

Winners roll-call: Australian Shipping & Maritime Industry Awards 2014

Australian Maritime Hall of Fame

Winner: Dr Terry O'Brien, inventor of the Dynamic Under Keel Clearance system and founder of OMC International



OMC International table celebrating Dr Terry O'Brien's win.

Citation as prepared and read by the publisher of Lloyd's List Australia, Peter Attwater:

Through the exercise of his own intellect, he has created a system that has already, and will in the future, save the resources, ports and shipping industries literally billions of dollars.

His invention, Dynamic Under Keel Clearance, has, in its various forms, been adopted by ports around the world.

The DUKC technology is celebrating its 21st birthday this year and apart from having an unblemished safety record, has saved untold amounts of money through reducing regular maintenance dredging and, in some cases, avoiding high spot dredging. His technology allows vessels to sail with a deeper draught – allowing, of course, more cargo to be carried on fewer voyages.

So, for instance, every centimetre deeper that a bulk carrier carrying iron ore can sail, means around an extra 150 tonnes of cargo, which, depending on the price, can be worth many thousands of dollars of revenue per centimetre per sailing.

When you stop to think of the cumulative impact of that saving over literally decades, it is quite astonishing.

His system also improves safety – so much so that it has been deployed at several ports purely on safety grounds alone. And, in 2011, his system was first accepted by the Australian Maritime Safety Authority for use in the Torres Strait.

He has also invented a wide variety of other systems, such as the Berth Warning System, that can be used to help increase berth operating safety, both for ship-berth planning and as a forecasting tool to provide real-time operational warnings on forecast wind and wave conditions which may cause ships to break lines at the

berth, causing unacceptable OH&S risk to personnel and damage to vessels and wharf structures.

The impact of Dr O'Brien's inventions and development of technology has resulted in both he and his company being recognised at home and around the world for their achievements and contributions to the maritime industry.

There has been international award recognition for innovative technology, engineering excellence and in June 2010, Dr O'Brien was awarded an OAM in the Queen's Birthday honours list for services to the maritime industry.

After literally decades of service to the shipping industry, as an academic, as a member of international advisory bodies such as PIANC, the World Association for Waterborne Transport Infrastructure and latterly and most significantly, as an inventor of technologies of global significance, Lloyd's List Australia is delighted to induct Dr Terry O'Brien OAM into the Australian Maritime Hall of Fame.



Lloyd's List Australia's publisher Peter Attwater announces the induction of this year's Maritime Hall of Fame, OMC International founder and executive director Dr Terry O'Brien, OAM.

Sponsors and the judging panel

We would like to thank our Award sponsors: Fremantle Ports, Darwin Port Corporation, DP World, Australian Maritime Safety Authority, Wallenius Wilhelmsen Logistics, Patrick, Rightship, Svitzer, Qube Ports & Bulk, Maritime Employees Training Ltd. We would like to thank our table sponsors: Customs Agency Services and PB Towage.

We would also like to thank the judging panel for their deliberations – it is a difficult task considering the outstanding number of nominations received for this year's awards – a record 130 submissions.

The judging panel comprised:

- David Field of Field & Associates, and chairman of the Merchant Navy War Memorial Fund, who chaired the panel
- David Anderson, CEO Ports Australia
- Brian Lovell, CEO Australian Federation of International Forwarders
- Steve Morris, CEO Custom Brokers & Forwarders Council of Australia
- Rod Nairn CEO Shipping Australia
- Jim Wilson, editor Lloyd's List Australia.

The judging panel did not assess the liner trade awards or the Customer Service Award – these were assessed by a combination of Lloyd's List Australia schedule reliability statistics over random survey periods and the results of Lloyd's List Australia on-line survey in regard to customer satisfaction and customer service.

Also the panel did not select the Newsmaker of the Year or the 2015 inductee into the Australian Maritime and Transport Hall of Fame – these decisions were made by senior management of Lloyd's List Australia.