

# SHIP TO SHORE



Port Hedland Seafarers Centre

June 2015

Issue 3

## A New Year of Change

The first half of the year has brought many changes to our Seafarers Centre.

Those that know the Seafarers Centre are surprised with the changes. Staff in the adjoining house have been relocated, and that area has been turned into offices, a games room and a quiet lounge area for the Seafarers. The former games area is our new shop and the old shop is another games and computer area..

We feel this has improved our use of space and allows us to have the separate quiet area for Seafarers, signing on or off, to rest without a lot of noise from pool tables and the bar.

Seafarers coming back for the first time are a little lost with the changes. The front door is now at the front of the building, and the surprises continue from there. We now have a reception desk to take enquiries by phone or in person. We have 2 new staff operating from reception. They also direct Seafarers and visitors around the Centre.

We have also tried new operating times, changing from 0900—2100 to opening from 0900—2300. But, we have finally settled in the middle with an opening time of 0900 and closing 2200, so we are now open 13 hours per day. We believe we finally have the right times, and the numbers of Seafarers coming into the Centre seems to support that belief.



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# HARBOUR TOURS 2015

WOW.

We expected the tours to be a popular venture, as there is nothing of a similar vain available to visitors. But, little did we know how popular it would become.

In our 7 months of operating the tours last year we had 2301 people join the tour. In the first 6 months of 2015 we have already had over 1000, and our peak tour times are from May through to September. We are now planning 2 tours everyday in an attempt to meet demand.

A free camping area has been opened up with 40-60 vans there nightly, so people are staying longer

and word of our tour is spreading. Certainly one of the better ventures we have take on, as we get to share the tour with visitors and locals. It is a great thing for Port Hedland to have a tour that shows off the harbour at work and equally good for us to share about the Seafarers and what our Mission is about.

Our current tour guide, Margaret, is from Queensland, and she is enjoying the change of scenery. We also have Isle and John how volunteer as tour guides to help out, and give Margaret a break.

Thanks to all those taking part in our tours.



## A Pilbara adventure Tour

In March we hosted the winners of the My Pilbara Adventure competition, Kate and Graeme, on one of our Harbour Tours. Their prize was a 12 day adventure around the Pilbara, of which, the Seafarers Centre was a small part.

Kate and Graeme, from NSW, and some representatives of the Pilbara Development Commission enjoyed a private harbour tour in the late afternoon of Saturday 28th March.

During the tour we returned 31 Seafarers to their respective ships and collected another 17 to come to the Seafarers Centre.

We were all in awe as we got up close to these ships, you really can't comprehend just how big they are until you are right there. It was great to view the ships in different stages of the loading process to see just how much of such a large vessel ends up under the water and learn about the process involved in loading. A lot of the Seafarers are away from their families and friends for up to 9 months at a time as they make the journey between Australia and the other port many times so even the practical support of a trip to the supermarket and a place to relax on land has meaning \* Excerpt from below site—Day 7

You can follow their 12 day trip at [www.mypilbaraadventure.com.au](http://www.mypilbaraadventure.com.au)



## Meet our Staff: Garry

Garry is our Associate Chaplain. He visits ships in port most days, and lends a listening ear to the cares and concerns of the Seafarers.

Garry grew up in Forbes, NSW, and is third youngest of 10 children.

He has worked in abattoirs, steel works and lucerne mills .

He and his wife, Kathy, have 3 daughters and 5 grandchildren.

In 2001 Garry went to Kenya on a 2 week SOMA Mission.

Shortly after he felt led into full-time ministry work. He studied as part of Church Army



and attained an Associate Diploma in Theology.

The family moved to Narooma, NSW in 2001, then to Wagga Wagga, NSW where he completed his studies while working part time as Chaplain at the Juvenile Justice Centre.

After completing his studies, he and Kathy moved to work at Sherwood Cliffs Drug & Alcohol Rehab, near Coffs Harbour, before coming to work at the Seafarers Centre in 2011.

Garry loves the work with the Seafarers, although some of their stories are hard to hear.

## Monthly Numbers coming into the Centre

	April	May	June
LAUNCH	2380	2738	2777
PORT AUTHORITY	304	274	215
CREW TXFR	2	38	24
TOTAL SEAFARERS	2636	3050	3016
VISITORS	402	479	609
HARBOUR TOURS	130	310	503
TOTAL IN CENTRE	2903	3839	4128
SHOPPING BUS	2293	2496	2566

## NEW— DVD

### The POWER behind the PORT

Our new DVD documentary has arrived.

There are 4 chapters to the documentary, covering

- **the Seafarers Centre**
- **the port**
- **FMG**
- **Salt production**

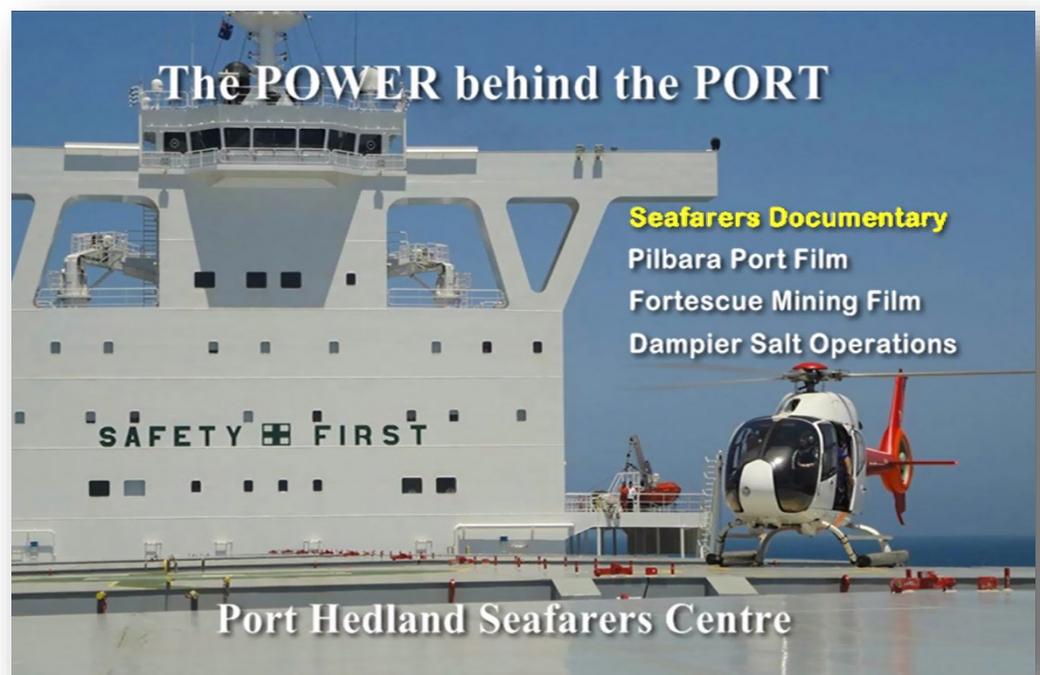
The DVD includes interviews with Seafarers, port users, Seafarers committee members and both Chaplains.

Gives great insight into life in the port

Great reviews—get your copy now

Please contact us via email: [admin@phseafarers.org](mailto:admin@phseafarers.org) to request a copy. We will be in contact to arrange payment and your address and post it off to you.

**Cost:** \$20 + postage (payment by EFT is available)



## The Seafarers Life

### Garry's Facebook Post:

Ship Visit—28th May

Viv & Heather came with me to visit the Captain & crew. What a wonderful visit. They were very happy to show Viv & Heather their vessel. The C/O & Captain insisted we stay for lunch. The First Engineer only found out yesterday that his wife had been ill for 2 months. (She did not want him to worry) The Capt. Told us about the young mess man, who had only been back on the vessel for 2 months after a 12 months stay at home nursing his brother until he died.

Viv & Heather came to the Seafarers Centre to serve us by painting our 3 staff houses. What a wonderful gift to the Centre. Thank you!

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Communion on board—M/V MAXIMUS

On Saturday 27th June, Garry went on board the MAXIMUS to do a communion service.

The Captain had requested a Catholic Mass, but the vessel had engine trouble and was delayed at anchorage another 17days and we were not able to arrange a Catholic Mass so Garry attended.

16 crewmen attended the service.

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### SEAFARER WELFARE and BUILDING FUNDS

We are looking to build a new modern building to cater for the needs of the Seafarers as they come into a rapidly growing port. We need to be prepared for the growth of the port and over the past 3 years have been planning build a more suitable building for the expected growth.

**We are now able to accept tax deductible donations (of \$2 or more) with funds to go to a Seafarer Welfare Fund and our Building Fund.**

If you would like more information about this project, please contact us.

If you would like to join us in this work, by contributing to the welfare of the Seafarers, please contact us on (08) 9173 1315.

Or email us at: [accounts@phseafarers.org](mailto:accounts@phseafarers.org)



C/O, Heather, Viv and Captain

### Contact Us:

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#### Visit us on the web at

[www.phseafarers.org](http://www.phseafarers.org)

#### Find us on Facebook:

[port.hedland.seafarers.centre](https://www.facebook.com/port.hedland.seafarers.centre)