyors should only undertake surveys they are qualified and experienced to perform.
- Competence must be maintained through ongoing professional development.
- This ensures reports remain technically accurate, defensible and aligned with best practice.
- Ensure your knowledge is up to date by undertaking continuing professional development.

BPP 4. Reporting

- Survey reports must be factually correct, clearly written, and structured in a way that provides clients with both clarity and context.
- Observations should be supported by evidence and recommendations should be proportionate to the risk.
- Ensure traceability and compliance with record-keeping standards.

BPP 5. Safety

- Surveyors carry a duty of care to highlight deficiencies that could compromise vessel safety.
- Reports should not only identify faults but also explain their safety implications.
- Surveyors are to undertake their tasks so as not to endanger the lives of individuals or compromise the safety of any vessels they are surveying.

BPP 6. Ensure thorough preparation and planning

- Review vessel documentation, survey history and operational requirement before arrival.
- Coordinate with client and stakeholders to align on scope and timing.
- Anticipate potential issues – whether technical, logistical, or environmental – and plan contingencies.

BPP 7. Survey conduct detailed

- Use structured checklists tailored to vessel type and kind of survey.
- Apply both visual and technical methods.
- Document anomalies with clarity: photos, measurements and contextual notes.
- Always observe high standards when in the marketplace dealing with clients and other surveyors.

The full Code can be found here: https://aimsurveyors.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2026/02/AIMS-Code-of-Conduct_2026.pdf

5. Re-certification Audit

According to the International Organization for Standardization (ISO), ISO 9001 is a globally recognised standard for quality management. It helps organisations of all sizes and sectors to improve their performance, meet customer expectations and demonstrate their commitment to quality. Its requirements define how to establish, implement, maintain and continually improve a quality management system (QMS).

I am very happy to advise that AIMS has undergone its Re-certification Audit and has gained a further three-year certification.

6. Industry Workshops and Webinars

AIMS continues to provide workshop and webinar content for members to engage with continuing professional development (CPD).



Workshop 30: Nick Parkyn, Nick Parkyn Marine Surveying / MarineML – 26 November 2025.

Topic: Appendages

Nicholas (Nick) Parkyn has an extensive background in both the marine and information technology disciplines. Nick's work in the marine industry includes marine surveying, yacht and small craft design and marine software development. He is experienced in composite design and fabrication and has specified synthetic rigging on designs since 1994. He was one of the first to apply Spectra to marine applications. He is the author of the book: *What a marine surveyor needs to know about synthetic (composite) yacht rigging.*



AIMS Workshop and Webinar Series

Presenter:
Jeffrey Blum FICS FCIArb

Workshop 1
Monday 2 February

Workshop 2
Monday 9 February

Workshop 1: Jeffrey Blum, Director, Maritime Education & Training Ltd – 2 and 9 February 2026.

Topic: Parts 1 and 2 – Vessel Employment Methods ~ Voyage v Time Charter obligations of charterers and owners / operators.

Jeffrey Blum has been involved in shipping and trading since 1972. The fourth generation of a shipping family, he is a member of the Baltic Exchange since 1976. He has been a shipbroker, charterer, shipowner and operator, Lloyd's underwriter, gasoil futures broker and commodities trader in London and elsewhere.

In 1994, he created Interlink International Trading (UK) Ltd, providing maritime commercial claims consultancy and bespoke corporate training. His clients include oil majors, commodity traders, shipowners, P&I Clubs, shipbrokers, lawyers, governments and international shipping organisations www.intlinkint.com

In 2002, Jeffrey co-founded and remains principal lecturer of Maritime Education & Training Ltd, providing bespoke tuition, including for students taking the annual examinations of the Institute of Chartered Shipbrokers “www.metl.london”

For many years he has contributed articles to trade magazines and books, and is revising the 12th edition of a major shipping textbook. He achieved Fellowship of the Institute of Chartered Shipbrokers by examination in 1979 and has served on the ICS Controlling Council, Membership and UK & Ireland Committees and London & South-East Branch Committee since 1983, including as its Education Officer since 2000, Chairman 2005-2007 and Vice Chairman 2015-2017.

Jeffrey is a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (since 1997 and Honorary Associate since 1979), has been an arbitrator (sole and tribunal) since 1994 as Supporting Member of LMAA (London Maritime Arbitrators Association), a Council Member of ICSAS (International Commodity and Shipping Arbitration Service) since its creation in 2005, and a panel arbitrator of SCMA (Singapore Chamber of Maritime Arbitration) since 2019.

He has been a member of the Baltic Exchange since 1976, has been appointed as an expert witness in arbitration and litigation cases since 1983, and has served on the Governing Council of BEEP (Baltic Exchange Experts Panel) since 2012, now known as BEWA (Baltic Expert Witness Association) since 2019, including as its Chairman since 2020.

Jeffrey is a Mentor for the Marine Society's Coming Ashore Programme. Since 1984, he has lectured on maritime law and several commercial

subjects at universities and colleges, is a frequent presenter at public, academic, governmental and bespoke training seminars worldwide, and is a Visiting Professor at World Maritime and Shanghai Maritime Universities since 2007.



AIMS Workshop and Webinar Series

Presenter:
Dr Eric Perez

Workshop 3
Monday 16 February

Workshop 3: Dr Eric Perez – 16 February 2026

Topic: Continuing Professional Development

7. Newsletter Contributions

Thank-you to the members who contributed to this edition of the newsletter, and, for members who do contribute, your article can be used as evidence of continuing professional development.

I encourage members to contribute to the newsletter. If you would like to know more, please contact the office.

8. Your Institute

Please contact me on +61 2 6232 6555 or send me an email with feedback, and ideas at gm@aimsurveyors.com.au.

Dr Eric Perez
Chief Executive Officer



Now THAT'S a battery – 250 tonnes of batteries, in fact, powering a new Incat-built ocean-going vehicular ferry. Very impressive. (See the following two pages for details.)