

The Master's Mariner

JUNE 2022

News from *Mission to Seafarers*
24 Hickson Rd Sydney 2000 +61 2 9241 3009
www.missiontoseafarerssydney.org.au
enquiries@missiontoseafarers.org.au

Please remember the seafarers as you consider your end of financial year giving!



Planning their Sydney visit: Chaplain Retchie Salvador welcomed our first Mission visitors – and did so in Filipino!

Mission Welcomes First Seafarers Since August 2020

In April, the MtS team were delighted to welcome the first group of seafarers to visit our Sydney Mission in 2022. From the Philippines, preparing to join their container vessel heading to New Zealand, they kindly shared their stories: Seafarer Gerritzmann was relieved to be able to work again after covid lockdowns, but the timing was tough. He had left his wife at nine months pregnant and six year old son. "But I have to do this for them," he said. A practicing Christian, he particularly appreciated the Mission's work in helping him stay connected with his faith and giving him a place to connect with other Christians as he visited ports around the world.

Hector, who had not had shore leave since 2019, was also missing his wife and two year old son. He said his current ship provided reasonably priced wifi on board so he could stay in touch, but many seafarers were not able to access such luxury. When asked if his son wanted to grow up to be a seafarer, he responded "I hope not!". He wanted him to be a farmer, so he could stay connected with the land and family. "It's really hard to be alone," he said.

Leigh, a new deck cadet, was preparing for his first ship. He knew it was going to be hard work and long hours, but he was looking forward to the adventure and making the most of each day. Alvin, who came from line of seafarers, said he was proud to be able to support his family including his ageing parents with his wage. He thanked the team at the Mission, saying covid restrictions had helped him realise how important it was to have good shore leave!

EOFY Appeal to Boost Onboard Visits

Captains continue to be concerned about covid outbreaks but slowly more are allowing our fully-vaccinated Chaplains onboard. There they can provide counselling, conflict resolution, goods delivery services and a listening ear to those who have been trapped and away from their families, homes and friends. With almost 45,000 seafarers visiting Sydney each year – over 400, 000 including cruise vessels – the opportunities to serve are only limited by our resources. We can currently help about 10,000 per year. **Please give generously so we can do so much more!**



To Donate: i) select donation on our website – instant receipt OR
ii) make a cheque out to 'Mission to Seafarers Sydney' OR
iii) transfer your donation to us at BSB 062 074 Account No: 1000 8062.

We will send you a tax-deductible receipt.



Events: Join us at our inaugural Fundraising Luncheon to support Seafarers!



Hurry Early Bird Price Ends June 17: the Port community, industry and our supporters are invited to a two-course lunch with matching wines at **NSW Parliament House on July 8**
To find out more or buy tickets visit:
<https://bit.ly/MtSlunch> or visit our website or call us.



You are invited to the first **special Sea Sunday service in Sydney** in over 8 years at:
St Andrew's Cathedral,
10.30am July 10, 2022

We are also delighted to announce that the Sea Sunday Service will be **live streamed** so seafarers and anyone who can't come in person, can still take part in the celebrations. *Email us for the link.*

Good360 Gifts Reach Seafarers

Rev Tay took the opportunity at their 7th anniversary party, to personally thank charity Good360 for donating almost \$200,000 worth of brand-new goods which the MtS team distributed to grateful seafarers from around the world.

Princess Anne Praises Our Vaccination Program

MtS representatives from various ports attended a garden party with Princess Anne, MtS International President, at NSW Government House on Sunday, April 10 during her brief Sydney visit. Principal Chaplain Rev Tay updated her on our key initiatives. He said she was particularly impressed by our One-Stop Mobile Vaccination Stations which have provided free vaccinations for over 2000 seafarers during the pandemic. We are continuing to collaborate to provide this service, often to one container vessel per day, seven days a week.

Volunteers' Beanies Appreciated

Volunteer Joan Thorn of Jannali made a special trip into the Mission recently to deliver 12 beanies – adding to her total of 40 she had knitted for seafarers in the past three years. "As a believer, I think it's important to use your skills to help people in need," she said. "I love being creative and staying active, so when I heard the seafarers love beanies, it felt right." Beanies hand-knitted by volunteers continue to be a feature in the Seafarers gift bags. Over 3000 were delivered during Covid lockdown and they are still being distributed during vaccinations and onboard visits.



News from the Mission Team



Farewell Wendy: (pictured) A huge thank you to our dedicated administration/marketing cornerstone **Wendy King** who has retired after 12 years. Asked what she would miss most, Wendy replied that while it was exciting when funds were successfully raised for big needs such as the new bus, she will miss seeing the joy on the seafarers faces. "Their lives are terribly hard and they feel so isolated – it's often so easy to help them ... I was so proud to work here, because all the team cares so much for the seafarers," Wendy said.

Principal Chaplain Rev Un Tay has taken some leave to visit family in the UK with his wife Becky. **Chaplain Retchie**, who worked with us before the covid-lockdowns, has returned.

At our **AGM and Celebratory lunch**, the new updated Constitution was unanimously adopted. Welcome to our new Director **Robert Dunn** and thank you to outgoing Director **Jeremy Freeman** for sharing his expertise for five years.

Please consider us for your end of financial year giving. Thank you for whatever support you are able to provide and may God bless you! – the team at MtS Sydney.