



2018 ANL Maritime Art Prize Opening Night at Mission to Seafarers



The Opening event on October 4th for the 2018 ANL Maritime Art Prize was a vibrant and successful night.

The Exhibition comprised of the 86 finalists, painstakingly selected from over 330 entries, and encompassed a broad range of subjects and artistic techniques, from traditional water-colour to collage and illustration, all addressing the maritime theme.

Over 250 guests were treated to wines from the *Blue Pyrenees Estate* and delicious canapes from *The Catering Company*. The night brought together a diverse intersection of maritime artists, award sponsors and representatives from shipping industry, art buyers, philanthropists and other Mission to Seafarers supporters with the common purpose of celebrating the ANL Maritime Art Prize winners and recognising the purpose of the Mission in its support of seafarers' welfare. The Awards were presented in four categories on the night, with the People's Choice Award awarded from votes on the 25th October, with a total prize pool of \$26,000.

Our judging panel this year were Graeme H Williams, David Milne and Catherine de Boer. They were impressed with the high standard and diversity of entries. "The theme - 'The Relationship of Humanity and the Sea' attracted a diverse response of work ranging from traditional to contemporary mixed media. The winning works resonate with an outstanding level of creativity in response to the Brief. They were evocative, and showed a great deal of ideation and originality."

Chairman's message



They enter Port Phillip Bay majestically and purposefully, these ships operated by the great shipping lines of the world – Maersk, MSC, COSCO Shipping, K Line, NYK and the rest. They berth, unload and reload, and are quickly on their way again.

Their crews have but a brief few hours away from their vessels, if they're fortunate enough to be granted shore-leave. MtSV send ship visitors (including the Mission's Chaplain), to see crew who cannot get leave. For those who can leave their vessels, we offer a bus ride into the Mission, our hospitality and the chance to communicate with family at home, or the chance to shop in the city.

It is our honour to provide this service to the seafarers, on behalf of the community of Melbourne.

The Port of Melbourne is Australia's largest general port, by some margin, and more than any other factor it makes Melbourne the centre of Australia's goods economy. It is a cornerstone of our prosperity.

So it is doubly appreciated by us when shipping lines, stevedores, port and shipping government authorities, and port and shipping businesses sponsor our work. It means, amongst other things, that they understand what we do - that they see that we in turn, deeply respect the work of the maritime trades, and the efforts of seafarers in particular.

The annual ANL Maritime Art Prize and Exhibition continues to be a wonderful vehicle through which the shipping and ports world provides sponsorship, and we celebrate those relationships.

Award sponsors in 2018 include ASP Ship Management – with whom Mission Vice-Chairman Nigel Porteous previously worked - and DP World Australia – for whom Board member Bilal Ali Khan is a senior executive. Other award sponsors are Viva Energy Australia and the Mission's ever-patient legal adviser, Peter Nevile and Co. A wonderful demonstration of respect for the maritime spirit came in the brief speech by Ben Moke, presenting the DP World Australia award.

Major and lead sponsors include Rightship, GAC, Maritime Super, AMSA and Svitzer. Event and other sponsors include Kalmar, Braemar and Willenius Wilhelmsen.

But for sustained commitment to our work for all seafarers through the Maritime Art Prize itself, we cannot sufficiently express our appreciation to our major sponsor ANL. It is so gratifying to see the commitment made by John Lines as ANL Managing Director over so many years has continued in his retirement to be become ANL's Chairman, amongst other significant roles.

We hope that in the years to come, ANL's great example, and that of other sponsors, will be taken up by all of the shipping and ports' enterprises engaged in the Port of Melbourne. We will certainly be looking for opportunities for them to do so.

Neil Edwards AM

Art Awards Paparazzi



Annual Seafarers' Memorial Service

The 111th annual Seafarers' Memorial Service held jointly with the Royal Australian Navy (RAN) and Master Mariners, was held in St Paul's Cathedral on Sunday October 21st, Trafalgar Day.

The Service was instigated by the Mission in 1907, involving the newly formed RAN as a commemoration of the Battle of Trafalgar, and has been held on the nearest Sunday to that date ever since. This year the Service also commemorated the Centenary of the end of World War 1.

The Service is co-ordinated by the Mission with input from the RAN, and Master Mariners.

Together with Vice Chairman Nigel Porteous, Capt Neville Daniel, and Capt Grahame Keys, both former Port Phillip Pilots and RAN Reserve officers, represented the Master Mariners, and Commander Terry Makings AM, RAN (Rtd), President Naval Association of Australia, represented the RAN, in the planning and delivery of the Service.

The Service also included detachments of Naval Cadets from four Victorian Training units within *HMAS Lonsdale* Flotilla based at the RAN training facility *HMAS Cerberus*, led by Lieut Michael Carroll ANC, and were accompanied by the RAN Band and the Guard of Honour from *HMAS Cerberus*.

The Naval Cadets, paraded the ceremonial flags of the Mission to Seafarers, Merchant Navy, and RAN Associations, together with a variety of National and shipping company flags at the commencement of the Service, followed by the RAN Guard of Honour.

This year representatives of Consuls from Japan, Indonesia, New Zealand, and USA, were in attendance, with senior members of Melbourne City Council, Coastguards, Stella Maris Seafarers Centre and many others representing Seafarers' organisations.

The Guest of Honour, Commodore Greg Yorke CSM RANR, Senior Naval Officer Victoria, laid a wreath during the Service, in *"Remembrance of all Seafarers lost at Sea"*.

Other participants in the Service included Cmdr Luke Ryan RAN, Commanding Officer *HMAS Warramunga* (in Melbourne for Navy Week,) the Rev'd Kate Lord Chaplain RAN *HMAS Cerberus*, who delivered the Sermon. MTSV Chaplain Onfre Punay, and Cmdr Terry Makings AM RAN (Rtd), read the Lessons, and Neil Edwards AM, Chairman MTSV, Capt Ian French, Master Mariners, Bishop Jeremy Ashton, (ex MTSV Board member), and RAN officers read prayers. Two RAN Cadet PO's read the ODES, "To the Fallen", and "To Our Sailors" during the Act of Remembrance

Cadet CPO Emily Murphy from Cadet Unit, *HMAS Barwon* read a moving poem titled *"Who Are These Men"* which was written by Jodie Johnson, aged 11 years, at the commencement of the Service.



Rev'd Inni Punnay at St. Paul's

Naval Cadets' flag procession



Volunteer Profiles:

Gordon MacMillan: Heritage Committee Chair

I think I was born with the sea in my blood as both my grandfather and uncle were seafarers and both visited Melbourne at some stage in their careers. My family also spent holidays on the island of Islay on the west coast of Scotland and a lot of time was spent mucking about on boats and watching ships passing the Orsay Lighthouse on the way to and from Canada.

I attended Paisley Grammar School and then the Glasgow Nautical College. I joined Port Line Ltd as an indentured apprenticeship and that started my connection with Australia and Missions to Seafarers around the world. I was mainly on what was called the MANZ run which plied between the eastern seaboard of the USA and Canada to Australia, New Zealand and Asia.

I attained a 1st Mate's Certificate and then immigrated to Adelaide with my "new" wife Margaret in 1969. Unfortunately not much call for seafarer credentials on land so I went back to study to gain a Bachelor of Business. I worked with Xerox in Adelaide and transferred up to Sydney into Marketing.

It was in the early 1980's that I moved into the market research industry which I remained in until retirement. It was a great business to be in and I was involved in social, Government and tourism projects in the main and held various management positions. In the mid 80's we were transferred to Melbourne and have lived here since.

I met Nigel Porteous, who was also Port Line, a few years ago and that is how I reconnected with "the sea". I have been a Volunteer with Jay in the Heritage Group and in March, this year, I had the opportunity to do a curatorial internship at the National Maritime Museum of Australia which was an "amazing experience". Recently I have become Chair of the Heritage Committee where we are planning our Heritage Centre and the theming of our stories throughout the building. Exciting times and the work being done by our Volunteers is much appreciated. It is good to be back, where I started, amongst the seafaring community of the world.



Notes from the Garden: Spring 2018 *By Maureen Scoble, volunteer*

Spring at last and doesn't everything look fresh and green? Despite our record lack of rain it is amazing that we have such lush growth. In case you are not a plant nut I have to tell you that September had the second lowest rainfall ever recorded. We had 16mls of rain in Melbourne when we usually have about 58 mls. For our poor farmers that is devastating. At least I don't rely on my garden to survive financially.

Our garden at the Mission is progressing well. I have used plants that I grow at Avondale because they are what I know. Some I think have failed and that is probably because the soil is very different. At Avondale my soil is heavy, volcanic soil. At the Mission it is very sandy. Sandy soil actually repels rain so I have put down lots of Wetta Soil so when I water (or it rains!) the moisture actually can penetrate the earth. Many of the things I planted last year are now doing well and will flower soon. We do need more height along the fence line and I have planted things that will get as high as the wall or higher. I put in 2 weeping bottlebrush and a Snowball tree. Also along the back of the border are a couple of big salvias. One is called Black Knight and it gets to about 2 Metres as does Salvia Confertifolia (coral

colour). The magnificent "Wedding Platform" with trellis roof now has several climbing plants growing alongside it. In the not too distant future I can imagine a couple actually asking to be married on that platform and it will be because those wonderful sea captains made the roof for us! Under the Peppercorn trees I have opted for a scarecrow until we decide the fate of the ships anchor and propeller. He does add fun too! Hope you are enjoying lots of long lunches in the garden now the weather is getting warmer.



The MTSV Heritage Collection:

Start Point Light, Devonshire: a painting from the Heritage Collection.



Start Point Light, Devonshire has quite a story behind it – the painting was discovered in storage around a decade ago, under the stage in the Mission building. It was badly deteriorated and even had dart holes through the canvas! Even without knowing its story, (that's emerged through recent research), the Mission decided to have the painting professionally restored and conserved.

Research conducted as part of our 2018 digitization project has revealed that the artist Madeline M. Lewellin, the painter of this seascape, was born in 1854, studied at the National Gallery School in 1879 and in 1918

was a wonderful hard working member of the Ladies Harbour Lights Guild when she donated this painting. A talented botanical painter specialising in fungi she also had a fondness for and interest in the sea and ships and, perhaps, seafarers! Examples of her work are also held by the State Library of Victoria and a medal for oil painting is held in Museum Victoria.

It turns out this painting that evokes the drama of the seas is highly significant to the MtSV, and we are thrilled to have it on display in the Celia Little room.



The Mission is actively seeking volunteers to take up a number of roles and one off jobs to help us keep the Mission a vibrant and happy place to welcome seafarers. There are no age restrictions!

Trivial Pursuit

Q1. When the sun is over the yardarm what is it time to do?

Q2. We all know what it's like to not have enough room to swing a cat, but why are we trying to swing a cat?

Q3. What day was it considered unlucky to commence a voyage?

Q4. 'Dragging the chain' is a common saying but what does it mean in seafaring terms?

"Garry Gangway's" Journal

Greetings from the old country

"Garry" and I decided that, as a ship's visitor, I should know more of a seafarer's life than what I learnt in the crew mess of the ships we visited.

To enhance my knowledge, therefore, we have embarked on two cruises. Firstly, together with my wife and two friends, to obtain a feel of what it is like to manoeuvre a boat, we have hired a 70 foot long Narrow Boat from Canal Cruises in Stone, near Stoke on Trent, and are cruising the canals of Stafford-shire and Cheshire. 7 days into our two week cruise I believe I have the boat going where I want it to go, and can bring it competently into a mooring berth without adding too many

more scratches to its hull. I believe too that, with over 50 locks (both up-stream and down), under my belt I should have my canal tourist's Chief Mate's ticket by the time we return the boat to Stone.

After 5 days R and R in London we are joining the Sapphire Princess at Southampton to cruise via the Mediterranean to Singapore. As the longest journey I have made by ship was from Fremantle to Rottnest Island and that in a force 6 gale, I am looking forward to experiencing, in a sort of way, the environment in which the seafarers I visit have to live and work, well minus, the force 6 gale!



In the 38 days and 17 shore excursions I hope to contact the seafarers' centres in each of the ports.

Until next issue of Ship to Shore,
bon voyage!

Tony Cornell is a Ship Visitor

Our foreign visitors

Please consider them this Christmas

Help us to take care of the Seafarers that come to our shores. Especially this Christmas!

Imagine being away from your family and loved ones at Christmas.

The Seafarers that come our Mission are of all faiths, nationalities but one thing is common – they all love a good time. Christmas is a time of giving and sharing with those around us, but that sharing is not limited to those that we love and care for. It is also for the person that we have never met and will never see. Those that are not so fortunate in their lives as we are and that could use a helping hand.



We have many crews who will be at sea on Christmas day. Others who will be in Port, others stuck out in the bay as anchorage is cheaper than being in port. How about a present for these Seafarers?

We know they all love chocolate, chips, nuts, and something for their families when they get home. Would you like to contribute to a special parcel for the crews? Please let us know what you would like to contribute as we will be packing boxes on the 17th of December, so that parcels will be ready for opening on Christmas Day.



*Image: Christmas Parcel 1943
– From MtSV Archive.*

Chaplains of the Mission:

Reverend Charles E. Gayer (b.1864 – d.1935)

Charles Edward Gayer was born in 1864 on a pastoral property at Corowa, NSW; one of several in the area owned by his father, Robert. Robert Gayer had left his native Ireland in the 1840s and, after a short stay in England, moved to the colonies.

He spent time in Tasmania, NSW and Victoria and became a magistrate and member of state parliament. He returned to Ireland to marry Sarah Charlotte Fetherstonhaugh in 1863 and the couple had 9 children.

Their eldest son, Charles Edward, left to study theology at Trinity College, Oxford where he graduated in 1886 at the age of 22. He returned to serve at parishes in Victoria. He married Alice Peck in 1891 and had one daughter, Crystal Hermione.

His longest posting was to St Mary's in Sunbury from 1899 to 1911. He is pictured here taking tea with his wife and daughter in the garden of the vicarage at Sunbury. St Mary's is 150 years old and was the setting, in 1873, for one of the society weddings of the year when Ivo Bligh, captain of the first cricket team to tour Australia, married locally born Florence Morphy. Florence was among and, possibly the leader of, the group of ladies who presented Ivo Bligh with an urn containing "the ashes of Australian cricket" at Rupertswood after the English cricket team had won the first two of their three test series - and so a tradition was born!



In 1914, Rev'd Gayer was asked to serve as assistant chaplain to Rev Gurney Goldsmith at the Missions to Seamen. He was based at Port Melbourne where he and his family contributed much to the care of merchant seamen visiting Melbourne during the war years. They would also have been involved in collecting books, and home comforts to be given to merchant seamen plying the dangerous waters between Europe and Australia. They would have seen troop ships leaving station pier and the wounded returning.

Much, too, was happening at home with the Seamen's Institute undergoing major renovations including the addition of a chapel. These works were carried out during 1915 and were commemorated by a plaque which can still be seen from the pavement set into the footings of the original building (now an apartment and restaurant complex) on the corner of Beach Road and Nott St.

Rev'd Gayer was transferred in 1917 first to Darebin then to Blackburn, where he spent the last ten years of his working life. However, the family kept in contact with the Mission by choosing our St Peter's Memorial Chapel as the setting for the marriage of Rev'd Gayer's daughter, Crystal, to Harold W Wilson, "chief officer of the steamer *Hymettus*" in 1919. There were photos taken in the courtyard and garden and a reception held upstairs in the officers' room. The couple settled in Blackburn from where they held events supporting the Mission.

Alice died in 1930 and Rev'd Gayer married again in 1931. He moved to Malvern where he died 4 years later. He is buried with his wife, Alice, daughter, son-in-law, and grandson in a family plot at Box Hill cemetery.

By Ros Fletcher, Heritage Volunteer



*References:
Ancestry.com
Annual reports and "Jottings" from our
archive*

*Thanks to Mrs Elizabeth Hoskin, great
granddaughter of Rev'd CE Gayer, who very
kindly shared many treasures from her family
collection.*



Helen Macpherson Smith Trust

Digitisation Project

In late 2017, the Mission to Seafarers, Victoria sought and received a funding grant from the Helen Macpherson Smith Trust. The goal was:

- To carry out an intensive digital photography project documenting images, selected key documents and collection items awaiting cataloguing and produce a guide and manual for volunteers.
- To provide paid work experience for a new graduate returning to the workforce

In early 2018 I commenced part-time in the position of project officer managing a primarily digital photography project to produce a minimum of 500 items to improve the quality of the visual database of this rich maritime heritage collection. A recent graduate with a Diploma in Library and Information Studies with Victoria University, and also with volunteer experience in digitisation at the VCA-School of Film and Television. Former experience with studio photography, meant I could offer a good match of old and new skills.

Now halfway through 2018, this fulfilling project meets my interests in cultural heritage and history very well. At this stage we have produced over 700 digital images of the collection. This includes some multi- page key documents that they can be more easily reproduced preserving the fragile originals. The next part of the project is to focus more on producing a manual for other volunteers to expand this work.

I am improving my workplace English and learning more about Melbourne and Australia (I'm originally from France), and with my family as Docklanders for nearly 7 years, I am discovering more about this suburb and understanding more fully its maritime past.

Working with the MTSV curator and heritage officer Jay, is a fantastic opportunity as she has great knowledge and experience in her field. I'm learning a lot about historical collections, their care, handling, storage, preservation and conservation.

The Mission's complex of buildings is a beautiful place and I love meeting the passionate volunteers who often share their knowledge and stories that have a link with the Mission itself or the maritime world in general.

Geraldine Brault



Everyone has a story to tell

Tell us your MtSV story

Memories are made of this, yours, mine and all that each of us try to hold on to and care for. Do you have a story or memory in your family archive about the Mission?

As the centenary of WW1 draws to a close many communities have been encouraged and inspired to gather and preserve vulnerable and precious personal and collective memories and the stories that relate to or were generated during wartime. Some memories and stories have been placed in official repositories such as our important national and state 'treasure houses' of memories, stories, and histories.

From the mid 19th C from the waters of Hobsons Bay to the shores of Port Melbourne and Williamstown, much experience providing for seafarers over more than a half century had already been gained, and by 1917 our new building at 717 Flinders St was opened ready for another century of operation.

During our centenary year there has been a marked rediscovery of connections, a linking of stories to family names and names of ships in our Archive. This has helped us preserve and build on these links. Many friends and supporters and some complete strangers have brought us gifts, stories and images that have enriched our organizational history and clarified perspectives. Contributions such as these have helped us make sense of the 'jigsaw' that tends to be the story of any venerable organization.

As a result, our heritage archive volunteers today are busy researching these links further and helping us to 'map' the Mission timelines and activities. For example; listing and identifying the heritage properties and locations, many being regular venues for picnics and outings on special days such as new year and boxing day. This helps us link the owners to the families who helped the Mission. Families such as the Forges, generous owners of the famous stores, whose daughters regularly organized concerts and events to entertain and fundraise.

We know more now of families such as: the Darvalls, and the Macphersons, the Ducketts, the Frasers and the Northcote's, the Outhwaites, the Rentouls, the Simpsons, the Tracy and Godfrey and Oliver families, to name but a few very important connections.

It has been wonderful to meet and connect further with some of the descendants and relations of these families in 2018.

Listed in our archives are hundreds of family names of volunteer members and supporters, many essential to

the actual running of the Mission services to seafarers onshore. They contributed subscriptions and entirely voluntary work which was instrumental to

continuation of services. The parallel establishment in the early 20th Century of auxiliary LHLG member networks across the state and beyond were vital to the cause of seafarers. These state-based groups may have been distant from the harbor and real harbor lights but as local 'beacons' these advocates were acted as important reminders of the work of the merchant and naval services for those communities distant from the coast and all things seafaring.

As a repository and with a historical and heritage archive still being catalogued, and put together as a film, it has become clearer that in many ways the MTSV also played an integral role in supporting some key areas of business development and the evolution of Melbourne as a major trading port and State capital. The sea has always been key, and this is recognized on Melbourne's coat of arms, displayed on Princes bridge for all to see.

Not only does the Mission aim to preserve stories but it aims to reconnect the many citizens who helped us to transition to the present, and continue services to seafarers. We would like to re-connect with and acknowledge the many communities across Victoria that were once part of our network of support.

The Christmas holiday period can often be a time for reminiscences and exchange with family or friends' histories. We welcome any contributions of these you would like to share about your family links to the sea and especially the Mission. Stories or facts can be verbal, written, a video message or podcast. Contact details see side panel.

Get in touch with your stories and images

Contact us on a special number and leave a message and the best time to get back in touch with you.

0421 972 069

If you have images you would like to share please email us at: admin@missiontoseafarers.com.au

If you would like to donate MtSV related items to the Mission's heritage collection, please contact us first as we have limited space to store artefacts.





ANL 2018 Maritime Art Prize & Exhibition

Art Prize Opening Event

(Continued from page 1)



The **2018 ANL Maritime Art Prize** (acquisitive) was awarded to **Joni Dennis**, for her innovative work, *'Age Aye Captain'*, depicting the tenacious women sea captains who command merchant ships.



The work is a mixed media collage, incorporating nautical charts, 24 carat gold and diamond dust that add depth and meaning to the image. Judges' comments of the winning work: "...celebrates female sea captains of merchant ships who travel the world. It is a multi-faceted portrayal of these ambitious women."

"I was inspired by the strength of the women, their ambition and their relationship to the sea, which at times must be challenging" said Joni, of her subject. The Award also acknowledges Joni's tenacity as an artist, as she has persevered with entering the Maritime Art Prize for ten consecutive years.



The **Nevile & Co Runner-Up Award** was presented to **Robert J Williams** for *'Rust In Peace'*, a serene water-colour portrayal of *HMAS Cerberus*, sunk as a breakwater in Half Moon Bay in 1924.



Williams won last year's Best Traditional award at the Maritime Art Prize for his work, *'Telegraph'*.

Judge's comments: "A fresh take on portrayal of the iconic *HMAS Cerberus* wreck. A softly nuanced, big impact painting with a restrained colour palette."



David Mann, Chairman of Docklands Studios

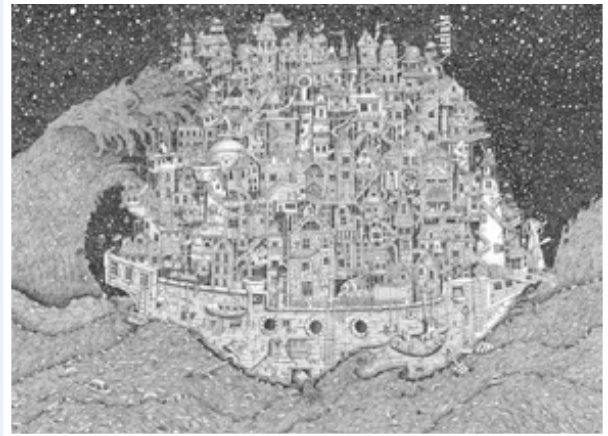
Thanks to all of the Sponsors, supporters, purchasers and donors to the Annual Maritime Art Awards and Exhibition as the event provided 10% of our annual requirements to run the Mission in Melbourne.

AWARD SPONSORS





ASP Best Traditional work this year was awarded to **David Rowe**. Rowe clearly has artistic talent, and says the oil painting, *"The Naval Mechanic"*, was a break away from his usual practice as a political cartoonist for the *Australian Financial Review*. Judges comments: "A highly skilled and executed environmental portraiture of a Naval mechanic in the belly of a ship, rich in its tonality and depth."



Jenny Laidlaw's *"Breaker at the Stern"*



The **VIVA Energy People's Choice Award** this year attracted a record number of votes and, amazingly, was drawn a tie between two amazing artists, Jenny Laidlaw, for *"Breaker at the Stern"*, and Donna Gibb's *"Spirit of the Sea"*. The winners were equally delighted and shared the \$2000 award prize.



Ben Tankard is this year's **DP World Emerging Artist**, for *'Unpopular Penguin 286'*, an interpretation of the cover of Penguin's literary publication, *The Odyssey*; about a mythical journey of Greek hero, Odysseus' through the waters of the Mediterranean Sea.



The Judges' comments: "a layered narrative, with intriguing references to man's 'Relationship to the Sea'. We felt it was a highly innovative response to the Brief."

Donna Gibb's *"Spirit of the Sea"*



Melbourne Writers Festival 2018

"A matter of life and death"



Over 2 weekends at the end of August and beginning of September, MtSV hosted a busy schedule of 27 events for the Melbourne Writers Festival (MWF). The theme of this year's Festival was 'A Matter of Life and Death'.

The various literary presenters explored the essentials of what it's like to be human – with expressions of impermanence, fluidity, love, loss, letting go, survival, acceptance, grief, celebration and joy.

Our building was a Festival hub, showcasing talks and presentations in the Chapel, the Main Hall, and the Norla Dome, with a pop-up Readings book shop in the Celia Little room. The program included conversations, a literary dance class, and an art school experience where visiting authors sat as subjects for Festival attendees to sketch. The Norla Dome was home to a team of tattooists for the duration of the Festival, available to ink punters' literary passions to their skin.

The Festival was a fabulous opportunity for the Mission to Seafarers to receive new visitors with between 450 and 500 people through the doors each day. We look forward to hosting the Melbourne Writers Festival again next year!



Merchant Navy Day

2018



September 3rd is recognised as Merchant Navy Day, and traditionally a Service is held at the Melbourne Shrine of Remembrance in memory of those seafarers who lost their lives in WWI and WW II.

This year Ian French, Branch Master, Nigel Porteous and Peter Verani represented the Master Mariners. Further attendees were, Paul Lacey, Ken Shewan, John Mansfield and Don Husack, former senior office bearers of the Merchant Navy RSL (Sub branch - recently disbanded), and Major Maggie Moore, a Governor of the Shrine of Remembrance. Other members of the public with Merchant Navy connections and their children also attended.

Commander Terry Makings AMRAN (Rtd), the President of RAN Commemoration Committee, acted as MC for the event and gave the opening address, followed by Paul Stacey, emphasising the importance of the occasion.

Reverend Inni Punay conducted the short service and read a moving poem for thousands of seafarers lost at sea, during the two wars. This was followed by a wreath laying ceremony, by Ian French, Nigel Porteous and Ken Shewan. The wreath laying was followed by the Merchant Navy Ode. Singing of the National Anthem and closing Blessing and Prayers concluded the Event.

On these occasions the Australian Merchant Navy flag is flown at the Shrine.

By Nigel Porteous, Vice Chairman



Maritime Stories: *An Historic Coincidence*

The passenger steamer *SS Warrimoo* was quietly travelling through the mid-Pacific on her way from Vancouver to Australia. The navigator had just finished working out a star fix and brought the Master, Capt John Phillips, the result. The *Warrimoo's* position was latitude 0 degrees x 31 minutes north and longitude 179 degrees x 30 minutes west.

The date was 30 December 1899. "Know what this means?" first mate Payton broke in, "we're only a few miles from the intersection of the Equator and the International Date Line".

Capt Phillips was prankish enough to take full advantage of the opportunity for achieving the navigational freak of a lifetime. He called his navigators to the bridge to check and double check the ship's position. He altered course slightly in order to steer directly onto his mark. Then he adjusted the engine speed. The calm weather and clear night worked in his favour.

At midnight the *Warrimoo* lay on the Equator at exactly the point where it crossed the International Date Line! The consequences of this bizarre position were many.

The forward part of the ship was in the Southern Hemisphere and in the middle of summer. The stern was in the Northern Hemisphere and in the middle of winter.

The date in the aft part of the ship was 30 December 1899. Forward it was 1 January 1900.

This ship was therefore not only in two different days, two different months, two different seasons and two different years but in two different centuries all at the same time.



Vintage Flying Angel Flyer

This old flyer for the Flying Angel Club can only be dated back to prior to the late 1980's by the six digit phone number for the Mission. It is written in Mandarin. Our volunteer and acting interpreter, Yuan, says it is advertising regular church services, prayer services and meals at the Mission to Seafarers. Even though it isn't incredibly old, it still arouses a sense of nostalgia in this era of sophisticated digital graphic design for its very handmade quality.

These days we have our flyers designed in Ukrainian, Cantonese and Tagalog!



Flying Angel Visit

My current employment with Woodside Energy, under secondment to the Angellicoussis Shipping Group, saw me arrive in Melbourne on the 9th of July to join the Suez-max Oil Tanker Maran Cassiopeia at Gellibrand Pier, in Williamstown.

I am the only Australian on board having signed onto the vessel as a Deck Officer. My primary goal to understudy the process of dealing with Crude Oil as a cargo, this being my first time joining an Oil Tanker. The Ship sails under the Hellenic flag and is manned by a mixture of nationalities, including

Greeks, Phillipinos, Romanians and now myself, the only Aussie.

It was my past seafaring experiences though, having spent some ten plus years in the Australian Offshore Industry working with Farstad Shipping that led me to contact and meet up with an old colleague and friend in Peter Barrow, former GM of HR for Farstad. Peter, with a group of now retired Masters, Engineers and shore based staff have formed "Offshore Specialist Ships Australia". A group, through mutual interest and unbridled enthusiasm have come together to preserve and promote the magnificent contribution of Specialist Offshore Ships to Australia's offshore energy industry.

coincidence and a pleasant surprise, the display put together by OSSA is now on display at the Flying Angel Seafarer's Mission.

An especially rewarding experience for me as I had worked on a number of the vessels on display, having a hand in delivering one of the vessels on its maiden voyage to the Australian coast. It was additionally fitting to have Peter walk me through the display as it was he, whilst in his HR role, who sent me to join each of these vessels. The historical building in itself, is a well worthy tribute to the proud seafarers that pass through its doors each and every day. The welcome and hospitality forwarded to my crew and I on arrival at the Seafarer's Mission was warm and inviting, allowing us a thankful break from our water borne home aboard the Maran Cassiopeia.

Thanks for having us!

By Ryan Cobb



With a break in our discharging operation, I with a number of the crew caught the Flying Angel's courtesy bus back to the Seafarer's Mission for some shore leave. As a

Ian Fletcher, Peter Barrow and Ryan Cobb at Flying Angel Club, September '18

The Blessing of the Fleet at San Remo

September 2018

A windswept jetty, a threatening sky and a band playing nautical airs. This was the setting for the “Blessing of the Fleet” at San Remo. Introductions were made then Rev’d Jo White, the local vicar, took over the proceedings. Prayers were said, “Eternal Father” sung, led by the local choir in fine voice, and “beanies” presented.

Rev’d Inni responded with thanks and said that he had noticed a damaged fishing vessel tied up to the wharf. He recalled a day over a year ago when he was on board a tanker which had collided with this vessel on its way into the bay. He remembered the day and the time and had followed the enquiry into the collision. Thankfully no one had been hurt. But it showed

how dangerous life at sea can be and the necessity of our work providing comfort and assistance to seafarers in port.

A bucket of water was blessed and we were off down the pier to bless each vessel in turn – even a young boy wanted his toy boat blessed!

Then it was up on to the foreshore with pelican feeding, market stalls, a “deckies race” and other entertainments – all part of the *San Remo Fishing Festival*. Rev’d Jo was particularly pleased to be asked to take part and was similarly insistent that we should be represented too. It is hoped that this will become an annual event.



The Global Fleet

Passenger ships such as ferries and cruise ships are usually used for national or international travel. General cargo ships are ships that can carry a range of different cargoes. Container ships carry most of the world’s manufactured goods, ranging from clothes to food to electronics. Bulk Carriers

transport raw materials such as coal, wheat and iron ore.

Tankers transport crude oil, chemicals and petroleum products.

To see how many vessels are at sea at any one time – take a look at *Marine Traffic* on the web at marinetraffic.com



Did You Know?

Ship Visits – an important part of our service

From Mission to Seafarers Headquarters London



In 2017, there were 2,611 seafarer casualties. The rate of suicide for international seafarers is triple that of shore workers, and they are 26 times more likely to be killed at work.

Incidents of piracy may have hit an 18-year-low at the end of 2016, but an increase in kidnappings in parts of Asia and West Africa, and the return of activity in Somalia (over 40 seafarers have been kidnapped by Somali pirates have been held for three years) shows the risks should not be underestimated.

According to the *International Chamber of Shipping*, there are 50,054 ships in the global fleet.

In 2017 the Mission made **65,000 ship visits**, encountering approximately **325,000 seafarers** on board their ships.

580,000 seafarers visited our seafarers centres globally.

Our Chaplains and volunteers transported **430,000** seafarers from ship to shore locations and we worked on **895 justice, welfare and medical cases**.

YOU MAY QUALIFY

The MtSV offers a 20% discount on venue hire fees to Community and Not for Profit Organisations.
Contact:
info@missiontoseafarers.com.au

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Our First: Annual Industry Trivia Night

By Alison CUSACK,
National President WISTA

In late 2017, I suggested the idea of a maritime themed trivia night to my fellow WISTA committee. Keen to share the organising burden I then suggested, why don't we partner with YSA to get more people to attend? Then I thought, well that's unfair, I know lots of associations, why not ask them all to come? 200 emails later, multiple pushed back target dates, Patrick (YSA Chair) and I approached the Mission and asked whether they would let us run a trivia night to raise money for the Mission. Suffice to say we got a yes!

We pooled our contact list and came up with all the organisations we knew and each table was tasked with filling a table of ten, and appointing a quiz master to come up with a round of ten maritime themed questions to ask on the night. We had the idea of getting each association up to present their round as a way of introducing their associations and getting some cross pollination amongst the associations. ICS went one better and recruited a corporate table, *Intertek* to join in the fun. Some rounds were incredibly hard (here's looking at you *Intertek*!) and best in house for the easiest questions was Jess Warren from *ICS*.

With a kind donation from *Blue Pyrenees Estate*, we had a bottle of wine to give away each round. So, for a small donation, we convinced everyone to put their business card into the running for a bottle of wine at the end of each round. This proved to be a popular tactic to raise money as everyone wanted to walk away with a bottle of wine. Mike Sullivan from *NTI* (sitting with the Quill Club) was also kind enough to donate a *NTI* beach towel and bag, which we gave away with our business card draw. It did however

confuse one poor *OSSA* member who excitedly thought he'd won a bottle of wine (sorry Peter!).

Another tactical move by tables was using their \$20 donation to pick a round for double points. Some were savvy, some were optimistic and some panic chose as I was running around collecting the \$20.

At the end of the night, I was sure despite the two horse race between *OSSA* and the joint *MLAANZ / CoMMA* team that we'd end up with a clear winner. Not to be and we asked both tables to appoint their champion. Chief Manager of the Mission Sue Dight gave them their tie-breaker question (non-maritime oddly enough) and Francis Castellino got the joint *MLAANZ / CoMMA* team home with his impressive knowledge on Madagascan lemurs.

All in all, we had a fabulous turnout of about 70+ people who partook in pizza, drinks (at the low Mission prices) and brain teasing maritime trivia.

It wouldn't have been possible without a small army of volunteers.

Special thanks to the Mission who believed in our idea and let us host them a fundraiser – Sue and Daria – Thank you!

Patrick Chan (YSA) - right hand man and pizza wrangler, Alex Evered (CoMMA / MLAANZ) - flyer producer and points tallier on the night. Jess Warren (ICS) for getting our corporate sponsor *Intertek* on board.

Jess Tomlinson (MLAANZ), Will Thomas (MLAANZ), Adam Billing (MMIF), Vanessa Rice (Quill Club), Richard Lowry (OSSA) and Xi Wang (WISTA) for assisting in all the various additional ways needed to put on an event this size.

And the most important fact:

We raised \$4700 for the Mission. We can't wait to come back next year and raise double!

For those of you who need to unscramble the acronyms:

- Women's International Shipping and Trading Association - WISTA
- Melbourne Marine Insurance Forum - MMIF
- Young Shipping Australia YSA (VIC branch)
- Quill Club
- Institute of Chartered Shipbrokers - ICS
- Offshore and Specialist Ships Australia - OSSA
- Company of Master Mariners Australia - CoMMA (VIC branch)
- Maritime Law Association of Australia and New Zealand - MLAANZ



Pic: Winners from joint MLAANZ / CoMMA team

DP World: A humanitarian insight

For those of you who don't know us, *DP World* is one of the largest stevedores in the world, operating container terminals in over 70 different locations globally.

Each week in Australia, we have around 25 ship visits calling at our terminals, each ship carrying seafarers whom we warmly welcome through our ports around the country.

DP World places safety at the absolute centre of everything we do. Safety to us is sacrosanct, and cannot ever be compromised within our business. We have a responsibility to provide a safe environment for all people in our terminals; not only the thousands of employees and contractors we have working on our terminals, but for the hundreds of seafarers who visit our terminals each and every day.

Now if you hold that thought for a minute; that it is our responsibility to keep the seafarers safe while they're in our ports; what about when the seafarer is the one who keeps us safe when they're in our ports?

We often hear about the hardships faced by seafarers. The complexities of life at sea. The tragic statistics, facts and horrific stories related to suicide rates for seafarers. One could be forgiven for jumping to the conclusion that seafarers must be miserable people. I mean if any normal person had to endure the hardships of life at sea then they must all succumb to the pressure at some stage. While all the statistics, facts and tragic stories are true, a year ago something happened to us at *DP World* which changed our perception of all seafarers from this day. To us, the seafarers are the unnoticed, unsung heroes of the sea.

Before I share with you the story of this day last year I'd like to pose a question: What type of person risks their own life, in a foreign land, to save the life of another person that they've never met?

On the 15th November 2017, I was phoned by our Company Secretary & Legal Counsel advising of a very serious, and potentially fatal incident that had occurred in our Melbourne terminal involving one of our employees. I am a director of the business and knew immediately, not only by the fact I was being notified by our Company Secretary, but also through the genuine

concern and tone in Jess' voice that something very serious has occurred.

At around 3.20PM one of our employees who was working onboard the NEMO vessel, the *Folegandros*, fell around 17 metres, striking mooring lines on his decent and breaking several bones in his body, before landing in the water between the vessel and wharf, unconscious.

International seafarer, Mr Paul Vijay who was on watch, immediately leapt to his rescue, sprinting down the gangway and jumping straight into the water between the vessel and the wharf. Meanwhile, one of our other employees who saw Mr Vijay jump into the water also dived in to help.

The two rescuers managed to pull our unconscious and seriously injured employee's head above the water and bring him back to consciousness. They then lifted him onto a plastic stretcher, deployed by the ship's crew, so he could be safely lifted out of the water.

Without question, had Mr Vijay not acted so swiftly and without regard for his own wellbeing, we faced the very real prospect of losing a comrade that day. Our employee is still on the long road to recovery, but if not for Mr Vijay that day, a father, brother, mate, husband would have been lost.

So to answer the question I posed earlier, for me, for all of us at DP World, the answer is simple: a seafarer. Someone who faces hardship every day. Someone who knows and treasures better than most, the value of another man's life, is the person who will risk their own life to save another's.

If you could all please join me in raising a glass to toast the true, unsung heroes of the sea, and especially Mr Paul Vijay, a real hero.

"To the heroes of the sea."



Ben Moke, Exec Officer of DP World delivers his heartfelt speech at the launch of this year's ANL Maritime Art Prize

THANK YOU!

MtSV can only continue its work with the support of donors.

Thanks to our amazing Beanie knitting teams!

Even though it is warming up in Australia, seafarers travel through all kinds of inclement weather at sea, and our beanies are valued.

Donations from:

St Dunstons - Camberwell

Holy Spirit Mothers Union Watsonia - Elsie Store

Country Women's Association - International Support Committee Chair - Faye Glover

Joyce Fletcher from Drouin

St Eanswythes Anglican Church, Altona

The Ladies of St John's Anglican Church, Soldiers Hill, Ballarat

We also have had requests for very simple gloves. They allow the seafarers to go about their work and are an easy introductory pattern for novice knitters.

"Knit a square of 20cm x 20cm. Purl, plain or cable if you are feeling fancy. Stitch it up into a cylinder leaving room for the thumb to pop through, about 6 or 7cm from one end. Just ensure when you cast on and off it is tight, so they don't unravel."

Or:-

Watch on youtube here:-

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AvNWmpW9D0w>



Letting your Legacy live on

Leaving a gift to The Mission to Seafarers in your will is a wonderful way to celebrate all the joy in your life by supporting those who sacrifice so much for us at sea.

Your donation will help the team to be there when seafarers need them most. You can help us to fight for the rights of abandoned seafarers, to care for victims of piracy, to give advice and help to support the seafarers experiencing the mental strain of life at sea.

A gift of any size will make a real difference to the 60,000 seafarers to Melbourne who risk their lives to bring us the vital goods we need to survive.

Please contact Sue Dight to find out more about leaving a tax deductible gift to The Mission to Seafarers Victoria in your will by emailing: info@missiontoseafarers.com.au

Our work is valuable to the seafarers away from their homes:
Please continue to Support our
Mission -
We THANK YOU!

CREW 717 Social Club Membership

For just \$1 per week your membership helps the Mission provide services to those who work at sea.

Membership benefits include:

- Discount on alcohol at the Mission to Seafarers Bar
- One guest ticket to the Members' Private Preview Evening of the ANL Maritime Art Prize and Exhibition
- 10% discount on venue hire and event packages including Norla Dome or Celia Little Room for private dinners, parties and corporate seminars; and St Peter the Mariner Chapel for weddings and other ceremonies
- Free use of the BBQ in the Spanish style courtyard (booking required)
- Invitation to the annual Seafarers Service at St Paul's Cathedral in October
- Copy of "Ship to Shore" magazine
- Regular member promotions, discounts and events

Join now and your membership is valid for 12 months.

missiontoseafarers.com.au/product/crew717



Trivial Pursuit Answers

A1. Have a morning drink. In northern latitudes it was assumed that the sun would show over the ship foreyard by 1100 hours.

A2. To punish someone. The 'cat' is the cat-o'-nine-tails and you needed plenty of room to swing it to produce maximum effect.

A3. Friday. It is believed that this superstition originated with the fact that Christ was crucified on Friday.

A4. Lengths of weighted chain used to slow and bring to a brake a ship that has just been launched.



**Caring for Seafarers
in Victorian Ports since 1857**

It has been a busy year at the Mission with so many people committing to ensuring our seafarers have their 'home away from home.' It might seem that in these busy times we have forgotten why we are here with so many other people frequenting the Mission for so many different events, but as a place of hospitality, we are designated to provide a warm welcome to all.

We thank all of those who have come and discovered and or exposed the 'hidden' gem that is the Mission. The Melbourne Writers Festival, Open House Melbourne, National Trust Heritage Festival, our own Historical Tours, the industry people holding events, the weddings, the funerals and the general public – all who through coming to the Mission gave back in donations, fees or publicity.

As we embark on a busier than ever Christmas period at the Mission, think of the Seafarers that have delivered to you your coffee beans, your clothes, and kept our economy moving with exports.

Have a safe and Merry Christmas and we look forward to seeing you all at the Mission again very soon.

Sue Dight
Chief Manager.

Dates for your diaries:

17th December – Packing Seafarers' presents

25th December - Christmas Day. 11am Service followed by a casual 'Pot Luck' lunch.

RSVP to admin@missiontoseafarers.com.au

26th January - Australia Day

Contact our Events Manager, Daria Wray, at daria.wray@missiontoseafarers.com.au to discuss hosting your best ever Christmas function!

The Mission building adds an instant talking point for your guests for its quirky architectural wonder. We have full kitchen facilities and a very reasonably priced, fully licenced bar and are happy to accommodate your needs.

For further details email:

marketing@missiontoseafarers.com.au

or keep updated via the website and Mission to Seafarers Victoria Facebook & Instagram pages:



[facebook/missiontoseafarersvic](https://www.facebook.com/missiontoseafarersvic)



mts_vic

Seafarers' centres

Melbourne

717 Flinders Street
Docklands VIC 3008

info@missiontoseafarers.com.au

Opening hours

10am to 10pm – 7 days.

t. +61 3 9629 7083

Geelong

MTS Flying Angel Club
7 The Esplanade
North Shore 3214

t/f. (03) 5278 6985

Hastings

Bayview Rd (PO Box 209)
Hastings 3915

t. (03) 5979 4327

f. (03) 5979 4676

Portland

PO Box 538
Portland 3305

t. (03) 5523 2776

f. (03) 5523 5590

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All donations over \$2 made to MtSV are tax deductible

\$25

supports the provision of phone and internet services for contact with home

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\$50

will support emergency night call-out to help seafarers in distress

\$100

will support the upkeep of MtSV on-shore facilities.



Caring for Seafarers
in Victorian Ports since 1857

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