

MSC Maritime Art Prize & Exhibition 2022

Winners of the 2022 MSC Maritime Art Prize were announced to rapturous applause at the Mission to Seafarers on Thursday 29th September.

Invited guests were clearly thrilled not only with the selected works, but also to have the opportunity to view the exhibition in person, after the previous two years were held online.

Seventy artworks were shortlisted from a highly competitive field – including a greater number of first-time entrants than previous years – all of whom responded to the perpetual theme 'The Relationship of Humanity to the Sea'. The awards were presented in four categories on the night, and the People's Choice Award announced on the 20th October, with a total prize pool of \$25,000.

This year's judging panel – Paul Auckett, Professor Su Baker AM, and Dr. Graeme H. Williams OAM – were impressed with the high standard and diversity of entries and noted a greater representation of contemporary works than previous years.

CEO's Update

Dedicated to the Welfare of Seafarers

Neil James, MtSV CEO



I am honoured to have recently been appointed as the CEO of the Mission to Seafarers-Victoria (MtSV) and to be part of a team dedicated to the welfare of seafarers visiting Melbourne, and part of an international organisation looking after seafarers' welfare around the globe.

In my first few weeks I have been on a steep learning curve as I find out all about the workings and day-to-day running of the Mission. It's been great to meet the staff and volunteers, key contacts, and importantly some of our sponsors and donors; all of whom are key to the Mission being able to provide pastoral care to seafarers. I continue to be impressed by their dedication to the seafarers and their genuine concern for their welfare.

The seafarer welfare services we provide include:

- A daily program of ship visiting to check on the welfare of seafarers and provide support as needed. This is managed and carried out by our Chaplains, who also train and support staff and volunteer ship visitors
- A seven day-a-week free minibus service from the ports into the Mission building at 717 Flinders Street in Melbourne's Docklands. Seafarers can rest and relax, use the free wi-fi, enjoy ready access to the city and all she offers, and take a much-needed break from their ships.

Pastoral care provided includes support for specific problems experienced at sea or in port. This may include referring to and/or working collaboratively with other relevant organisations, including the Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA), the International Transport Workers Federation (ITF), and other welfare service providers. An example of this may involve raising issues with ship captains and ship owners (where the seafarer wants this support, feeling unable to raise matters directly or fearing reprisals if they do so), and where needed referring matters to AMSA or ITF for their

intervention. Another example would be providing emotional and practical support to a seafarer suffering health or injury problems whilst in port, in cooperation with health care professionals and maritime industry representatives as needed.

Volunteers remain key to us being able to deliver these services and we quite simply couldn't manage without their generous contributions of offering their time and skills. Our volunteer drivers, in particular, provide a vital service and we're currently recruiting for people to drive our port shuttle service, to which we provide full training. If you are interested, please contact us missiontoseafarers.com.au/volunteers/

On behalf of MtSV, I wish all the seafarers, our staff and volunteers, and all our sponsors and donors a safe and happy Christmas and I look forward to working with you in the year ahead.



**Sundays at the
Mission to Seafarers**

Every Sunday from January 15th, 1pm-4pm

**Catch-up with family and friends
over a cold beer or glass of wine in
the Spanish-style courtyard and
lush beer garden, and savour
a sizzling gourmet sausage
hot off the BBQ**

Buddhist Monk Provides Comfort to Burmese Crew

Rev'd Heidin Kunoo, Assistant Chaplain

During the last week of August, we received a referral from the Welfare Coordinator at the Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA), via our Interim Regional Director, to provide a pastoral visit to the crew on board a ship. A crew member had suddenly and unexpectedly died. Our senior Chaplain, Rev'd Inni Punay, and I visited the seafarers on board the ship. It turned out that most of them, like me, were from Myanmar so being able to speak to them in their native language, I was able to establish a more accessible, better, and stronger relationship with them. There is comfort in meeting someone in a foreign land who knows your culture and language.

Some of the crew did not know about the Chaplain's role, so I was able to enlighten them and introduce how we provide support at times such as this. I also introduced them to our organisation, the Mission to Seafarers-Victoria (MtSV). MtSV aims to support the spiritual, emotional, physical, and mental well-being of seafarers. When discussing spirituality, we support every seafarer regardless of their religion, and help them meet their spiritual needs.

While talking to some seafarers, they mentioned that their spirit was down because of the incident on board. Some of the seafarers requested whether we could help them to organise a Buddhist monk to come in and hold a service for them. Based on the seafarers' request, we organised a Burmese Buddhist monk (because all the Burmese crew are Buddhist) to go onto the ship to perform the required Buddhist ritual for this incident. AMSA and the shipping agent helped us to make this happen, and so we received the needed approval (with the captain of the ship and the port duly advised).



Buddhist service in action within the confines of the small room available on-board

After the service, the Burmese crew came up to us and thanked us for helping organise the service for them. They were pleased, and it meant a lot for them to be able to hold the Buddhist ritual on the ship. Being able to help facilitate this event and seeing the satisfaction and happiness of the Burmese crew, I know that we helped them with their spiritual needs and relieved some mental trauma due to the tragic incident on board. The Mission addresses all the needs of seafarers. Often the focus is only on their physical, emotional, and mental well-being. But on this rare occasion, their spiritual need was crucial for them to continue to perform their work well.

I witnessed their joy and saw their faces light up after the service. It made my day. I would describe this happy moment in the image of – early morning; the sun is shining through the thick foggy sky. Even if the sky is dark, knowing the sun is coming gives hope that the darkness will be over, and the sunshine is awaiting.

Everyone understands hardship. Everyone has problems. Often, we can also be lost spiritually and mentally. We can all find our way when lost and be restored and strengthened through the actions of others. To whom can you reach out to restore another's life?



Rev'd Heidin Kunoo with Burmese Crew

Victorian Collections Day at the Mission

Geraldine Brault, Collections Manager

In late June, the Mission to Seafarers partnered with the Victorian branch of Australian Museums and Galleries Australia (AMaGA Victoria) to host the annual Victorian Collections (VC) Day.

VC Day is a full day of information aimed at the community collecting sector - historical societies, small museums, art galleries, public collections - to help them achieve the best care for their collection.

This year's theme, Find Your Fit, included keynotes, lighting talks and case studies from the Geoffrey Kaye Museum of Anesthetic History, and the Benalla and Wangaratta art galleries. This was also a great opportunity for the Mission to showcase its own collection of images and historical artefacts.

Victorian Collections is a free online database developed and hosted by Museums Victoria and funded by Creative Victoria. The Mission to Seafarers has been using this collection management system since 2012, and it now has more than 1600 records, giving everyone access to its vital collection.

In the final presentation of the day, I recounted the story of our William Bell & Co Reed Pipe Organ that was gifted to the then Victorian Seamen's Mission in 1890 by the Bethel Community. This provided the perfect opportunity for participants to move to the chapel where Dr Graham Clarke played 'Gloria in excelsis Deo' on the baby grand piano. This was the hymn that was performed the first time that the pipe organ was played at the Mission in September 1890, and a sublime way to conclude the day's events.



Philip Cornish, interim CEO welcomed the VC Day participants

Dr Graham Clarke playing 'Gloria in excelsis Deo' in the St Peter Chapel

A promotional poster for 'Sea Shanties & Folk Songs'. The background is a black and white photograph of four men on a ship's deck, looking towards the camera. The text is overlaid on the right side of the image.

Sea Shanties & Folk Songs
EVERY OTHER THURSDAY
FROM 7PM
FREE ENTRY
NEWCOMERS WELCOME!
Ask at the bar for dates
or call (03) 9629 7083

In the Round in the Norla Dome

Circular Temporalities

– Ying-Lan Dann

The iconic Norla Dome was selected by Ying-Lan Dann for her site-responsive work, *Circular Temporalities*. Part of *Take Hold of the Clouds*, an experimental exhibition that took place in seven of Melbourne's most significant buildings, it was voted as the most loved experience during Open House Melbourne's July weekend.

Dann's work brought together audio and video field recordings exploring the space's relationship to global seafaring – and to the seafarers stranded at sea during the pandemic.

Hym(e)nals

– Tina Stefanou

Underneath a dark sky, six teenage girls rode horses while whispering, laughing, and humming - navigating new senses, while riding into unknown futures and songs.

Tina Stefanou's *Hym(e)nals* transformed the Norla Dome over three sold-out evenings, inviting the audience into an other-worldly space, an environment made of hooves, voices, and extra-sensorial techniques.



Cease & Desist Presents...

– Low Flung, Hantu, and Grace Ferguson w/Lily Tait

Synthesized soundscapes, buoyant basslines and melodic sounds of ethereal beauty provided the Sunday afternoon soundtrack in the first instalment in a series of monthly gigs.



Looking for a venue for your performance or exhibition?

Please contact MtSV Events Manager Daria Wray: events@missiontoseafarers.com.au

MSC Maritime Art Prize & Exhibition 2022 - *contd.*

The night brought together a diverse intersection of maritime artists, award sponsors, representatives from the shipping industry, art buyers, philanthropists, and other Mission to Seafarers supporters, all with the common purpose of celebrating the winners and recognising the purpose of the Mission in its support of seafarers' welfare.

"The exhibition's theme exploring the relationship of humanity to the sea has been a long story in the history of art and one that can be interpreted in many ways.

In the exhibition we see examples of the power of the ocean itself and of the human effort in actions and activities both for industry and pleasure, the human story, and the power of nature.

All the artists in the exhibition have brought their own vision and skilful interpretation of the theme, through either a traditional lens or through a poignant human story, or indeed through the lens of visual experimentation.

The winners and those commended should be warmly congratulated for their talent and vision and their continuing commitment to the eternal and glorious challenges of painting as both an ancient and a contemporary art."

Professor Su Baker AM, Judge



'Port Phillip Sea Pilots' Best Traditional Maritime Art Award

\$5,000

John Woodland – *The Apprentice*

Water Colour on Paper, 2021

"The old commercial sailing vessels used to take on boys and young men as apprentices. The scene shows a young man working with older men aboard such a vessel"

gallery.missiontoseafarers.com.au

2022 Sponsors, Partners & Donors

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DOCKLANDS NEWS



'Neville & Co' Runner-Up Award

\$2,000

Mia Laing – *Bounded by Sea*

Oil on Canvas, 2022

"Punished for crimes of poverty, exiled to life across the ocean, the convict women of the colonies, over time and through their ingenuity, skills, and strength, unlocked the key to surviving this harsh new land bounded by sea...they created a place to call home and gave birth to modern Australia..."

This was painted specifically for the Maritime Art Prize and the theme of 'The Relationship of Humanity to the Sea'."



MSC Mediterranean Shipping Company Maritime Art Award 2022

\$15,000 (acquisitive)

Original Smith – *See Forever the Sea*

Mixed Media on Aluminium Panel, 2022

"The unintended beauty in ships and shipping compels me. The scale. The form. The colour. The mass. The large and slow movements in and over tides and seas that are forever changing."



Images:
Matt Houston
matthoustonphotography.com



'Gulf Agency Company' Emerging Artist Award

\$1,000

Simon Brown – *Tides*

Oil on Linen, 2022

"Our ocean is fragile, and water is the indispensable factor of life, easily destroyed and like us, may become a discarded memory like the crumpled image it is depicted by."



'VICT' People's Choice Award

\$2,000

Min Siman-Keivicius – *Life Boat*

Acrylic on Board, 2022

"The unloading of life-sustaining goods from a merchant freighter..."



A Chance Meeting on the Dancefloor at the Mission to Seamen

Geraldine Brault, Collections Manager



John and Jean on their wedding day in 1951

Returning to England, he joined the Merchant Navy and sailed the world with his interim trade certificate in 1947. In 1948 while in Melbourne, he visited the Williamstown Mission to Seamen, 139 Nelson Place.

That's where he met a young woman, Dorothy Jean Wetton, during one of the dances organised by the Mission's supporters. Jean was eighteen and had been told by the Minister of her church that the Mission needed some ladies to dance with sailors.

Jean and John fell in love, and because Australia was looking to increase its population at that time, John didn't get into any trouble when he decided to jump ship and stay. They married in 1951.

Before joining the navy, John had worked in a rope making factory in South Shields, so he secured a job at the Newport Power Station as a rigger until around 1974 when he went back to sea as part of the Merchant Navy in Australia. As an able seaman, he worked on the coastal ships such as the Bass Trader and the Empress of Australia and remained at sea until his death in 1982.

We want to thank Jennie for sharing her story and family memorabilia with us.

*HMS Wessex 'Crossing the Equator Certificate' September 1944.
This beautiful certificate shows all the ports the ship visited while John Wright was onboard including Manus Island, Guam, Tokyo, Panama, Yokohama, Auckland, and Sydney.*

Jennie Moloney from the Williamstown Historical Society shared the story of her parents who met at a dance at the Williamstown Mission to Seamen in 1948.

John Wright was born in 1926 in South Shields, England. His family lived near the docks of the River Tyne and his father was an iron foundry labourer in the shipyard. John enlisted in the British Navy just before his eighteenth birthday and after several months of training on different ships in England, he was sent on a troopship to Australia where he joined the crew of the HMS Wessex (R78) in February 1945.

The HMS Wessex was one of eight W-class destroyers built for the Royal Navy during WWII. The ship spent most of the war assigned to the Eastern and Pacific Fleets and when the conflict ended, the crew of the HMS Wessex assisted with the return of allied prisoners. On its way to Japan, the ship stopped at Nagasaki where the crew was ordered ashore to view how the Americans had won the war in the Pacific, a traumatic event that never left John's memory and he became a fervent pacifist during the Vietnam War.



Notes from the Garden

Maureen Scoble, volunteer Gardener

Summer is here and things are starting to move in the garden. I have planted two Clematis, one Chinese Star Jasmine, and one Honeysuckle over the trellis and stage (or the wedding platform as I like to call it). I have tried many different plants, in many different places over the past few years, and hopefully we now know what will survive and look good here. Some take to the soil very well, but others are not so keen. I have tried to plant things that will survive without too much water in summer. Even after all the rain we have had over the past few months, I think we should remember that water is a precious commodity in Australia. It won't always be this wet.

Several of my favorite Salvias do well in the garden. Salvia Oxyphora is the tall bright pink one that is flowering now. It does spread itself around a bit, but I still like it. It's the tall, purple one and that seems to flower everywhere. Very tough! Salvia Semiata is not flowering yet but should start soon. It's purple and blue which I love. Other favorite plants are the Begonia group. They flower for a very long time, and some are great in pots. All they ask is to be watered once a week. Not too much is it? Last year I planted a white Hibiscus against the brick wall, and it should start flowering soon. In fact, I have it in my own garden in Avondale. Many of the plants I have planted

here are cuttings from Avondale. If you see something in the garden that you like, just let me know. I don't mind getting cuttings for you. Some of my plants are not readily available at nurseries as I do buy online things I have seen elsewhere. I also have lots of gardening friends and we all swap plants.

I have seen a few more birds in the garden lately (not pigeons!) which is a very good thing. They help to keep the pests down. Not enough insects though. I have not seen one bee this year. We need more insects. I am hoping that the new apartments behind the Mission will have extensive gardens which would encourage more wildlife.

The new pots in the Courtyard contain cumquats. These fruit trees have beautiful small orange fruit and they like hot sun so should do well there. They have replaced the camellias that did not like it at all.

Our lawn has died (again) and continues to be a heartbreaker. I did water it, believe me, but really it just struggled under those peppercorn trees. Watch this space for the next exciting bulletin on this long running saga.

Enjoy the garden. Maureen



*Michelle & Simon's spring wedding in the garden and main hall
(with gorgeous flowers by beehausflowers.com)*

*Images: Rachael Van Keulen
handcraftedimagery.com.au*

Notes from the Driver's Seat

Ben Schroeder, Operations Manager

One night I was driving and picked up a young intern who had travelled from Rotterdam on a container ship. He was lovely and enjoyed talking about his experiences on the vessel, his interactions with other crew members, and what it was like visiting other countries as he had gone through ports in France, the USA, the Pacific and though to Melbourne. It was a great chat and it occurred to me how much a volunteer driver would have enjoyed that experience. When you're driving, there really are opportunities to meet people from all over the world.

No two days are the same when you're driving. I remember a day last week when the traffic was terrible. We got a call from Gellibrand (Williamstown), but also had a pick-up from Swanson East (West Melbourne). I was the only driver on duty, so the only way to do it was to do the pick-up from Swanson East, and then on to Gellibrand. The poor seafarers from Swanson East had to sit in the bus with me for 45 minutes before we got back to the Mission.

However, they were so grateful! I got a little confused when one of them asked for a beer and then gave it to me (I couldn't drink it, of course, but I put it aside and had it

after my shift had finished). It turned out that they only had about an hour to spend ashore as the ship had been pushed into a fast turnaround. But even so, they were so happy to have a little time ashore. One of them told me he hadn't been ashore for four months. They went for a walk and then came back about 45 minutes later.

Happily, the ship's turnaround had been pushed back by the port, and they wouldn't need to set out until 6am the next morning. Consequently, the Captain let them know they could spend the evening out in Melbourne and wouldn't need to be back to the ship until about 1am. They were over the moon. They wanted to go exploring, and one of them wanted to see if they could find some Manuka Honey (a challenge on a Saturday night!), so I gave them directions to Chinatown, and how to get there by tram, and off they toddled.

Being a small part of a seafarers' time ashore in Melbourne can be a really enjoyable and fulfilling experience, and I encourage anyone who likes to meet people and has a few hours to spare to consider it.



**CALL OUT FOR
VOLUNTEER DRIVERS!**

missiontoseafarers.com.au/volunteers/
info@missiontoseafarers.com.au

www.missiontoseafarers.com.au

Melbourne Seafarers' Centre
717 Flinders Street, Docklands
☎ 9629 7083

Seafarers Happiness Index Survey Results

The Mission to Seafarers has published the findings of its third quarter 2022 Seafarers Happiness Index. Over the past few years, seafarers have faced challenges like never before and yet they continue to work with dedication, care, and resolve.

The results of the survey show seafarers are much happier with their access to shore leave as they can now visit welfare centres like our own Mission to Seafarers centre in Docklands, giving them access to key facilities, provisions, and entertainment when ashore.

Seafarers are also far more certain about crew changes and that they will be able to go home on time, which has fuelled so much positivity.

The results show an improvement in seafarer happiness, but issues such as food provisions, wages, workload, stress, and the reality of life at sea persist.

happyatsea.org



We are looking for volunteer drivers to transport visiting seafarers to/from port and back to the Mission building in Melbourne's Docklands.

All you need is a drivers' license, a good sense of direction, and a welcoming smile. An interest in meeting new people and sharing your knowledge of Melbourne is a bonus.

Just four hours of your time each week can make a difference.

missiontoseafarers.com.au/volunteers/



Thank you!

To all our wonderful knitters - we thank you for your beanies, scarves, neck warmers and fingerless gloves.

And thank you too to our supporters for your donations of playing cards, puzzles, Tim Tams, and lollies that the seafarers greatly appreciate.

- Knit Along for Charity
- Barbara Fisk
- Glenis Wharton
- Sandra Adminis
- Sally Coles
- Jane Wadsley
- C Comiskey
- Margaret Angus
- BT & LA Hale
- J Bond
- Leanne Closter
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- Helen Stevens
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- Jane Ronan
- Brenda Cawte
- Vicky Cowling
- Melissa Fellows
- Polly
- Jenny Rainsford
- Mother's Union, St Andrews Kyabram
- St George's Anglican Church
- St Eanswythe's Ladies
- Needles & Threads, Bendigo
- St Barnabas Mother's Union, Glen Waverley
- St Paul's Cathedral Mother's Union
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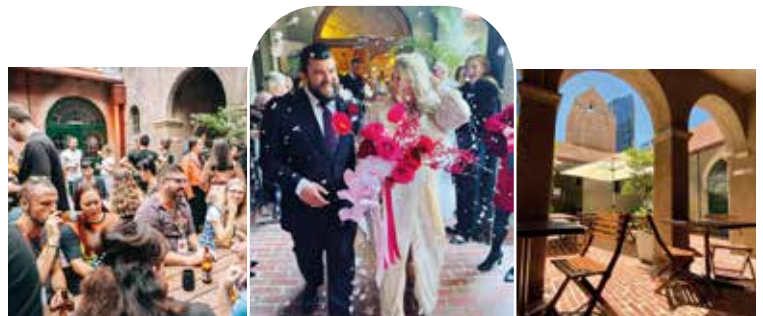
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*Caring for Seafarers in
Victorian Ports since 1857*



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Remembering the Mission beyond today

Legacies are very important to the Mission. Supporters of our work have remembered us in their will, while others have set-up an ongoing legacy through a trust.

We appreciate each and every donation, and a gift of any size can make a real difference to the more than 50,000 seafarers who need our support every year.

Please contact CEO Neil James for details neil.james@missiontoseafarers.com.au

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