

**END OF FINANCIAL YEAR APPEAL  
PLEASE CONTRIBUTE A TAX  
DEDUCTIBLE DONATION &  
JOIN WITH US IN CONTINUING  
TO SUPPORT SEAFARERS**



*The Master's Mariner  
June 2021*

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### *A Message from the Chairman - Mr Peter Janssen OAM*



Dear MTS family -

With the Rev Philip Bradford having completed some 25 years of faithful service, I am very much aware that I have big shoes to fill! In addition to Philip retiring from the Board, Graeme Small also retired at the recent AGM. Graeme has served the Mission tirelessly for some 40 years, of which about 30 on the Board. We are all deeply grateful for their Christian ministry, and the lives of seafarers that have been so positively impacted as a result of their efforts.

As part of this generational change at Board level, the members at the AGM were pleased to appoint Greg Bondar as a new director. In addition to being an accredited Chaplain, Greg has had prior shipping industry and board experience. We warmly welcome him and look forward to his contribution.

Of course at this time of COVID, the stress on seafarers everywhere is as high as ever. We in Sydney are making a valuable contribution as part of the global Mission to Seafarers family of 200 ports in 50 countries. As a city, Sydney has helped seafarers navigate challenges and crises for almost 150 years.

We will help them get through this COVID crisis too!



Mr Peter Janssen,  
addressing the AGM

## *The Story of Just One Seafarer Assisted by the Mission*

Rev Un Tay picked up Mr 'X' from the domestic airport and assisted him with his hotel check in. They then proceeded to have dinner together. During dinner, Mr 'X' asked Rev Tay whether he had heard of any news of him from on board the vessel? Hearing that the answer was 'no', he then began to share his story.

### *Here is Rev Tay's account:*

Mr 'X' said that as the vessel was out in the open seas, far away from the coast so that no rescue helicopter could reach during emergency, he attempted suicide by consuming 3 boxes of pain killers because to him, there was "no tomorrow and without a tomorrow, there was no hope". Since it did not have an immediate effect on him, he took another box and started bleeding. He then took a knife to cut his wrist. Fortunately, the knife wasn't sharp enough to do its job. Soon after the incident, he was found by a colleague and was rescued. Thank God for that. But for the vessel to arrive at her destination at a port in Australia, it would be another 2 weeks! During that time, he was under observation and supervision by officers and crew. Imagine what a stressful time this would have been, for all on board.

Upon arrival in Australia, he was discharged and admitted to hospital for treatment. Being alone and without the language to communicate, he was restless and requested to be discharged from hospital after 7 days of treatment and wanted to be repatriated. He was sent to Sydney, where Rev Tay picked him up. Since he could not fly home directly, due to flight restrictions caused by Covid-19 he was now stranded in his hotel.

After his arrival in Sydney, we provided pastoral care and support and visited him two to three times a week. One evening he called me at 9:30pm. On the phone, he told me that there was an emergency and please report it to police. I was shocked to receive that call, thinking that the worst might had happened to him. Immediately, I rushed to his hotel room to attend to him. Upon arrival at his hotel room, I found him crouching on the sofa and his whole body was literally shaking, looking blank and stammering in his speech. After much struggle listening to his sharing, I was able to calm him down and assured him that he is in a safe environment. Seeing him recovered and in a better state, I left the hotel at 1:00am.

Following on from this incident, for three weeks, we cared for him. I was able to interpret for the agent, the hotel staff and immigration officers, which relieved a lot of his stress. We were able to provide some reading materials in his language & continue to provide support such as helping him to buy his prescription medicine, calling him and taking him out to visit places of interest to help alleviate his anxieties, fears, and traumas.

As part of our social therapy, we visited the Harbour Bridge, Opera House, Darling Harbour - Australian National Maritime Museum, our lovely beaches, shopping complexes and our Mission, we also arranged for him to have a haircut. His mental health improved tremendously during this time and since I first met him, and he was looking forward to being repatriated.

Mr 'X', was repatriated several weeks later. Since then, Rev Tay has remained in touch with him and just recently received an email from Mr 'X'. He said "When the pandemic eases and I have the time, I would like to visit you again. I have fond memories of my time in Sydney."

What a wonderful outcome. This is just one of the many stories of the seafarers that the mission staff encounter and deal with on a daily basis, highlighting the importance of our continued work.

The Hon Michael McCormack MP, Deputy Prime Minister & Minister for Infrastructure, Transport & Regional Development, has written some articles for Daily Cargo News, please find below some excerpts written by him in the March 2020 DCN edition, relating to the shipping industry:

***The seas are our oyster*** by Michael McCormack

“The resolve of Australians has been fully tested this summer but as always, in the worst of times we see the best of our nation .....

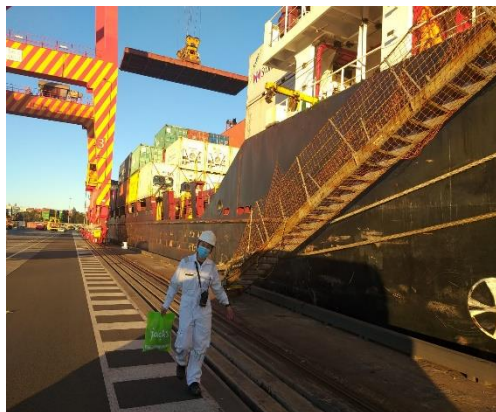
Collaboration between governments and industries, including maritime industries, will continue to be a vital part of our future responses and readiness.

At the same time we must plan for future growth - and when it comes to growth and opportunity, Australia’s shipping and maritime sectors are punching well above their weight. When shipping and maritime are cruising, this success benefits everyday Australians working on farms, running businesses, or consumers who count on shipping to deliver the goods they need, when they need them .....

It is worth reflecting on where Australia’s maritime and shipping sectors stood at the end of 2019 - and at the beginning of this new decade.

Australia has always been a significant maritime nation. Our nation has 60,000 kilometres of coastline, 12,000 islands and the third largest exclusive economic zone in the world. We’re the world’s largest commodities exporter, leading in exports of iron ore, coal and bauxite, and we’re the second largest exporter of liquefied natural gas. Some 99% of our international trade by volume is carried by sea .....

To put this in perspective, this means Australian ports handle nearly 1.6 billion tonnes of cargo annually, more than 93% of which is international trade. We receive more than 28,440 visits per year from international ships and we have an active domestic coastal shipping task too, owing to our extensive coastline and the distance between our major coastal cities. All this movement and trade means goods are constantly travelling through our waters - and this benefits not only the shipping and maritime sectors, but also producers and consumers all over the country.....”



*Without crew, these vessels would not be able to operate, transporting our exports or bringing in the imports we all rely on each and every day - everything from shoes & clothing, food, cars, building supplies, medical equipment and much more - in fact did you know that 100% of NSW’s bitumen supplies (the core material in road construction in Australia) are imported and handled at Port Botany. We are all reliant on our roads. Without ships, no roads. But who provides services for the seafarers crewing on these vessels? - **The Mission to Seafarers** - This vital work must continue, please join with us by donating financially to our End of Financial Year Appeal.*

## *Farewell & Thanks to Graeme Small*

As our Chairman, Mr Peter Janssen OAM, mentioned in his message, we have recently farewelled our long serving board member Graeme Small. Graeme volunteered at the mission for about 40 years and served on the board for approximately 30 of those years. He was the Treasurer for much of that time as well as a vital member of the Fund-Raising Committee and volunteering on reception, serving seafarers. In his early years at the mission he met his wife Louise who also served as a volunteer.

He was farewelled at our recent AGM, where a vote of thanks and recognition were given by Jane Fyffe, our current treasurer and long serving board member, as well as Clive Goodwin, Chairman of the Sydney Bethel Union, the largest single contributor of funds to the Mission to Seafarers in the ports of New South Wales. After the AGM, a lunch was held in Graeme's honour.

The mission has been a large part of Graeme's life and Graeme has been a vital part of the Mission to Seafarers, Sydney NSW. He has been the source of much knowledge and wisdom and will be sorely missed. We wish Graeme and Louise, God's richest blessings in the next phase of their lives and thank them both enormously for the roles they have taken in the mission.



**In Brief:** There was a recent article on Bloomberg.com discussing the plight of Australian ships and their crew stranded off the coast of China, this issue will be explored further in our next newsletter, but in the meantime please read the following excerpts taken from Bloomberg: "The Jag Anand stranded off the Chinese coast for 356 days with Australian coal...left the port of Gladstone on May 26, 2020, laden with 174,000 tons of coal. It went into anchorage off Jingtang in mid-June last year before finally arriving into port on May 16 2021.... The ship & its sailors, along with more than 70 other bulk carriers, were essentially stranded off the coast when China implemented a ban on several Australian commodities.... At least 19 ships carrying Australian coal.... Are still anchored off the Chinese coast. The W Eagle, holding 90,000 tons of Aussie coal, departed Gladstone on June 17 last years and is still waiting off Jingtang...."

*Seafarers have to cope with so many difficult circumstances.*

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Tax deductible donations can also be made directly into our Bank Account:

BSB 062 074

Account 1000 8062

Cheques can be sent, however there may be a delay in processing as banking will only be done fortnightly.

**PLEASE CONTRIBUTE TO OUR END OF FINANCIAL YEAR SALE**

and continue to remember us and all seafarers in your prayers and financially through your donations, both regular and by creating a bequest through your will which is a special way you can continue to care for seafarers.

Thank you, stay well and  
God bless you all.