

# SHIP TO SHORE



Port Hedland Seafarers Centre

June 2014

Issue 1

## Welcome to our Centre,

This is our first issue of newsletter, so let me share a little about our Seafarers Centre.

Port Hedland Seafarers Centre is set in the largest iron ore tonnage sea port in the world. We provide personal, pastoral care, advocacy and a safe haven to all. Our aim is to be a welcome place for visiting Seafarers who come into our port every day.

### Mission Statement

Be the expression of Christ's hands reaching out in service.  
Be the ears that listen to every word spoken.  
Be the eyes that look for opportunities to serve.  
Be the compassionate healing heart of Christ.  
Be the pleasing aroma of goodwill to all.

### Our operation

We employ 10 full-time and 4 part-time staff, plus a number of volunteers.

We are open 9am—9pm every day.

We run 6 launch services and/or 7 bus services to all 16 ships in port daily.

### We Provide:

- Souvenir and Gift Shop
- High Speed Internet Cafe with WiFi
- Foreign Money Exchange
- Western Union Money Transfer
- Australian Mobile Phone SIM cards and Recharge
- Desktop Computers and Laptop Bench
- Black and White printing
- Licensed Bar
- Chapel
- Recreation Room and Outdoor Relaxation area
- Bus Services



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# Seafarer loses leg

An investigation is underway after a Seafarer from M/V JULIA N lost his right leg, below the knee, when he was caught up in mooring line as the ship was berthing in Port Hedland on June 28th. He was airlifted to South Hedland Health Campus after being stabilized on board.

Mahesh, an Indian national, was married just 1 month before joining the JULIA N and has been onboard 7 months. Coming from middle class India, and being the families main breadwinner, he fears he is now leaving his family with an uncertain future. He has recently purchased a house for his family in India and is worried about how he will be able to repay the loans.

## Assoc. Chaplain Visits

Our Assoc. Chaplain, Garry, visited the vessel on the evening of the accident, to find many distressed crewmates. He spent 2 hours on board talking with the shocked Seafarers. On Sunday, 2 men came on the launch and Garry took them to visit Mahesh. The local Indian community has been supporting Mahesh, and supplying home cooked meals for him.

## Recovery

Mahesh has undergone surgery with the prospect of more to follow, as he is fitted with a prosthetic leg and adjusts to the changes his accident will bring to his life and the lives of his family.

## Fund

A fund has been set up, running for the month of July, to help Mahesh and his families, further down the track of his recovery. His medical expenses will be taken care of.

If you are interested in helping Mahesh or want to keep up with his story, check out our Facebook page, details page 4.



**Mahesh and two crewmates**

## CADET PACKS

We have begun to put together a Cadet pack for those new to Seafaring.

Each pack contains:

- Seafarers prayer
- Sailor's Creed
- \$20 gift voucher to use in our Centre
- Overcoming Stress at Sea Booklet
- \$5 Phone Card
- Internet Tickets
- Our contact details

This is a new project put together by Garry as he visits the vessels and has seen the problems the Cadets face with little money to be able to contact home.

# Meet our Staff: Alan

Alan and his wife, Maria, came to Port Hedland from Forster, NSW, in Feb 2011.

Alan is our Senior Chaplain in charge of operations.

He is responsible for the day to day operations of Australia's largest & busiest Seafarers Mission.

He was Rector of Ashmont Anglican Church in Wagga Wagga, NSW from July '03–Dec '05, and was Chaplain at Wagga Wagga Juvenile Justice Centre during

that time. He was Rector of Cabargo Anglican Church, NSW— June '96–June '03

Alan's hobbies include coin collecting and collecting small antiques pieces.



Senior Chaplain Alan Mower

## Monthly Figures

	April	May	June
LAUNCH	2662	2579	2350
PORT AUTHORITY	355	287	468
CREW TXFR	33	18	5
TOTAL SEAFARERS	2650	2884	2823
VISITORS	381	457	827
TOTAL IN CENTRE	3031	3341	3650
SHOPPING BUS	2080	2320	2364
SHIP VISITS	44	44	15
HARBOUR TOURS		27	322

## Harbour Tours

On May 26th we began running Harbour tours around the port on one of our regular launch runs.

These have already proved very popular, with the grey nomads passing through. It is nice to see that locals are coming and enjoying the tours with us as word gets out. We have not publicized other than some flyers at the Visitors Centre and an advertising board at the jetty. The greatest publicity is word of mouth.

We present a 30 min talk and short DVD, about the port and the Seafarers history, before everyone joins our launch to take a 30-45min working harbor tour as the launch returns and picks up crew to come into the Centre.

It is a great opportunity to get up close to the vessels that not many have the chance to do.



There has been a lot preparation to get the tours up and running, but all the time and effort Alan has put in is seeing a great opportunity for people to take part in a unique experience as they see our harbour in full action. Every day is a new experience in the port, and it is wonderful to share what we do, here in the Centre, and on the water with others. Many of our visitors know little about the Seafarers, our work as we support the Seafarers or about the port and the industry involved.

It is important to us to always have the Seafarers welfare as the focus of what we do. So, all money from the tours will be used to provide another launch run for the Seafarers to be able to spend some time off the ship, to be able to contact home and to relax outside of the confines of the ship.

Thank you to those who have contributed to the ministry by joining our tours.

## The Seafarers Life

May 7.

A heavy heart from Grief & Loss & more Grief & Loss & more Grief & Loss. I visited a vessel today and as I spoke to a Seafarer his eyes went red and tears rolled down his face. His house was badly damaged by the Typhoon. He didn't have enough to repair it before he re-joined the vessel. Shortly after joining the vessel his sister died and soon after his mother died as well. He did not have enough money to go home for the Funerals. He has a wife and 3 children to support and his contract doesn't finish until August. Please pray for him & his family

### In response:

Yesterday I shared a story of a Seafarer with a Heavy heart from Grief and Loss. Well today I have a heavy heart, when I thought about what happened yesterday. When I left the vessel I felt like it had been beaten with a baseball bat. I was able to get him some credit for his phone and hold his arm as tears rolled down his face. Last year after the Typhoon hit the Philippines we had one Filipino crew member who's house was almost completely destroyed. The Seafarers Centre and a local Church was able to give the Seafarer \$2000 to help repair his home. (His wife has sent me some photo's showing the aftermath of the Typhoon and the repairs to the house. I will try to post them later.) I have spoken to the Senior Chaplain concerning the Seafarer I spoke with yesterday and we feel we should help him and his family. His vessel will return next month. Our Seafarer's Centre will make a donation directly to the Seafarer. If anyone else would like to help this Seafarer please contact me by phone or text on 0439 691938. I think we forget what happened in the Philippines last year. First the earth quake, then OVER 6000 people died in the Typhoon. I have many heart wrenching stories of their pain. One captain told me his wife and children were sleeping in a tent because their house was damaged by the earth quake and after shocks. The children are holding onto their mother and crying every time the earth shakes. Then on the 14th December while MV K Victory was underway to Port Hedland the C/Cook had a heart attack and died at sea, one week before he turned 37 years old. He also has a wife and 2 small children. I have visited the crew off his vessel three times since he died, some are still hurting. The Seafarers Centre also directly helped his wife and children. I am not trying to blow our trumpet. This is why we exist, to help the Seafarers. The Seafarers don't only need me to weep with them, they need compassion with skin on to do some think practically to help relieve their pain. Please note; in all these cases the Seafarers have not asked me for money or anything else. BUT i feel my tears for them is just not enough,

Chaplain Garry.



The view from a porthole.

### Contact Us:

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