



# SHIP TO SHORE



*Caring for Seafarers in Victorian Ports since 1858*

SPRING EDITION 2002

## Recent activities at the Mission's centres

### Portland support recognised

Recognition of support from the Port of Portland for the Portland Mission to Seafarers was acknowledged recently when Mission chairman Norm Humpage presented a certificate of appreciation to the Port of Portland's Managing Director Peter Davie. For the past 18 months the Port of Portland has met the running costs of the Mission's bus, which was donated 18 months ago by The International Transport Workers' Federation.

### A Christmas gift idea

Hastings Centre's Friends of the Flying Angel have pooled their culinary skills to produce a highly successful revenue-raising recipe book, which would make an ideal Christmas gift.

The book, entitled *Plain Sailing Cooking*, contains a selection of their favourite recipes, covering soups and starters, simple but popular main courses, and puddings, cakes and biscuits.

Plain Sailing Cooking sells for \$5 a copy. To order, contact Pat Dann on 5678 0581.

### A popular venue

The Melbourne Mission headquarters is becoming a popular venue for meetings



PHOTO:  
Portland  
Observer

*Port of Portland Managing Director Peter Davie, Portland Mission to Seafarers Chairman Norm Humpage, Secretary Edna Stanford, Mission Chaplain Roy Hope, Treasurer Paul Bennett and the Port of Portland's Captain Vijay, pictured with the Mission bus.*

and other functions. Shipping Australia Limited chose the Mission as the venue for their regular meeting in August. Sixteen members from fourteen shipping and industry bodies were taken on a tour of the building and given a briefing by Mission Vice Chairman Nigel Porteous, covering recent events and future plans for the Mission in

Victoria. Staff and volunteers joined the group for refreshments at the close of the meeting.

Another very different gathering was also held in the Celia Little Room at the Mission in late July with the celebration of the sixtieth birthday of Mission volunteer and Master Mariner, Alan Knott. Alan's wife Maria created a wonder-

ful carnival atmosphere with colourful decorations and delicious catering. Our special social reporter tells us it was a fabulous lunch.

A small function was held at the Mission on Monday September 2 to recognise special contributions by several companies and groups who have assisted with valuable "in kind" support during this year.



*Geelong was the venue for the meeting of the Mission's Victorian State Council on August 1. Pictured outside the Geelong centre are, from left: The Rev Roy Hope, Bill Romney, Norm Humpage, Padre Ted Cosens, Bishop Jeremy Ashton, Michael Terry, Nigel Porteous, John Wilson and the Rev Noah Park.*

## Distinguished patronage for Victorian Mission

The Governor of Victoria, Mr John Landy, AC, MBE, has agreed to continue in the office of Patron in Chief of the Mission. Mrs Neilma Gantner, Pacific area Vice-President of International Social Services, and a long-time donor to the Mission, has agreed to become our new Vice-Patron. Mrs Gantner has a special interest in ships and the sea, as she outlines in her article inside.



## NEW FACES



### Meet our new State Manager

Newly appointed State Manager for The Missions to Seafarers Victoria, Janet Dale (above), will be responsible for general administration, business development and fund raising.

She has an impressive record both in business and in the not-for-profit sector.

This part-time position is funded by a special grant from a charitable foundation.

Janet's voluntary work has included teaching Art Therapy for the Southern region of the Department of Mental Health. Janet has a Bachelor of Arts Degree from the University of London and a Bachelor of Social Science from Deakin University.

### Admin. Assistant

Our new part-time Administration Assistant at the Melbourne Mission is South-African born Beth Damant (below), who worked for 22 years in Durban in the legal profession. Beth emigrated to Australia six years ago.



### Hatched

Congratulations to former Mission Administration Assistant Judy Douglas and her husband John who have become proud parents of Ella Angela Kocho Douglas who was born on August 7, and weighed in at 3.45kg. All concerned are well.

## CHASING MEMORIES



### Who are they?

All we know about this photograph from the Mission archives is that it shows a group of Mission volunteers — probably Harbour Light Guilders. It was probably taken in the fifties or sixties. If you know any of the people in the picture, please call Maria Culka. She can be contacted on 9874 3133. *AK partner.*

### We want to hear your stories

Former members of the Harbour Lights Guild must have many stories to tell of their experiences with their voluntary work for the Mission to Seafarers and we'd like to hear them. If you have something interesting or amusing to tell, please get in touch with Maria Culka at 9874 3133. Here's an example, reproduced with her permission, from Marie Stubbs, of Box Hill:

Dear Maria,

*I used to act as a hostess at the dances for the seamen at the Seamen's Mission in Williamstown in the early 1940s.*

*A group of us would attend Church at St Andrew's Presbyterian Church and then walk round the corner to the Mission which was in an old factory building in Thompson Street.*

*Later the Mission moved to Nelson Place.*

*We girls were expected to ask the men to dance if they didn't get up of their own accord.*

*In 1943 I joined the Wrens and sometimes went to the Mission in uniform. When I did that, if I did not get up to dance, a little old lady would come up and ask me to dance with her. Her belief was that you could not let a seaman or anyone in the Naval uniform be left out. If I were in civvies, it was a different matter.*

*Your "Ship to Shore" brings back many happy memories.*

*Best wishes*

Marie Stubbs

## Your bequest can help the Mission

A commitment to the welfare of the seafarer can take many forms and a legacy or bequest is a special way this can be done.

A gift in your Will ensures that the programs essential to the seafarers will continue.

The work of the Mission now spans three centuries, and far from diminishing, is more urgent than ever before.

Danger, loneliness and work pressures are present seven

days a week for the seafarer, with little chance of relief.

Mission Chaplains and volunteers meet the ships in port daily, constantly reaching out, providing support and facilities to bring some comfort to the seafarer. Witnessing the impact of being far from home and family for months and sometimes years stirs us to realise that the value of the seafarers in our lives often goes unrecognised.



## Successful Sea Sunday

Anglican and Uniting Churches around the State observed Sea Sunday on July 14. Ports were busy with extra services and Open Days which were very successful.

Donations this year have exceeded expectations and are still being received. We are grateful to the organisations that helped us to distribute Sea Sunday material to a wider audience this year.

### Navy Week Service

One of the highlights of the year in maritime circles is the annual Seafarers' Service at the end of Navy Week. It is to be held this year on Sunday, November 3 at St Paul's Cathedral, starting at 10.30am.

Organisation of Navy week is shared by The Mission to Seafarers, the Company of Master Mariners and the Committee for Navy Week. Call Beth for information, 9629 7083.

## SEA FACTS

*Occasional snippets of maritime information.*

### Deaths at sea

Some 360 lives and 155 ships were lost at sea last year, according to the latest "World Casualty Statistics" published by Lloyd's Register/Fairplay.

Deaths were at their lowest level for several years, but the figure still means that on average, six seafarers are losing their lives every week of the year.

Fairplay magazine itself points out that although much attention has been focused on dry bulk losses, general cargo ships are far more dangerous, to judge by the statistics. The former accounted for 65 lives last year; the latter, for 118.

Age is clearly a factor in the loss of ships, 103 of last year's toll being more than 20 years old.

*(Reprinted from The Sea, published by The Mission to Seafarers, London)*



From a childhood watching ships come in and out of Port Phillip Bay, through years of ocean yachting and a passion for travel on cargo vessels, Our new Vice-Patron, **Mrs Neilma Gantner** has accumulated a deep knowledge and love of the sea and an interest in those who live and work on it. In this article, she outlines the background to her lifelong interest:

## ‘The world began the minute they passed the lighthouse’

Once started a section of a novel this way. I meant it. Sorrento, on the Nepean Peninsula, the eastern arm of the entrance to Port Phillip Bay, was the well-loved place of my childhood and adolescence.

With the aid of my grandmother's telescope, I watched the ships going up and down the South Channel, turning northwards at the Rosebud Light, which, alas, is no longer operative. The larger ships used the South Channel, those to Tasmania, and the paddle-steamers *Hygeia* and *Weeroona*, the West.

My mother was born in Queenscliff, my granduncle James, a sailor, swam the Rip at slack water in 1853. He settled at Queenscliff, ran the lighthouse, and had sixteen children, thirteen of whom grew up. My own family had a house at Point King where in 1802 Acting Lieutenant Murray, in command of H.M. Armed Surveying vessel, *Lady Nelson*, entered Port Phillip Bay.

Ordered to chart the coast between Cape Schank and Cape Otway, Murray landed at Point King on March 9, 1802, and claimed the port in the name of His Majesty King George III of Great Britain and Ireland. A Cairn marks the spot. My sister, as Lieutenant Governor of Victoria, in a replica of the *Lady Nelson* in March of this year re-enacted Lieutenant Murray's arrival. There were celebrations at Port King marking the two hundredth anniversary.

From a small house on the cliff nearby, and still with my grandmother's telescope, nowadays I watch the ships. No longer are there the familiar Orient and P&O liners that passed on a Tuesday afternoon in the thirties, nor the Matson liners on Saturday, nor the friendly interstate ships. Today tankers, bulk carriers, car carriers, roll-on/roll-off and container ships, the step-mothers or mothers-in-law of the sea pass, but it is still a pleas-

ure to read the names, home ports and identify funnel markings.

Having grown up reading Joseph Conrad, John Masfield and everything I could about the sea, from the Grain Race from Spencer Gulf ports to Europe; of the tea clippers, the Yankee whalers that plied the South Seas and were gone from their ports in Maine or Massachusetts, sometimes for three years, or the four-masted barques that went around the Horn to Chile, I realised, alas, that the only way I could go to sea when the time came that I was free to do so, was to voyage by container ship. (I still hope to find a tramp steamer that goes from port to port unscheduled).

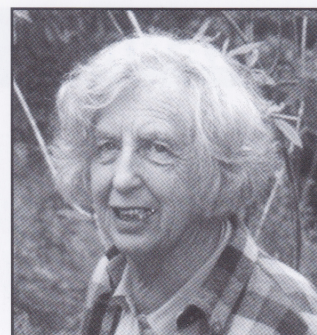
It seems that I have made eight container ship voyages—three or four to or from Europe on a Contship, and several trans-Pacific voyages on Blue Star or Columbus Line ships. All voyages have been happy, if not as eventful as the days in the fifties and sixties when I did a lot of ocean sailing with the Livingston Brothers, Frank and John, South Australian graziers. I was third mate on their ketch *Kurrewa III* and again on the great *Kurrewa IV*, once the *Morna*.

Beware of the east wind, Conrad advised in *The Mirror of the Sea*. I have to confess to enjoying two summer gales in Bass Strait.

And I've seen the green flash off Wilson's Promontory from the deck of the *Columbus Wellington*.

From the officers and crew members of various container ships in the Mediterranean, Indian and Pacific Oceans, I've learnt firsthand of the problems of seafarers. These days of fearsome competition mean swift turnaround—particularly in the Indian Ocean, that long traverse where once a ship left La Spezia, often the next port was Melbourne. Then the rhythm of the ship's routine is alleviated only by the sighting of another vessel and the interest in the welfare of a bird or two that flew on board in Egypt waters and omitted to depart at the Horn of Africa.

In the middle of the Indian Ocean, the Captain gives his dinner and the musicians in the crew play, sing and dance. In mid-ocean there is time for conversations about far-away places, ideas or distant hopes. There is time on board ship to become acquainted with German, British, Russian, Filipino and Karabati crew members and the few fellow-passengers. Reading the ship's complement, you learn why a particular man went to sea, where he was trained, why he continued in what is a demanding and lonely life, or how his family or sweetheart were managing without him.



To my sorrow, since the late nineties, there are no longer radio officers on these ships, the Captain having the additional burden. The radio officer's typewriter, standing unused beside the instruments of today's technology, could be mine to use, and I've had the pleasure of listening to a Filipino radio officer chat in Tagalog to his girl friend.

There is nothing more wonderful than standing on the bridge of a container ship at night when all the lights for'ard are off except for the masthead and only the navigational instruments glow in the blackness. One can stand quietly, see the dark pole of the mast move against the stars, speak to the officer on watch or the helmsman, check the speed, the radar, and know the position of the ship from the charts.

You often see the phosphorescence in the thrust of the ship through the ocean, or in daylight hours the wake of blue and white swirls vanishing astern. Those who live in this timeless nowhere know of what I speak.

As the Pacific area Vice-President of International Social Service, an international agency that deals with all manner of immigration, emigration and repatriation matters associated with the United Nations, I have known, theoretically at least, the problems of stowaways and homeless people. ISS endeavours to unite families when two countries are involved.

With so many people on the move nowadays, refugees and asylum seekers and others, there is endless work to be done. Australia can afford to be generous, and can ill afford, in the world's eyes, its present policies.

For those who choose the sea as a career, the mental, spiritual and physical sustenance given by the Mission to Seafarers through its Flying Angel Clubs has been revealed to me over the past 20 years. I am honoured to be invited to be a patron of the Mission to Seafarers Victoria.

## COMING UP

### 145<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

Planning has begun for the Victorian Mission's 145<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations in 2003. Details to be announced.

### Harbour Lights Barbecue

A combined Harbour Lights Guild and Mission volunteer barbecue lunch will be held at the Melbourne Mission on Saturday, December 7, followed by a service in St Peter's Mariner's Chapel, to celebrate Christmas and share in treasures old and new.

### Christmas card special!

A selection of charming Christmas cards, the results of a children's "Design a Christmas Card" competition held by the Mission to Seafarers in the UK, will be available for Christmas 2002. The published range of five different designs in packs of 10, were selected from a huge entry of pictures of all descriptions – drawing, painting, collages and cartoons covering religious, humorous, nautical and traditional Christmas themes. There'll be a rush on these distinctive cards, so get in early and place your order with Beth at the Melbourne Mission, phone 9629 7083.



## THANKS

**Sincere thanks to our generous supporters, including the Sea Sunday Appeal 2002, (to August 23):**

Neilma Gantner, P Horwood, Australian Maritime Services, Lt Cmd Lawrie, Annamila Pty Ltd, M Costa, Dr John B Willis, W R Roath, G Goodson, M L Clifton, Anonymous, E P Lawrence, Port Phillip Sea Pilots, H Mitchell, Barbara Broomhall, R H Durrant, Robert Purnell, H Trist, Mrs E L Rogers, L J Bradley, M E Pitcher, J P E Human, Mrs Beulah Lee, Mr & Mrs B Wills, George Hogben, M R Boak, S J Andrew, W Mummery, J & G Keys, B W Woods, Captain M S Rose, M Charles, Captain H L Tyler, R Wright, P MacGillivray, H McLaren, R L & J Grice, F G Evans, John Crane, V G Vost, Derek Moore, P Sheedy, F G Penny, R J Herd, F & A Hall, T Thompson, Keith Morgan, D Cardwell, R Johnson, St John's Anglican Church, Anglican Parish - Paynesville, P Heyward, Mt Beauty Uniting Church, Captain Tim Muir, Archdeacon of Geelong, Captain G McCathie, Anglican

Parish of Tongala, Captain Pat Blamey, Dr C A Hulls, Captain Graeme Smethhurst, P & M Mathews, The Company of Master Mariners, J J Bonner, Anglican Parish of Elmore, E H Tryhorn, Sue Pennycuik, Dr Les Mullins, John Liversidge, H Fallshaw, Mr & Mrs Stone, B M Scott, M H Goodall, N L Cadd, ALC Pole, L A Smith, R & M Croxford, A Jacques, J R Durran, M Tabuteau, R Chase, M & J Lowthian, C B Wills, S J Mottram, H L Speagle, Misses E & R Steen, J D Shearn, J Baker H Pears, G W Binns, St Peters Anglican Church, Heather A Scott, M Smith, MPMS Pty Ltd, K B Eddy, Horizon Marine, Anglican Church Diocese of Gippsland, R Faskett, E Dyer, I Datson, Captain R McDonell, M J Stevens, Melbourne Port Corporation, G J Bonner, D Hadwen, Victorian Channels Authority, Patrick Stevedores.

**"In Kind" Support:** Special thanks to: Isobel Ashton, Morton Bay Printing, Maritime Union Of Australia, Institute of Marine Engineers, Virtual Communities Pty Ltd.



## Ship blessing by State Chaplain

The 30,000-tonne bulk cargo ship *Cape Dyer* was christened in style at Appleton Dock, Melbourne on July 26, when Padre Ted Cosens gave the blessing, and Ms Jennifer Hickey, as "godmother", performed the traditional breaking of the bottle of champagne on the ship's bows.

*Picture shows, from left: Padre Ted, Mr Chris Blake, Manager, Project Asia Services, owners of the vessel, and the ship's "godmother", Ms Jennifer Hickey, daughter of Pasmenco Manager Director Andrew Hickey.*

### Books and magazines wanted

**The Mission is always glad to receive donations of books and magazines (recent issues if possible). If you can help, please contact Beth at the Mission (9629 7083).**

## Yes, I want to help

Here's my gift of:

☐ \$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 .....

Signature .....

Name .....

Mr/Mrs/Ms (Surname, then given names. Please print)

Address .....

..... Postcode: .....

**Donations of \$2.00 or more are tax deductible**

Please send information on (please tick)

☐ How to become a volunteer

☐ Bequesting to Mission to Seafarers

## Mission Centres

### Geelong

MtS Flying Angel Club  
7 The Esplanade  
North Shore 3214  
Tel/Fax (03) 5278 6985

### Hastings

Bayview Road  
Hastings 3915  
Tel: (03) 5979 4327  
Fax: (03) 5979 4676

### Portland

61 Cliff Street  
Portland 3305  
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### Melbourne

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