



Ship to Shore



MISSION TO SEAFARERS VICTORIA Inc.

CARING FOR SEAFARERS IN VICTORIAN PORTS SINCE 1857

AUTUMN EDITION : 2020

Harbour Lights - the documentary

By Lucinda Horrocks, producer, Wind and Sky Productions



In 2018 Wind and Sky Productions was invited by the Mission to Seafarers to create a short documentary film about the little-known story of the Ladies Harbour Lights Guild (LHLG) and its connection to the iconic Mission to Seafarers building and to the lives of seafarers during the First World War.

Part of the inspiration for the project was the rediscovery in 2007 of a near-forgotten set of dusty old boxes stored under the Mission's stage. The boxes were filled with documents and photographs related to the activities of the Ladies Harbour Lights Guild from its foundation in 1906 to its demise in the 1960s.

unique images. In recent years a dedicated team of volunteers and staff at the Mission had been gradually digitising, identifying and cataloguing the records. Through their research they had discovered that the construction of the current Mission building at 717 Flinders Street, particularly the building of the Memorial Chapel, was paid for in large part by the fundraising efforts of the LHLG during WW1.

The archives also revealed that the LHLG model was a homegrown invention, pioneered in Melbourne in 1906 and exported to Missions around the world. "The Ladies Harbour Lights Guild is an untold story and has some national significance, we think", said Jay.

These early 20th century records, and the expertise of the Heritage team, would form the core of our film. We felt especially drawn to the story of Ethel Godfrey, the founding leader of the LHLG and a formidable

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As the Mission's curator Jay Miller told us, this treasure trove was unique. "Very often you'll find an archive, but the miracle here was that we found a whole collection of period images from the very start of the 20th century, which correlated with the opening of the building in this location."

The Mission Heritage team had long held the dream of having a film made which would feature those

We may have had to postpone our public events @MtSVMelbourne due to COVID-19, but not our services for seafarers.

Crews are just as worried as we all are so we are keeping the Mission open and the buses are still running from here in the Docklands to the ports.

**WE ARE OPEN AND
NEED YOUR SUPPORT -
PLEASE DONATE NOW!**





Chief Manager's Message

Thank you for your ongoing support

It has been an interesting time at the Mission over the last few months. From holding Christmas events with up to 500 people in the building, to 80 seafarers visiting us on Boxing Day, and now the pandemic of COVID-19.

In 1919 when the Spanish influenza pandemic was sweeping the world, the Missions stood firm and continued to care for the seafarers as much as they possibly could, even putting themselves at risk. We know much more about viruses this time round, so as we wash our hands, keep our distance; we make sure that the seafarers have their home away from home. Protocols are in place to protect our volunteers, the team and the seafarers who are already quarantined by

the long journeys that they take to reach our shores.

Over the last few years we have been working towards ensuring we have a sound financial model of sustainability for our Mission, and that has been by opening our doors to the general public, our corporate partners, as well as the seafarers, and they all contribute through holding events, taking tours, and enjoying the atmosphere that we provide here at the Mission as a place of hospitality. With the virus closing down activities that we have been using as fundraisers we now find ourselves asking our friends, our corporate sponsors and you our readers to assist us to keep the doors open for the seafarers.

Your donations at this time will mean that the Mission will not have to close early, close on the weekends, and limit our services. Please help us by making a donation either online or via the form on the back page - even the cost of printing the newsletter and postage would be appreciated.

Thank you for supporting the Mission in Melbourne.

Sue.dight@missiontoseafarers.com.au



Celebrating the recent launch of the *Habour Lights* film at the Mission

Neil Edwards AM And the Hon. Robin Scott MP, Minister for Veterans who launched the film.



Ajith Jayasuriya, MtSV, Rev'd Inni Punay, MtSV, Rev'd Un Hui Tay MtS - Sydney



Bishop Gary Nelson MtS - WA with Graham Miller MtS - Townsville

Weathervane Restoration Complete!

by Daria Wray

With thanks to a grant from the Victorian Heritage Restoration Fund, donors, and long-time supporters, we have finally restored the Mission's weathervane.

The weathervane is included as part of our building's heritage significance on the National Heritage List, as 'contributing to the unique aesthetic of the building, and holding historical, and educational significance for the local Victorian community.'

The restoration work was carried out at the Grimwade Centre by master craftsmen who assessed its condition, organised structural repair to the compromised components, cleaned the surface, removed old coatings, and applied a layer of microcrystalline wax to protect the surface.

Additional work was undertaken by Gordon Byrne, who is highly regarded for his architectural and decorative wrought iron design and construction. Known for his attention to detail and meticulous planning, we were fortunate to meet Gordon last year when he participated in the 'Practice Makes Perfect' exhibition which was held at the Mission, as part of the National Trust's Heritage Festival.

Pictured here is Site Foreman Ben Jarvis, of Stokes Rousseau, securing the weathervane back to its pride-of-place on our roof.



To coincide with The National Trust's Heritage Festival, The Mission is hosting an exciting exhibition of trades people and artisans with displays and demonstrations.

PRACTICE MAKES PERFECT

Artisans' Guild Australia covers a wide variety of different crafts which have a long history. Some are practised in their traditional forms, others by way of restoration; while a number have a contemporary aspect and/or reinterpretation.



Harbour Lights - the documentary *cont'd from page 1*

fundraiser, event manager and networker, who led the Guild from 1906 to the mid 1930s.

Ethel Godfrey and the archives of the Mission were a good start. But we needed more. Documentary making is often mostly about research, and this is where I came in, as Wind and Sky's main researcher. I sifted through different archives and collections, seeking images and footage of shipping and Melbourne, particularly as it related to Victoria's experience of World War 1. Eventually we would accumulate over a thousand photographs and many hours of footage relating to Melbourne's history of seafaring.

We also needed storytellers to help us shape the film and explain the themes. What was Melbourne like on the eve of World War 1? Why was the Mission built here in 1917? What was the seafaring world like for sailors in the middle of the First World War? And why had the work of the Ladies been forgotten over time?

Urban historian Dr Chris McConville painted us a word picture of life in harbourside Melbourne in the early 20th century, a world of activity and diversity. "It's this constant movement of people, movement of shipping, movement of goods onto lorries and in and out of the city, and then passengers hustling off ships and trying to get on to a train at Flinders Street or Spencer Street railway stations..." he explained. "...so it was really the hub of people moving around and hustle and bustle and goods being exported and imports coming in and all sorts of traffic", he said.

Gordon MacMillan, Chair of the Mission to Seafarers Heritage Committee, helped us understand the seafarer's perspective a hundred years ago when the First World War impacted commercial shipping. Merchant ships were especially vulnerable to U-boat attacks and mines and had little defence against attack. "There are stories of the sky being lit up by ships exploding", he told us. Seafarers lived in continual fear of the risks. "The thing of being at sea, and you're being attacked, you can't step off the ship because if you step off the ship, you go into the sea".

So, war brought additional hazards to a community of ships' crew who were already exposed to danger as part of their everyday work. This made the Mission's purpose and the efforts of the Ladies Harbour Lights Guild in that period very important. "The people of Melbourne knew they had to continue to support seafarers who were risking their lives and were coming into the port and up the Yarra into the city," said Gordon.

By the outbreak of the war in 1914 a Mission building had already been built on the Yarra waterfront to support the hundreds of sailors visiting Melbourne every day. But due to harbour works the Mission had to relocate, meaning a new Mission building had to be constructed. "Because it was built during the war," Gordon explained "there was built into it from the very beginning commemoration of Merchant Navy and Navy people who were lost during the First World War."

Yet though the LHLG were crucial to the Mission's construction in 1917 and to its operation in those sad war years, by the turn of the 21st century memory of their efforts had faded. Historian Professor Kate Darian-Smith helped us understand why. "Voluntary work is often not given its full due in the same way that paid work is in a wider workforce, and women were very, very active", explained Kate. "I don't think it's often fully recognised just how much they contributed to support for the troops, and sailors, and merchant seamen, and how they were very important through that work in maintaining morale, and it's really an often forgotten story but absolutely crucial story for Australian women and for the Australian war effort."

Though memory of the Ladies faded, we still have the Mission to Seafarers building itself, which encapsulates the early work of the LHLG and the experience of seafarers in its bones. As Victorian State Architect Jill Garner explained, the building is "...an intriguing remnant of a past that we've actually lost. We've lost where this sits. We still have the Yarra River. But we don't really have the docks working in the way they did." At the same time, she says "It's pretty extraordinary that it's still sitting here and still doing exactly what it was built for the day that it was opened. That's really rare."

Put together, we had a pretty incredible, though big, tale. We had many images and capable storytellers and the skeleton of a story about a building, a war, a group of seafarers, a network of women and a Mission a hundred years ago. What else did we need to bring the story to life?

Script. Working with our close-knit working group from the Mission to Seafarers and drawing on the expertise of a brains trust of experts who generously gave us their time, we developed a script which teased out the elements of the story and shaped it into a form. The narration would be brought to life by the warm, rich voice of Sharon Turley.



Music and sound. We invited the respected composer Associate Professor Richard (Rick) Chew to create music based on his response to the history of the Guild and seafarers. The result was a set of beautiful, alternatively haunting and uplifting pieces for piano and harmonium. Director Jary Nemo, who also edited the film, integrated Rick's work with evocative original music from the period, played on scratchy, ancient records. The effect is lovely.

Film. Our storytellers had been interviewed, but what else could we record to bring the film into the present? We went on several filming adventures, capturing amongst other things a bird's eye view of the Mission today, surrounded by a sea of traffic, a day in the life of the Mission with a tour being shown through, a quiet moment of calm for two modern day seafarers still using the building as it was designed to be used, and a day at the port as container ships come and go.

Edit. Together with our storytellers, narrator, the archival stills, footage, music and some judicious sound effects, Jary would create a seventeen-minute film, formed

through a series of emotive and reflective vignettes which takes the viewer on a journey from the past to the present.

It's hard to describe just how much work we did to put it all together. It was a big job. We relied on much help and goodwill from a talented group of collaborators. There were stops and starts. Sometimes we made a wrong turn in the story and had to start again. Some things we thought would work didn't and had to be abandoned, and some things we happened upon through chance were magical.

But the end product, I think, was worth it.

And there you have it. The work done behind the scenes. Now it's time to show it to an audience.

~

'Harbour Lights - Women with a Mission 1914-1918' can be viewed on our website missiontoseafarers.com.au



Photos: Dr Chris McConville, Jill Garner



By Simon Burton, Ship Visitor



‘In 2018 my vessel was sailing from Kwinana, Western Australia to the Middle East. We were sailing against a storm. The Indian ocean was so rough. I was on the bridge alone on watch. It was daybreak. Out of the dark horizon a perfect rainbow appeared. Its glorious beauty deeply affected me, and this moment changed my life.’

Life Beyond the Storm

Constance Nengovhela is a truly unique and inspirational seafarer. She is a third officer currently working on the *IVS Sunbird*, a 177-meter bulkship owned by Singapore based company *IVS/Grindrod Shipping*. Constance is also the founder of ‘*Life Beyond*’ Group that she describes as, ‘an inspirational clothing label with apparel designed to appeal to seafarers and beyond.’

Constance is South African. She comes from Ha-Mashau, a rural village in Limpopo Province in the north of the country, far from the sea. ‘Our family was broken and poor. My siblings and I lived with my father. He worked for the department of agriculture in another region so we kids bought ourselves up.’

Constance loved school. She was a good learner and was the top student when she matriculated (completed year 12). However, she didn’t know what to do next.

‘Looking back at my life in Ha-Mashau, it was like we lived on another planet. I had graduated but had never even seen a computer!’

‘The expectations of young women in my patriarchal community were very low. Betrothal, raising a family and working in the fields was what lay ahead for most young women in the village. Nobody took any interest in my future or gave me any career advice. I applied to a university in Johannesburg to study economics because I thought that this could eventually lead to a job with the government. I naively enrolled but had no hope of paying the fees and soon had to drop out. I went home and became very depressed.’

‘Eventually I picked myself up and started applying for any scholarships available. I found one with the Transnet National Ports Authority in Cape Town who were looking for cadets to be trained as maritime officers for port operations. Tug Masters and Pilots. Importantly the cadetship was fully funded, so I applied. I was accepted and without ever seeing the sea or being able to speak English, packed my luggage and caught the bus to Capetown.’

‘My first year included basic training and academic studies. In the second year we were assigned as trainee Deck Officers aboard the vessels of the international shipping company Grindrod. I obtained my CoC License in July 2006 and a year later I joined the De Beers Group Marine who have offshore mining operations at the mouth of the Orange River situated in North Western South Africa. The position of Navigation Officer aboard a coastal vessel was more family friendly as it offered monthly rotation. I enjoyed being a Navigator Officer, a great deal. However, my family wanted me to quit the sea and get a “regular job”. I did, and found employment with the government administration in Pretoria. However, my family was still disapproving. Essentially, because I was a woman who always loved education and desired to have a fulfilling career. In 2017 I made a very difficult decision. I returned to seafaring but it resulted in a period of estrangement from my family.’

‘So, *Life Beyond* started with that rainbow appearing out of the storm. It gave me a smile again and I started taking life one-day-at-a-time. I believed in the smile and started to heal myself. I started talking with my fellow crew mates and listening to their personal concerns. Common themes emerged; monotony, loneliness and longing for loved ones. These themes prompted me to formulate questions. How can seafarers support each other? Is there a way to get inspired about our routine daily tasks?’

‘I didn’t consider myself a particularly creative person. No experience in the arts, but I came up with an idea. I wondered, what if I could wear something that would inspire other seafarers? Then, while on watch, I sketched my first piece of clothing that incorporated an inspirational message for my fellow seafarers. “Life beyond gangway watch”. The idea was to use clothing to empathise with my fellow seafarers. To make them smile about some of the hardest duties they had to perform. I also wanted designs that would attract the attention of non-seafarers while ashore. To pose a question, start a conversation.’

‘Now I visualise designs and concepts all the time. To me, the motivation underpinning ‘*Life Beyond*’ clothing seems so obvious that I am amazed that no one has done it before!’

‘All over the world the Mission to Seafarers are so important for the seafarers. When we visit them, we don’t always want to rush around a city or go to the

closest shopping mall. Often, it’s just to relax. Just sit with a coffee. Sometimes you can make conversation, a new friend. However, I noticed that there aren’t many items, apart from souvenirs, that are related to seafaring available to purchase. I thought. Why not create a business model that partners with the Missions so that seafarers can easily purchase apparel that they can be proud to wear. Especially female seafarers who virtually live in uniform or overalls. Each purchase could simultaneously generate funds for the Mission to Seafarers with a percentage of profits being donated to the Missions so that seafarers themselves can contribute towards their own collective well-being’.

‘Today, *Life Beyond* apparel for seafarers is available world-wide online. I’m really proud of the website. It is the culmination of so many new skills and technologies that I have had to explore, use and streamline. It would be great to eventually see my clothes in mainstream retail outlets so that the general public can also ask themselves ‘what is, ‘*Life Beyond*?’’. It’s so relevant to everyone.’

The *Life Beyond* logo is Constance’s latest design. It represents a wave with the phrase ‘*Keep On Rolling*’. She says, ‘it means; whatever you do in life, don’t give up, just keep moving. At sea the horizon is endless’.



Visit: <https://shop.lifebeyondgroup.com/>

This article is also featured in ‘*Seafarers of the Mission*’ – an ongoing project featuring editorial and images by Simon Burton. Visit simonburtonproducer/myportfolio.com/

Harbour Lights and a Lasting Inspiration - the Memorial Chapel of St Peter

by Jay Miller, Heritage Manager

Between 2016 and 2017 the centenary of our heritage listed Mission building was recognised with several in-house events. A permanent exhibition was installed in 2016 summarising the early Mission, the Chaplains, and the existence of the Ladies Harbour Lights Guild (LHLG). A century on at the Mission it was clear though that many of the achievements of the women of the early LHLG and their efforts had somewhat faded from memory. Many early LHLG individuals contributed much to the Mission, Melbourne and the State of Victoria and especially during the Great War.

Australia was still a newly federated nation at the time of the world war of 1914-1918 and Melbourne was a thriving metropolis that boasted a city coat of arms clearly indicating the main sources of wealth and prosperity. Trade boomed, only made possible via shipping; thousands of ships, with settlers, migrants, gold diggers and seafarers passed through the busy wharves of the Port and docks of Hobsons Bay from the 19th century onwards. In the 21st century this interface with the sea and ships and seafarers is kept at a distance. Many Melburnians only think of shipping when there is a hold up at the docks, or perhaps when a cruise liner arrives, or they choose to cross Bass Strait or take a ferry to Williamstown.

Many regular merchant ships and their crews made good use of the Mission's onshore facilities from the 1860s onwards. With the outbreak of war in 1914, the new compact fleet of the Australian naval force was called into action. In addition many merchant ships were requisitioned and called on to perform a crucial

role with logistics, shipping troops, horses and goods to and from allied countries.

Memorials were doubly important for a community distant from the major conflict of WWI as they provided some comfort for a community physically distanced with no chance to tend a grave. With his important study and survey, *Sacred Places*, historian Ken Inglis made us aware that the practice of creating memorials underwent a considerable change in the 19th and 20th centuries. Ordinary members of the community played a bigger role in the evolution of monuments; the victories of rulers and generals gave way to remembrance structures more inclusive not only of those who sacrificed their lives but all who had participated.

By 1916 it is clear in the Mission Annual Report and newsletters that there was a *determination* that the new Chapel would be dedicated to the merchant seafarers facing the wartime challenges of submarines, mines and enemy ships. Memorial gifts are also recorded and acknowledged, often recalling apprentices, cadets and officers of ships and not forgetting members of the AIF known to the Mission and LHLG members and families.

The actual opening of the 'new' central Mission complex at 717 Flinders Street in late 1917 during the continuing global hostilities was patriotic for some, a poignant occasion for others. By the time of the 1917 opening, the funding of memorial furniture, plaques and windows had also been received.

In addition to the challenges facing the relocation of the central Mission the LHLG also answered competing calls of other worthy community wartime causes. They worked with local Australian Red Cross and French Red Cross and supported the Chaplain in his appointment to the Naval bridging camp in the Domain.

Visits by ships to port declined slightly but the LHLG took on increased hospital visits, they processed substantial amounts of mail and continued to provide packages of comforts for seafarers.

Mission services stats for seafarers 1914-1918



Literature packs of news magazines and books – were made up and gave pleasure to perhaps 10 times that number of seamen. Material in English French and Spanish was supplied.

Images from the film along with original source material from our archives

At the same time funds were also raised to renovate the Port Melbourne Mission, and the recruitment of new LHLG members and subscribers to the LHLG in branches continued across the State. The fundraisers for the new chapel were admired and respected.

The question for us in 2017 was how we could help others to learn about this memorial to merchant seafarers, and to understand the significance of this highly competent group of women who played such a big part supporting mariners during war and peacetime.

We thought that a film could act as a trigger to remembrance, not only of the seafarers and evoke the ambience of the old wharves of the Yarra River, but also remember a community and network of forgotten women working for a forgotten aspect of maritime service.

The Victoria Remembers program of grants was made available to the Victorian Community as a means of funding various ways in which an organisation or community could encourage remembrance by future generations. An audio-visual or multi-media production of some kind seemed to be most meaningful concept for audiences and visitors, both live and online.

To this end, the Mission applied for and was granted funds to produce a short film - something which would not only *remember* but would also *remind* us of the environs and times and context in which the 717 Mission community operated, especially between 1914-18. Wind and Sky and the Mission Heritage team worked hard to deliver the production *Harbour Lights* and we hope readers will find it of interest either online or during a visit to the Mission.



A Sunny Morning at Station Pier - a Volunteer's Reflection.

By Simon Burton, Ship Visitor

Last Sunday was a beautiful day at Station Pier. It was also unusual. I love the new site. It is a charming rebuild of the old take-away that burnt down some years ago. It could not be closer to the visiting ships and crew. After I opened-up for the day, I noticed that the Cruise ship docked was the *Majestic Princess*, the sister of the now infamous *Diamond Princess* at the center of the Coronavirus emergency in Japan!

The dock was busy with passengers and well-wishers. I noticed that most of the passengers were quite elderly. Throughout the afternoon I overheard many worried conversations about the epidemic. It seemed the only topic of conversation and as boarding time approached, the passengers gloomily said their goodbyes and trailed out to the waiting *Majestic Princess*.

The Crew Club itself was busy. Seafarers came to purchase mobile SIM and data top-up cards or use our free WiFi service. They generally gave very positive feedback about the club and thought it was, "...a very nice place to sit and relax". One young Seafarer, Nirya Kahoajiya came into the club to buy a SIM card. He said he urgently needed to contact home. I helped him with the English language online registration then he spent the afternoon at

the club on his mobile. He let me take his portrait before he returned to the *Majestic Princess*.

Later, at boarding time a male passenger came into the club. "Guess what?" he said, needing to tell someone. "The cruise has been cut short. We are sailing to Perth for five days. That's it. That's where it ends, in Perth! No Singapore, No Hong Kong! Not only have we (passengers) lost most of the cruise, but I arranged my own return flights. Already paid for, from Hong Kong! I kept checking with the agents to see if there was any chance of cancelling the cruise but they kept saying that everything is fine!"

After he left the club, I thought about the Seafarers who had visited. About how they must also be worried about their risk of catching Coronavirus, as some of the crew aboard their sister ship have. Perhaps they have friends or colleagues already in quarantine. Or worry for their loved ones at home. Or the likelihood that their contracts could be prematurely cancelled. No doubt they are watching this emergency unfold via their social media contacts.

I remember the beautiful art deco Missions to Seafarers building that was once at these docks and am thankful that we can once again provide real assistance to seafarers of cruise ships, especially during this worrying and uncertain period.



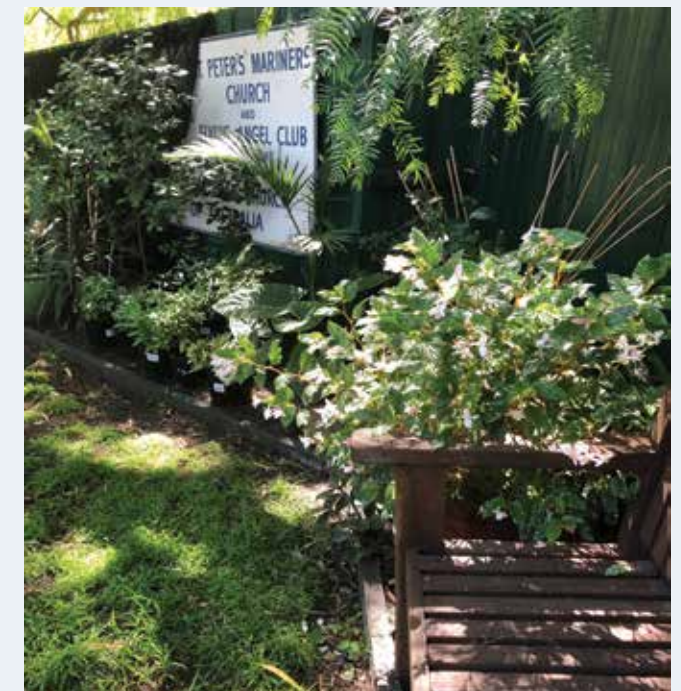
Notes from the Garden

by Maureen Scoble, Volunteer

What a year it has been...and we have only just started. After a really dry autumn and winter, we had a very wet January with over 100mls of rain, more than double what we usually get. At Avondale I had a maple tree that I thought I might lose but it looks recovered so I can only hope. In the Mission garden the only plants I lost were two that I had been keeping alive in pots. I had over 50 plants in pots over summer. Remember I had to dig out lots of plants last August because of the rendering of the outside walls? Most of them I took home so I could make sure they were well watered. I left the rest under the peppercorn tree at the Mission and they seem to have survived and once February is over, and we are well into Autumn, I will replant the garden.

I have been able to get some bulbs for free as well as a couple of new plants for trial. The bulbs are mostly daffodils and bluebells so next Spring should be lovely. I am the eternal optimist...I never think anything bad will happen! Those bulbs and plants will be perfect!

Last Autumn I planted a climbing rose over the wedding platform. It is still alive and has new growth, plus a couple of flowers BUT...it isn't climbing. I will give it a



couple of months and if it doesn't climb, I will have to replace it. Sometimes that happens although no-one seems to know why. I still have visions of splendour though.

As I write there is still some scaffolding in the main courtyard that I have to work around but the building is looking so much better, so it was worth all the effort.

Happy gardening.

Historical Notes from the Garden

by Jay Miller, Heritage Manager

Orchard House c.1909

In late 2019 the heritage team were delighted to make contact with researcher and landscaper Ms Sandra Pullman, who visited the Mission to meet with us and view the Mission garden. We shared information on yet another talented member of the Godfrey family, Frederica Godfrey, Ethel's sister (see lead article 'Harbour Lights - the documentary').

We knew Frederica (or Rica) had established the garden at the Mission, and MtSV's Geraldine Brault also discovered that she had actually studied at Burnley College of Horticulture where she was one of the inaugural female students to be admitted.

The first female graduate was Ina Higgins, eventual designer of Heronswood and subject of Sandra's thesis. Ina Higgins was connected with Orchard House in Malvern - one of the gardens where seafarers were welcomed in 1909 by the Higgins family for a picnic.



Sandra was not only very pleased to find a photograph of this garden, but she was able to at last identify Ina's previous mystery fellow student and friend 'Rica'. It seems that Frederica Godfrey was also something of a trailblazer in her own right.

Pause Festival Closing Night Party

by Daria Wray
photos Jess Middleton

More than 350 guests made their way across Seafarers Bridge from the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre to celebrate the Closing Night Party of 'Pause Fest' - one of the world's leading festivals for business and creativity.

Pictured here enjoying themselves amongst the conference attendees are a group of seafarers who safely navigated their way through the crowd. Every event held at the Mission helps to keep the doors open and support our work looking after the seafarers' welfare. More often than not, it also gives them a chance for social inclusion and to experience great Aussie hospitality too.



Ocean Dreams at Station Pier

By Tony Correll, Ship Visitor

"Such stuff of which dreams are made..." is my cheeky misquote of Prospero's words in Shakespeare's *The Tempest*, but the Crew Lounge on Station Pier is the stuff and fulfilment of the Rev'd Ken Rogers' long-held dream.

Back in August 2014, as Chairman of the Flying Angel Club Committee, Ken encouraged us to search for ways to extend our care of seafarers to the crews of the Cruise Liners that berthed at Station Pier in Port Melbourne between the months of October and March. His dream was of a pop-up centre to which the members of the crew, with very limited free time, could come and talk with their families back home. From his initial talk with the minister of the local Anglican Church, the committee sought ways to bring this to fruition, with very limited success until last year when we were invited to join a venture instigated by the City of Port Phillip.

We had visited Station Pier in the intervening years, seeking a way to materialise a centre and were excited to finally establish a pop-up centre last October (as featured in the Ship-to-Shore Summer Edition) but had to move when the space was no longer available.

On the hunt once again for a home away from home for the seafarers, we were drawn to a seemingly unused, 1929 building on the western side of Station Pier. Known as *West Finger Kiosk*, it became available at just the right time and we moved-in to our new home on Friday the 17th of January as guests of the Waterfront Welcomers.

A week after that, Ken and I happened to be at the Mission in Docklands at the same time and it was with great pleasure that I was able to bring him to see his dream as a reality.

My second photograph was taken the day after we moved in. Fifty-five crew members of the *Ocean Dream* (the highest number of visitors from a single ship) filled the kiosk to overflowing. How good was that! A ship called *Ocean Dream*, of such things dreams come to fruition.




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East Timor Reunion at the Mission to Seafarers

by Shaun Young, President, Police Overseas Service Association (Vic)

Late last year, the Mission hosted an event for the United Nations and Overseas Policing Association of Australia (UNOPAA) to commemorate the 20th Anniversary of Australian Police involvement in East Timor/Timor Leste. UNOPAA is a social organisation whose members are serving or former police officers from throughout Australia, who have or are currently serving with United Nations Peacekeeping Forces or on other overseas police operations.

Approximately 107 Victoria Police members served in East Timor through the International Deployment Group (IDG) and Australian Federal Police (AFP) between 1999 and 2008. It was fantastic to see such a large turnout of current and former AFP and Victoria Police members, their partners and supporters at the Mission to Seafarers to commemorate this significant peacekeeping mission.

Our thanks go out to the Department of Veteran Affairs who provided venue hire funding to ensure these events went ahead. Thanks also to Peter McDonald for arranging it. We also acknowledge the ongoing support of John Laird President of The Police Association of Victoria who provided funding support for the November reunion in Melbourne. Our thanks also to Sue, Daria and the staff at the Mission to Seafarers who have been long-time supporters of police veterans, particularly in hosting us on ANZAC Day.

The Melbourne reunion was a great mix of the East Timor, Cyprus and IDG operations who all turned out to support this event. It was great to see the VICPOL-AFP-ADF members renewing old friendships and for many it had been a long 10-15 years between drinks. The reunion was a great success and a healing experience for many of our colleagues.

unopaa.org

Melbourne Reunion for Myanmar Family

by John Winkett KSJ, Ship Visitor

Enjoying their lunch on board the *Parsifal* vehicle carrier of the Wallenius Wilhelmsen Line is this recently reunited family from Myanmar. Pictured here is the ship's captain, Soeyee, with his wife Khin Ngelnge, son Hein Htut Aung and daughter Akari Khine.

Soeyee's children are studying in Melbourne - Akari has just finished her degree in Business and IT at Swinburne and is now looking for work in Australia or, more likely, in Singapore. Hein is still at RMIT studying Civil Engineering.

The *Parsifal* was at Webb Dock West for just under 24 hours and it was a great opportunity for all the family to catch-up. Soeyee's wife was travelling with him and hadn't seen the kids for a while.

Soeyee has been at sea for thirty-eight years and is now the Captain of this amazing ship. The entire crew were from Myanmar, and both crew and officers have the opportunity to enjoy this beautiful dining room and other rest areas together, as there is no separation among ranks.



THANK YOU!

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

We offer our thanks to the following knitters, groups and organisations for their recent donations:

Beanies

- Ms Leslie Perkins
- Christ Church Old Cathedral, St Arnaud
- St Eanswythe's Church, Altona
- St Barnabas and Friends Mothers Union, Glen Waverly

We thank you and all the wonderful ladies who have generously donated their wool, knitting skills and time to our ongoing support for keeping seafarers' heads and hearts warm.



Donations - Books

- Bob Crain
- Zac Matthews

- Stamps

- Dr Imgard Bauer, Hyde Park QLD
- Tobin Bros Funerals, North Melbourne
- John Bell Mowing, Bouldercombe, QLD
- NSW Bar Association
- Wattle City Church, Maryborough



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 who come to Melbourne and 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: sue.dight@missiontoseafarers.com.au



For only 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

Renew or join now and your membership is valid for 12 months.

Our website has the full details: missiontoseafarers.com.au/product/crew717



Caring for Seafarers
in Victorian Ports since 1857

Seafarers Life

You might think your life is on hold at the moment, but imagine the monotony if you were stuck in the same place for up to a year!

The Happiness index noted that seafarers are not doing as well as in the past.

Happiest seafarers spoke of their pride due to the importance of their role as provider for their family, especially in giving their children a future and providing the best education and standard of living they can. Their sense of sacrifice in being away translates into positives at home as the seafarers are happy to do whatever they feel is best for their family.

Happiness when seafarers connect home is seen in the many smiling faces when the wifi or phone card connects.

We can postpone our events, but not postpone the smiles.

Keep up with what is happening on our social media or our webpage until our next issue.

Sue Dight
Chief Manager.

2nd officer Paata sharing moments of his son, uploaded on Facebook. We provided a SIM card on a ship visit yesterday, and it was the first time in months that he was able to access the internet

Dates for your diaries:

Keep an eye on our What's on Page.

Heritage Tours at the Mission

Saturday 11 April 11am
Thursday 23 April 10:30am
Saturday 9 May 11am
Thursday 28 May 10:30am

Led by our experienced volunteers, step inside and hear the remarkable stories of the Mission to Seafarers. Discover the original use of the Norla Dome, visit the Chapel and explore our hidden garden and sun-drenched Spanish-style courtyard.

Tickets via eventbrite.com.au
-search Mission to Seafarers

National Trust Heritage Festival - Sat/Sun 9/10 May

Next Wave Festival - Thu 21-Sun 31 May

Events at the Mission

Over the years, we've hosted so many wonderful and varied events - from weddings and birthdays, to theatre performances, exhibitions and live music. Every event helps to support our work looking after seafarers and maintaining our glorious heritage-listed building.



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

For Direct Deposit to our Bank
account Seafarers Welfare Fund
Bendigo Bank
BSB: 633 000
Account No: 133 811 216

Please put your surname as a
reference and email your details
for us to send you your tax
deductible receipt.
Name, Address, Phone and
email contact.

Looking for a unique venue for your
next event? Contact
daria.wray@missiontoseafarers.com.au

Donation form

Please accept my gift of:

☐ AU\$25 ☐ AU\$35 ☐ AU\$50 ☐ AU\$100 ☐ Other AU\$ _____

☐ My cheque is enclosed and made payable to: The Mission to Seafarers
Victoria Inc. Or

☐ please debit my credit/debit card: Visa/Mastercard (delete as appropriate)

Card number:

Expiry date: / CCV:

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Postcode: _____

Email: _____

Telephone: _____

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

Keep updated via the website and Mission
to Seafarers Victoria social media:



facebook.com/missiontoseafarersvic



[mts_vic](https://www.instagram.com/mts_vic)



[@MtSVMelbourne](https://twitter.com/MtSVMelbourne)

Website: missiontoseafarers.com.au

\$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.



Caring for Seafarers
in Victorian Ports since 1857

The Mission to Seafarers Victoria Inc
717 Flinders Street Docklands Vic 3008
missiontoseafarers.com.au
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