



**CARING FOR SEAFARERS IN THE PORT OF BRISBANE  
SINCE 1892**

# **2017 Annual Report**

of

**THE MISSION TO SEAFARERS BRISBANE INC.**

Presented to the Annual General Meeting

On the 17th March 2018.

**Celebrating 125 years of the Mission to Seafarers Brisbane**

## **THE MISSION TO SEAFARERS BRISBANE INC.**

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Queensland 4178.

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### **WORLD PATRON**

Her Majesty The Queen

### **WORLD PRESIDENT**

Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal

### **SECRETARY GENERAL**

Rev Canon Andrew Wright

### **PATRON**

His Excellency The Governor of Queensland.

# **THE MISSION TO SEAFARERS BRISBANE INC.**

## **COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

Capt David Ellis, President  
Mr Robert Clark, Vice President  
Capt Ross Nicholls, Secretary  
Mr David Thomas, Treasurer  
Mrs Wendy Firmin  
Capt Kasper Kuiper  
Mrs Judith Harris  
Mrs Marianne Ross  
Mrs Marcia Scholes

## **HONORARY CHAPLAINS**

The Rev'd Ian McGilvray  
The Rev'd Stephen Briggs  
(Priest in charge St Oswalds Banyo/ RAN Chaplain)  
Chaplain Emeritus: The Rev'd William Pearson RFD MNSC RANR Ret

## **HONORARY LIFE MEMBERS**

Mrs Marcia Scholes  
Mr Bruce Balnaves

The Mission to Seafarers Brisbane Inc. is an Incorporated Association and Registered Charity in Queensland and registered with the Commonwealth Charities and Not for Profit Commission.

The Mission to Seafarers is financially supported by proceeds from the Centre shop, interest from investments, donations from parishes, companies and individuals and projects supported by industry and community grants.

**2017 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF  
THE MISSION TO SEAFARERS BRISBANE INC.**

**HELD  
AT THE MISSION TO SEAFARERS, 2 SEAFARERS STREET  
PORT OF BRISBANE  
ON  
Saturday 17th MARCH 2018 at 2pm**

**AGENDA**

1. Introduction and welcome by the AGM Meeting Chair, Ms Sally Isles, Interim Manager, Chaplaincy Services Parishes & Other Mission Agencies Commission, St Martin's House, Anglican Church Southern Queensland
2. Opening prayer
3. Apologies:
4. Presentation of the President's Report by Capt David Ellis;
5. Presentation of the Financial Statement and Audit Report for 2017 by Mr David Thomas B.Com. C.A.(S.A.);
6. The appointment of an Auditor for the next year;
7. The election of office bearers and committee members for the next year;
8. NOTICE OF MOTION – "That the incoming committee be given power to pass the minutes of The Annual General Meeting of the 17th March 2018"
9. Any other business of which prior notice has been given.
10. Presentation of Certificates of Appreciation
11. Closing prayer

# **The Objects of the Mission to Seafarers Brisbane Inc.**

**To work to meet the practical, welfare and spiritual needs of seafarers of all races and creeds visiting the Port of Brisbane;**

**To work to assist any seafarer who is in need of support and care or in necessitous circumstances or injured or in distress in the Port of Brisbane; and**

**Where practicable, to provide a place of safety and rest, relaxation and comfort to seafarers visiting the Port of Brisbane and, in particular, to provide a means of communication with family and other loved ones.**

***The Mission to Seafarers Brisbane Inc.  
“FLYING ANGEL” Seafarers Centre is a  
place of safety and comfort and a  
Home away from Home for all  
seafarers irrespective of Race,  
Language or Faith***

## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

I am pleased to present my report on the Mission to Seafarers Brisbane Inc. for 2017.

2017 was a busy year at the Mission Centre. Our seafarer visit numbers are up on recent years with some 12,507 seafarer visits this year, a 16% increase on 2016. This reflects our individualistic approach to assisting the seafarer and the level of service we provide. Brisbane Mission is regarded as a "go to place" by seafarers whilst on the Australian coast and the increase for the year shows that when seafarers are able to get time ashore the "Flying Angel Club" is their prime destination.

Our Mission profile is improving through our website, Facebook page and "Brisbane Mission Matters" Enewsletter and the increasing requests by Parishes and other groups for the Mission to visit and talk on our ministry with seafarers.

Refurbishment of the Seafarer Centre continues with further plantings in the garden areas, new clothing store site hut and work/storage shed and further internal painting and refurbishment.

Our pastoral care and welfare activity included supporting seafarers brought ashore by helicopter or launch with a range of injuries. Fortunately in all cases injuries were not life threatening and all were on flights home within a week of entering hospital.

A big thank you to all our amazing volunteers for their commitment and dedication to the Mission and it's ministry in the Port of Brisbane. You make a positive difference in the lives of the seafarers who visit our Mission. You are the key to the success of the Mission and our pastoral care and welfare work with seafarers. Seafarers comment on the positive reception they receive in Brisbane and this is the result of the dedication, understanding and love given by each and every volunteer to these seafarers.

The Mission was nominated again by seafarers for the ISWAN Seafarer Centre of the Year Award. The sixth consecutive year that seafarers have nominated us for the award and shows that seafarers value what we do and the difference it makes in their lives.

The Committee members are also volunteers and I thank them all for the time and effort they have put in during the year in managing the Mission. Their hard work is visible in the continuing stable budget and the ongoing improvement and development of the Seafarers Centre itself and the services we provide to meet the needs of the modern seafarer in the short time they are able to spend with us.

I make special mention of David Thomas as Treasurer who contributes much in the background to ensure the Mission is operating profitably, to Rob Clark as Vice-President for his work in maintaining the Mission website and committee related activity and to Capt Ross Nicholls for his

secretarial skills, establishment and maintenance of the Mission Facebook page and his continued chairing of the Port Welfare Committee. Also John Austin for his PR support and work on the “Brisbane Mission Matters” Enewsletter and Gillian Goldsworthy, landscape designer, for her time and effort in continuing the garden design and plantings.

Thank you to Adrian for his hard work and long hours as centre manager and as a volunteer.

I thank the marvelous people across many parishes and individually, both suburban and country, for the beanies, clothing, books, magazines and other items given so freely to the seafarers and a big thank you to all who donated items and funds towards the Christmas bags, the biggest Christmas bag handout yet! A total of 434 bags given to the crew on 20 ships in the week prior to Christmas, all of whom were at sea for Christmas Day.

During the year His Grace Archbishop Aspinall licenced The Rev’d Ian McGilvray (ex MTS Dampier WA Chaplain) and The Rev’d Stephen Briggs (Priest in charge St Oswald’s Banyo and RAN Chaplain) as Chaplains to the Brisbane Mission. Both Chaplains provided key pastoral and spiritual support to distressed seafarers during the year.

2017 marks the 125<sup>th</sup> year of the Mission to Seafarers in the port of Brisbane. From humble beginnings in the home of Ms Amy Proctor our Mission has developed and regenerated many times to best serve the needs of seafarers. That focus on the seafarer and their needs drives the Mission Committee and volunteers forward today as we meet the challenges of global shipping, reducing crew sizes and shorter port times where demand for our services is expanding and dynamic.

We should all remember that the Mission to Seafarers supports the seafarers who keep Australia prosperous through transporting our exports and imports. More than 95% of all Australian trade is generated by sea transport on ships crewed by foreign seafarers. With the globalisation of cheap labour becoming the new “norm”, the foreign seafarer is generally from a developing country, on minimum wages and conditions and spend up to 12 months away from their families, and all to provide us with most of what we eat, our clothing, electrical and electronic good, cars, etc and get our coal, iron ore, wool, meat and other exports to overseas markets.

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## **125 Year Anniversary**

2017 marks the 125th year of the Mission to Seafarers in the Port of Brisbane. Since our formation and early days in the home of Ms Amy Proctor in 1892, our Mission has developed and regenerated many times to best serve the needs of seafarers. That focus on the seafarer and their needs drives the Mission Committee and volunteers forward today as we meet the challenges of global shipping, reducing crew sizes and shorter port turn-around times where demand for our services is expanding and dynamic.

Mission to Seafarers Brisbane Inc. is one of Queensland's oldest and longest continuous community volunteer organisations. The Brisbane Mission is 22 years older than the formation of the International Red Cross for example.

To celebrate the 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, a commemorative service and social evening was held at our Mission Centre. A highlight of the evening was the attendance of descendants of Ms Amy Proctor who travelled from around Australia to mark the occasion and honour their relative. Guests included representatives from the shipping industry, Port of Brisbane Pty Ltd, Brisbane Marine Pilots, Mission volunteers past and present, donors and supporters and members of the Anglican Community, including the Archbishop of the Brisbane.



*Descendants of Ms Amy Proctor with the Archbishop of Brisbane and Mission to Seafarers Brisbane President Capt. David Ellis*

A further highlight of the evening was Rev Canon Garry Dodd MTS Regional Director presenting Mrs Marcia Scholes with a certificate of appreciation for her 70 years volunteering with the Mission from HRH The Princess Royal Princess Anne, the World President of the Mission to Seafarers.





*Rev. Canon Garry Dodd with Mrs Marcia Scholes*

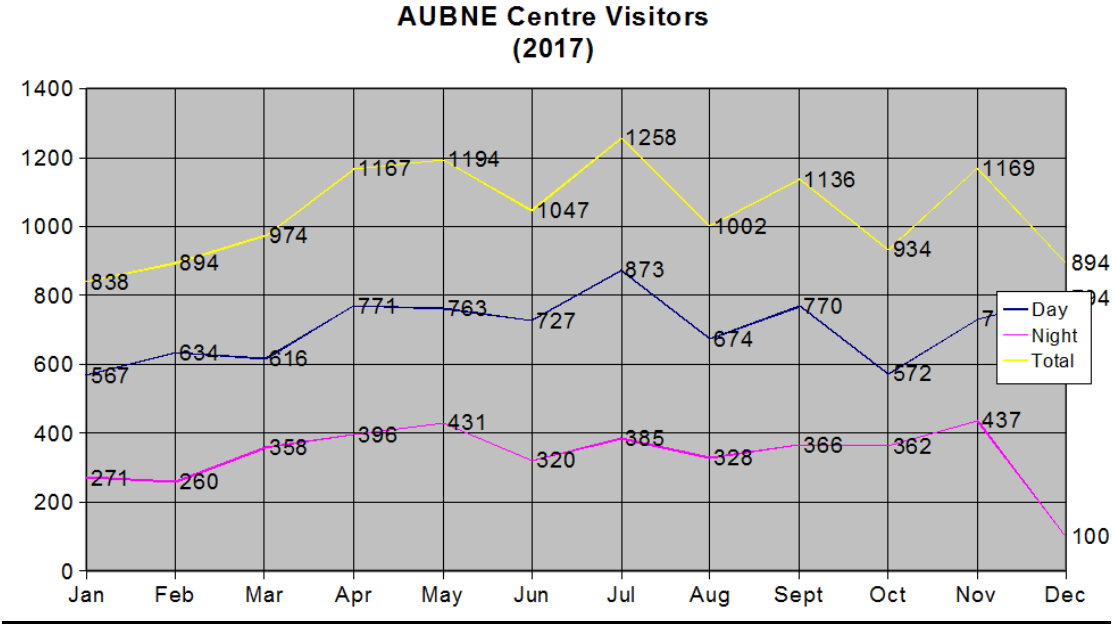
### **ISWAN Seafarers Centre of the Year Award**

The Brisbane Seafarers' Centre has been nominated by seafarers for the International Seafarers Welfare and Assistance Network (ISWAN) Seafarers' Centre of the Year 2018. This is the sixth consecutive year our Mission has been nominated for this award.

It is a great honour to be nominated by the seafarers who visit our Mission centre and shows that the hard work and dedication of the committee and volunteers and our terrific donor support is valued by those we serve. The finalist list will be announced early in 2018 and the winning seafarer centre announced at an awards night to be held at the UN ILO headquarters in Geneva Switzerland late April 2018.

It is also very pleasing that Port of Brisbane Pty Ltd have been nominated for the ISWAN Port of the Year Award 2018. The port is recognized for its support to seafarer welfare through the MOU with the Mission and its involvement with the Port Welfare Committee. We wish them all the best to make the finalist list and hopefully win this prestigious award.

**Seafarer Visit Statistics**



**Budget**

The budget financial results show a small surplus on our operations again this year. The continuing drive to ensure we cover all costs and make provision for future contingencies and redevelopment and improvement has been a key focus of the management committee.

**Christmas Bags for Seafarers**

The Christmas bag appeal was another incredible success this year. The Mission had a tremendous level of support from the Port Welfare Committee, industry, parishes, Anglican colleges and individuals to produce 434 bags this year, chock full of toiletries, snacks, souvenirs and lots of other goodies, and these were handed out to crew on a ship basis to 20 ships in the week leading up to Christmas Day. This included Brisbane Marine Pilots using a pilot launch to deliver Christmas bags to a crew on a ship at anchor in Moreton Bay.

The simple act of giving at Christmas can have a significant positive impact on the lives of seafarers who all feel the stress of being away from family and friends on the other side of the world at Christmas.

**Mission Centre and Flying Angel Club**

An ongoing repainting and maintenance program is managed through the annual budget. Seafarers work and live in a monochrome environment onboard ship, with mainly blacks, whites, browns and greys both within the accommodation and on deck and in the engine room. Whilst functional this monochromatic or beige environment is under stimulating and can contribute to stress.

Modern research suggests that colour has a profound impact on how we feel and our biological functions. The Mission Centre is using the addition of colour into the Centre to add a calming and restful environment for seafarers to relax in and recover from the stress of constant ship work activity.

Replacement of all furniture throughout the centre is ongoing. The recreational areas and the chapel furniture has been replaced with high quality commercial grade furniture including leather sofas and chairs, to provide a comfortable, club like, yet professional atmosphere

The Mission is continuing to develop the garden areas as a green oasis in which the seafarers can seek refuge and comfort for a short period away from the man-made environment in which they live. Gardens reduce stress and improve mental clarity. The seafarer returns to his ship in a better frame of mind, refreshed and alert, less likely to injure himself or others or cause a disaster in port or along Australia's pristine coastline. One problem we didn't expect to encounter was the local rabbit and hare population which have taken a liking to our newly planted shrubs and trees. Overall we have probably lost around a third of the plants to their nocturnal munching of our garden areas.

### **Joining Seafarers "Dumped" at the Mission Centre**

The Mission has had many instances of seafarers being dropped off at the Seafarers Centre by Ship's Agents this year.

For many years now joining seafarers who need to fill in a few hours waiting for the arrival of their ship into the port have done so at the Mission centre. For short waiting periods this is fine and normal as the Mission is a welcoming environment and conveniently close to the arriving ship.

However a new phenomenon is seafarers are being "dumped" at the Mission in the morning for a ship arriving late evening. The seafarers are not now being provided with accommodation or meals as anyone would expect for a full day waiting for a ship to arrive. Our volunteers regularly find between one and four seafarers and their bags waiting at the door, sometimes for 2 hours or more, upon their arrival at the Mission Centre for the 10am opening. These seafarers may not be joining their ship until 8 to 11pm that night.

We find these seafarers to be tired and hungry, and usually very despondent at the neglect shown to them prior to joining their ship. The Brisbane Mission has constructed and marketed to local shipping agents the availability of a Day Sleeping Room consisting of two double bunk beds to enable seafarers to rest properly.

It is not uncommon for joining seafarers to go directly on watch once onboard their ship. The time the joining seafarers spend at the Mission Centre, including being provided with meals

and sleeping accommodation, ensures that the seafarers are fit for duty and do not present a “Human Element Risk to Shipping” from fatigue and low morale.

The day sleeping room is regularly used. On one occasion a joining seafarer slept for more than 7 hours and highlights the fact that an overnight plane flight does not constitute adequate rest prior to joining the ship.

The Mission has been working closely with the Port Welfare Committee, ships Agents and the Australian Maritime Safety Authority in an effort to at least put some structure in place to manage these issues.



*“Dumped” seafarers preparing to take advantage of the day sleeping room.*

### **Seafarer Bus Services**

Seafarer surveys undertaken by the Mission have confirmed the need for a reliable free bus service to and from the Mission centre to maximize the brief shore time of the modern seafarer.

The Mission provides an on demand free bus service to all berths within the port. This enables all seafarers wishing to visit the Mission Centre being able to do so at times to suit their duty cycle unencumbered by a timetabled bus service. The Mission also provides as needed bus transport to a major local shopping centre, giving access to fresh provisions, cafes, pharmacy and other necessities for life they might otherwise need. Each year the

Mission's two mini-buses travel around 90,000km transporting seafarers to the Mission and shopping centre, a key Mission financial and volunteer roster commitment for the benefit of visiting seafarers.

The Mission views the seafarer need for access to the shopping centre and the positive impact on mind, body and spirit of the seafarer through spending time in a non-port related environment as far outweighing the high cost of operation of the bus service.

### **Donors and Supporters**

I would like to thank all the Mission supporters from industry, parishes, individuals who assisted the Mission during the year. A special thank you to the many wonderful knitters of Beanies and scarves and to everyone who made clothing, book and magazine donations.

Certificates of appreciation will be presented to many of our donors and supporters at the AGM, in accordance with Mission policy.

### **4,000 Beanies**

Some 4,000 hand knitted beanies (woolly caps) and an increasing number of woollen scarves are donated each year by individuals and local Anglican parishes and given away free to seafarers. These beanies are much appreciated, and it is always the most outrageous coloured ones that disappear first!

In late December 2017, the crew of a visiting bulk carrier Himawari K learned that their next cargo would be in Northern China, currently experiencing -10°C. The crew called into the Mission Centre for warm clothing for all onboard. They left with over half a cubic metre of winter jackets, jumpers, trousers, scarves and beanies in preparation for the cold northern winter weather ahead. Having a dedicated clothing store and a continuous reliable supply of second hand clothing enabled the Mission centre to quickly meet the clothing needs of these seafarers, and at no cost to them.



*Seafarers from MV Himawari K preparing for their voyage to northern China*

### **Ship Visiting**

The regular Mission ship visiting program extends our welfare and pastoral care activity to as many seafarers visiting the port as possible acknowledging the need to engage with the majority of seafarers unable to get shore leave during the brief period in port.

Ship visitors Peter Jones and Trevor Phillips continue to do a wonderful job and I thank them for their commitment to the Mission and the seafarers they visit. This engagement extends our welfare and pastoral care activity to as many seafarers visiting the port as possible.

Shipping peak body Shipping Australia Queensland (SALQ) has recognised the significant benefit that ship visiting plays now and will do so even more in the future as the demands on seafarers increase. In discussion with the Mission it was recognised that supporting the enhancement of a ship visiting capability was a worthy cause for financial support given the Mission Centre funds these courses and ship visitors. SALQ donated funds to enable an expanded ship visitor program from 2018. Ship visiting will be a combined MTS/AOS venture to maximise our joint effort to visit crew on ships in port each day.

The Mission plans to conduct a ship visitor training course in mid 2018 to expand and consolidate the ship visiting program.

### **Marketing and Volunteer Drive**

Although currently well supported by volunteers, many of whom are retired, we continually need to refresh the pool of faithful supporters to ensure we are able to deliver and improve the services we offer to Seafarers.

The Mission devotes a lot of time and resources seeking to refresh our volunteer pool to ensure we can effectively operate the Seafarers Centre 12 hours a day for 365 days a year and develop a proactive Ship Visitors Program while undertaking succession planning for key management roles.

The Mission continues to raise its community profile by broadening our communication networks in many ways, including:

- Creating an interesting and informative Website,
- Developing a social media presence with the implementation of a Facebook Page (currently with 215 followers after only 9 months and growing rapidly) It was noted through the Port Welfare Committee that Seafarers are increasingly using Facebook to alert AMSA and other statutory bodies of onboard welfare or employment issues

- A quarterly e-Newsletter (“Brisbane Mission Matters”) emailed to volunteers, supporters and other interested persons and associations.
- Attending forums and presentation opportunities within the Port, parishes, service clubs and interested groups.
- The development of meaningful MOU’s with key organisations.
- Expanding the skills and experience of committee members to broaden the skills base and the network

The Mission has presented to key shipping groups during the year including Shipping Australia, The Nautical Institute and Maritime Safety Queensland.

The Mission was again invited to attend the Volunteering Redlands Expo this year to celebrate the UN Day of the Volunteer.

MTS committee members were invited to speak at a number of Anglican parishes on the role of the Mission within the broader church and a number of parishes and community groups visited the Seafarers centre to see first-hand our ministry to seafarers.

QUT students have assisted the Mission PR endeavours through an assignment project they completed in the second semester 2017. Under the supervision of Journalism lecturer Mr Brad Turner the Media Design and Layout students provided wonderful proposals for the improvement of the Mission’s branding and overall image presentation. Through Mr Turner I have congratulated the students and the Mission is continuing to carefully examine the proposals with a view to improving our web and other communications collateral. The students have provided the Mission with so much good material and great ideas to improve our communications into the community.

### **Future Funding of the Mission Centre and its operations**

Our current income stream is from three primary sources – shop and bar sales, phone cards and foreign exchange.

Reducing seafarer numbers on ships will over time severely impact the revenue streams we currently rely on.

Investment income and accumulated interest is important to the future funding of the annual budget and operations to support the Mission Centre and its welfare and pastoral ministry with seafarers. However this must be seen as a short-term measure and longer-term alternatives to minimize dependence on reserves must be identified and developed.

## **Future Port Ministry**

The Mission is exploring the overall welfare and pastoral needs within the port. Each day some 250 to 350 seafarers are on ships alongside, whilst each day some 4,000 people are engaged in landside shipping and transport operations at the port. It seems odd to have a dividing line of welfare and pastoral care support down the face of the wharves when a holistic approach to such ministry across the port is needed.

The Mission needs to consider extending its welfare and pastoral activities to the landside operations of the port. Some will say that such an approach is outside of the aims and objects of the Mission to Seafarers. Examples of change to meet the changing needs of the population can be found in key organisations such as the International Red Cross, The Salvation Army and many other local, national and international welfare focused organisations and charities. The welfare and pastoral focus may change but the ministry to seafarers and others in the port of Brisbane will continue and adapt as needed to meet ongoing global change in shipping and ports.

### **Mission to Seafarers Brisbane Inc. Points of Contact:**

**Phone: Seafarers Centre 07 3895 1181**

**Email: [tfa@mtsbrisbane.org.au](mailto:tfa@mtsbrisbane.org.au)**

**Website: Visit us at [www.mtsbrisbane.org.au](http://www.mtsbrisbane.org.au)**

**Facebook: Like us at MISSION TO SEAFARERS BRISBANE**

**Enewsletter: Please send your email address to [tfa@mtsbrisbane.org.au](mailto:tfa@mtsbrisbane.org.au) be added to the mail-out list for this quarterly newsletter**

### **Bank details:**

**Account: Mission to Seafarers Brisbane Inc**

**BSB: 704 901**

**Account Number: 0000 3660**

## **Change in Presidency**

I will not be standing for President or Committee at this AGM. Under our new constitution I have reached the maximum term of 5 consecutive years and must stand aside. After nearly two decades on committee and 10 consecutive years as Chairman/President it is time for me to hand over the helm. I believe that I have answered God's call to me to revitalise and develop the Brisbane Mission ministry. The Mission is now in a strong financial and pastoral outreach position and well placed to cope with the ongoing changes in world shipping affecting the lives of the seafarers we serve. I thank everyone most sincerely for their contribution to and support of the Brisbane Mission to Seafarers. It is the combined effort of all of us that has got the Mission to where it is today.



### **In Conclusion**

At the Mission to Seafarers Brisbane all our staff, volunteers, supporters and donors from across South East Queensland contribute from their hearts to support seafarers visiting the Port of Brisbane. We see that our Mission is of more relevance and serving a greater need now than it was in the 1890's when we commenced our welfare services to seafarers in the Port of Brisbane.

In relative terms foreign seafarers are worse off in comparison to the general population now than they were 100 years ago – a sad indictment on society that the people they rely on to generate trade and commerce across the world (over 90% of world trade is generated through shipping, and is around 95% for Australia) are often the most poorly treated, powerless and forgotten.

Our Mission continues to meet the welfare services and pastoral care needs in the Port of Brisbane and to be the port-based seafarer's welfare centre available to all seafarers, irrespective of nationality, race, colour, sex, religion, political opinion or social origin and irrespective of the flag State of the ship on which they are employed.

We are continually seeking ways to adapt our services to address the current changes and trends in the global shipping industry which ultimately impact our role in the port – caring for the seafarer. While Seafarers continue to man ships, the Mission to Seafarers Brisbane will continue to adapt to provide the best welfare and pastoral care service possible.

We pray that our valuable and vital ministry to seafarers visiting the Port of Brisbane will continue for another 125 years!

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**Capt Dave Ellis**

**President 2017**



THE MISSION  
TO SEAFARERS

# BRISBANE



ANCHORED IN CHRIST

SINCE 1892