

Ship to Shore

The Newsletter of the Mission to Seafarers Victoria. Summer 2001 - 2002

A Celebration of Mission Volunteers

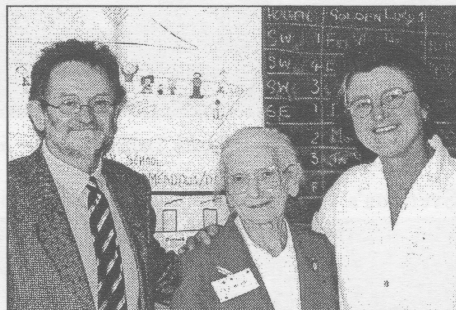
Saturday 20th October 2001 was not just another day for The Mission to Seafarers Victoria. The clock was turned back over many decades. Imagination, flowers and hard work had transformed the historic Mission Centre in Melbourne. Past and present volunteers from the suburbs of Melbourne and country Victoria gathered in celebration of the International Year of Volunteers to share stories and special memories.

Former members of the Harbour Lights Guild and Flying Angel Club came together to reminisce and to be with friends, some not seen for many years.



Bev Kent (centre front), Caroline Cossens & Ro Kent & friends

The old building echoed with laughter and noisy reunions. Stories of picnics, tea dances and handsome young men in



John Wilson, Enid Budds & Maria Culka

uniform were shared over a sumptuous afternoon tea. The Peter Kaye Trio played music that brought back memories of happy times.

Old photographs, letters from seafarers, press cuttings, records and printed material from early nineteenth century were included in a popular historical display. A reminder of the magnificent contribution made by volunteers to the work of the Mission over the past one hundred and forty three years.

Chairman of State Council, Bishop Jeremy Ashton thanked volunteers, past and present, for their dedication to the welfare of the thousands of seafarers who come through the busy ports of Geelong, Hastings, Melbourne and Portland. Representatives from the ports recognised the work of their local volunteers.



Bishop Jeremy & Betty Ashton with former Sea Rangers

Amidst the coverage of the federal election and terrible war in Afghanistan, the Mission to Seafarers' event was the 'good news' story on the ABC 7.00pm television news that evening.



*Neil Thomas-Geelong, Sheila Williams-Hastings
Pat & Keith Dann-Hastings, Bill Romney-Geelong*

Christmas Message

At this time of year, when our thoughts turn to Bethlehem, let us remember the people in that place now.

Christians and Muslims, who live in that town as well as those in refugee camps—some for decades, suffer greatly from the ongoing hostilities between Israel and Palestine.

Let us also remember the seafarers who, as a result of the attack on 11th September are now in greater danger of hijack, piracy, and increased suspicion in foreign ports.

Through all of this I wish you the deep joy that comes from knowing that the birth of Jesus was a victory over evil and that you will find a peace that encompasses the whole of God's creation.

*Bishop Jeremy Ashton,
Chairman-State Council,
Mission to Seafarers, Victoria*

Merry Christmas

Christmas – Far from Home

Last year my husband Donald and I spent Christmas Day at the Mission. We prepared well in advance with fruitcake and gingerbread cookies to share with visiting seafarers on this holy day. I was very glad I was there as I walked Svetlana, a seafarer who had visited the Melbourne Mission just a few months earlier. Svetlana, too, was happy to see familiar faces. She had brought with her a photograph album of her young daughter back home in Russia to show us and it was obvious she missed her a lot.

Being Christmas it was difficult to connect her call as it seemed the whole world was using the phone. Nevertheless with my finger on the redial button for about three hours, we finally had an answer. Yes, it was Svetlana's matushka (mother) on the line, and before too long little Katerina was speaking with her mother. Half an hour later, Svetlana, with tears in her eyes, reluctantly put the phone down, thanking me for persevering. I was very thankful that my prayers had been answered and we were able to assist her in our ministry to seafarers.



Joan Leslie (third from the left) with Svetlana and her friends at the seafarers' centre in Melbourne

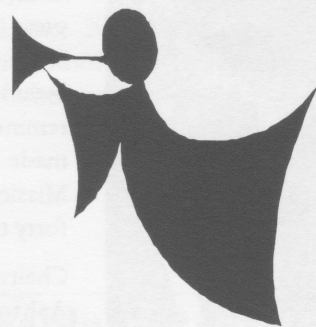
To Svetlana's shipmates, Yuri, Evgeniy, Irina and Mischa, thank you for making our Christmas memorable, especially sharing the Christmas cake, gingerbread cookies over a cup of coffee.

Joan Leslie
Volunteer

This is just one story of how the Mission cares for seafarers every day and all year round, as the work of the seafarer carries them to distant ports far from home and family.

Our special thanks to the following donors to December 17

All Saint's Barwon Heads	Op Shop Christ Church Essendon
ANL Container Line	McKean, B
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Melbourne Port Corporation	The Port of Portland
Mission to Seafarers Ladies	The Revd John Davis
Auxilliary - Geelong	Dean David Richardson
Mountain Valley Christian	Toll Westernport
School	Victorian Channel Authority
Mr Leigh Mau	
Mr W Finch	

Shipping Executives Pledge Support

Bishop Jeremy Ashton, Chairman of the Mission to Seafarers (MtS), was host for the second in a series of corporate lunches held in the Celia Little Room at the Melbourne Mission Centre. The very positive response by the shipping sector representatives to date has indicated there is a clear understanding of the value of the work carried out by the Mission caring for the seafarers every day in our busy ports. A presentation given by Nigel Porteous, Vice Chairman of MtS, outlined how the Mission is planning for the challenge of meeting the needs of seafarers in a rapidly changing and expanding shipping environment. A display of old photographs and documents illustrated a long and rich tradition of a special contribution by the Mission to the fabric of maritime history in Victoria.

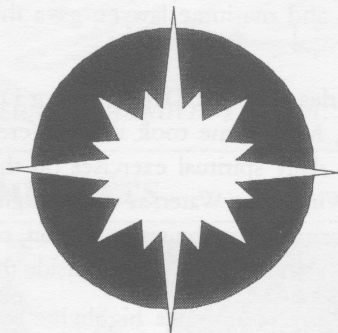



Photo: Guests at the November 19 Luncheon included, Soeren Berg, (J. Lauritzen Australia.), Nick Swales, (Oldendorff Carriers), Say Ong Chua (Pacific Carriers), Phillip Edgley and Geoff Hutcheson (Five Star Shipping and Agency Co.), Frank Williamson ("K" Line Australia.), Ken Drake, Skilled Maritime Services, Chris Curtain (**Lemon Baxter Real Estate – lunch sponsor**), Tim Steele (Patrick Stevedores), Harry Noh (MISC Agencies), Leigh Mau, (Leigh Mau Public Relations).

Special thanks to Lemon Baxter, Kenlyn Mascetelli (KenZen), Up Close and Personal Catering, Volunteers Maria Culka, Caroline Cosens and MtS staff, Judy Douglas and Bill Romney for their assistance and support.



THE MISSION TO SEAFARERS

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Phone 03 9629 7083 - Facsimile 03 9629 8450

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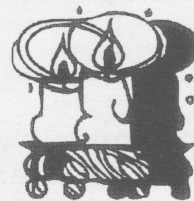
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N12/01

☐ how to become a volunteer ☐ Ship to Shore newsletter Donations of \$2.00 or more are tax deductible

The Mission to Seafarers Biennial Conference 2001

The Victorian Mission to Seafarers hosted the 2001 Mission to Seafarers Conference in November this year. The venue was set in the beautiful countryside just out of Daylesford at Rutherford Park Resort.

The auspicious opening to the conference came from the Mission to Seafarers new Secretary General, Canon Bill Christianson, preaching at St. Paul's Cathedral, Melbourne on 4 November for the Navy's annual service.



Mrs. Elanora Sanavitilevu, Suva Fiji & Margaret Weeks Port Headland W.A.

As the conference special guest, Canon Christianson delivered the keynote address to the eighteen MtS delegates from ports

around Australia including a representative from Fiji. Mr Lawrence Whiting was the inaugural observer from the Apostleship of the Sea. Dr. Chris Whitaker, Managing Director of the Melbourne Port Corporation spoke in detail about the changes in Australian shipping over the next three years. Captain Peter Murphy, a seafarer and maritime lawyer, gave the after dinner address.

Dr. Charles Sherlock, Deputy Senior Lecturer, Trinity College, Melbourne took the conference delegates through daily spiritual exercises on the elements of Earth, Wind, Fire, Water, as well as Light. This evoked some alarm during the water session, considering the wet weather and the lake just outside the campus!

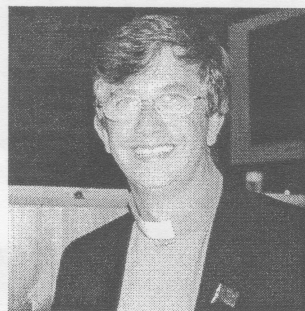
One of the conference highlights was the session facilitated by Dr. Peter Marshall, CEO, ITIM Australia, helping each of the delegates gain awareness of the strengths and weaknesses of their stations and to gain the courage to share. Enlivened by the spirit of the conference, a new council was established to carry out the conference's exciting new directions. The pace of change in shipping is affecting seafarers' missions around the world. While there are still many questions and no easy answers, there is a greater awareness of the needs. In response to the conference, the Mission to Seafarers' in Australia has taken the first steps to address these needs.

The Mission's sincere thank goes to all those who contributed in the organisation of Conference 2001 including the presentations, accommodation arrangements and driving as well as many other tasks.

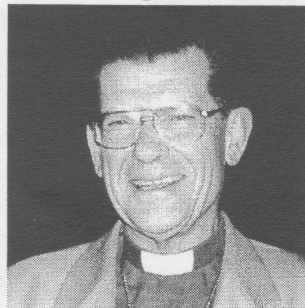
*Padre Ted Cosens
State Chaplain - Victoria*



*The Rev Canon Bill Christianson
Secretary General MtS London*



*Rev Robert Hill Secretary
Australian Council of MtS &
MtS State Chaplain Tasmania*



*The Rt Rev David McCall Bishop
of Bunbury, Chairman of the
Australian Council of MtS*

A Christmas Reflection

'Tis again the season of good cheer,
Of barbeques, beaches and the New Year.
The Tampa's now out of fashion.
Has Australia lost its compassion?
The election passed with just a sigh,

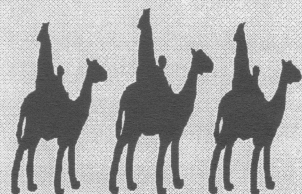
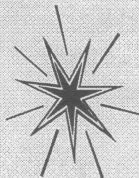
- but did we hear the boat children cry?

Two million people from countries flee,
in boats they come here, over the sea
to Australia, lucky country, land of the free.
Has every thing to do with you and me!

We gather at Christmas to count our
blessings,
to catch up with friends, to make amends.
We say thank you God, Creator of all.
For your Son, born in a backyard stall.
For we are lucky, all Australians under the sky.

- but now will we hear The Baby cry!

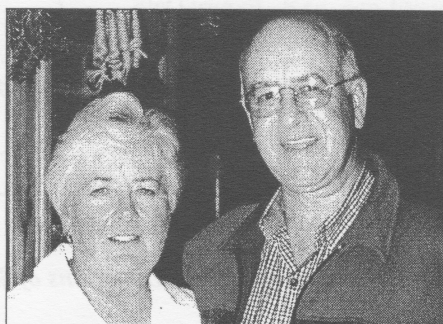
*Padre Ted Cosens
State Chaplain
Mission to Seafarers Victoria*



Profile – Portland Chaplain Roy Hope

Born and raised in Williamstown, Roy Hope initially served an apprenticeship in the timber industry after leaving school. Six years later Roy moved to the grain industry where he worked for a total of twenty-five years, the last nineteen involved with shipping grain overseas.

Following three decades in commerce Roy felt free to complete his part-time external



Roy and Margaret Hope at the MtS Conference 2001

theological studies. After a year of full time study Roy graduated with a Diploma in Ministry from the Churches of Christ theological college. Ordained into pastoral ministry at Port Fairy, Roy served in the church for four and a half years before joining "MtS" in Portland.

"To serve God in an industry with which I had had such a long association seemed to be an affirmation that God had been preparing me all my life for such a mission. After almost eight years at Mission to Seafarers Portland, I look forward to another five, God willing."

Roy is married to Margaret, they have three daughters—Leonie, Michelle and Jennifer and also a grand-daughter and six grandsons.