



Weather Vane Stolen!

Thieves hacked away the iconic and irreplaceable weather vane from atop of the Mission



Art Prize Launched

The MSC 20th Maritime Art prize entries open in May



Ship Visits Resume

After COVID lockdowns prevented the visits, we are now free to resume this valuable service.



CEO Farewell

After five solid years at the helm of the Mission, Sue Dight moves on. Her report on those years inside.



CEO's Update

It's been a privilege

The Mission: strong and vital to our Seafarers

It has been an honour and a privilege to serve here at the Mission in Melbourne. The huge responsibility that it is was never lost on me but I know I leave the Mission in better shape than before.

From 2017 I have engaged and grown the Mission community from a small arts community to a broad base with representative groups across many demographics, cultural groups, arts and specialized member groups.

- Rebuilding the relationship with the National Council, Missions around Australia, the UK, the port welfare committee, Stella Maris and the Church.
- Grown the social media profile of the Mission organically to spread the word of our work and events.
- Delivered the 100 years celebrations of the building.
- Implemented the total restructuring of the IT Systems from hardware to software.
- Generated, and executed grants valued over \$300,000
- Delivered a film documenting the history of the Harbour Lights Guild
- Developed a Heritage program to add to the commercialisation of the Mission
- Oversaw a 2.5 million renovation of the Mission buildings without

interrupting services to Seafarers.

- Provided continuous work to a workforce by pivoting the business and a safe venue during 2 years of global pandemic
- Worked with the Chair to strengthen the Boards impact
- Waitressed, mopped floors, pulled beers, reassured seafarers, drove the bus, swept the courtyard, shopped, carried brides dresses, delivered covid tests, held volunteers hands, told ghost stories, and loved every minute of it.

It is with relief and regret that I am leaving at this time as I have spent 7 years of my life here. It is a mere blip on the timeline of the Mission, but I hope one of impact.

As we come out of Covid, which has been a tough couple of years, I leave the Mission with a clear path forward for the next five years.

In my time here I've made 1000's of decisions and not all were right but I feel that with where we are at moment, none have disadvantaged the Mission. There have been some big moments and I am happy with all those calls. I don't have any regrets prioritising the seafarers, welfare, the staff, the volunteers, the Mission – it's brand and place.

To all of the team and that have supported me and to the volunteers who have done everything ever asked of them – Thank you.

Now I'm going to have a holiday, get a new dog, and after a month my husband will want me out of the house, so will look for something new then.

As this is my last newsletter, I would like to thank the volunteers, the staff, the wide MTS family, and the community that have embraced me as a part of the Mission in my 5 years of serving the seafarers. I look forward to seeing the plans we have in place coming to fruition soon, and that the Mission goes forward for another 165-years and my small part is valued.

Sue Dight
CEO

Sue.dight@missiontoseafarers.com.au

A figure well known to many in the shipping industry has taken up the role Chair at the Mission to Seafarers in Melbourne. John Lines AM has been appointed for the next three years to continue the great work the Mission have been doing in Seafarers Welfare under Sue's leadership. John was awarded the Order of Australia for services to the Australian shipping industry, and the decoration of Chevalier de l'Ordre du Merite Maritime from the French Government for services to the shipping industry.



Philip Cornish will take over as interim CEO and has 3 decades of experience in leadership positions across health, community and family services.

Philip has worked in both large and small organisations in both the public sector and in NFP's.



Hooded thieves make off with weathervane

By Rhonda Dredge
30th March, 2022 – *Docklands News*

A 100 year old copper weather vane in the form of a galleon-style sailing ship has been stolen from its rightful place atop the historic Mission to Seafarers building in Docklands.

The weathervane was discovered as missing on Sunday, March 6, and is believed to have been stolen from the roof of the building overnight.

Mission to Seafarers Victoria CEO Sue Dight has appealed to anyone who may have any information to come forward or to contact police.

A reward of \$500 has been offered for information leading to the vane's recovery.

The vane was hacked through by thieves over a three-day period, putting the Mission under pressure.

When Ms Dight got a text from a resident across the road from the Mission, it was the news she'd been dreading. There was a picture of the metal stump on the roof and a message: "OMG. Gone."

Sue was devastated. She thought she had the thieves beat. They'd tried and failed already to cut through the vane on Thursday night and now returned to finish off the job.

"They damaged and moved the cameras," Sue told Docklands News. "All we have is a shot of an ankle and a hoodie."

The first clue to the impending theft was the discovery of a plastic chair on one of the roofs overlooking the western courtyard on the Friday morning.

Sue began an inspection, first for graffiti. "From the windows you can view all sections of the roof," she said, "but what we found was a hacksaw. I immediately thought of the weathervane."

The vane was still there but when she zoomed in on a photograph, she noticed a small cut in the supporting rod. From there, a crime that should have been prevented, moved from the reckless to the ridiculous.

Police were informed, security cameras replaced, a private security firm contacted and attempts made to block the way in, but the thieves returned, possibly over the next two nights. They got in by climbing over the back fence abutting a construction site and

jumped onto the roof from there, Sue said.

On Saturday morning a pair of boots and a neatly folded jacket were found in an alcove off the western courtyard.

The thieves then returned the following night about 3am. By Sunday morning the vane was gone.

"The little knobby part. That's all that was left," Sue said. "They came back with a portable angle grinder to finish off the job."

She said the vane was about the dimensions of a person and weighed at least 30 kilograms so it wouldn't have been easy to carry.

"I feel devastated by the loss because we spent so much time and effort having it restored two to three years ago," she said.

The vane is worth about \$50,000 to replace and has been on the pinnacle of the Mission since 1917 to direct captains preparing to leave port. Local master craftsman Henry Alfred Saw crafted the weathervane.



After a century on the rooftop in high winds, the weathervane was in need of repair. In 2020 through a grant from the Victorian Heritage Restoration Fund, as well as private and public contributions, it was restored and secured to the top of the building.

The weathervane is unusually intricate and represents the high levels of both craftsmanship and artistry.

"The way the metal of the sails curve as though billowing in the wind, the bulging hull of the ship, and the delicate rigging details make it quite a special object for something that is also structurally robust, and was intended to serve use as a meteorological instrument," Ms Dight said.

Tragically, the vane is likely to be melted down for its copper. "I'm hoping that because it's such a special piece it may be recovered."

Razor wire has now been installed to stop any further incursions onto the Mission's tiles.

Recent events at the Mission

Exhibitions in the Norla Dome

- Daria Wray

It's been a busy few months at the Mission, with this year's events calendar already looking jam-packed and as capacity restrictions are lifted, and people venture out, we're set for a busy year.

The Norla Dome especially is proving a popular location for music video shoots, music performances, as well as exhibitions and their accompanying launches.

1. Rod Schaffer presented a photographic exhibition that focussed on the interaction between imagination and the real world. 'Before the Deluge' was the result of two years' work towards the fulfilment of the Master of Arts (Photography Studies College), culminating in a 200-page book that accompanied the installation held in late February.

2. James Geurts' most recent site-specific project EON (2021), an installation exploring the perception of time and examining the relationship between evolution, consciousness and technology, featured as part of the Melbourne Art Fair in mid-February.

3. In March, Melbourne based artist Mark Galea presented 'Groundwork', a selection of two bodies of recent work that continues his exploration of the principals of movement and motion through sculptures and paintings.

For all event enquiries, please contact:
events@missiontoseafores.com.au



3. Rod Schaffer - Before the deluge



2. James Geurt – EON



3. Mark Galea - Groundwork

Ukraine's touch

by John Winkett – Volunteer Ship Visitor

I was delivering some crew shopping to the Maersk Seoul berthed at Webb Dock East. For the first time in my experience an officer came down the gangway with the money before any of the crew had taken the shopping aboard.

I got to talking with the officer and it turns out that he came from The Ukraine. He was not in a good space. His wife and children are in Mariupol and he hadn't been able to speak with his parents for nearly a month. He was happy with his situation on board but he was always very worried about his family.

It is situations like this that make you realize the terrible impact this war is having on its citizens. So far from home and almost no support. I assured him of our thoughts and prayers but he was very pessimistic about the eventual outcome.

As I write this it has just been announced that the Russians have destroyed a Maternity hospital in Mariupol. Thousands of people are trying to get out of the city including our seafarer's family.



DCN Shipping & Maritime Industry Awards



On 17 February 2022, the 2021 DCN Shipping & Maritime Industry Awards finally took place in Sydney – after two years of cancellations and postponement, the industry came together to celebrate some incredible achievements in what was truly a night to remember!

The Seafarers Welfare Award was won this year by Ports NSW for their outstanding work in providing a vaccination program for seafarers as soon as vaccines were available.

This award recognises the corporate commitment of a company to the mental, physical and pastoral welfare of seafarers, through in-house programs or sponsorship of an external event or organisation or general financial and moral assistance. Consideration was also given to individual contributions made to welfare of seafarers.

The Melbourne Mission alongside the Sydney Mission were also highly commended for our work in advocacy, care and keeping the Ports and companies accountable for the crews. Daphne Colfax was also commended for knitting over a thousand Beanies for seafarers in one year!

First Fleet Fellowship at the Mission

The Christmas meeting of the FFF was a merry one as they came together to celebrate actually being together; handing over lollies, chocolates and gifts for seafarers and a donation for the Mission. It was a small gathering who when asked if they could help with a task were handed the enormous job of folding and filling the envelopes of the Christmas edition of Ship to Shore!

They did it with speed and skill which meant that the post box was filled that day for the postie. Thanks to Rick and the team for your care and love of the Mission.

We look forward to the displays during Heritage Week.



Connecting with the Young

The Year 9 Students of Ivanhoe Grammar participated in a three-day program at the Mission. The Students learnt about Mission, and participated in a program to understand the City.

Groups also recorded interviews with a number of volunteers and discussed their roles. We hope to add them to the archive after hearing the final presentations. We are planning to receive more students in the future.



Vale: Mr Walter Dewé



Walter served on the Mission to Board from 2016 to 2019, and Chaired the Building Development Committee. He came with his experiences in running his own small companies, had led a CoAG competition reform team in gas supply, served on Boards both voluntary, private and ASX listed companies and enjoyed his time on the Board of the MtSV as was able to apply his capabilities and experience in enhancing welfare services to seafarers of which he had a huge empathy for.



Sea Shanties & Folk Songs

NEWCOMERS WELCOME

FREE ENTRY



EVERY OTHER THURSDAY FROM 7PM

MISSION TO SEAFARERS
717 FLINDERS ST DOCKLANDS
BAR | COURTYARD | BEER GARDEN



Maritime Super
OUR FUTURE



Your industry super fund

Maritime Super is one of Australia's longest running super funds having provided financial security to generations of members.

We're also part of the Industry SuperFunds collective that carry the symbol you can trust — run only to benefit members.

We're all about helping members make the most of their super, that's why we are the fund of choice for maritime workers.

To learn more about Maritime Super or how to join — call us on **1800 757 607**



20th Maritime Art Prize & Exhibition

September 30th-October 16th 2022

\$25,000 in Prize Money

ENTRIES OPEN

May 1st-August 31st 2022

gallery.missiontoseafarers.com.au

Lost and Found

Not everything that goes missing is lost forever. In the last couple of months a number of heritage items have been returned to the Mission.

The New Cathedral Psalter Chants books were returned to us by a chap that *'happened to have them'*.

Also returned to us after languishing in a storeroom at the Flagstaff Hill Museum for many decades, the matching plaques of Miss Alice Tracy and Miss Ethel Godfrey, and others whom we are yet to know their full story.

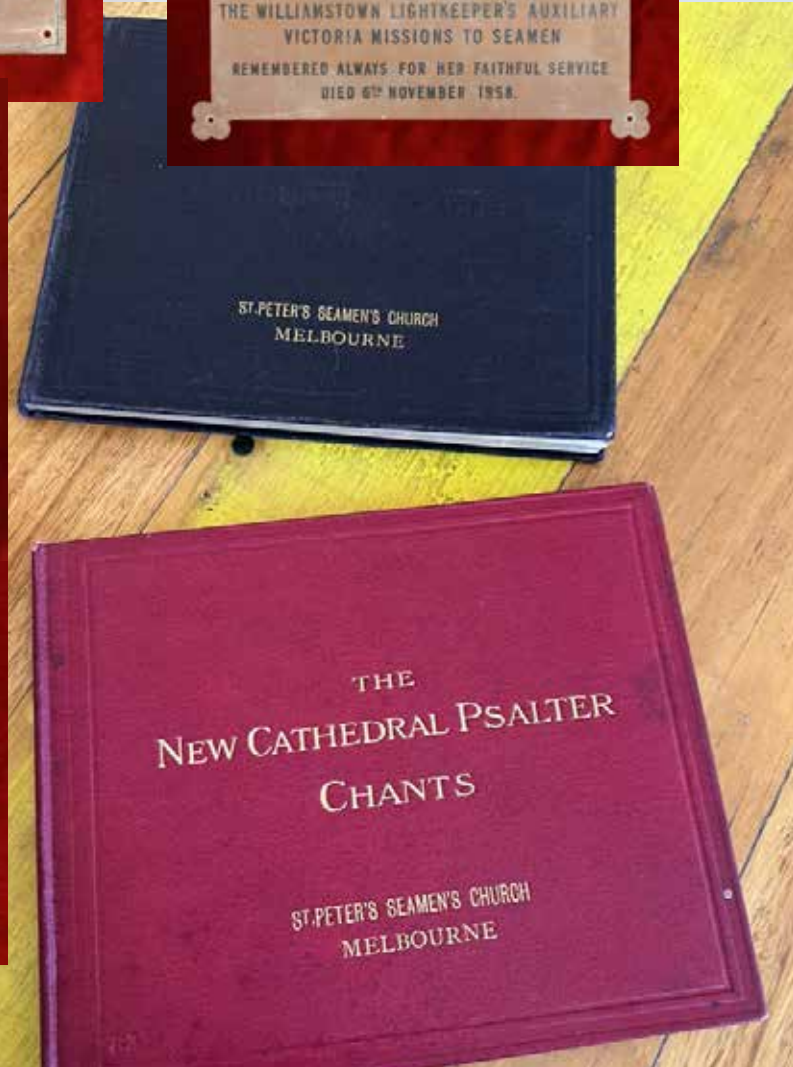
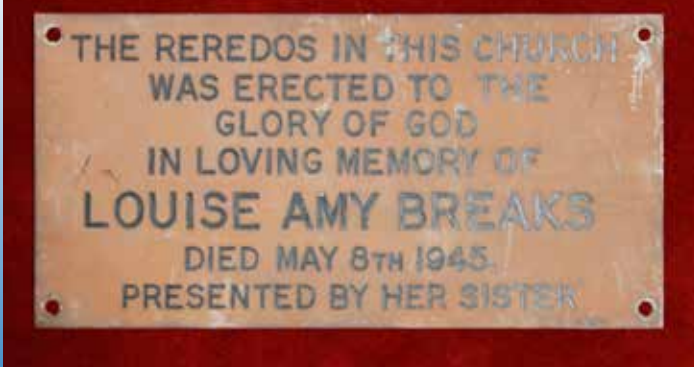
Thanks to the Heritage team who have spent over two years on researching, working with the Museum, and continuing to ensure the hard working Ladies Harbour Lights Guild members are not forgotten.

A reminder that the film of the Harbour Lights Ladies is on our website on the history page:

www.missiontoseafarers.com.au/history



Geraldine Brault (MtSV) and Justin Croft of the Flagstaff Hill Museum



Action - Activities



Town Hall meeting presentation to Port of Melbourne team, Rev. Inni and Sue Dight. March 2022.



The back of the Mission - all tidy now (almost).



Weddings are back - even in the Dome. Our bar staff helping out the bride.



Sr. Mary Leah and Sue Dight at the DCN Awards dinner in Sydney in Feb 2022.

Book your next event at the Mission - every event supports seafarers' welfare.

Call: 03 9629 7083 or email
events@missiontoseafarers.com.au

Reading for Maritime lovers

Our Books:

Free shipping all around Australia!

Pilot on Board

by Brendan Moloney - \$65.00

The 175th anniversary history of the Port Phillip Sea Pilots

This includes: piracy in Port Phillip, lost at sea, the age of sails and much more. A must-read book for anyone who interests to know early Victorian maritime history.

Wharves to the World

by Amy Zurrer - \$30.00

The Development of Melbourne's World Trade Centre is a photographic chronicle of the history of the World Trade Centre and its surrounds.

The book traces the journey of land and the buildings that have occupied it – from its beginnings with the Wurundjeri to its role as a trading hub in early Melbourne, then as the site of the modern-day World Trade Centre, and now as part of a flourishing residential and commercial precinct.

ANL – A Fleet History of Australian National Line, 1957-1999

by Howard Dick, Iain Stevenson, Mike Carolin, Barry Pemberton, Lindsay Rex, Rex Cox & Russell Priest - \$90.00

Published by Melbourne, 2020.
Nautical Association of Australia Inc.

A Lucky Ship – Nine Lives of Australian Coaster Tambar 1912-1960

by Craig Mair - \$25.00

Published by Melbourne, 2013.
Nautical Association of Australia Inc.

Patrick. Celebrating 100 Years: 1919-2019

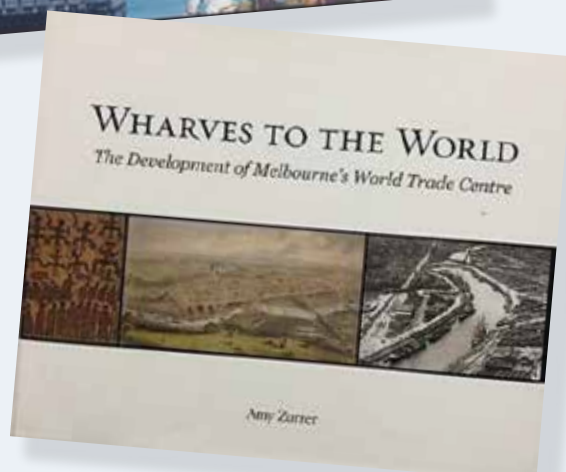
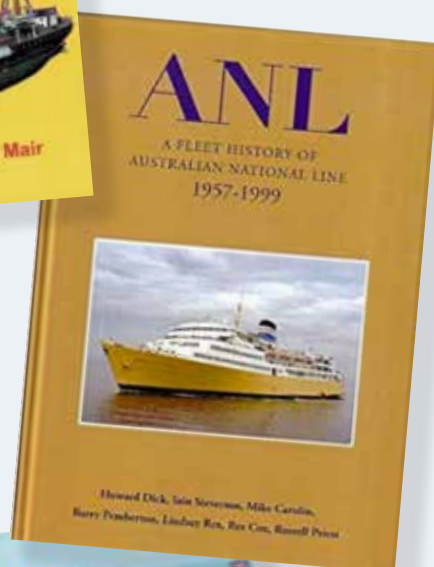
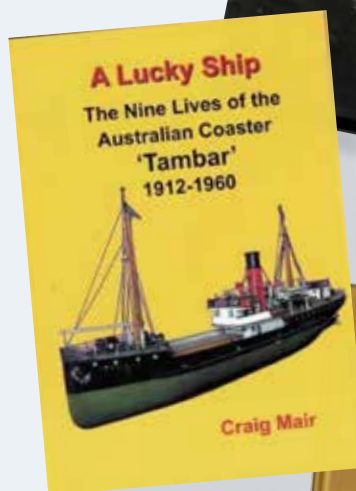
by Claude Varnier - \$30.00

Claude has worked in the maritime logistics industry for 35 years across a variety of roles. He has been a long-serving loyal Patrick employee.

A history of Patrick from its formation by Captain James Patrick through to the present day.

Every book sale supports the Mission

Order online at <https://missiontoseafarers.com.au/shop>



The Mission

The Mission in Victoria traces its roots back to an organisation, formed in 1857, called the "Bethel Union and Seamen's Floating Church in Hobson's Bay" which operated for a time from a "hulk" moored halfway between Williamstown and Sandridge (Port Melbourne).

Not surprisingly, this title was soon changed to the Victorian Seamen's Mission. 1907 saw the amalgamation of this society with the Victorian branch of the Mission to Seamen, London. The new body was called the Missions to Seamen, Victoria and established a base on the Yarra just a short distance from where we are now. A few years later the Melbourne Harbour Trust required that land for the development of the port, so we relocated to our current site where this building was opened in 1917.

The four Ports at which the Mission has a presence in Victoria are Geelong, Hastings, Melbourne, and Portland. The Mission to Seafarers Victoria (MtSV) is an incorporated body responsible for the activities of the Melbourne Mission in the Port of Melbourne.

In Melbourne, the Mission operates from a complex of buildings at 717 Flinders Street, Docklands. The complex includes the Flying Angel Club, the Memorial Chapel of St Peter, the Norla Dome, function rooms, and offices to support the staff and Port chaplain in their administrative operations. Facilities and services provided by the MtSV and the Flying Angel Club include:

- Visiting seafarers on board ship and hospital visiting
- Counselling and emotional support
- Club facilities including bar services and shop
- Currency exchange
- Transport of seafarers to and from port
- Sale of phone and internet cards, free internet access
- Distribution of bibles and religious materials
- Distribution of books and magazines
- Shopping, visits and tours to local places of interest

COVID-19 has not deterred the Mission to Seafarers here in Melbourne and worldwide from our role: to address the practical

and spiritual needs of all seafarers, irrespective of background. We share our faith by offering friendship, hospitality, comfort in times of distress, aid in emergencies, spiritual support, counselling for those, with problems and help in cases of injustice.

We adapted what we could do for seafarers. We sought to be as agile as we could be in meeting seafarers needs. We say with some pride that we are looking for new ways to do our best still.

We lament that the pandemic had had a very cruel impact on the seafarers who continue to keep the world afloat as they were unable to go ashore in many places, including Melbourne, for respite. Where shore leave was possible, the risks of exposure to the pandemic were too high, and once the virus came on board, it became rampant with seafarers living and working in close quarters. So severely restricted in crew change overs that hundreds of thousands were kept away from their families for months longer than the already-demanding standard 10 months.

As we have been unable to welcome seafarers at the Mission's Flying Angel Club, nor to visit them aboard ship in port, we have adapted our contact services to work virtually. We are available online to the seafarers, and our Chaplains, Rev Onofre (Inni) Punay and Rev Heiden Kanoo, have been and continue to provide great support practically and spiritually through social media.

We have also developed an efficient, but quite demanding, shopping service for seafarers unable to come ashore. With half a million dollars spent in 2021 alone. At their request, we have purchased and delivered to the gangway everything from PlayStation to hamburgers. Generous donations have also allowed us to deliver an estimated \$260,000 worth complimentary care packages of personal needs items, knitted beanies and snacks.

And, importantly, we continue to supply phone cards to allow seafarers to communicate with their families, who the pandemic has also put under far greater stress - indeed, one way anyone can help a struggling seafarer directly is by donating.

The pandemic has also put holes in our ability to raise revenues for our services through events and activities normally held within the building. We have been able to remain robust financially, despite these losses, on the basis of federal and state government support and of solid donations, sponsorships and bequests from Mission supporters. Some community groups who would normally rent space for their activities even maintained payments in lieu. We are very grateful to be remembered by them all, and we remark again, how generous our community can be.

It should be said that when we have been able to open for business, the public, community groups and arts events came roaring back to our buildings, with commercially successful and rollicking programs like the Sea Shanty and Folk Song nights and The Pirate Experience.

We thank you wholeheartedly for your care and community and welcome you to visit the Mission on your next trip to the city.



Today with the help of Ports Victoria and Vital Health we were able to facilitate first vaccinations and Booster shots to the Crew of the M.V. Mount Owen.

Thanks to all who have made this journey to get seafarers vaccinated in Melbourne happen.

Hopefully we can make them free to all soon.

Thank you for caring

- Di Hardisty
- Jennifer Foster
- Sue Cumming
- Barbara McBean
- Sue Pettit
- Mary Deer
- Pirrial Clift
- Susan Tucker
- CWA Boroondara
- St Barnabas
- Ladies of Lexington Gardens

And to all the others who have dropped off Jigsaws, Stamps, books toiletries for the care packages we continue to supply.

THANK YOU



Caring for Seafarers
in Victorian Ports
since 1857

Dates for your diaries:

- **Every 2nd Thursday** - Sea Shanties Sing-a-long
- **May 1** - Entries open for Maritime Art Prize
- **Last weekend in July** - Open House Melbourne

Mission to Seafarers'

Melbourne

717 Flinders Street
Docklands VIC 3008
info@missiontoseafarers.com.au
Opening hours
10am to 10pm – 7 days.
t. +61 3 9629 7083



Remembering the Mission beyond today

Legacies are very important to the Mission, as they allow us to continue our vital work supporting seafarers that work around the world. We have been fortunate over the years with many of the former members of the Mission remembering us in their wills, or with an ongoing legacy through a trust. We appreciate each and every donation now, but please consider the future work of the Mission.

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

Website: missiontoseafarers.com.au



Facebook:

facebook.com/missiontoseafarersvic



Instagram:

#mts_vic



Twitter:

@MtSVMelbourne



Mission to SEAFARERS

To Direct Deposit to our Bank Account:

Mission to Seafarers Vic Inc.

Bendigo Bank

BSB: 633 000

Account No: 133 814 400

Please put your surname as a reference then email your name, address and phone contact to admin@missiontoseafarers.com.au so we can link the donation to you.

To Donate online, visit www.missiontoseafarers.com.au/donate or complete this form and return to us.

- \$25 supports the provision of phone and internet services for contact with home.
- \$35 will support MtSV Ship Visiting.
- \$50 will support emergency night call-out to help seafarers in distress.
- \$100 will support the upkeep of MtSV on-shore facilities.

Please accept my gift of:

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

☐ My cheque is enclosed to the **Mission to Seafarers Victoria Inc.**
Or

☐ Please debit my Visa / Mastercard

☐ Yes! Make this a monthly donation

Card number: _____

Expiry date: _____ / _____ CCV: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Postcode: _____

Email: _____

Contact phone: _____



The Mission to Seafarers Victoria Inc
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