



SHIP TO SHORE



Caring for Seafarers in Victorian Ports since 1858

Winter Edition 2002

Mission supporters recognised for fund-raising efforts

The support of the shipping industry for the Mission's fund-raising campaign was recognised in June when plaques and certificates acknowledging individual contributions were presented at a function at the Mission hosted by shipping brokers Seawise Australia.

Mission Fundraising Committee Chairman Nigel Porteous expressed gratitude for the support to date but told the gathering that there was still a long way to go over the next three years to reach the campaign target.

Rio Tinto Business Manager Gurindah Singh, encouraged guests to get behind the campaign and to recruit other supporters from the shipping sector. Guests were given a briefing on current initiatives, including the relocation of the Melbourne Flying Angel Club to the first floor of the historical Mission building.

Plaques and certificates were presented by State Council Chairman Bishop Jeremy Ashton, to:

- Rio Tinto Shipping
- ASP Ship Management
- Mogal Marine Pty Ltd
- Patrick Stevedores
- Seawise Australia Pty Ltd
- ANL Container Line
- Victorian Channels Authority
- Company of Master Mariners (Melbourne Branch)
- Middletons, Lawyers
- Furness Withy (Aust) Pty Ltd
- Pentarch Pty Ltd
- Gearbulk Australia Pty Ltd



*Displaying their awards are (from left) Ross Toy, Seawise Australia; Nigel Porteous, Vice Chairman Mission to Seafarers Vic.; Michael Dowling, Victorian Channels Authority; Glen Colaco, ANL Container Line; Bishop Jeremy Ashton, Chairman, Mission to Seafarers Vic.; Geir Osland, Gearbulk Australasia. **More presentation pictures overleaf.***

Recognition of support was also given to:

- Skilled Maritime Services
- Lemon Baxter Pty Ltd
- Leigh Mau Public Relations
- Lloyd's List DCN.

Special thanks are due to Ross Toy and the Seawise staff and to Judy Sampson of Bridgwater Personnel for her efforts in organising the function.



A reminder from State Chaplain, Padre Ted Cosens

Don't forget Sea Sunday!

Sea Sunday will be celebrated on July 14. Be sure you and your parish are well prepared for this important occasion. Material including sermon notes, posters and brochures are now available.

For more information phone 9629 7083

Or email

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MISSION TO SEAFARERS

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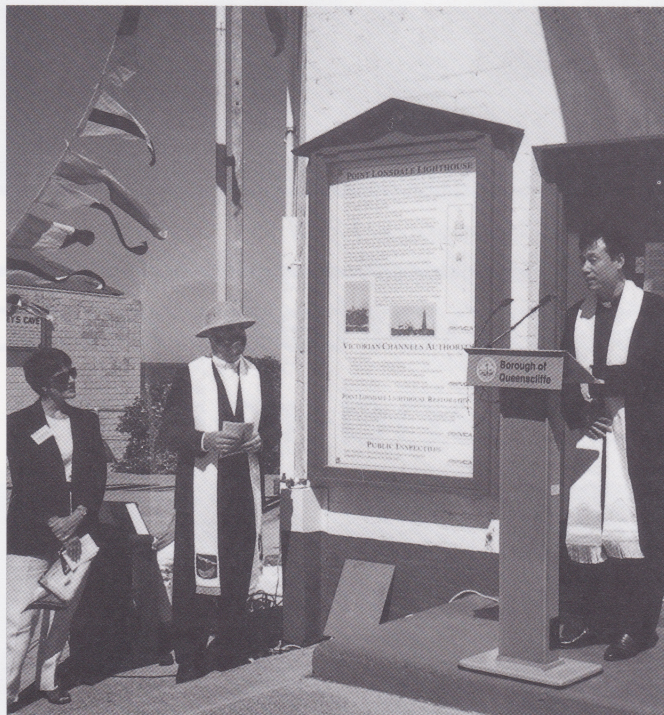
Geelong Mission Chaplain Noah Park gave The Blessing at a ceremony on March 23 to mark the centenary of the Port Lonsdale lighthouse, which has been a beacon for seafarers visiting Port Phillip since 1902.

The occasion was also marked by the presentation of a plaque commemorating the contributions of the signalmen, light-keepers, communications officers and their families to the safety of shipping and small craft at Port Phillip Heads.

The light stands 37 metres above sea level. The concrete tower has walls two metres thick at the base and one metre at the top. It was built to replace a timber structure which had been operating since 1836. An octagonal base was built in 1950 to house radio communications equipment.

The ceremony was attended by the Minister for Environment and Conservation, Ms Sherryl Garbutt, the Mayor of Queenscliffe, Cr Val Lawrence, and the Deputy Chair of the Victorian Ports and Channels Authority, Mr Michael Dowling. Other officiating clergymen were the Rev Geoffrey Traill, St James Anglican

Centennial blessing for a famous lighthouse



Church, Point Lonsdale, and the Rev Charles Gallagher, Uniting Church of Queenscliff and Point Lonsdale.

Padre Noah Park officiating at the ceremony blessing the Point Lonsdale lighthouse on its centenary on March 23.



Standing 37 metres above the sea, the Point Lonsdale light has been guiding mariners through Port Phillip Heads for 100 years.

From front page

Mission supporters recognised for fund-raising efforts

RIGHT: Tim Steel, Patrick Stevedores; Robert Thornton, Mogal Marine; Padre Ted Cosens, State Chaplain Mission to Seafarers Vic.

BELOW: (from left) Malcolm McComb, Pentarch Pty Ltd; Robert Springall, Middletons Lawyers; Tim King, ASP Ship Management Group; Kristian Vestergaard, Furness Withy; Gurinder Singh, Rio Tinto Shipping.



VALE

Our prayers, thoughts and remembrances are offered following the recent deaths of two well-respected former Mission to Seafarers Chaplains.

The Rev Hugh Girvan

A long-serving chaplain to the Mission to Seafarers and former Archdeacon of Geelong, the Rev Hugh Girvan, who died in June, had been a major community influence during his ministry in Geelong since 1977. He is survived by his wife Shirley and children, Craig, Richard, Helen and Alison and their families.

The Rev William Coffey

The funeral of the Rev William Coffey, a past Chaplain of the Mission to Seafarers, and once assistant Chaplain at Melbourne, was attended on May 16 by the Rev Bill Dalling on behalf of the Mission to Seafarers State Council. The Rev William Coffey is survived by his wife Betty.

Shore leave becomes a family affair

An unexpectedly long break over the Easter public holidays for the Chinese crew of the *Torm Arawa*, berthed in Melbourne, turned into a family affair, when Annette Wood invited them to a picnic at Wattle Park, Surrey Hills, with her husband John, five of her children and four grandchildren.

Over Easter, several ships were held up by the public holidays, leaving crews with unaccustomed time on their hands and few places to go.

Wattle Park is an Australian native park, which was a favourite playground for Annette's seven children in their younger days.

The Wood family met the crew when they arrived by bus at 1pm with Padre Ted. The Captain and the Chief Officer and an Indian crew member were the only English-speakers, but this was no impediment to the seafarers' enjoyment of



The Chinese seafarers enjoy a traditional Aussie barbecue lunch at picturesque Wattle Park.

a barbecue lunch and beer, Aussie style.

After lunch, the guests entered into the spirit of the occasion as they tried to fathom the mysteries of Australian rules football, especially dealing with the oval ball instead of the familiar soccer ball, and learned to handle it. Quoit games, didgeridoo playing and boomerang throwing were also among the entertainments.

Before the crew left, a beautiful painting was presented to the family. "It was a totally unexpected gesture, because the family had had a great time in a favourite place," Annette said.

Easter eggs and several packets of Anzac biscuits were sent back to share with the crew members who were unable to come to the picnic.

Big networking operation aims to reunite Harbour Lights members

Search for Guilders

A big net-working operation to link up former members of the Harbour Lights Guild is now being carried out by volunteer Maria Culka.

"The idea is to re-establish contacts with, and among, Harbour Lights Guild ladies who were so active during the great days of the Mission in the 1940s, 50s and 60s," Maria told *Ship to Shore*.

Harbour Lights members were extremely dedicated, and would be at the Mission five times a week, with some groups doing cleaning and housekeeping, others serving in the canteen and organising dances, card parties, film nights and dinners and at weekend, on picnics.

But former members recall that contact with seafarers was very decorously carried out. Harbour Lights volunteers were not allowed aboard ships, and a

member could go out with a visiting seafarer only with the permission of the Chaplain and the Master of the ship.

All members had to be checked for character references.

In the past few months, Maria has been visiting former members of the Guild, whose last official meeting was in the mid-eighties. She has identified around 300 so far, and wants to hear from more, and intends likig them up to each other so they can have personal contact and attend reunion functions at the Mission.

Maria can be contacted by phone at 9874 3133.

Get Well

Our special thoughts go to two former Harbour Lights Guild members, Joan Richardson and Beverley Kent (Oliver) who have both had extended time in hospital recently.

Memories from the Mission archives

The Melbourne Mission holds a treasure trove of memories, letters, photographs, newspaper cuttings, reports and leaflets going back 100 years or more, and we're currently trying to put them into some sort of order.

In the meantime, we'll be extracting some gems from the collection to publish in *Ship to Shore*, beginning with this poem written by a seafarer named Andy Knox, who clearly

had fond memories of dancing with the girls at the Mission, probably at some time in the 1950s:

*Sadie is teaching me dancing,
And Brother do we have fun!!
There's Sambas, Waltzes and
Fox-trots,
And every dance under the sun.
I slip, I stagger and then lose
the beat,
But Sadie I'm sure doesn't
mind.
For she's one of the girls at the
Mission,
And has met men of every
kind.
We are going to *Legget's
tomorrow,
To spend the whole night on
the floor.
If I don't break a leg or go
crazy.
I'll finish up dancing I'm sure.*

The writer adds a note to the poetic offering: "May the soul of the author rest in peace in the event of him losing his life at Legget's tomorrow night". [*Legget's was a famously popular Melbourne ballroom dancing venue]

Question: Does anyone know who Andy Knox was — or Sadie?



The way we were a dance in progress at the Mission in the 1950s.

PROFILE: Ted Cosens

Padre Ted—a man with many missions

Padre Ted Cosens (*pictured in action on the front page*) is a man with a mission in more ways than one.

He is State Chaplain to the Mission to Seafarers Victoria and he has a specific mission to turn the organisation around in

a period of dramatic change. Since his appointment to Melbourne in January, 1999, he has seen the establishment of a new volunteer management group, the launching of a professionally run fund-raising campaign and a drive to recruit a new generation of volunteers. Ted admits this has been his biggest chaplaincy task.

English-born Padre Ted was ordained a deacon in 1964 and on becoming a priest the following year joined the parish of West Drayton.

Like many others who work with the Missions, there was a certain inevitability about Padre Ted's maritime vocation. His father was parish priest on the coast of Essex. When Ted was aged eight, he and his brother were smuggled aboard *HMS Hedingham Castle* by the crew, without the knowledge of the Admiralty, to spend some of the holidays cruising the North Sea.

Following national service in the mid-1950s., Ted became a Mission Chaplain's Assistant before going on to Durham University and theological college in Lichfield, where he met his wife, Caroline. They have a son and daughter.

After time in Holland and the U.K., Ted and his family were sent to Australia in 1976 to pioneer the building of the Dampier Mission Centre. This was followed by an assignment in Auckland, New Zealand. He then went back to three more Mission chaplaincies in England, the last in Avonmouth, before coming to Melbourne.

Among Ted's deepest concerns is the building and renewal of the Mission's volunteer force and the introduction of a new approach in which the chaplain trains the volunteers to become ship visitors. This will be a major objective over the next 12 months.

THANKS

Special thanks to these generous supporters (to June 7)

Joan Kerr
Glenda Theys
N.N. Hartley
AS & HA Black
Tony Marchant
St John's Heidelberg
M. Stubbs
Molly Elvish
E.McLoughlin
St Peters Bundoora
W. Fullagher
A.T.E. Dalling
RE & DM Chase
Gearbulk Australia Pty Ltd

The Seafact File

Occasional snippets of maritime information

The Port of Melbourne

- Australia's largest container port, with 37 per cent of the nation's container trade).
- Nearly 3000 ships a year call, providing services to more than 300 world ports
- Cargo passes through at the rate of more than \$65 billion yearly, or \$7.5 million a day
- Contributes more than \$5.8 billion a year to Victoria's economy.

[Source: Melbourne Ports Corporation]



Yes, I want to help

- ☐ \$10 ☐ \$25 ☐ \$50
☐ \$100 ☐ \$200 ☐ \$.....

☐ My cheque/money order is enclosed, made payable to Seafarers Welfare Fund

☐ Please debit my credit card

☐ Bankcard MasterCard ☐ Visa

Card No:

Name on card Expiry date
Mr/Mrs/Ms (Surname, then given names. Please print)

Signature

Address

..... Postcode:

Donations of \$2.00 or more are tax deductible

Please send information on (please tick)

- ☐ How to become a volunteer
☐ Requesting to Mission to Seafarers

New hands at helm of Ship to Shore

Bryan Reid, Don Dunlop and Christine Edward are now giving their time, skill and experience to the production of our newsletter.

Bryan has been in journalism and publications for longer than he would like to admit to and he and his long-time friend and past workmate Don worked together in media for many years. Christine has a Masters in Communications and has provided great editorial backup. This volunteer support is invaluable to the Mission's communications effort.

We would also like to extend to Don our congratulations on his award of the OAM in the Queens Birthday Honours Award for services to the credit union movement.

-Annette Wood

We were wrong!

Ship to Shore, in its last issue, mistakenly raised volunteer Tony Williams into the ranks of the ordained clergy. Although he works from St Luke's Church in South Melbourne, Tony is a lay volunteer. Mission volunteers are drawn from both lay and clergy. All perform a highly valuable service, but we need more of them. In Europe, including the United Kingdom, the Mission to Seafarers pays full-time chaplains the same rate whether ordained or lay.