

Port Kembla MtS celebrates Sea Sunday

Volunteers, supporters and friends gathered at the Mission to Seafarers at Port Kembla on 13 July to celebrate Sea Sunday. The service was led by John Kewa, Pastoral Carer and the guest speaker was Graham Lightfoot AM, Chairman of Trustees of the Sydney Bethel Union which has supported the station for many years.



Graham Lightfoot, Chairman of Trustees of the Sydney Bethel Union, who is also Deputy Chairman of our Society, at the Port Kembla Sea Sunday celebration, with John Kewa, Pastoral Carer and Mrs Lee Dowson, his personal assistant.

The Mission recently celebrated 70 years of continuous service to seafarers, having been officially opened in 1942. Some years prior, in response to the growth of shipping activity at Port Kembla, a block of land was earmarked by the State Government and vested in the Church of England Property Trust as a suitable site for a seafarers' welfare facility.

In 1941, the Rev FJ Adams, Superintendent of the Sydney Branch of the Missions to Seamen and the Rev CA Goodwin, then Rector of St Stephen's Church of

England, Port Kembla commenced work towards establishing a Branch of the Mission in the port and, with the support and encouragement of the Mission's London headquarters, opened a fund-raising appeal which yielded £2,200.

The founding office bearers of the Mission, which was to be known as The Illawarra Institute for Seamen, included Mr PR Dyball (Chairman), Mr TW Tobe (Vice-Chairman), Mr J Callender (Hon Treasurer) and Mr C Blazey (Hon Secretary). Reflecting the industry of the Illawarra, prominent business figures including Mr Essington Lewis, Mr HG Darling, Mr CH Hoskins, along with the Mayor of Wollongong and the President of the Shire of Central Illawarra gave public support to the new organisation.

Tenders for construction of the Mission were called and ultimately WJ Anderson and Sons of Wollongong was chosen to undertake the work for a total cost of £1,686 to the design of NW McPherson, a Sydney architect. The foundation stone of was the laid in December 1941 and the building was officially opened on 11 July 1942 by Mr GS Packard, a senior executive of the Adelaide Steamship Co Ltd. The chapel and the three memorials it contained were then dedicated by the Archbishop of Sydney, the Rt Rev Dr HWK Mowll.

In an address to the gathering, the Chairman, Mr Dyball, pointed out that without the energy and inspiration of the Rev CA Goodwin, who had been appointed Hon. Chaplain, the Institute would not have been accomplished and his contribution to the project was tremendous.

In the intervening seven decades, succeeding generations of seafarers visiting Port Kembla have been welcomed by Chaplains, staff and volunteers and the celebration of Sea Sunday provided the opportunity to recognise their contribution.

Much of the information in this article was taken from the book *The Mission to Seamen Port Kembla (1942-1992)* by Rev Owen Dykes AM Th.L DipR.E. and from the files of the Illawarra Mercury held in the National Library of Australia in Canberra. This is the first of a series of occasional articles on seafarers' welfare facilities at ports around the Australian coast. Any station is welcome to submit articles and photographs regarding their history to be considered for publication in the newsletter and those wishing to do so are asked to contact the editor by e-mail at mblongstaff@ozemail.com.au.



In previous issues of *Mariners' Lifeline*, we have followed the story of the transfer of the hull of the clipper ship *City of Adelaide* from Scotland to Port Adelaide on board the German vessel *mv Palanpur*. The voyage was successfully completed with her safe arrival in Port Adelaide on 3 February. Picture shows *City of Adelaide* ready to be craned onto a barge for transfer to her final home, where she will be preserved as part of a land-based maritime historical precinct being developed in the port. [Photo by Trevor Powell].



The Australian Mariners' Welfare Society

ABN 86 000 008 122

Founded as *The Sydney Sailors' Home* opened in 1865

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Chairman's report



Captain Alan Tait, OAM – Chairman, The Australian Mariners' Welfare Society

The Society completed the first half of the year in active engagement in all facets of seafarer support.

It is always pleasing to report a growing awareness of our work. Such was demonstrated when we received a \$10,000 donation from the Australian Maritime Safety Authority to assist our program of providing training scholarships to seafaring families of moderate to less than moderate means. Led by our very active Council member Mr Llew Russell, we have already approved three scholarships this year for study at the Australian Maritime College in Tasmania,

namely two for deck officer courses and one for a marine engineering course. Llew, with Council member support, has also updated the Scholarships page on our website at www.marinerswelfare.com.au. We are confident this will attract applicants from a much broader field. Please take the opportunity to read it.

Our contributions to the work of both the Mission to Seafarers and the Apostleship of the Sea (Stella Maris) are growing, particularly in the area of transportation. Our recent donation toward the purchase of a new bus for Brisbane MtS is an interesting example where a station was able to obtain contributions towards the cost from others in the industry. IT of course has been our main support thrust and that has included the supply of iPads for use of seafarers unable to get ashore, also a fairly major replacement of hardware in Melbourne and exchanges with the Darwin Centre which includes reimbursement of their Internet charges.

The updating of our website referred to previously ensures we remain contemporary in a very changing shipping scene. Whilst the number of Australian-flag ships is now reduced to an insignificant level, we still need people for employment in a variety of occupations from offshore supply, towage, fishing, pilot, also passenger vessels as well as surveyors and government personnel to manage our maritime affairs. We must not forget the importance of ensuring entry opportunities are always available to our people.

I was fortunate to be asked to give this year's address at the Sydney Rookwood Cemetery's Annual Commemoration at the Merchant Navy Memorial at the Rookwood Necropolis, Sydney and 13 April. It gave me the opportunity to tell a story of courage and fortitude shown by a 14-year old boy who ran away to sea during the Second World War. During the ensuing years he experienced a ship on fire, two vessels lost beneath his feet, life as a hostage and having to go home and confront his mother to explain why he should do what he did!

The Australian Seafarers Welfare Council under the very strong leadership of Allan Schwartz has actively campaigned through forums the application of the Maritime Labor

Convention in Australian ports. Some 56 delegates attended the first in Sydney in March and two more were held in Western Australia in June.

I am saddened to relate the loss of a very good friend of both the Society and me personally. Captain Trevor Haworth AM, a very well-known and respected figure in the Industry succumbed to heart failure after a long and protracted illness. A great benefactor, he attended his beloved Rotary Club only two weeks before he died. An obituary appears elsewhere in this newsletter.



Ian McKinnon

May I conclude by referring to an unsung hero of our organisation? After some 27 years as a Councillor, 20 of them as the Treasurer of the Society and its predecessor the Sydney Sailors' Home, our long term stalwart Mr Ian McKinnon has decided to 'swallow the anchor' and he retired at our Annual General Meeting on 10 June. Ian's wise counsel ensured we confidently weathered the storms of both internal and external crises and the strong financial situation the Society now enjoys is due to his stewardship of our financial affairs. I can speak without reference to Council members that he will be sadly missed. We wish him more than well!

I am confident the balance of the year will provide us with further worthwhile challenges

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Alan Tait
Chairman.

Welcome to new Councillor

We are pleased to report that Mr David Parmeter has accepted an invitation to join the Council of the Society.

Mr Parmeter has been Managing Director for Teekay Shipping (Australia) Pty Ltd. since March 2007 and was acting in the role from October 2006 to the time his appointment was confirmed. Previously he was Director Human Resources for Teekay in Australia, having joined the Company in January 2002. David was recruited from the Australian Shipowners Association, where he had been the Director of Human Resources. David had worked for employer bodies in the shipping and towage industries for nearly fifteen years. His shipping experience goes back to 1984, when he commenced employment with ANL, and prior to that he had worked for BHP in the steel industry. David holds degrees in Commerce and Law.



Mr David Parmeter

Sister Mary meets the Pope



Sister Mary Leahy OAM, Sydney Port Chaplain for the Apostleship of the Sea (AOS) recently received an additional appointment as its Regional Co-ordinator for Oceania. In that capacity she travelled to Rome with other Co-ordinators for a conference at the Vatican with superiors from the Pontifical Council. At the end of the meeting, the participants attended the Papal audience in St. Peter's Square where, during his Address, Pope Francis made special reference to seafarers, reminding those who minister to them to be their voice ashore. With another conference delegate, Sister Mary was chosen to meet Pope Francis which gave her the opportunity to present him with a symbol of the work of AOS, a hi-visibility safety vest carrying the message 'Supporting Seafarers Worldwide'.

Fremantle MtS wins international award

At a ceremony in Geneva on 7 April, Fremantle's Flying Angel Club was named as 2014 Seafarers' Centre of the Year at the annual International Labor Organisation's International Seafarers' Welfare Awards.

Rev. Dennis Cloughton, Chaplain and Manager, accepted the award, which recognised the Club's state of the art facilities, as well as the commitment and ethos of the Club's staff and volunteers as they work to ensure the welfare of visiting seafarers.

Congratulations to all concerned.

Vale Captain Trevor Haworth AM

As reported in the Chairman's Message, Captain Trevor Haworth AM, Master Mariner, passed away on 1 March, aged 82. His life was one of pioneering vision, great courage, adventure and achievement in building the iconic international business Captain Cook Cruises and active involvement in shaping the tourism industry in Australia. He was also a committed supporter of many charitable works and a valued and generous supporter of our Society and its work.

Trevor was born in Blackburn, Lancashire, England on 8 June, 1931, the son of a naval officer, Frank Haworth and his wife Gladys. At the age of 6, Trevor was orphaned after both parents passed away. In 1946, he elected to follow his father's

footsteps and pursue a seafaring career. He gained a place at HMS Conway a nautical training ship for those aspiring to follow careers in the Royal Navy and in the Merchant Navy. Graduating in late 1947 and went to sea as a cadet in the South American Saint Line Ltd. where he served six years before deciding to move to Australia in 1954.

The following year he joined the Australian-Oriental line passenger vessel *Taiping* trading between Australia, Japan and Hong Kong. Within six years he had risen to Master of the vessel, being at 29 the youngest ever appointed by the company to that rank.

In 1959, Trevor met Geraldine Coates and they married in 1961. By this time, he had left the sea and was living in Sydney, where he was asked by the owner of an ex-navy 'Fairmile' if he could start a sightseeing cruise business on Sydney Harbour. Seeing the potential, he chartered the vessel and Captain Cook Cruises commenced operations on Australia Day 1970. Trevor and Geraldine built the business from a one-vessel operation with two cruises a week to 30 departures a day, building a fleet of 12 restaurant and sightseeing vessels, culminating in 1999 with the construction of the 700-passenger flagship *mv Sydney 2000*.

Trevor was also a tireless supporter of Rotary. He was a founding member of the Sydney Cove Rotary Club in 1978 and generously made available the use of the company's vessels every Friday morning for club meetings at Circular Quay. For his contribution, Trevor was recognised by Rotary with the award of the Paul Harris Fellowship medal.

What he considered the highlight of his business career came in July 2008 when Captain Cook Cruises was selected to provide the official fleet of vessels for the Papal procession by Pope Benedict XVI which travelled from Rose Bay to Barangaroo on Sydney Harbour as part of World Youth Day in Sydney.

Trevor is survived by his wife Geraldine, daughters Jackie Charlton and Allison Haworth West and son Anthony and seven grandchildren to whom we again express sincere condolences.

Cockatoo Island definitive history now available

The Sydney Harbour Federation Trust has announced the release of two new books about Cockatoo Island's historical legacy. Written by John Jeremy, last CEO of Cockatoo Island Dockyard (1981-91) and lavishly illustrated with hundreds of rarely-seen archival photos, these publications tell the fascinating story of Australia's foremost dockyard.

- **The Island Shipyard: Shipbuilding at Cockatoo Island 1870-1987** chronicles the island's 117 years of shipbuilding activity, with a focus on the dockyard's most important shipbuilding work of constructing ships for the Royal Australian Navy. RRP \$35 + \$9.50 postage.
- **Keeping the Ships at Sea: Ship Repair at Cockatoo Island 1857-1991** examines Cockatoo Island's crucial role in maintaining the seaworthiness of Australia's naval and maritime fleets. Over 134 years, thousands of ships were repaired and refitted in its docks and slipways. RRP \$35 + \$9.50 postage.

Launch special – purchase both books for \$50*

These books are now available for purchase at the Cockatoo



Captain Trevor Haworth AM

Island Visitor Centre, the North Head Sanctuary Visitor Centre, the Harbour Trust's Mosman office or by contacting the Trust's website at www.harbourtrust.gov.au

Trinity House expands facilities for ex-seafarers

On 4 April, the Princess Royal officially opened new welfare facilities sponsored by Trinity House for former seafarers located within Nautilus International's Mariners' Park Estate at Wallasey, near Liverpool UK. Known as Trinity House Hub, the complex includes 18 apartments for older seafarers and their dependents, along with community facilities including a cafe, a park, a gymnasium and rooms for meetings and hobbies.

The project was part of celebrations marking the 500th anniversary of the founding of Trinity House by King Henry VIII by Royal Charter on 20 May 1514. Although perhaps best known for being the General Lighthouse Authority for England, Wales and the Channel Islands, Trinity House is also the UK's largest self-funded maritime charity generating an income from assets which permits it to distribute £3 million per annum to marine charities which support former seafarers and their dependents and also through its cadet schemes to those planning a career at sea.

Scholarship program extended

Since 1999 ongoing funding has been made available by our Society for the provision of scholarships which are intended to promote the training and professional development of children of seafarers or ex-seafarers (including merchant marine, Navy and deep sea fishermen) who are of low or moderate financial means. The scholarships apply to each semester of an Australian Registered Training Organisation (RTO) including those approved by the Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA) which provide training in a maritime-related discipline including sea-going courses and commercial courses in the maritime industry – refer to website www.amsa.gov.au.

Applicants must be undertaking a sea-going course approved by AMSA or recognised maritime commercial course or have undertaken such a course within the previous six months. Relevant documentary evidence must be provided in support of the application.

The Society's support program is normally awarded in each semester up to the value of \$2,500 per scholarship (and another \$2,500 could be paid for a second semester, if necessary) to assist students with course fees and meeting living, travel to course and associated expenses. A selection panel of the RTO considers applications and recommends to the Society suitable candidates who match the stipulated criteria. Eligible students can also apply direct to the Society – see below for contact details. The decision of the Council of the Society in any individual case will be final and no appeals will be considered. The Council reserves the right to modify the amount or the terms and conditions of the scholarship as appropriate.

Potential applicants at the Australian Maritime College should access their website and for further information contact Ms Lee-Anne Phillips, Scholarships & Prizes Officer, Student centre, at e-mail l.phillips@utas.edu.au, telephone (03) 6226 2725, by visiting website www.scholarships.utas.edu.au or by mail to University of Tasmania, Private Bag 45, Hobart Tas 7001.

Further details can also be obtained from the Secretary of the Australian Mariners Welfare Society, Mr Stan Moriarty, by

e-mail to secretary@marinerswelfare.com.au, by telephoning (02) 9605 1344 or by letter to PO Box 818, Ingleburn NSW 1890.

The Society's Council is keen to promote the availability of these scholarships and hopes other RTOs will take the opportunity to encourage eligible students to apply.

Newcastle news

A ceremony at Christ Church Cathedral, Newcastle on 13 July Father Garry Dodd, Senior Chaplain at the Newcastle Seafarers Centre was commissioned as Canon to the Port of Newcastle and best wishes are extended to him as he takes up this additional role.

Navy's new Landing Helicopter Dock ships nearing completion

The first of two Landing Helicopter Dock (LHD) ships for the Royal Australian Navy is nearing completion at Williamstown Dockyard in Melbourne but recently visited Sydney during the course of sea trials.

The 27,000-tonne NUSHIP *Canberra* – as the ship is called until officially handed over to the RAN – is 230m in length and will be the largest vessel ever commissioned into the Navy.

Captain Craig Bourke RAN, the LHD Project Director said the ship would have capability to embark over 1,000 forces which could be landed ashore by landing craft, helicopters or a combination of both.

"The medical facility on board is equipped with two operating theatres, an eight-bed critical care unit, a 20-bed medium dependency ward, a six-bed resuscitation/emergency ward, and a 28-bed low dependency ward. In addition, there is also provision for pathology and radiology services, x-ray, pharmacy and dental facilities," he said.

"The joint operations room and ancillary facilities will provide a sophisticated command and control centre where large and complex operations can be co-ordinated."

Canberra is expected to complete sea trials later this year before entering service. The ship's complement will comprise 380 men and women from the Royal Australian Navy, the Australian Army and the Royal Australian Air Force.

A sister ship to *Canberra* – NUSHIP *Adelaide* – is also currently fitting out at Williamstown Dockyard.



NUSHIP *Canberra* approaching Garden Island on its first visit to Sydney. [Royal Australian Navy photograph]