

# SHIP TO SHORE



Port Hedland Seafarers Centre

March 2017 Issue 7

## Change at the top:

The new year finds us saying farewell to Allan and Maria after 6 years of service here at the Seafarers Centre. When they arrived in Port Hedland Allan was expecting to be the Seafarers Chaplain, but circumstance forced him to use his previous retail experience to improve the internal, daily running of the Centre. Maria has been involved in accounting and purchasing within the Centre, since they arrived.

### Looking Back

Under Allan & Maria's supervision there have been many changes in the Centre over the past 6 years. Our staff has grown from 2 to over 20. The shop has grown and the layout of the Centre has been rearranged to better cope with the growth of the port. The introduction of a POS system into the growing shop has enabled us to better monitor the current stock levels of over 7000 separate items. All Seafarers now have opportunity to come into the Centre for some R&R thanks to regular launch and bus services to all 19 berths in port. Off sight accommodation has been acquired, with 3 dwellings, housing some staff and visitors. The Centre now offers Harbour and Fortescue Port Site Tours showcasing the port area to both locals and visitors. Over 11,000 guests have been experienced these unique industrial tours since May 2014. This has all taken place as part of Allan's vision for the Centre's sustainability moving forward.

### Moving on

Allan and Maria have now both retired. Maria finished up late last year, while Allan went through to early January. After some medical appointments in Perth they then slipped into retirement mode and headed to Europe for a well deserved holiday. They returned to Hedland to pack the last of their things. After a farewell, planned for the 12th March, they will check out Karajini National Park before hitching up the caravan for a leisurely trip east where they plan to settle in Forster-Tuncurry, NSW. Replacements have been found and they leave knowing the Centre is in safe hands for the next chapter of the journey at the Port Hedland Seafarers Centre. Thank you, Allan and Maria for a job well done.

God Bless.



A farewell gift

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# New Operations Manager



Helen and Chris Towsey

## The Baton Passed On

With Allan and Maria leaving after 6 years of service it has been necessary to find replacements to take on their roles within the Centre.

Welcome Chris and Helen Towsey. Chris has taken up the role of Operations Manager, while Helen is helping with accounts and purchasing. They have come over from Brisbane to joined the team and started in November.

## Pre Seafarers

After a short visit, in September/October 2016, to check us all out, Chris and Helen went home to pack before returning to take the baton from Allan and Maria. They enjoyed a 10 day trip driving the 5600km cross country, with caravan in tow. Helen then flew back to Brisbane to collect her mother Doris, who lives with them, their 2 cats, and to pack and arrange those last minute things.

Helen had never been to WA before, but Chris actually celebrated his 21st birthday in Karratha, one or two moons ago. They have 4 children, and 4 grandchildren.

## Their journey

Chris has a Masters in Science, majoring in Geology and Helen has a Secondary Science Teacher Degree and a Bachelor in Commerce. Both have spent a number of years teaching. But since teaching, Chris has spent 35 years in the mining industry. He has worked in 26 countries, over that time, in a variety of roles including that of an underground and exploration geologist, mine manager and public company director.

Chris said he thought he had retired, that is, till the opportunity came up here at the Seafarers Centre

## Looking ahead

With the baton having changed hands, Chris is not necessarily looking to change things, but, more to build on what is already happening here. He believes the business side of the Centre's activities enables us to support the work of the Chaplains. The focus will remain on the support and welfare of the Seafarers with tourism and the shop being a means of putting that support into practice.

We are all looking forward to this next phase of the journey for the Seafarers Centre, here in one of the world busiest ports.

## New Senior Chaplain

Another of Allan's roles was that of Senior Chaplain. It has been realised, though, that the roles of Operations Manager and Senior Chaplain are two separate roles, and therefore, the Centre will have another new member, starting in July, with Derek McArtney being our new Senior Chaplain.

Derek is currently working in Newman WA as the Anglican Parish Priest. He and wife Amanda will join us in Port Hedland after going on long service leave when they finish up in the Newman Parish

## Meet our Staff: Kattie

Kattie is one of our receptionists at the Seafarers Centre. With the renovations and inception of our tours in the past few years it was decided that we needed someone with a friendly persona to greet people who call or come into the Centre, Kattie has filled that role since starting here early last year. She was also Allan's PA for part of that

time. Kattie lived in Perth till she was about 8 and the family moved to Halls Creek. She has a Certificate in Wildlife Conservation, but has largely worked in reception since the age of 16. She lived in Newman for a short time with her daughter Matilda, who will be 5 this year. They moved to Port Hedland shortly before starting work here.



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## Monthly Figures

	Dec '16	Jan '17	Feb '17
<b>LAUNCH</b>	2604	2051	1957
<b>PORT AUTHORITY</b>	206	96	129
<b>CREW TXFR</b>	44	59	101
<b>TOTAL SEAFARERS</b>	2854	2206	2187
<b>VISITORS</b>	342	261	227
<b>SHIP/PASTORAL VISITS BY CHAPLAINS</b>	118	33	28
<b>SHOPPING CENTRE BUS</b>	2497	1863	1873
<b>FMG TOURS</b>	16	0	17
<b>HARBOUR TOURS</b>	77	57	37

## A Valued Volunteer

Late October 2016 a lovely lady came into the Centre. Sandy is travelling the country and was told by two other travellers that she must go to the Seafarers Centre while in Port Hedland.

She called first to the Visitors Centre to see if there were any local tours available. But as it was out of regular tourist season they had nothing to offer and sent her down to the Seafarers Centre.

When she came into the Centre she wandered what was so wonderful that people said she must come in. It is such a rabbit warren to look around, but then she spoke with our receptionist and ended up booking a Harbour Tour. It was then that she began to understand the reasons to come.

She left in mid November but returned early in February. Sandy volunteered at the Centre about 6 weeks in total. She helped with restocking and keeping the display shelves clean and tidy. She

was a great help to Colleen in the storerooms, helping count and sort incoming stock. And was a genuine friend to all the staff.



Sandy lives in Healesville, Vic. She has 1 daughter, 1 son and 4 grand-children. She worked as a secretary in a private school, but after retiring 10 years ago, is now able to spend more time doing one of her passions, photography.

With her photos, Sandy makes cards and postcards to sell and raise money to help support 'Jewels of Hope' which supports orphaned teenagers in Lesotho, Southern Africa. She also sells jewellery made by the teens as a means of supporting them.

Sandy has moved on from Port Hedland and is looking for new opportunities to help others and raise money and awareness for the orphans and sees these occasions as being part of her service to the Lord!

Thanks, Sandy, for your love and support to so many in all that you do. Travel well. God bless.



## The Seafarers Life

18th Jan.

One Captain remembered me from a previous visit on another vessel. I had given him a Bible and he had promised to read it everyday. He said he had done his best to keep that promise and tries to read 1 or 2 chapters everyday. He showed me where he had written in the margin in Chinese. He had many questions.

Before I left the vessel he told me he and the C/E would come ashore to buy things for the crew. His company had informed him no crew were to go ashore because 4 crew from that company had run away while on shore leave in recent times. I contacted authorities when I got back to the Centre to see what could be done

24th Jan

A C/O with a 4yo Son and 4mth old daughter was sharing how much he missed them. He was very thankful to the Seafarers Centre for sending recharge cards to the vessel, because that enabled them to 'see and talk with our families'.

He was torn between the route his vessel should take as they pass the Philippines. To pass on the eastern side they will avoid the pirates, however, if they pass on the west they get local signal to call home, but risk attack from the pirates.

I sent a children's Bible for his son. He said his son's favourite bible story is that of Jonah

16th Mar

Talking with the C/O and 2/O on a Chinese vessel they shared that they had an Indian Surveyor onboard. He asked for a cup of tea or coffee with fresh milk and sugar. He did not understand that the vessel had no fresh milk. (they had just been 12or 14 days sailing from China) - no concept of the realities of life on board a vessel.

Jan '17

I revisited a vessel that had lost a crewman overboard while sailing from China last year. The old Captain had signed off. The new Captain recognized me from another vessel he had been on. The C/O shared that the old Captain was tired and had a heavy heart about the lost crew member.

5th Jan

The Mess man from one vessel was evacuated to hospital and was to be transferred to Perth the next day. He suffered a stroke. I contacted Dennis from Fremantle's Flying Angel Seafarers Centre and he visited the man in the High Dependency Ward at Sir Charles Gardner Hospital.

Dennis is a great contact for us as he is always willing to visit sick or injured Seafarers as follow up from our Centre. The Seafarers often ask how he knew they were there, but are always grateful for the visits. Thanks Dennis.

Chaplain Garry.



A life of extremes., from 40° in Port Hedland to -20° in China in 2 weeks then back again

## Contact Us:

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