

MaritimeFocus

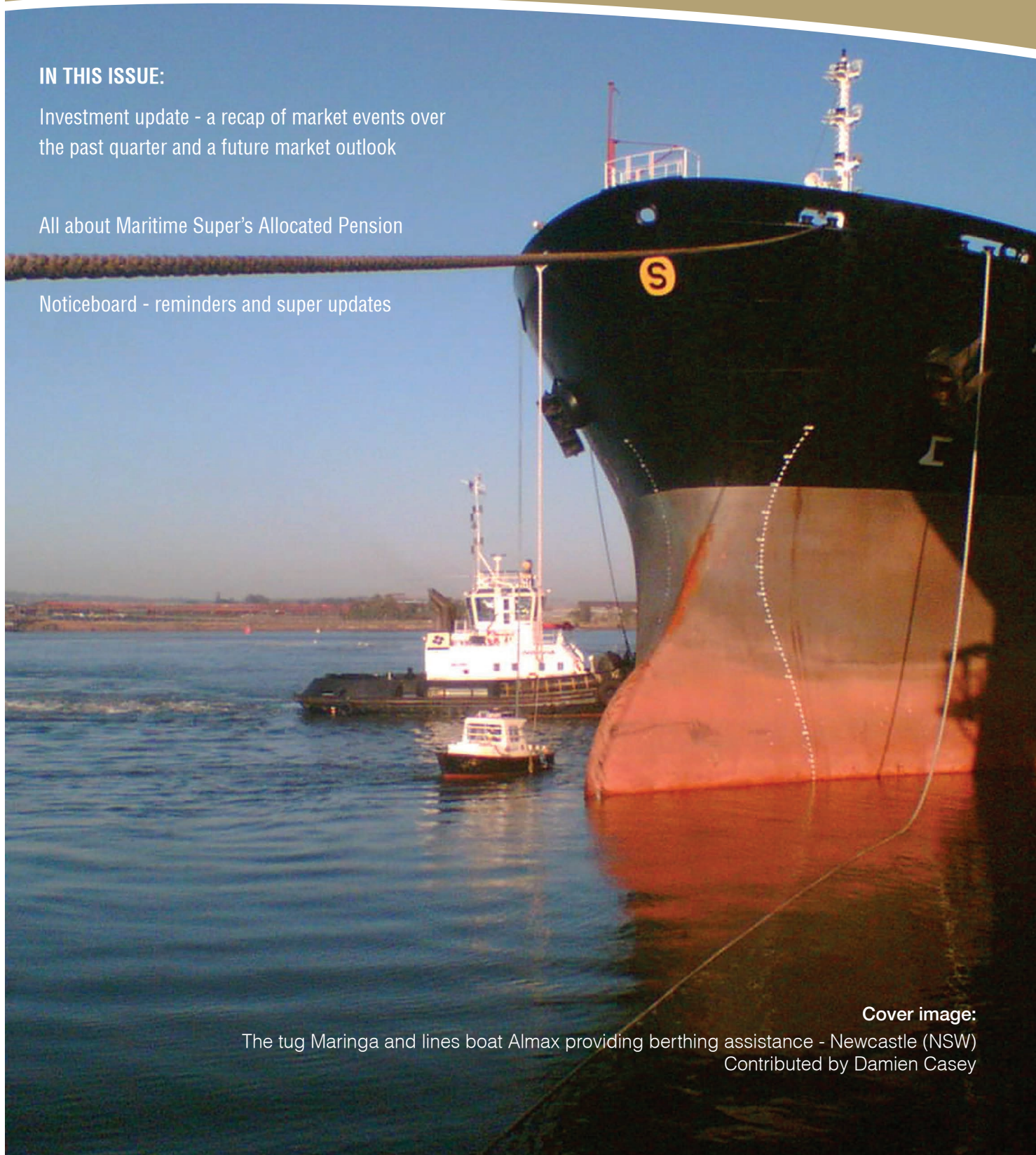
THE NEWSLETTER FOR MARITIME SUPER MEMBERS

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Investment update - a recap of market events over the past quarter and a future market outlook

All about Maritime Super's Allocated Pension

Noticeboard - reminders and super updates



Cover image:

The tug Maringa and lines boat Almax providing berthing assistance - Newcastle (NSW)
Contributed by Damien Casey

Market review

March 2010 quarter - more good news for the markets

The March quarter saw positive outcomes for all of the major investment market sectors. One of the key themes throughout this quarter has been the removal of government stimulus packages around the world. The Chinese authorities provided some of the most aggressive stimulus packages over the past few years, but have now pulled these back as they try to find a true market equilibrium. Similarly in Australia, the Reserve Bank has tightened monetary policy from their 'emergency lows' and look likely to continue to increase interest rates, with housing and commodity prices racing ahead and inflation persistently at the top of the target band.

As the Australian Government's stimulus package begins to fade, the markets will be watching closely for signs that the private sector can assume the carriage of growth. In the US, car purchases, housing construction, housing affordability, labour costs and business investment are at extreme lows so there are strong possibilities for a solid rebound in US economic activity.

Sector returns

The Australian sharemarket has returned over 40% for the year to 31 March 2010, but is still some distance below the November 2007 peak; however, the 5-year returns are back to more typical long-term averages. With consumer confidence high, household credit rising, an unexpected rebound in retail sales, huge increases in house prices around Australia and unemployment again drifting lower, sentiment is firmly positive.

During the March quarter, there were continued strong global equity market returns, albeit with higher volatility. It is difficult to discern clear patterns as country returns were mixed.

Currency volatility remains a feature against other currency crosses. The MSCI Global Share index posted a gain of just over 15% for the year and the Fund's currency hedging policy has increased that return for our members.

In the property market, valuations have stabilised since the year end for well-leased assets. Transactions at the premium end of the market reflect healthy pricing, and better-quality assets are trading close to carrying value.

World bond markets have performed well over recent times, despite issues in some European countries and with record levels of Government bond issuance. Australian bonds have moved back to the top of the recent range, with 10-year Government bonds now trading close to 6%. The Reserve Bank of Australia has continued to tighten monetary policy and has raised the official cash rate, with expectations of further increases in the months ahead.

MARKET PERFORMANCE BY SECTOR - to 31 March 2010

Asset class	1Q10	FYTD	1-year	3-year	5-year
Australian Shares	1.3%	27.3%	41.9%	-2.6%	8.0%
Overseas Shares	1.2%	10.9%	15.1%	-9.1%	-0.3%
Listed Property	-1.5%	22.0%	40.6%	-22.8%	-7.0%
Direct Property	1.1%	1.4%	-4.9%	2.6%	7.9%
Australian Bonds	1.3%	4.1%	2.7%	6.5%	6.0%
Overseas Bonds (hedged)	2.7%	7.9%	10.2%	8.4%	7.3%
Cash	1.0%	2.7%	3.5%	5.7%	5.8%



Reminder for Government co-contributions: 30 June is approaching fast!

You may be eligible to receive up to \$1000 from the government in your superannuation account if you earn less than \$61,920.

If you haven't already done so, now is the time to make an additional voluntary (after-tax) contribution to your super to get your Government co-contribution.

You have until 30 June to make additional contributions to your super account - contact Member Services or visit the website at www.maritimesuper.com.au to learn more.

Future outlook

Since 31 March, markets have again been very volatile. In Australia, the latest rise in the official cash rate and the Federal Government's proposed resources tax have had an impact, but the proposed increase in superannuation contributions will increase flows into the investment markets over time. The global markets are currently focused on Europe, with Greece the worst and most well-publicised of the foreign economies which are struggling. The fiscal position of Greece and other countries is likely to lead to further market volatility.

Long-term performance

At Maritime Super, our focus remains on long-term investment performance to benefit members' retirement incomes. To achieve this, it is important to stay invested in markets to capture the full benefits of market cycles and to avoid costly timing decisions.

Strong returns over the past year are starting to average out the impact of the global financial crisis and are moving the 5-year investment returns back closer to longer term expectations. The latest Maritime Super investment option returns up to 31 March 2010 are listed below:

INVESTMENT PERFORMANCE - to 31 March 2010

Investment Option	FYTD	FY08/09	FY07/08	FY06/07	FY05/06	FY04/05
Growth	14.66%	-19.78%	-9.95%	19.15%	18.32%	14.50%
Balanced	14.79%	-16.10%	-5.31%	15.59%	12.71%	11.45%
Conservative	9.50%	-6.60%	-0.04%	8.98%	8.49%	9.50%
Cash Enhanced	3.46%	2.47%	5.60%	5.82%	5.21%	4.69%
Cash	1.97%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Please note that these returns are net of fees and taxes and apply to accumulation accounts.

Different net rates of return apply to pension products and certain employer-sponsored categories where the employer may meet the administration costs - refer to the website or contact Member Services for more information.

Please note that past performance is not a reliable indicator of future performance.

The historic returns prior to 1 March 2009 for the following investment options are based on the returns of the most closely corresponding SERF or SRF investment option for the period:

Growth – SERF Growth

Balanced – SRF Balanced

Conservative – SERF Capital Stable

Cash Enhanced – SERF Capital Protected

Cash – offered to members from 1 January 2009

Each Maritime Super option has the same overall split between growth and defensive assets as its corresponding SERF or SRF option, and its asset mix is also closely aligned with the asset mix of the corresponding option.



Visit our website at
www.maritimesuper.com.au
to learn all about our investments
and investment performance



Reduce your carbon footprint - receive your newsletter by email

These days, we hear so much about 'carbon footprints', but what does it really mean? Put simply, 'carbon footprint' refers to the total amount of greenhouse gases produced to directly and indirectly support human activities, and is usually expressed in equivalent tons of carbon dioxide (CO₂).

Maritime Super is committed to reducing paper wastage (which also benefits members by reducing the overall cost to the fund). By making informed choices about the way you receive your information, you can make a real difference. By registering to receive your newsletter by email, you are reducing your own carbon footprint and doing your bit for the environment.

To learn more or to elect to receive your newsletter by email, contact Member Services or email us at info@maritimesuper.com.au.

About Allocated Pensions

... don't be afraid to ask lots of questions - after all, it's your super and your retirement ...

In our last newsletter, we talked about taking stock of your super position and bridging the retirement savings gap so that you're not caught short in retirement.

But planning for retirement is only half of the equation; making your super work hard for you during retirement is the other factor you need to think about.

Typically, the average person spends at least 20 years in retirement, so you need to ensure that your savings last the distance - and that's where Maritime Super's Allocated Pension comes in ...

About the Allocated Pension

Maritime Super's Allocated Pension is a tax-effective investment that allows you to convert your super into a flexible income stream which can be paid directly to your bank account.

It offers a way for retirees to receive their superannuation savings in the form of a regular income, and is administered in accordance with legislative standards, so you can enjoy your retirement with peace of mind.

How it works

With an Allocated Pension, you invest a lump sum of super monies. You can choose your investment option and then choose a pension amount that suits your individual retirement needs.

You have the flexibility to choose how often you'd like to receive your pension payments throughout the year, and you can vary the amount you receive each year to meet your ever-changing needs. Lump sum withdrawals can also be made at any time.

Key features

- You can choose the amount of your pension income each year, as long as you withdraw at least the minimum income amount based on your age
- You can choose the frequency of your pension payments (i.e. monthly, quarterly, half-yearly or yearly)
- You have the option to make partial lump sum withdrawals or take the full amount as a lump sum
- Pension payments continue until your account balance has been paid to you in full, either as an income stream or lump-sum withdrawals
- There may be tax advantages for some members
- You have access to investment choice
- Investment earnings are tax-free in the Fund

But best of all, you can remain with the super fund you know and trust, and continue to have access to the various benefits associated with being a Maritime Super member.

Maritime Super member Mick Cottrell (pictured right) is regarded as a legend in the maritime industry; he started on the wharves back in 1977 as a stevedore and has worked in the maritime industry ever since.

He also had a 10-year stint as an MUA official, and was the first clerical-based person to be appointed MUA Victorian Branch Secretary.

Mick retired in December 2008, and has some insights he'd like to share with his fellow members.



Mick, congratulations on your retirement - how are you enjoying retirement?

I've been working hard my whole adult life, so once I reached retirement age I was well and truly ready to put my feet up and enjoy more of life. I thought that retiring would be a huge shock to the system, but I must say it's gone very smoothly and I'm really making the most of it.

How did you hear about Maritime Super?

Well, one of the great things about working in the maritime industry is the very strong feeling of solidarity between workers – we all look out for each other - and it was a colleague who initially told me in no uncertain terms to 'put my super into SERF', as it was the super fund for stevedores and that they'd help me save for retirement.

As a young stevedore starting out, that was one of the best pieces of advice I've received – my super fund has been there with me through all of my working life and is still there for me now.

To learn more about planning for your retirement or to make an appointment with an affiliated financial planner, contact Member Services

What is it that you like most about Maritime Super's Allocated Pension?

Maritime Super's Allocated Pension allows me to receive my super as a regular income. It's paid directly into my bank account, so there's no waiting for a cheque in the mail or standing in queues to receive my pension – I've got better things to do with my time!

It's flexible, so I can choose how much of my pension I'd like to receive each year, plus I can choose the frequency of payments, so it feels like I'm still receiving a salary.

The best part is that, as an Allocated Pension member, I'm still a member of the Fund, so I can continue to take advantage of all of the benefits associated with membership – plus, it's good to remain with the Fund that has been there for me all of my working life.

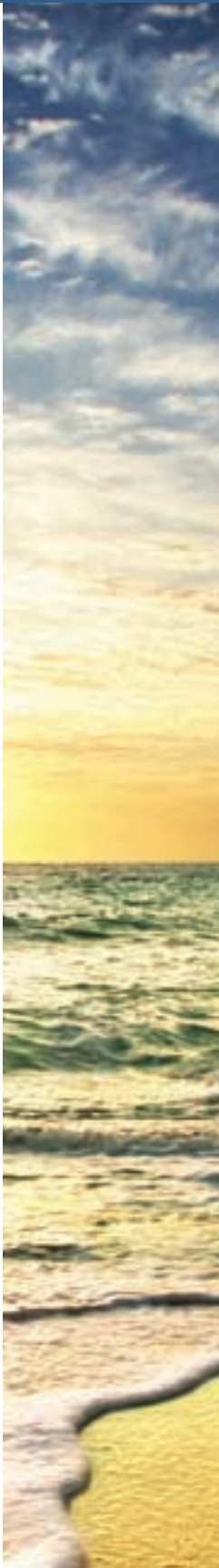
Do you have any words of advice for fellow members who are thinking about retiring?

Plan as far ahead as possible – retirement comes around so quickly, if you haven't already started planning for retirement, do so now.

Don't be afraid to ask lots of questions about your super account – after all, it's your super and your retirement.

Most importantly, take the opportunity to obtain advice from Maritime Super's financial planners along the way, not just when you're about to retire – they are there for us and really listen to you, so they understand exactly what you need and what you hope to achieve.

 **Contact Member Services on
1800 757 607**



Noticeboard

Financial planning seminars - coming to a location near you

Maritime Super (in conjunction with financial planners Matthew Geraghty and Chris Kotsiofis) will be presenting a series of seminars in the following locations:

Adelaide	Wednesday 2 June	10.30am-12.00pm	MUA Port Adelaide 65 St. Vincent Street, Port Adelaide
Fremantle	Thursday 3 June	10.00am-11.30am	MUA Fremantle 2-4 Kwong Alley, North Fremantle
Sydney	Monday 7 June	10.30am-12.00pm	Wesley Conference Centre 220 Pitt Street, Sydney
Brisbane	Tuesday 8 June	10.30am-12.00pm	MUA Brisbane 73 Southgate Ave, Cannon Hill
Melbourne	Wednesday 9 June	10.30am-12.00pm	MUA Union Room 46-54 Ireland Street, West Melbourne
Devonport	Wednesday 16 June	10.30am-12.00pm	MUA East Devonport 59 Wright Street, East Devonport

Keep an eye out for your personal invitation in the mail or check the website for seminar locations and details. If you would like to make an appointment with Matthew or Chris, contact Member Services on 1800 757 607.

Member Photo Gallery – online now

We're proud to announce that the Member Gallery has now been launched on our website. The Photo Gallery would not have been possible were it not for the excellent photos submitted by our members.

If you'd like to contribute to the Photo Gallery, email your photo to us at info@maritimesuper.com.au.



Visit our website at
www.maritimesuper.com.au
 to keep up to date with the
 latest news and changes affecting
 your super



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The Fund's Member Guides and MFS' Financial Services Guide are available by calling Member Services on 1800 757 607. You should consider the Member Guide in deciding whether to acquire or to continue to hold a product.

Past performance is not necessarily an indication of future performance.

Toll Free

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