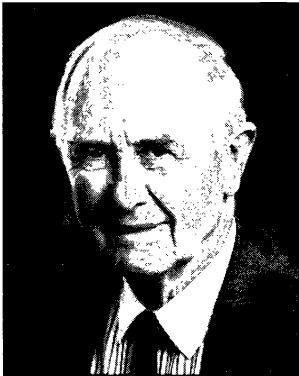


## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



I am very conscious of the honour conferred upon me by the membership for re-electing me to the Council and by the Council for electing me as it's President for the coming year. I consider myself fortunate in having a Council with great enthusiasm for the tasks ahead.

Your last Council decided that the President should represent it at the Twelfth International Congress of Maritime Arbitrators, ICMA XII, which took place in Paris during the last week of June. The purpose was to have an Australian representation in support of the bid for Melbourne to host ICMA XIII. This was submitted by the Australian Centre for International Commercial Arbitration together with the Maritime Law Association of Australia and New Zealand and the Australian Ship Owners Association Ltd. New Delhi and Auckland were the other contenders. On the last day of the congress the Steering Committee announced that Auckland had been successful. The congress will take place in early 1999, a time to coincide with the Americas Cup.

I took the opportunity to meet with the Chairman and Secretary General of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators in London whilst passing through to Paris. We had a very cordial and useful review of our aims and objectives. I hope this will benefit our relations with their Australian branch. Unfortunately, by only a few days, I missed meeting Mr Neil Kaplan QC, Chairman of their International Committee, who is based in Hong Kong. Our Council will be considering co-operative opportunities for our benefit, for example, joint seminars, etc.

The 1995 elections for the Council brought in seven new members, an unprecedented change. The 1996 elections have brought in a further two new members and the return of Don Sarah after an absence of one year. Thus South Australia has representation again, although this desirable result was fortuitous so some extent. Inevitably we will miss the counsel of Ian Cameron, Toni de Fina and Alan Swann, who have made many and various contributions to the Institute.

**J.I. Muirhead**  
**President**