



The Master's Mariner

APRIL 2022



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DCN Awards Night



Rev Un Tay, and Chaplain Jack Starmans attended the DCN (Daily Cargo News) Awards Night. Awards are given for service to the shipping industry recently, including Seafarers Welfare Awards. The main award went to Wayne Ashton, manager of the Bulk Liquids Birth, at Botany Bay for his initiative and service in setting up free vaccinations for seafarers. He continues to organise the vaccinations by liaising with NSW health, the crews and the ports. This undertaking has spread to Newcastle, and Port Kembla. But of

course, 'no man is an island', MtS Sydney has been there right from the start. We have made available our 25 seat coaster bus as a vaccination station. We drive the bus to all the ports and park alongside ships. This makes it easy for seafarers and provides protection from the elements. To date over 2,000 seafarers have been vaccinated.

One seafarer commented 'we have had the best Christmas present of all' when he received his vaccination. We also gave gift bags to many seafarers who were being vaccinated. At the award night, both MTS Sydney and Victoria received the Highly Commended award. Although we don't serve to win awards, it was encouraging to be recognised by the shipping industry for the work that we do. Until the lockdown for seafarers ends, we will serve them in any way that we can; from buying goods like computers and phones to delivering their orders of Krispy Kreme donuts and Hungry Jacks. Thus, we will continue to fulfil our mission, 'to serve seafarers with care and compassion'.

Inaugural Sydney Mission to Seafarers Fundraising Lunch

NSW Parliament House on Friday, July 8

Seafarers Sunday Service in Sydney

St Andrews Cathedral Sydney, July 10

Our Annual General Meeting & Celebratory Lunch

Our Mission, Sydney, April 26

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From the Desk of Our Principal Chaplain

It's 2022 yet the seafarers are still not able to access shore leave despite many having been on-board for more than 18 months. At our Mission, we are still facing restrictions and covid challenges, yet finding many ways to help their plight. We are receiving many encouraging responses.

As this is our first issue for 2022, I would like to wish all our readers, supporters and the Port community our best wishes and prayers for your safety and prosperity as we all continue to face whatever 2022 will bring. As we prepare to celebrate Easter, we are reminded of the glorious hope Jesus promised to all humanity. He died on the cross to offer forgiveness for our sins, was buried in the sealed tomb and resurrected on the third day to bring salvation to all who are willing to repent from their sins and put their trust in Him.

We delight in continuing to respond and serve Him by caring for seafarers in so many different ways. Here are our highlights for the year so far:

Vaccination At Port Botany and Sydney Ports



We continue to work on this initiative of Wayne Ashton, BLB Manager, and are presently vaccinating one vessel per day, seven days a week. Our Mission is collaborating with NSW Ports, NSW Health (St George Hospital), and Port Authority of NSW to offer free vaccinations to seafarers calling at our ports. Since September 2021 until March of 2022, we have

vaccinated more than 2000 seafarers on board 140 vessels. We thank Shane and Paul for their kind assistance to drive the bus during the weekends as it is used as the portable vaccination centre.

Seafarers committing their lives in record numbers



In 2021, we had a total of 26 seafarers saying a prayer to help them to follow Jesus. Since January of this year until March, we have over 70 seafarers from the Philippines, Ukraine, Africa, Myanmar, Malaysia, & China committing their lives to Jesus. We have never seen such a hunger and desire among seafarers wanting to know Jesus in the history of our Mission! We are break new ground! We give praise and glory to God!

Shopping and Deliveries



Due to the reluctance of captains to grant shore leave to crew, we continue to shop and deliver on behalf of seafarers. Our reputations spread far and wide. More and more vessels are forwarding their requests to us. Sometimes we are shopping for 8 - 10 vessels per week, and it can at times be more than one delivery per vessel.

Christmas Thanksgiving Celebration



Our Mission concluded the most challenging year of the pandemic with a great celebration - our annual Christmas Thanksgiving Celebration on December 11. It was a great success with over 50 participants from the corporate sectors, churches, volunteers, supporters, staff and Board and SBU Directors. One of the highlights was the presentation of donations by NSW Ports of \$10,000 and CSL of \$2500.00. We received encouraging feedback from many people.



Tough Repatriation Journey for a Chinese seafarer



I was called to help by repatriating a Chinese seafarer who spoke no English. I checked him into a hotel and helped him for PCR and IGM testing.

Due to strict Covid protocol from his government, it was a complicated process. We supported him in whatever he needed. His repatriation took 8 weeks, from the day he left his vessel until he finally arrived home on January 18th.

Preparing to Welcome seafarers back to our Centre

Although the borders are opened and restrictions are lifted, many shipping companies and captains are reluctant to grant shore leave to crew for fear that the crew would contract Corona virus and return to infect everyone onboard. Therefore we need to take extra precautions.

We are implementing our opening in three stages. Stage One is to transport the seafarers to a shopping mall close to their port for two hours only. Stage Two is to bring them to the Mission and the city for limited hours. Stage Three, will be a full-scale operations, seven days a week, unlikely before closer to end the year.

Tall Ship Sea Memorial Service



I conducted a Sea Memorial Service for the late Roger Gordon Fyfe, who was a seafarer on Friday, Feb 11 2022. Approximately 50 participants boarded the tall ship, Soren Larsen.

We sailed to the South Head, slightly out to the open sea for the Committal Service. The weather wasn't friendly. The sea was rough and it was raining heavily. We give thanks to God for this

opportunity to support and minister to the bereaved family and friends.

"Hello, Rev Tay, Thanks for performing such a heartfelt passionate professional funeral service." - Jonathan, organiser.

We thank God for this opportunity to serve, raise awareness of our work and to strike a chord of friendship with Captain Marty Wood.



Volunteers Still Finding Ways to Help



MtS volunteers are still finding innovative ways to help Seafarers despite the restrictions.

Historical author Oliver Greeves recently learned more about our work and was inspired to write a blog post reflecting on seafaring since the 1700s and on the continuing need to support seafarers through Mission for Seafarers. You can help too by liking and sharing his post on your social media – find it at: <https://www.fannynelsonfan.com/post/remembering-our-seafarers-then-and-now> or share from his [LinkedIn](#).

If you can think of any creative ways to help seafarers despite the current restrictions, please email and tell us! It may also inspire others.

Mission in the Media

Listen to Rev Tay's live extensive interview on ABC radio Mornings with Cassie McCullagh: ***Mission keeps lifeline open to stuck seafarers*** - "The Mission has never been busier in providing essential goods as well as pastoral care to crews stuck onboard."

<https://www.abc.net.au/radio/sydney/programs/mornings/utay/13769436>

Save the Date x 3

1. Inaugural Fundraising Luncheon

Theme: A Better Future for Our Seafarers

Two courses at NSW Parliament House

On Friday, July 8, 12-2pm

Featuring guest speaker Mick Kinley CEO – Australian Maritime Safety Authority.

2. Sea Sunday at St Andrews – All Welcome.

Thank you to St Andrew's Cathedral, Sydney, for hosting the first Sea Sunday Service to be held in Sydney for many years. Please join us at the special service at 10.30am on July 10, 2022.

We are also delighted to announce that the **Sea Sunday Service** will be **live streamed** so the seafarers unable to leave their ships can also take part in the celebrations.

Show your support:

- Share the news of these events when you receive your invitation via Email and/or social media
- Contact us if you know anyone who may wish to sponsor or be invited to the luncheon

3. Our Annual General Meeting and Supporters Celebratory Lunch

Join us on 12:00-1:00 pm AGM

1:00-2:30 pm Lunch and fellowship - Mission Centre, 24 Hickson Rd, Millers Point NSW

To make a donation, please visit our website www.missiontoseafarers.org.au

Thank you for your ongoing support! – the Team at MtS Sydney.

A promotional graphic for Sea Sunday 2022. The top half has an orange background with white text: 'Please support us on Sea Sunday, 10 July 2022'. To the right is a circular logo with 'SEA SUNDAY 2022' around the edge. Below the text is a photograph of a seafarer in a red shirt and white hard hat looking through binoculars on the bridge of a ship. To the left of the photo is the Mission to Seafarers logo with the tagline 'Caring for seafarers around the world with compassion'. The bottom half of the graphic has a blue background with white text: 'In 2022, Seafarers need your support more than ever! Show them you care by attending the special service at St Andrew's Cathedral, 10.30am July 10, 2022'.