

# SHIP TO SHORE



Port Hedland Seafarers Centre

March 2016

Issue 5

## Christmas 2015

Preparation began early for our Seafarers Christmas with the year round gathering of goodies to stuff 1500 gift bags. Then 60 people gathered on the 5th of December to put the gift bags and 40 hampers together.

### Delivery time—a memorable trip

On Christmas Eve work started at 0600 to get the required number of gift bags and hampers ready for delivery. At 0700 a helicopter took off for their first trip to deliver 12 hampers plus gift bags, while a launch set off to deliver to 13 vessels. 16 staff and guests boarded the launch with excited enthusiasm as they headed out to the vessels. I was not too long after that the enthusiasm faded as the rough conditions began to take their toll. It was so rough that the launch skipper called off the deliveries and the guests began to lose their breakfast. Only 3 guests were able to withstand the conditions onboard. This sad, sorry and soggy trip goes down as our most memorable, for all the wrong reasons. Certainly a trip that will be remembered by all for years to come.

### Christmas morning

Again, work began at 0600, to have the gift bags ready and loaded on the launch. At 0700, 20 staff and guests stepped on board to deliver the gift bags to the vessels in port. 13 volunteers then helped staff prepare lunch for the Seafarers that came into the Centre for Christmas, along with other port and church groups. We had over 100 guests enjoy Christmas lunch at the Centre. We closed early, at 1700, then staff and families gathered to share dinner and some time to reflect on the day and the year ahead.



### 2015 in Review:

- Total number of Seafarers **36,202** - averaging **99** per day
- Number of visitors—**6,423**
- Harbour Tour numbers **4,200**
- Total number of persons coming into the Centre for 2015 —**46,825**
- We rearranged the Centre's layout to better utilise our floor space
- Changed our opening hours, 3 times , finally settling on 0900—2200 Mon—Sat, 1200—2200 Sunday
- We now run 5 Launch pickups, 6 Bus pickups to Port Authority and 5 supermarket trips per day

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# Dream within Sight

The dream of a new Seafarers Centre for Port Hedland is getting closer.

Staff at the Centre have been praying and looking for the right site on which to build a new mission. The current building, whilst owned by the Seafarers Centre, is on Port Authority land. The lease on that land is coming to an end. So, the search began. And after a few false starts, with hopes being raised only to have things fall away, the Centre finally secured a block, only about 100m from the jetty. This progress is testament of the hard work, dedication, patience and prayerful support given by staff and committee members over the past four years

Architect's, Fratelle Group, based in Perth, have started drafting plans for the Seafarers Centre. Director, Kylee Schoonens, expects the new Centre to be a striking building that will be functional in serving the needs of Seafarers, the staff and the wider community. The building is expected to make full use of the square footage the block provides and will likely go up at least one level. This will allow for as many added extras as is practicable, as well as taking advantage of views of the port and tug area just across the road.

The project is expected to cost in the region of \$4 million, with the major companies using the port committed to providing most of the funds. However, the Centre will also be looking for other sources to finance the project to the desired standard.

It is hoped the new Centre will be ready within the next 2 years, at which time it is expected that the old building will be demolished to make way for Port Authority developments.

Centre Operations Manager, Allan, said, "There's obviously a sense of excitement in the air, but there is a lot of hard work and preparation still to be done."



Locking the gate of the new mission site

## Coming Soon: FMG TOUR

We are excited to announce a new tour that will commence in May of this year. The tour will be a bus tour onto the Herb Elliott Port Site — FMG.

The tour will begin at the Centre with a 20min talk, followed by a bus tour, from the Centre and onto the FMG site.

Tour guests will see the loading process and wharves from the land side as opposed to our harbour tour with views of loading from the water only.

Cost will be the same as for the Harbour Tour :

**Adults - \$55**

**Children (4 to 12 years) - \$30**

**Family (2 adults, 2 children) - \$150**

As with the Harbour Tour—

**Closed shoes must be worn.**

## Meet our Staff: Megumi

Megumi, is one of our receptionists. She helps in the purchasing and stock control area as well as serving in the shop.

Meg was born in Nagoya, Japan. She first came to Australia with a school group about 15 years ago.

Meg still loves her homeland but also loves being in Australia. She moved here 6 years ago looking for a different life, and

thinks it is awesome in Australia.

Meg moved from Perth to Port Hedland with her husband, Damon, and

their two dogs Gabby and Nero.

She has been working at the Centre for 18mths.

Meg loves skiing, outback adventures and chasing storms with Damon, who is an avid photographer.



## Monthly Figures

	Jan	Feb	Mar
<b>LAUNCH</b>	2385	2737	2705
<b>PORT AUTHORITY</b>	294	258	179
<b>CREW TXFR</b>	6	29	23
<b>TOTAL SEAFARERS</b>	2685	3024	2907
<b>VISITORS</b>	306	319	470
<b>TOTAL IN CENTRE</b>	3065	3377	3443
<b>SHOPPING BUS</b>	2374	2648	2685
<b>SHIP VISITS</b>	26	17	32
<b>HARBOUR TOURS</b>	74	34	66

## Contributing from afar:

We are always grateful for the support of those outside our Seafarer community.

Last year we were contacted by a lovely couple in their 80's from NSW. They have been making fridge magnets for over 3 years to share the Word of God in a small way. They have been distributed to children in Religious Education lessons, hospital chapels and other Seafarer Missions in Newcastle and Dampier and a Chaplain in Ceduna. They were offered our Centre as another possible avenue to share their ministry with the Seafarers.



We receive regular parcels of magnets and Garry distributes them as he visits the vessels in port.

Ern and Elsie were kept busy last year as they prepared 1500 magnets to go in our Christmas Gift Bags that we give out each year.

Each magnet has a picture with an encouraging scripture, We appreciate the many hours spent making these magnets.

God's Word is a powerful gift to give. Many Seafarers proudly display the magnets in their cabins and share the blessing with their families when they sign off the vessels and go home.

Thanks Ern and Elsie.

Dear Garry, Well here we are, Ern will be 89 this year and I will be 88, so we are old, but praising the Lord for the opportunity we have to, even in a small way, still be involved with spreading God's Word. Thank you for allowing us to share with your work at Seafarers. Please always let us know if the photos or verses are not appropriate, we do want to do the right thing. We have another parcel ready to post to you on Monday, so trust they will be useful to your wonderful work. We loved getting the photo of the Captain and Chief Officer, we have let a lot of friends see this. Please keep in touch. Ern and Elsie (part of an email sent to Garry by Ern and Elsie)

# The Seafarers Life

## Extremes:

Many of the Seafarers we see here travel between Port Hedland and China. They have a 12-16 day trip each way. Though the trip can see them ploughing through rough seas, the extremes in temperatures over such a short period of time must be hard for them. They can go from 40°C in Port Hedland to -20°C in Northern China then back here within a month.

I don't know how they cope with the extremes. I'm not sure how we would cope in the same circumstances.

Please pray for strength and good health as they deal with these extremes.

## Female Seafarers:

We have noticed an increase in the number of female Seafarers coming into the Centre. Some of these women hold officers rankings and some are just starting their career.

The Seafarers life is not an easy one and it must be all the more difficult for the women in a predominantly male atmosphere.

Please pray for their safety and for the respect of their peers.

## March 2

A vessel requested a Catholic Mass on board. Unfortunately neither of the Catholic Priests were available when the vessel came into port. So, when Garry went on board he held an impromptu service. He read from the Bible, spoke with the crew and prayed with them. The service was well attended with 20 crew taking part.

He stayed and had lunch on board with the Captain and as he was leaving the Captain passed him an envelope that had been collected as an offering. When he got back to the Centre Garry discovered there was \$300 USD in the envelope. We emailed a thankyou to the Captain and the money was put aside for Seafarer Welfare needs.

Chaplain Garry.

Do you wanna build a snowman? hahahaha



## Contact Us:

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