

SHIP TO SHORE



Port Hedland Seafarers Centre

October 2014

Issue 2

Mahesh - Update

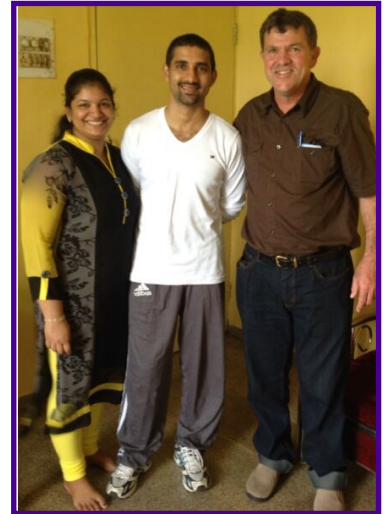
On June 28th we became involved in the lives of a 27yr old Indian Seafarer, Mahesh, and later, his wife Sruthy. They were married just 6 weeks before Mahesh was contracted on board the 'JULIA N'.

That June afternoon Mahesh was seriously injured in a mooring accident, when his right leg became entangled in mooring lines and was torn off below the knee. He was transferred to South Hedland Health Campus, where he underwent surgery. He was in hospital here almost 2 weeks, and Garry, our Associate Chaplain, visited with Mahesh most days. Mahesh was transferred back to hospital in Mumbai for further treatment, and the fitting of a prosthesis. Sruthy came to Mumbai to be with him, at that time.

A fund was set up through our Mission to help raise money for Mahesh and his family, as their lives were now changed dramatically. Thanks to local companies, individuals, the local Indian community, visitors and International Seafarers who responded to the plight of Mahesh and Sruthy and gave generously.

In late September, Alan, Senior Chaplain, and Garry travelled to India, at the expense of our Centre, to present Mahesh and Sruthy, with a cheque for \$43,000AUD, as raised through the Centre. They were able to pass on to Mahesh enough money to pay off their house, one of his biggest concerns, with some left over to plan for their future.

While in India, Alan and Garry were able to lead Mahesh, Sruthy, his parents and brother to the Lord, and they will disciple and encourage them from afar.



Mahesh has now returned to his home town, wearing his new foot, and is grateful to all for their help and encouragement.

Sruthy emailed Garry thanking for being like Jesus to Mahesh, and added that they hope to do the same for someone else sometime.

Praise God!

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Sea Sunday,

We celebrated Sea Sunday on the 29th of June, as Alan and Maria were to be on holidays the following week.

We had a BBQ out the front to welcome Seafarers as they came from their vessels into the Centre.

A large group of 60-70 from the community came to join in the celebrations.

The Service

Hedland Christian Church lead the worship with some inspiring and joyful songs that set the tone for the service.



Alan shared the message. And, using a Life Ring, from a vessel, he shared that at times we all need a life saver in our lives to rescue us and save us, and that life saver is our 'Life Saviour' - JESUS.

Bible readings and prayers were shared, and Garry shared some Seafarer stories from his Chaplaincy ship visiting.

After the service we served fresh fruit salad and ice-cream to conclude the celebrations.



Sea Sunday BBQ

Our first Cadet packs are given out

Cadets

These are young Seafarers, whom have completed their studies and are undertaking 12 months of on the sea training. They will generally complete the 12mths in one long stretch. It can be a long hard time for some of these young men, away from loved ones, setting out on a new life at sea.

After their time at sea they will then undertake exams before returning to the Seafaring life as fully fledged Seafarers.

Most Seafarers will continue studying, to improve their ranking on the vessels.

Garry has begun to hand out Cadet packs, as he visits vessels, as an encouragement for them. We include a \$20 gift voucher for their use in our Centre to help them to contact home or get a few treats they may not otherwise be able to afford.



Meet our Staff: Maria

Maria is head of our accounts department, working alongside Jerry.

Maria is a first generation Australian to Russian parents.

She and Alan moved to Port Hedland, from Forster in NSW, after a phone

She has worked as a Counsellor before coming to WA.

call from the Bishop, and believing it to be God's calling they headed west. It was a hard time for Maria as things did



They have lived in Forster, Bermagui, Wagga Wagga, Tamworth and more.

not all go to plan here, and her life long friend had passed away the same day the Bishop called to invite them to Port Hedland.

Maria & Alan have 2 children, both married and living in NSW. Their son lives in Jyndabyne and has 2 children, and their daughter lives in Penrith and has 3 children.

Monthly Figures

	July	Aug	Sept
LAUNCH	2400	2406	2221
PORT AUTHORITY	425	398	377
CREW TXFR	250	21	36
TOTAL SEAFARERS	3075	2825	2634
VISITORS	1083	1066	616
TOTAL IN CENTRE	4158	3891	3250
SHOPPING BUS	2451	2311	2099
HARBOUR TOURS	520	596	335

Award

2014 Port Hedland Employee of the Year is.....
Garry South.

Earlier in the year Garry was nominated for the Employee of the Year Award in the Port Hedland Business of the Year Awards. He had to prepare a spiel about himself and what he did, as part of the selection process, which he did not want to do. So, Ray and Jeanette (volunteers from NSW) did it for him. We prepared and presented references, pictures and stories to show what he does as Associate Chaplain, visiting ships and working in the Centre, every day.

We shared some fun, light hearted stories as well as some of the heart breaking ones.

The Awards ceremony was held on September 20th,

with a meal and the presentations. The Seafarers Centre was well represented with 15 employees, friends and committee members attending.



Garry and Kathy, however, did not attend, as they were in NSW on annual leave. And, Garry had already gone to India and back to present Mahesh his cheque, during his leave time.

Alan accepted the award on Garry's behalf

Garry was presented his certificate and award during the Sunday Service at St. Matthews Anglican Church.

Garry is a man that does not like a lot of fanfare, and was humbled by the award. He offers ears to listen, and is willing to share his faith with the Seafarers he visits. He will also share in the joy and the heartache of those he serves.

A reward well deserved.

The Seafarers Life

Garry's Facebook Post:

CAPE SPLENDOUR

I am reduced to tears again as I flew out to anchorage by helicopter to visit the captain & crew who have lost their friend overboard. We not only pray for the crew, but also for his wife & 13 year old daughter & 9 year son.<

On the afternoon of October 6th a Seafarer fell, we believe, from a gangway while fishing. The vessel was at anchorage off Port Hedland at the time. The man was a good swimmer, according to his Captain, but he was unable to swim to life buoys thrown to him. A crewmate saw him fall and threw a buoy for him but he was apparently floating motionless on his back, so is believed to have been knocked out or stunned by the fall and could not swim for the buoy.

Local rescue services and crews from other vessels searched for the missing man for several days, but with strong currents and tides at the time, his body was not recovered.

Thanks to the pilots helicopter service Garry was able to fly out to anchorage and visit with the Captain and crew. He was greeted with the eerie sight of the stretcher waiting on deck as the crew held on to hope for their crewmate.

We continue to pray for his family and crewmates, at this time.

We share in the sorrows with the Seafarers in times of loss, but we can also share in their joys.

We recently had two Seafarers share that their wives had had babies since they had left.

A great joy for them, but, still a tinge of sadness as they are not home to support their wives at this time and knowing their babies will be 6 or 9 months old before they get to hold them.

As we become busier we see more Seafarers in the Centre, and, we therefore hear more stories of loss, joy and terror on the seas as Seafarers travel the waters to deliver goods around the world.

Pray for their safety and their families.



The stretcher ready & waiting in hope



A busy afternoon, at the Centre.

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