



Ship to Shore

Summer Edition 2015 CARING FOR SEAFARERS IN VICTORIAN PORTS SINCE 1857

My Little Melbourne Girl

My Little Melbourne Girl
Exploring the love letters of Lillie Duncan

ON DISPLAY AT
LIBRARY AT THE DOCK
31 JANUARY TO 14 APRIL 2015
Launch: Sat 31 Jan, 2pm

IMAGE: Lillie Duncan, 1925c. Mission to Seafarers (Victoria) heritage collection

The My Little Melbourne Girl exhibition invites the audience into hearts of numerous seafarers whose adoration for Lillie Duncan, is expressed in their letters to her.

My Little Melbourne Girl is made from the Lillie Duncan Collection within The MtSV's Heritage Collection. The exhibit sets the scene for Lillie as a Mission to Seafarers volunteer in the 1920's and also a member of the Ladies Harbour Lights Guild, whose work supported the charity.

Reminiscent of an era when a seafarer had time to woo a lady, take a ride at Luna Park and, when whisked back to sea, keep in touch with letter writing. Lillie and her cousin Olive once danced and enjoyed tea and chats at 717 Flinders Street and no doubt this exhibition shares a glimpse into this vibrant little scene of Melbourne's social history.

The exhibition was officially launched in January at Docklands, *Library at The Dock* by Paula Kelly, Manager, Melbourne Library Service. Paula welcomed guests to the launch and the beautiful community facility and gallery space where the exhibition is displayed. *Continued page 2...*

717 FLINDERS STREET, A GROWING ATTRACTION

The Mission to Seafarers building, 717 Flinders Street was purpose built for seafarers and opened in October 1917. The facility welcomes seafarers daily and coordinates a variety of activities, supporting those who live and work at sea.

As the North and South Wharf have developed from the early days of vibrant shipping wharves to become a differentiated maritime hub of activity, the Yarra River precinct is now perfect for visiting ship's crews where everything they need is close at hand. Seafarers who have visited over more recent years can also see the progress of Docklands which has engaged a broader audience to the Mission to Seafarers Victoria (MtSV). Jointly The MtSV and the Victorian State Government ensure that the building's management and maintenance is sufficient to meet statutory heritage and other requirements. The MtSV has also implemented heritage policies and practice. Today the building has become a quiet delight to many who pass by and it has also become a growing place of interest. *Continued page 6...*



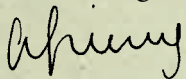


CEO's Message

In February this year I met with some shipping industry colleagues from Canberra. Our conversation rallied around seafarers' welfare and I was interested, in the realization shared by one colleague, at what a major role the MtS plays when seafarers are left behind in port after their ship has departed due to illness etc.

The attitude of the shipping industry agent is often true he said, "The Mish will look after them", and "why not?" I said, "as that is what we do". There is much that the MtSV staff and volunteers do day-to-day that shares small acts of kindness. Stories in this edition celebrate this and I hope you will enjoy them.

Sincere regards,



Andrea Fleming
Mission to Seafarers Victoria

Continued from Cover Page...

My Little Melbourne Girl

The exhibition launch was well attended and guests heard also from MtSV's Andrea Fleming and Catherine McLay whose talks expressed the on-going importance of human contact and communication, for those who live and work in isolated conditions at sea. Current ship port stays were described as being "less likely to include a stroll down lanes that make memories."

The MtSV Heritage and Arts Program is supported with very special thanks to Bendigo Wealth. This exhibition is a celebration of this work. Special thanks to all involved at *Library at the Dock* who have researched, curated and animated the collection and to City of Melbourne for supporting the same.

If you are interested to sponsor the MtSV Heritage & Arts Program please contact Catherine McLay curator@missiontoseafarers.com.au



BendigoWealth

Part of Bendigo and Adelaide Bank

BENDIGO WEALTH, MAJOR SUPPORTERS OF
THE MTSV HERITAGE AND ARTS PROGRAM

THE LOSS OF 7 POLISH AND 1 FILIPINO CREWMEN FROM THE VESSEL *CEMFJORD* AND FURTHER TO THIS, REPORTS OF 19 SEAFARERS MISSING OFF VIETNAM, WAS A SORROWFUL BEGINNING TO THE YEAR.

The *Cemford* was a Cyprus-registered cargo ship en route from Denmark to United Kingdom when she capsized in bad weather in early January. Just days later, two Filipino seafarers perished in the sinking of the Bahamas-flagged bulk carrier *Bulk Jupiter* and its 16 other crewmen are now feared dead.


Responding to the fear or fact of death at sea or anywhere for that matter, is more likely a chaplain's role at The MtSV and with over 20% of Australia's not for profit organizations operating as faith based charities, many of these are advocates for humanitarian causes.

At this time, MtS Cyprus Port Chaplain, Ken Wiseman is a voice of advocacy for the welfare of the families impacted by the tragedy of the Cypriot flagged ship. The death of those 23 seafarers and the

subsequent loss to their families is close to the minds of the MtS community, so too are the ship owners and their agents. Rev. Tim Tunley MtS chaplain from Edinburgh led a service for those lost.



CAPSIZED MV CEMFJORD - TAKING WITH HER 8 CREW. PHOTOGRAPH FROM WWW.MARINETRAFFIC.COM



MAITREYA LOVING KINDNESS TOUR

An exhibition of ancient and sacred relics from the historical Buddha Shakyamuni and many other Buddhist masters from Tibet, India & China

MELBOURNE AUSTRALIA

27, 28 & 29 March 2015

VENUE: The Dome Gallery, Mission to Seafarers,
717 Flinders Stree, Docklands, Melbourne, VIC 3008
Contact: Leanne Whitlock,
lwhitloc@net2000.com.au, +61 401 851 696

FREE PUBLIC EXHIBITION

Friday: 6pm to 8pm *Opening Ceremony Followed by Viewing*
Saturday: 10am to 5pm
Sunday: 10am to 5pm



Maitreya Loving Kindness Tour
www.maitreyaselictour.com
Facebook/MaitreyaLovingKindness



A visitor from the UK

Caroline McCarthy from the UK, was in Melbourne recently visiting relatives and via the City Circle tram, ventured upon the Mission to Seafarers (MtS). Caroline sits on the Port Welfare Committee as part of Watch Ashore (Merchant Navy) for the North and North East of Scotland. She knows only too well about the work of the MtS.

Caroline's husband Bill McCarthy was a seafarer and he spent time on the Australian New Zealand run in the 70's. He visited the MtS in Melbourne a number of times. Bill was an engineer in the Union Castle Line and was later with OOCL that eventually became known as Maersk Line.

When Caroline learned of the MtSV Heritage & Arts Program, she was very excited and ensured

that we knew how valuable these assets are to our organization.

Bill Reid, MtSV Melbourne Operations Manager was able to pass on his regards via Caroline to Rev. Tim Tunley Ship Visiting Chaplain in Edinburgh (mentioned in article above) whom Bill had met when on holiday in his homeland in 2013. Being part of a global community in support of seafarers is shared and enjoyed on occasions like



CAROLINE MCCARTHY AND CREW FROM THE MAERSK BRATAN
ANTHONY, JACINTO AND JEFFEREY

these, also made special in the meeting of colleagues.

Whilst visiting the Mission, Caroline McCarthy met crew from the *Maersk Bratan*, Anthony, Jacinto and Jefferey. Working for

the same cause on opposite sides of the globe, Caroline shared sadness for the crew of the ship *Cemford* which for her, was a tragedy close to home, and for the other seafarers also recently lost at sea.



Ship Visitor *Garry Gangway's Journal.*

One of the joys of being a ship visitor is the surprise that enlivens hearts.

This story started at the MtSV Flying Angel Club when Nico Gruenanger visited during his time backpacking around Australia wearing his Duckdalben tshirt. It transpired that Nico was a ship visitor with Seemanns Club Duckdalben in Hamburg. Duckdalbe is German for Mooring Post, a most apt name for a Seafarers Mission.

Having expressed his interest in visiting a ship here in Melbourne, the necessary permissions were obtained, and before long Nico and MtSV and ship visitor Tony Correll were ascending the gangway of container ship *UASC Jubail*.

Whilst they were chatting with the crew in the mess, motorman Joel Fernandez looked at Nico and said, "I recognise you." On comparing notes they realised that they had met in Hamburg harbour when Joel

was on the *Bella Schulte* and Nico was visiting his ship. How cool is that?"



NICO GRUENANGER AND JOEL FERNANDEZ
ABOARD *UASC JUBAIL*

THE MISSION TO SEAFARERS THANKS HELEN MACPHERSON
SMITH TRUST & PORT OF MELBOURNE CORPORATION FOR
SUPPORTING THE SHIP VISITING PROGRAM.
THIS WORK BRINGS PEOPLE TOGETHER.

City Light

Nestled away in the heritage-listed Mission to Seafarers building complex is the beautiful St Peter the Mariner Chapel where on Sundays a little church community called City Light Methodist Church (CLMC) meets.

With a congregation numbering around 80 people, Sunday Worship Services are conducted in 2 languages: English at 11am; Chinese at 5pm (中文主日崇拜: 下午5点钟). Additional programs include 'Basic Christianity' classes for those wishing to explore the Christian faith, Bible Studies, Small Groups, Youth Groups, as well as periodic special activities like Musical Nights, Mooncake Festival, Day Trips, etc.

Rev. Ling has recently taken on leadership for the congregation. Born of Chinese descent in Sibul, East Malaysia he moved to Australia in 2006, and with his wife Madalene and their four children has been warmly welcomed. Rev. Ling has expressed his support for The MtSV Ship Visiting Program. It is not unusual for Chinese crew to speak very minimal English and for this reason, the work of CLMC's Pastor Peter Yung has made a difference to their stay in Melbourne.

Christmas at the Flying Angel Club

The Flying Angel Club welcomed 61 seafarers for Christmas day. It must be curious for those who did not 'grow up' in the tradition of Christmas, to find themselves immersed in the celebration and sacred significance of the day.

The lighting of the Advent candle is a custom that translates well for seafarers, as Christmas acknowledges Christ as being the light that came into the world, as a gift of God, and the reason for the festive day. Certainly the tradition of singing and sharing a good meal is universal and this was uniquely shared also by those seafarers on that one special day.



LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE IN ST PETER THE MARINER CHAPEL ON CHRISTMAS DAY



RICK STONEHOUSE, PRESIDENT FIRST FLEET FELLOWSHIP VICTORIA (LEFT)
& BILL REID, OPERATIONS MANAGER AT FLYING ANGEL CLUB

A generous gift from The First Fleet Fellowship

Members of The First Fleet Fellowship Victoria at their Sunday 21 December meeting generously gifted the Melbourne Flying Angel Club with a defibrillator. The gift was presented by Rick Stonehouse President, to MtSV Operations Manager Bill Reid. Julian Cosgrave, National Sales Manager of Australian First Aid gave a demonstration of use for the machine.

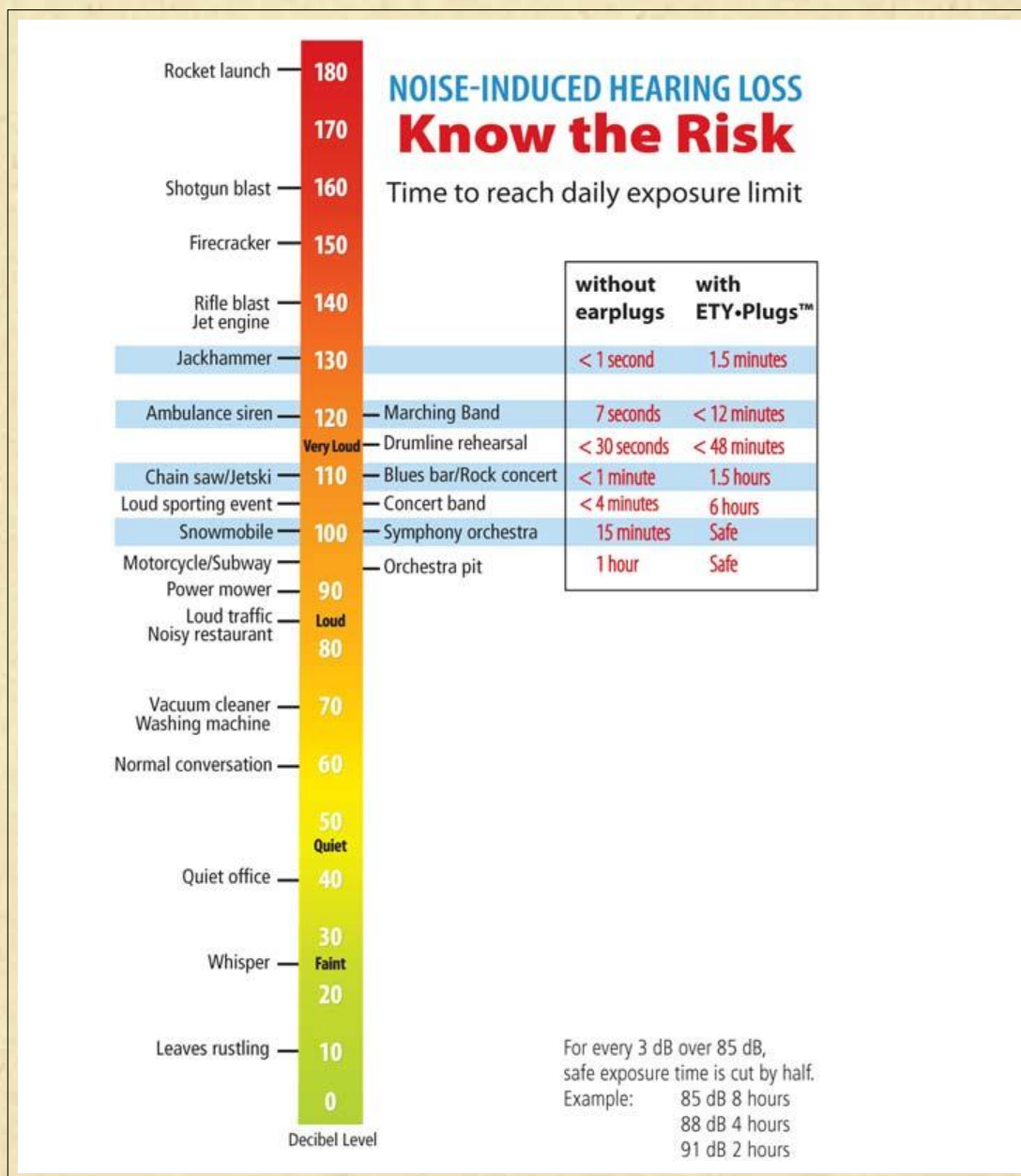
NOISE LEVELS ONBOARD

Noise and vibration onboard ships will be addressed in the construction of new ships, with the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) promoting protection for seafarers from damaging levels of noise and vibration.

From 1st July this year new ships will have had to comply with a revised IMO code, in line with the new MLC (2006) Convention. The code outlines the mandatory maximum noise level limits for machinery operations onboard ships.

The IMO recognizes that even moderate noise and vibration can affect comfort and also impact performance in the workplace. New ships will be constructed with noise reduction, and for seafarers finding themselves working in the future with reduced noise we hope that the incidence of noise induced hearing loss will decline. It is also anticipated to reduce incidences of body vibration syndrome. Both related illnesses can cause long term distress for seafarers.

In April last year new regulations were issued by the International Maritime Organisation (IMO), the seafaring agency of the United Nations, advised shipping companies to reduce noise levels on ships. It was also determined that low-frequency marine noise actually vibrated in such a way that is also impacting on marine life and the ability of some species to orientate themselves, disturbing the mammal's frequency and communication.



Continued from cover page...

717 Flinders Street, a growing attraction



THE MTSV 'S SECRET GARDEN. PHOTOGRAPHED BY BIANCA : WWW.CHERRY-PIE-PHOTOGRAPHY.COM.AU

The Mission to Seafarers Victoria (MtSV) building is a growing treasure, welcoming in all seasons, and is particularly beautiful in summer. The cool of the garden and the charm and character of the building do not excuse the building's call for some TLC.

Restoration and adaptation plans need to be agreed on and also supported by a wide variety of stakeholders. The plans aim to ensure efficient service delivery and sustainable building operations into the future.

The MtSV Executive team is working with consultants from

Context Pty Ltd, and have been better informed of its custodial obligations related to the heritage of the site and its museum collection. As work to identify the best social, community and commercial mix of activities is still underway, so too are plans now being considered for the building's centenary year, 2017.

If you are interested to make a donation in support of the Mission to Seafarers please contact Cheka Samaranayake via email at accounts@missiontoseafarers.com.au All donations are tax deductible.

Is there ever a dull day at the Mission?

As one excited volunteer told the story.

When two chicks dropped from the roof of the dome into the back courtyard of the Mission and efforts to catch them, with the cheer of visiting onlookers, to return them to their nesting place on the roof, was under the watchful eye of mother gull. It is fair to say that we will all be relieved when the wings of these little ones are strong enough to allow them to fly up and out without so much fuss!



INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING?

CONTACT BILL REID:

BILL@
MISSIONTOSEAFARERS.
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INCLUDING SOMETIMES
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“ MY NAME IS MARK HART

I AM A BRITISH 2ND MATE IN THE MERCHANT NAVY AND IN MY LEAVE I ENJOY VOLUNTEERING AT THE FLYING ANGEL CLUB MELBOURNE

The Mission to Seafarers (MTS) has been an important charity to me throughout my career and in some ways is the reason I am still at it. I first went to sea at 18 years of age, joining my first ship in Bridgetown, Barbados as a fresh faced Deck Cadet. The ship was P&O Cruises' - *Arcadia*, and she was on the Caribbean and Mexico run. At first, I had a whale of a time; I got to see and experience so many amazing things. However after around 3 months of graft and having missed my first Christmas with my family, I became quite despondent about the life I had chosen.

Then the ship arrived into Port of Spain, Trinidad and quite near to the port gates I saw a Flying Angel Club. After entering I was greeted by a friendly volunteer, who I explained my predicament to. She chatted with me and told me about the services that the Mission provided. I was able to get a \$5 phone card and a private booth to phone home. At the time sat-phones on the ship were ridiculously expensive and the call quality was pathetic and it hasn't really improved much in 8 years! Anyway, being able to phone home and have some encouragement from my parents stopped me from packing in the job.

It is a bit of a long drawn out story, however the moral would be that the life at sea is actually pretty rough and the MtS provides seafarers with essential services in a safe and comfortable environment. That is why I like to give my time in my leaves to try and help as many seafarers as possible who arrive into Melbourne.

I have had previous experiences with the MtS in the UK, however as a fund raiser. In 2012 I rowed 300km on a rowing machine, during a 28 day trip aboard a Platform Supply Vessel in the North Sea. I managed to raise £1300 in generous donations from friends, family, shipmates and my company at the time. On the back of that challenge, I was privileged enough to do a reading at the Christmas Carol service in St. Michael Paternosters, London.... where I got to meet HRH Princess Anne! ”

A chance meeting and a visit back to a familiar place



JOHN CURREN VISITS THE MTSV AFTER A WHILE

Andy and Paige who recently joined the MtSV Crew 717 Social Club membership, wish to pass on this small story.....

In 2001, Andy and Paige spent some wonderful days with a group of people kayaking the pristine waters of the Ningaloo Reef off Cape Range National Park (near Exmouth) on the Western Australia coast. One of the people in the group of kayakers having so much fun was John Curren of Perth.

John and his wife Claire recently visited Melbourne on the Australia Day long weekend and caught up again with Andy and Paige for lunch. While chatting over lunch John mentioned he and Claire had been sight-seeing in Harbour Town and he was so pleased to see a street had been named *Rakaia Way*.

John explained that he spent his early adult years as a ship's engineer, and in his formative times visited Melbourne for the

first ever time in 1968 while sailing on the New Zealand ship *Rakaia*. He said seeing the street name took him well back in memory and he eagerly tried to ably describe Docklands as it was then.

Andy and Paige then asked if he recalled visiting the Mission to Seafarers while in Melbourne and when John said he did he almost fell off his chair when we pointed out the nice restaurant in which he was having lunch was a short distance across the river from the Mission.

After lunch we then all visited the Mission and John enjoyed again walking through the lovely old building. Above is a photo of John taken in January this year just outside the front door.

Thanks for sharing this story Andy and Paige!



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

The Maritime Porthole welcomes Lyn Beattie alongside resident artists Robert Lee Davis and Min Simans

Lyn Beattie joined artists in residence Robert Lee Davis and Min Simans on the Maritime Porthole Gallery team in September last year. Lyn is an emerging writer having her first novel recently published. *One Tree in the Garden* (by L.T. Beattie) is a story about courage, love and destiny in an ancient kingdom. Her second story in this series is currently under creation at The Porthole Gallery. It is entitled *A Woman and a Fisherman*.

Lyn has made her first book available to the Mission to Seafarers at the Porthole Gallery and the Flying Angel Club shop at 717 Flinders Street, to help raise

funds for the work of supporting seafarers and is planning a writers workshop. Robert and Min have fostered a great space and their recent works are on display now. So encourage these crew and contact Lyn to sign up for her writers workshops or speak to Robert about getting some friends together for a watercolour workshop and be creative!

Contact via email:
porthole@missiontoseafarers.com.au for further information.



THE Maritime Porthole Gallery
A Community Arts Project
Supporting Seafarers' Welfare



IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN GETTING INVOLVED WITH THE PORTHOLE GALLERY AT DOCKLANDS OR PERHAPS YOU ARE INTERESTED IN TOURS TO VISIT 717 FLINDERS STREET, CONTACT CURATOR@MISSIONTOSEAFARERS.COM.AU FOR FURTHER DETAILS.



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