



AUSTRALASIAN INSTITUTE
OF MARINE SURVEYORS

Shipshape

June 2026



**AIMS HEADS WEST
SUCCESSFUL CONFERENCE
IN FREMANTLE**

AIMS celebrates its 40th anniversary

THIS year, the Australasian Institute of Marine Surveyors (AIMS) celebrates its 40th anniversary as the premier professional body representing marine surveyors in Australia. In 1986, a small group of surveyors in Sydney saw the need for surveyors to be recognised for their skills, their knowledge and the value they added across the marine supply chain.

They wanted the shipping industry to recognise that surveyors offered more than just a report on the condition of a vessel or cargo: they added value through risk mitigation. They also saw the importance of sharing lessons learned over many years, strengthening how surveyors supervise, work and report with consistency and professionalism.

In those early days, members ran AIMS as volunteers – like many volunteer groups – on a shoestring. They gave their time for the love of the profession and a strong desire to see the organisation succeed and thrive. Today, AIMS relies on its members, more than ever, to give of their time and knowledge to advance our profession both within the marine industry and, more importantly, to the general public at large.

In 2026, AIMS is a broad church of members working across the marine industry. From small aluminium runabouts and trailer boats to large container ships, bulk carriers and tankers, our members work in, on and around vessels and cargo – helping ensure seafarers can live and work safely, return home to their families and that the natural environment is protected for future generations. AIMS will continue to work and strive to place marine surveyors at the centre of any marine activity where safety for people, the environment and assets is concerned.

We are the keepers of the knowledge of all things maritime, something that needs to be maintained and celebrated internally, while also broadcasting externally that our place in the industry is not just a box to tick but providing real value and meaning, and that we act to mitigate risk in all its forms in the best interests of our clients and the community at large.

2026 conference

Our 2026 conference, held in Fremantle on May 7-8, highlighted the importance of building relationships, not only within our own organisation



but also with other stakeholders inside and outside of our industry. Relationships add value to our businesses and our profession. Whether those relationships are the more obvious, such as with other surveyors, or more subtle, as being with insurers, service providers and other industry bodies, connections provide us with opportunities to improve and grow.

Imagine us as a village, where all types are needed to make the village function and prosper. The conference was an opportunity to successfully expand who we are and what we do and how we fit into the world.

Our conference was the first time that a two-day event has been staged. With the broad range of speakers and topics covered, having a conference of this length proved that our participants were keen to engage with all of our speakers and topics that they presented.

Dr Eric Perez, CEO AIMS, and his team worked tirelessly for more than a year to bring to fruition another successful conference. They are to be congratulated on the success of this event and look forward to an equally successful conference in 2028.

Eric McIlwain
Chair of the AIMS Board