



Ship to Shore



Autumn Edition 2016

CARING FOR SEAFARERS IN VICTORIAN PORTS SINCE 1857



CALL FOR ENTRIES>

PROMOTEING EXCELLENCE IN MARITIME AND SEAFARING SUBJECTS IN ART. THE MISSION TO SEAFARERS ON BEHALF OF NAMING SPONSOR ANL INVITES ARTISTS TO RESPOND TO THE THEME;

EXPLORATIONS OF THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN HUMANITY AND THE SEA

ENTRIES CLOSE AUGUST 26, 2016

www.missiontoseafarers.com.au/ANL-ART-PRIZE

CALL FOR SPONSORS

THE ANL MARITIME ART AWARDS SUPPORTS THE WORK OF THE MISSION TO SEAFARERS PLEASE CONTACT ANDREA@MISSIONTOSEAFARERS.COM.AU FOR SPONSORSHIP DETAILS. SEAFARERS' WELFARE WORKS TO ENSURE OUR OCEANS AND COASTLINES ARE IN SAFE HANDS.

.....
Please consider your support.

The Mission to Seafarers Melbourne has been nominated for the ISWAN International Seafarers' Welfare Awards

"For seafarers; welfare services and facilities can be a lifeline when working away from home for long periods of time".

These awards, recognise excellence in the provision of welfare services and acknowledges shipping companies, welfare organisations, ports and individuals - on ships, as well as ashore. The MtSV Board of Management has extended its appreciation to the staff and volunteers for their contribution to receiving the nomination.

Being nominated for the Seafarers' Centre of the Year award category is encouraging to the whole MtSV team. On behalf of the House Committee, Club Manager Ajith Jayasuriya extended thanks also to the seafarers who nominated Melbourne. From all of us, thanks to our community of supporters, without you we wouldn't be here!



Studies encourage Seafarers to Pursue Healthier Lifestyles to Fend Off Diabetes

The Shipping Industry recognises the diverse challenges of living and working at sea. The focus of much research raises awareness around seafarer fatigue, and mental health. In a new initiative, MtS London has partnered with Swire Pacific Offshore and The China Navigation Company to address concerns of a higher risk for seafarers developing diabetes. *Continued Page 4*





CEO's Message

Autumn has seen many seafarers exchanging comments around the natural cycle of the seasons and how they don't always respond to the calendar dates.

None the less, for most Melbournians and visitors to our city we are happy to have summer linger into March no doubt! Many of the crew visiting over the past month have left Melbourne to arrive for Spring in China. What it must be to experience a season for no more than a few days in any one country!

I had a quiet chuckle this month when I heard that one of our staff had likened working with seafarers to "speed dating"?

"When seafarers are in the centre we interact in a familiar way to engage quickly and positively and often we facilitate a lot of questions in a short period of time. If you can get past the awkward questions, the outcomes are bound to be mutually rewarding."

Thank you for taking the time to share the stories in the Autumn edition of Ship to Shore. Each day is a new day and not one is predictable at the Mission. This newsletter allows me the opportunity to reflect on what has been happening and express

my gratitude on behalf of the MtSV team to all who support the good work of the Mission. In particular our volunteers who work around the clock even during holiday times. I trust Easter has been a restful time for you.

Sincere regards,

Andrea Fleming
Mission to Seafarers Victoria

LIVE SIMPLY.
DREAM BIG.
BE GRATEFUL.
GIVE LOVE.
LAUGH LOTS.



This seafarer shares a picture of his little daughter as she heads off to school. Her dad is on-board *Ambassador Bridge* with a long voyage before he gets home to see her.



THE SECRET GARDEN AT THE MISSION TO SEAFARERS IS MOST COMMONLY REMARKED UPON BY SEAFARERS, AND THIS SUMMER HAS BEEN NO EXCEPTION.

This crew were glad for a photo in the garden amid discussing the items on their priority list as they headed off to South Wharf. *"We need little and we travel light"* seems to be the motto, but some things are necessities and the seafarers are always happy to head across Seafarers' Bridge to do some shopping. (Pictured above right) 2nd Engineer, is feeling very pleased to have found 501 Levis for \$5 at the Direct Factory Outlets.



Ship Visiting

During the month of February there were some 173 ships in port. The MtSV Ship Visiting team visited 54 of these and it is estimated that we were in contact with over 800 crew. Ship visitors are an important resource and lifeline. Ship visiting is by no means easy and there are times it can be really tough going.

Readers of *Ship to Shore* will know that one needs to be fit. It's often a long climb up the gangway and on arrival you are the guest of the Captain and either welcomed (or not) as a visitor to the ship.

The Ship Visitor has on hand for all that is required. Local information, practical items and often gifts of magazines, books, cd's and beanies are all in the Ship Visitors bag. Most importantly Ship Visitors take with them a listening and discerning ear, as well as good cheer. In "painting the picture" Rev. Inni said there are times when Ship Visitors were not immediately welcomed, "rejection is also common". The crew are too busy and the mood may not be right. But once invited onboard it's all up to you.

The experience of a Ship Visitor is varied, from waiting for crew to finish their shifts to a frenzied arrival of crew wanting phone cards and help with their phones or computers. When the business is done there is the opportunity to chat and inevitably the real work of Ship Visiting is about connecting with the crew.

A ship is not just a big container, it is a close living and working dynamic. There is a unique social cohesion, and every ship's crew is different. The experience of a Ship Visitor may be impacted by the internal mood of the ship, influenced by hierarchy, cultural and spiritual diversity and all interchangeable with comradeship and harmonious dependability on each crew member achieving his tasks for

the safe and smooth operation of the vessel and delivery of its cargo.

The role of Ship Visitor is unique and the work is most rewarding and may be suited to graduates or students of theological training or counselling. Reverend Inni and volunteer Tony Corell are working hard over the next few months as Pastor Peter takes time to concentrate on his parish work and Andrew Fah Ho has been successfully placed into full time employment. We wish Andrew well for his theological studies and we hope time allows him to do on-going volunteer work with the Mission. Please contact Rev. Inni if you would like to discuss the volunteer positions available. chaplain@missiontoseafarers.com.au



...continued from cover story

Studies encourage Seafarers to Pursue Healthier Lifestyles to Fend Off Diabetes

The program is designed to encourage seafarers and inform them about making healthy life choices and the consequences of diabetes. Delivered through Community and Corporate Sector partnership with mutually rewarding outcomes. Educating seafarers and encouraging the provision of healthy food options is the first step. After that it is up to the seafarers to be encouraged to make lifestyle adjustments to minimise risks of the disease.

The health guide, entitled "*A Seafarers' Guide to Understanding Diabetes*" is a valuable resource for seafarers and welfare agencies. Making lifestyle changes can be difficult and as seafarers work toward their goals they have a national and international network of support.

In launching the program Captain Simon Bennett, General Manager of Sustainable Development at Swire Pacific Offshore said, "*We produced this educational guide as part of our ongoing Sustainable Development initiatives. We aim to raise awareness about Type 2 diabetes and encourage our seafarers to pursue a healthier lifestyle. This benefits both seafarers and their families through longer and healthier lives, plus the companies through reduced medical costs and lower turnover of expensively trained, competent, experienced seafarers.*" The MtSV has passed on its congratulations to Nicky Wynn, MtS London and the executive team who have worked hard to achieve this program.



REV. INNI TOOK THIS PHOTO SAYING THAT SHIP VISITOR ANDREW (LEFT) WAS SO PLEASED FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO CONNECT WITH THIS SEAFARER WHO WAS THE ONLY CHINESE MEMBER OF HIS CREW.



Freddie gives the thumbs up



Freddie Fisher gives the thumbs up for his time onboard *CMA CGM Chopin*. Freddie and his wife Pattie have been volunteering at the Mission to Seafarers during their time in Melbourne. Pattie has done piles of filing and scanning and Freddie was soon on the bus to the port, and clocked up a month of Ship Visiting training with Rev. Inni before he and Pattie returned home. At their home parish in Alderney, Channel Islands Freddie is a Lay Preacher and he and Pattie arrived as visitors to our door and gave a whole lot of help. We look forward to their return later this year when their stay may be a little bit longer as they have family who have settled now in Melbourne.

Vale



Resting In Peace, Scott Casey a friend and supporter of the Mission to Seafarers. Scott had a long battle with diabetes and suffered seizures and many health related challenges in his own life. Scott will be remembered for his work with Cross Culture, a community church outreach program that crosses many cultures and recognises that diversity is united through love which was a motto Scott shared with many.

GOOD WISHES FROM AUSTRALIA FROM THE OLDEST MTS TO THE NEWEST

The city of Yangon in Myanmar is home to the Mission to Seafarers' newest port facility. The Anglican agency was dedicated on February 28th during a service at Holy Trinity Cathedral in Yangon (formerly known as Rangoon). The new co-ordinator of MtS in Yangon, George Ko Ko Gyi, said: "Yangon is one of the main seaports in Myanmar and also a key city for supplying crew to the shipping industry worldwide. We will provide vital welfare support and pastoral care to all seafarers and their families, in partnership with the local church and port authorities."

The MtS secretary general, the Revd Andrew Wright, commented: "*The Mission is committed to the support of seafarers and their families. In the last year we have underlined that 'family' element of our work with projects in the Philippines, in Ukraine and now in Myanmar.*" From one of the oldest MtS (Melbourne Est. 1857) to one of the newest (Yangon Est. 2016) we have sent best wishes and what an impact this work will have within this important seafaring community in Myanmar.

A trip to Mansfield and a visitor in return

The Rev Eden-Elizabeth at the Anglican Parish of Mansfield invited a guest speaker from the Mission to Seafarers to their Sea Sunday service last year. Ron was a local who attended that day and subsequently gifted a bag of maritime flags to the Mission.

We were thrilled for Ron's first visit to 717 Flinders Street, with Regina who was on holidays from Sydney. With 25 years experience as a flag maker for countries around the world, Ron knows the significance of having a good flag. He personally designs and sews commissioned work and he was particularly impressed with the quality of the flag gifted to the Mission in memory of British Merchant Seafarers lost at sea during the war in 1939-45.

The Mission to Seafarers really relies on Parish communities and we encourage you to get behind Sea Sunday this year. Its one day where people really focus thoughts and prayers for the good care of seafarers and their families.

Sea Sunday 10th July.
Find the resources at:
www.seasunday.org/downloads



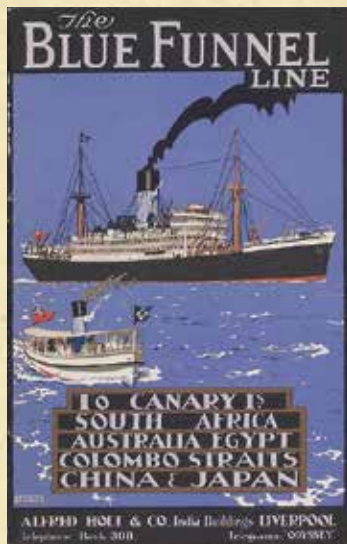
RON STRACHAN AND REGINA VISIT THE MISSION TO SEAFARERS.

Light shed on the brass bell of the Diomed adds a greater shine to the story

Over almost 160 years, since the Mission's work began in the Port of Melbourne, there has built over time the stories that lend one's mind to ponder the saying "*6 degrees of separation*".

Some long term readers of *Ship to Shore* may remember back in 2011 when the MtSV received an email from Jan, a City Councillor in Liverpool, and Trustee of the Liverpool Institute Educational Foundation?

Well as it happened, The Liverpool Institute High Schools (one for boys and one for girls) were set up by the Holt Family, a famous shipping and merchant family in Liverpool. Many shipping industry readers will well remember *The Blue Funnel Line*. Both the boys' & girls' schools had large brass ships bells. They were rung at the end of each lesson, break time, lunch and home time. The schools closed in 1986 and the bells were removed.



At the time of Jan's correspondence, she advised that the bell (from *SS Demodocus*), from the boys' school was on loan to the Liverpool's Maritime Museum. Jan was writing concerning the ships bell from *SS Diomed*, the girls' school bell which went missing in 1986.

The school was later transformed to become the Liverpool Institute for Performing Arts, more commonly known as Paul McCartney's Fame School. Both "Beatles" Paul McCartney and George Harrison were old boys of the school and on behalf of the LIEF trustees, Jan wrote saying "I understand that you have such a bell as the one we are searching for in your possession?" She further noted that there was a £25,000 reward for the bell's safe return.

The *Ship to Shore* article in 2011 featured the found evidence. The Argus archive of 1953, recounting the presentation of the bell to the Mission to Seafarers in Melbourne, (also discounting the reward which was momentarily mourned) none-the-less, the bell was in its rightful place. Some 5 years later we have learned a little more about how the bell came to be donated, a missing link and fabulous story was shared by Ivor Forsyth-Grant.

Ivor visited the Mission in late February as a guest of Board member Alan Knott who was attending a meeting that day. Alan and Ivor had both studied at Warsash Nautical College in the UK and kept in touch over the years. While Alan attended his meeting Ivor was introduced to Nigel Porteous, Vice Chairman, and during the course of that discussion Nigel discovered that Ivor had been a cadet on the *Diomed* on her final voyage from Australia to England.

The account that Ivor shared with Nigel revealed that Randall Stewart Murray, a Lay Preacher at the Mission, was also on that final voyage. Randall had befriended the crew over many years and was invited by the company to travel with them back to England where the ship was to be scrapped, in



IVOR FORSYTH-GRANT (LEFT) PICTURED WITH NIGEL PORTEOUS (RIGHT)

1952. On arriving in the UK, the fast talking Lay Preacher arranged for the shipping company (Alfred Holt & Son) to generously donate the bell to Mission to Seafarers in Melbourne. Many of the crew had enjoyed their time in Melbourne over the years, and it was agreed that the bell be suitably gifted. So too did Randall suggest that additional scrap brass and timber from the ship be donated. These were subsequently fashioned into the two beautiful dolphins supporting the bell and mounted on the timber platform it stands on majestically today.

Ivor remembered the voyage well. He had met Randal on many occasions at the Mission on previous voyages to Melbourne. On recounting the story and admiring the bell it was to Nigel's surprise realising that Randal was the great uncle of Jenny Porteous! We were grateful to hear the story from Ivor and to know that the bell came about as a gift to the Mission with thanks to Randall Stewart Murray. You can't put a price on that story and the bell is admired by thousands of seafarers and visitors to the building today, some 60 years later.



BACK ROW: L-R BOB CLARKE, CHARLES BAILEY LAY READER, BILL DOWD, RANDALL STEWART-MURRAY LAY READER (MELBOURNE)
FRONT ROW: L-R FATHER FRANK OLIVER, JOE FORSTER



MtSV heritage and lunch tours, *the talk of the town!*

Notwithstanding the many challenges that remain, the Mission to Seafarers building has gone through cycles of change, and is as much a delight for first time visitors and seafarers as it creates memories for others.

Shauna's job as a Social Support Officer is to create fun opportunities for people to come together in the City of Boroondara's - *Active Ageing and Disability Services Program*. The men's group, with a bit of encouragement from Shauna, were extra energetic when it came to a "toe tap and whistle" in the Norla Dome. With thanks to our guest's "word of mouth" advertising, the Mission has been busy with tours over February and March.

The Heritage Program has been developed over 6 years since 2010 and gained momentum with the Collection's Significance Assessment. Research, cataloguing, preservation and presentation of the archival objects and items has been important in the development of the schools education kit and heritage tours which will roll out a more substantial program of events as the building is restored over the next few years. For now the influx of interest in the building as a place of interest, is best managed with the tours establishing strong indicators for a successful museum's program that is set to deliver new opportunities to the Mission to Seafarers into the future.

With thanks to a combination of government, philanthropic and corporate funding, the heritage collection and building assets are now more accessible to the broader community. The MtSV Heritage Exhibition, *Reflections of the Sea* is currently on display at The Anglican Diocese Archive building at Scotchmer Street, in Fitzroy. We could not have achieved this work without their good support and strong partnerships. "In the new colony of Victoria, leaping to the forefront

with the discovery of gold there in 1851, the Victorian Bethel Union and Sailors' Mission at Melbourne was founded in 1857, to promote the 'Temporal and Spiritual Welfare' of seafarers and immigrants, then arriving in their thousands. With the Rev Kerr Johnston as Chaplain, and under the patronage of the Governor, a Floating Church in Hobson's Bay (the former hulk *Emily*) was inaugurated on July 1st that same year, as the first headquarters of the Mission."

The Heritage and Arts Programs have worked to diversify the experience of visitors to where the Mission is located today. With thanks to Helen Macpherson Smith Trust the MtSV's *Early Origins Exhibition* has been developed as the first permanent exhibition for visitors and seafarers to explore. The launch of the Exhibition this year sets the scene as we work toward the 2017 Centenary of the building. (See the upcoming Winter Edition of Ship to Shore for further details on this exciting new Exhibition.)

MORNING TEA & LUNCH TOURS

\$35 PER PERSON INCLUDES...

Duration is 2 hours and includes morning tea on arrival, a tour of the heritage building and highlighted objects followed by lunch caught fresh from North Wharf's Sea on Quay Fish and Chip Boxes with a glass of wine or soft drink.

**FOR GROUP BOOKINGS CONTACT:
MARKETING@MISSIONTOSEAFARERS.COM.AU**



CITY OF BOROONDARA'S ACTIVE AGEING AND DISABILITY SERVICES PROGRAM VISITS 717 FLINDERS STREET, WITH THE "SOUND DOME" BEING A BIG HIT IN LETTING THE GOOD TIMES ROLL!



TOURS INCLUDE THE ST PETER THE MARINER CHAPEL, MAIN HALL, CELIA LITTLE ROOM AND NORLA DOME.



GATEWAY COMMUNITY SERVICES GROUP

Vale

TWO LONG STANDING
CHAPLAINS OF THE MISSION,
ONE VOLUNTEER/BOARD
MEMBER AND A DEDICATED
DONOR HAVE RECENTLY
PASSED AWAY IN MELBOURNE.

We will always remember them.

REVD BILL DALLING

Bill Dalling served as the Mission to Seafarers Chaplain in Sydney, Newcastle and Melbourne 1968-1972. Following his retirement from ministry in 1988, Bill stayed on as a volunteer with the Mission and also served on the MtSV Board. Bill will be fondly remembered having passed away peacefully on Sunday 3rd January.

REVD ALEX CRIGAN

Revd Alex came from a long line of Anglican ministers. His first appointment as Chaplain to the Mission was in Sydney, he then served overseas with MTS in Glasgow, Dublin, Hamburg and London. On his return to Australia Alex was the Assistant Chaplain to Padre Oliver in Melbourne between 1952-55. Alex Crigan was dedicated to serving seafarers and to the Mission to Seafarers ministry. Revd Alex passed away in Melbourne on February 15th this year one day before his 94th birthday.

CAPT MICHAEL TERRY

When seafarers pass away, they are known to have "Crossed the Bar", as did Capt Michael Terry who joined the MtSV as a volunteer in 2005 and subsequently became a member of the Board. Having been at sea and connected with the shipping industry for the whole of his adult life, Michael was well aware of the loneliness and vicissitudes seafarers have to endure on regular occasions, during their long voyages away from home. Michael was always ready to help and befriend seafarers and worked hard to ensure that their visit to Melbourne was a fulfilling one.

Celia Little Room ACTION



Mystery and Mortar – a series by Robert Boot Productions is a compilation of lesser known history linked to sites of historical significance. We wish Robert and the team best wishes and as part of this production. It was great to have Australian actor John Woods visit the Mission in March with this project.

CAPT HUGH MCKENZIE FISHER

Capt Hugh McKenzie Fisher RNRD passed peacefully on Sunday Nov. 22, 2015 aged 98 years. Mrs Dorothy Fisher notified the Mission to Seafarers in February of the loss of her beloved husband who had been a long term donor to the Mission to Seafarers for which we are most grateful.

CROSSING THE BAR

"Crossed the Bar", is a saying attributed to seafarers that pass away. It is a saying derived from the famous poem by Alfred Lord Tennyson. The 'bar' is a formation of shallow sand along a shoreline caused by currents, wind and tide. They are also found at the mouth of rivers creating a very shallow and unpredictable hazard for ships. 'The moaning' is the sound of the sea and waves running over the bar, particularly at night.

*Sunset and evening star,
And one clear call for me,
And may there be no
moaning of the bar
When I put out to sea.*

*But such a tide as
moving seems asleep,
Too full for sound and foam,
When that which drew from out
the boundless deep,
Turns again home.*

*Twilight and evening bell
And after that the dark !
And may there be no sadness
of farewell
When I embark ;*

*For tho' from out our bourne of
Time and Place
The flood may bear me far,
I hope to see my Pilot face to face
When I have crost the bar.*



John Whittaker

AFTER A LONG
STRETCH.



JOHN WHITTAKER VISITS THE
MISSION AFTER ALMOST 45 YEARS

John last visited the Melbourne Mission in the early '70s. At that time he was with the Silver Line Shipping Company.

He was an engineer and enjoyed his career also working with Sealion Shipping Company as a Chief Engineer before spending time in the Falklands during the war. John was on a self-guided tour during his holidays in Melbourne. It was great to see this now retired seafarer enjoying the warmth of Melbourne's summer and his time at the Mission after many years. When international seafarers return to the Mission after many years, we know it is because the place holds significance to them. Whilst the building itself has not changed, shipping and the port of Melbourne has certainly changed since John worked at sea. The fact remains for seafarers' that the Mission is their home away from home and a friendly welcome can make all the difference at the end of a long day.



Seafarers' welfare works to ensure our oceans and coastlines are in safe hands



Donations can be made online at www.missiontoseafarers.com.au or complete this form and return to us.

\$25 SUPPORTS THE PROVISION OF
PHONE AND INTERNET SERVICES
FOR CONTACT WITH HOME

\$35 WILL SUPPORT MTSV
SHIP VISITING

\$50 WILL SUPPORT EMERGENCY NIGHT
CALL-OUT TO HELP SEAFARERS
IN DISTRESS

\$100 WILL SUPPORT THE UPKEEP OF
MTSV ON-SHORE FACILITIES

Please accept my gift of ☐ \$25 ☐ \$35 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$100 ☐ Other \$ _____

☐ My cheque is enclosed. (Cheques to be made payable to Seafarers Welfare Fund)

☐ Please debit my credit card / debit card: ☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard

Card no: _____ / _____ / _____ / _____ Expiry date: _____ / _____

Name: _____ Signature: _____

Address: _____

Postcode: _____

Email: _____ Telephone: _____

All donations over \$2 made to the Seafarers' Welfare Fund are tax deductible.

Please send your contribution to: Mission to Seafarers Victoria, 717 Flinders Street, Docklands 3008

Telephone: (03) 9629 7083 Facsimile: (03) 9629 8450 Email: marketing@missiontoseafarers.com.au

How can you help?

- > **Become a volunteer.** Host, Driver, Ship Visitor
- > **Book the venue.** Booking fees help the Mission to Seafarers raise funds. Weddings, corporate meetings and seminars, functions and events.
- > **Become a Crew 717 Member.**
- > **Become a donor.** Monthly donations of \$10 or more really help and can be set up on-line through the website.
- > **Like The Mission to Seafarers Victoria on Facebook**
- > **Become a Sponsor.** The MtSV is calling for Sponsors for the annual ANL Maritime Art Awards and is looking for new Pledge Partners to support the Ship Visiting Program.

Contact Craig Baru: operations@missiontoseafarers.com.au

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in Victorian Ports since 1857