

National honour for tug safety training expert

Capt Arie Nygh, managing director of SeaWays Consultants and founding president of the International Tugmasters Association (ITA), has been named a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) in the 2019 Australia Day Honours.

Capt Nygh was recognised for his “significant service to maritime transport through tugboat safety and standards initiatives” at an investiture ceremony held in April at Government House, Perth, and presided over by the Governor of Western Australia, Kim Beazley.

Capt Nygh told *IT&O*: “Of course with any award such as this, one person – the lucky one – receives it, but the truth is many contributed to it. In my case I have been most fortunate to have had the support and mentoring of numerous extraordinary people, not least of whom is my wife and business partner, Susie.

“My original move into training was motivated purely by self-preservation and fear, when I found myself ill-prepared at the controls of a large ASD tug back in the 1990s and worked to gain confidence and succour so I could enjoy going to work.

“From that grew the original training programme I wrote in response to STCW95 requirements to prove competency, after sitting in on my son’s F18 fighter pilot training and learning the methodologies and science of how to programme a human to perform safely and effectively in a high-risk dynamic environment.

“It was a system of training and assessing that was timely in its development and industry-changing in its delivery: truly a case of getting involved at the right time.

“From this eventually grew SeaWays – and here we are, all these years later, an overnight success, having trained some 1,300 tug masters. But without the support of colleagues such as my SeaWays Global partners Capt Steve Sandy and Capt Neil Sadler, or the



stewardship of industry leaders such as Alan Loynd, Henk Hensen, Tony Cousins, Kirsty Timbury and many others, or the buy-in of towage companies, stakeholders and tug masters around the world, there would be nothing for me to be recognised for.

“For me, it’s a truly shared achievement: one that helps bring recognition to this small but vital sector of the maritime industry – a sector that every day sees extraordinary mariners operate high-performance vessels in a very dynamic high-risk environment, safely, effectively, skilfully and with pride in their profession. Believe me, it’s not an industry for the faint-hearted.

“I was honoured with this amazing recognition – which I was astounded to discover had been kept secret by industry

▲ *Capt Arie Nygh, AM, right, at the investiture ceremony with his wife and business partner Susie Nygh and the Governor of Western Australia, Kim Beazley*

colleagues for nearly three years – but it’s also recognition for our industry and the extraordinary people who 24/7, come hell or high water, ply their trade within it.”

Also honoured this year were pop princess Kylie Minogue, fellow songstress Olivia Newton-John and Olympic swimming gold medallist Ian Thorpe, along with recipients spanning the fields of government, the arts, sport, business, philanthropy, science, the military, public service and emergency services.

Still time to suggest a paper to present at ITS 2020

Our call for papers for the eagerly-awaited industry-leading *International Tug, Salvage & OSV Convention and Exhibition (ITS)* taking place in Singapore from 29 June to 3 July next year is open until 31 July 2019.

Ground-breaking, innovative, thought-provoking papers are presented at *ITS* by leading experts in their field, providing a detailed and invaluable insight into the latest technological ideas and advances in our industry.

Details of how to submit an idea for a paper can be found at www.tugandosv.com

ITS is held every two years in a different location in the world and is the largest gathering anywhere of tug, towage, salvage and OSV experts.



Over the past 50 years, the convention has earned an enviable reputation for being the best of its kind, thanks to meticulous attention to detail. It attracts the most senior players in the business from all over the world, affording them a unique opportunity once every two years to meet, learn and do

business – lots of business.

Regular attendee Robert Allan, executive chairman of naval architects Robert Allan Ltd, said: “I realised that my entire career and the international success of our business have been inextricably linked with these conferences. Through them we have met the majority of our international clients, have been given the platform from which to draw attention to the important unique design developments initiated by this office, and been able to share ideas about the future of tug design and operations with a worldwide audience.”

Since 1969, over 8,000 delegates and 1,200 exhibitors from 50-plus countries have taken part in the conventions, with a repeat attendance rate of more than 75 per cent.