



CARING FOR SEAFARERS IN THE PORT OF BRISBANE
SINCE 1892

2021 Annual Report

of

THE MISSION TO SEAFARERS BRISBANE INC.

Presented to the Annual General Meeting

12th March 2022.

Celebrating 129 years of the Mission to Seafarers Brisbane



THE MISSION TO SEAFARERS BRISBANE INC.

2 Seafarers Street
Port of Brisbane
Queensland 4178.

P. O. Box 9260, Wynnum Plaza, Qld 4178

Web: www.mtsbrisbane.org.au

Email: tfa@mtsbrisbane.org.au

Facebook: Mission to Seafarers Brisbane Inc

WORLD PATRON

Her Majesty The Queen

WORLD PRESIDENT

Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal

SECRETARY GENERAL

Rev Canon Andrew Wright

PATRON

Her Excellency The Governor of Queensland.

ARCHBISHOP

The Most Reverend Dr. Phillip Aspinall AC

THE MISSION TO SEAFARERS BRISBANE INC.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

President	Capt. Ross Nicholls
Secretary	Ms Lisa Davis
Treasurer	Mr. Rick Domann
Member	Capt. Marcus Bochenski
Member	Mrs Wendy Firmin
Member	Capt. Kasper Kuiper
Member	Mr Tony Fry
Member	Mrs Marianne Ross

HONORARY CHAPLAINS

The Revd. Ian McGilvray

The Revd. Stephen Briggs

(Priest in Charge Anglican Parish of Grovely, RAN Chaplain)

Chaplain Emeritus: The Revd. William Pearson RFD MNSC RANR Ret.

HONORARY LIFE MEMBERS

Mrs Marcia Scholes

Mr Bruce Balnaves

Capt. David and Mrs. Marilyn Ellis

Mr. David Thomas

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 Seafarers Centre shops, income from investments, donations from parishes, companies and individuals along with community grants and projects supported by industry.

**2021 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF
THE MISSION TO SEAFARERS BRISBANE INC.**

**HELD
AT THE MISSION TO SEAFARERS, 2 SEAFARERS STREET
PORT OF BRISBANE
ON
Saturday 12th MARCH 2022 at 10am**

AGENDA

1. Opening prayer
2. Introduction and welcome by the Chairman
3. Apologies:
4. Presentation of the President's Report by Capt. Ross Nicholls;
5. Presentation of the Financial Statements and Audit Report for 2022 by Mr Rick Domann
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 –
 - a. "That the incoming committee be given power to pass the minutes of The Annual General Meeting of the 12th of March 2022"
9. Any other business of which prior notice has been given.
 - a. Certificates of Appreciation
 - b. Receive Australian flag from MV Cape Pillar
10. Meeting Close
11. Closing Prayer

The Mission, Vision and Values of The Mission to Seafarers Brisbane Inc.

Our Mission

To provide social and spiritual support for the emotional wellbeing of all seafarers

Our Vision

To be a relevant and proactive provider of services to meet today's seafarers needs.

Our Values

We operate with integrity and commit to being:

- ✓ Respectful
- ✓ Resilient
- ✓ Compassionate
- ✓ Inclusive
- ✓ Faithful

***Our Seafarers Centre is a place of safety, comfort
and a "Home away from Home" for all seafarers
irrespective of Race, Gender, Culture or Faith***

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

I am pleased to present the President's Report on The Mission to Seafarers Brisbane Inc. for 2021.

The ongoing influence of Covid19, while making a notable impact, has ultimately left our Mission in a stronger and more resilient position going forward. We have adapted our services to survive financially and enhanced the way we keep connected. By establishing means of remaining better connected with seafarers and retaining a profile within our port community, through relevant and related events, we are confident that on resumption of our traditional business, we will be prepared to meet our Vision of being a relevant and proactive provider of welfare services.

Our decisions in early 2020 to establish an "online shop" has proven to be extremely beneficial to the wellbeing of our seafarers and ultimately to our financial security. Streamlined operations, conscious cost controls and a strengthened connection with seafarers, our fellow seafarer centers across Australia and the broader community have kept us buoyant and active, albeit in a measured way.

Our relationships with local maritime industry and related organisations have continued to provide the necessary support to allow us to operate within the boundaries imposed for the management of the pandemic. The communication and collaborative working relationship, specifically with Maritime Safety Queensland and specific Shipping Agents, has been pivotal in the local management of seafarers issues and ultimately the broader seafarer welfare network across QLD's ports. This proactive approach by MSQ has not gone unnoticed both nationally and internationally and is to be applauded.

Beyond our local maritime industry our supporters from the Anglican community through to local community groups are behind the scenes tirelessly knitting, making gifts, gathering personal hygiene products and delivering these to our seafarers centre all year round. These gifts of love and care in the form of "Care Packs" have been distributed to many a ship and made the seafarers life more bearable, providing that much needed human contact, albeit from the bottom of a ship's gangway. In addition to distributing these packs to ships, many deliveries have also been made to the seafarers who found themselves "locked down" ashore in strictly guarded quarantine accommodation awaiting to join their ship or fly home to their loved ones.

The year ahead for us will undoubtedly continue to provide us with challenges as we look to resume services. While we may be challenged, the satisfaction derived from assisting the seafarer in such a small way compensates our team enormously. Coupled with the recent introduction of a seafarer vaccination program and the reintroduction of shore leave for seafarers in QLD ports, the future is looking up and the aura around the centre is awash with positivity. This is such welcome news for the seafarers and all those that contribute to the success of our centre.

In conjunction with this reopening, we have worked with Stella Maris to establish a trial period of undertaking operations jointly at the Brisbane Seafarers Centre from early January 2022. This trial has stemmed from the culmination of discussions and documenting a potential structure which will hopefully lead to the successful union of welfare services, ultimately benefiting the seafarer.

Committee will continue to prudently oversee the services, risks and associated finances of the seafarers centre providing the necessary guidance and support to underpin our continued operation within the Port of Brisbane.

KEY STATISTICS FOR 2021

The following statistics highlight the activity of the Seafarers centre for the past year.

No. of Ships calling Port of Brisbane	2,350	(2,390 in 2020)
No. of Seafarers visiting the centre	960	(3,240 in 2020)
No. of bus trips for Seafarers	960	(7,800 in 2019)
No. of Kilometres driven	4,500	(13,500 in 2019)
No. of Supervisors	1	(2 in 2020)
No. of Volunteers	30	(54 in 2019)
Minimum No. of Volunteer Hours	1,300	(5,940 in 2019)
No. of Ship Visits	0	(21 in 2020)
Value of Donations – Goods and “In Kind”	\$52,000	(>\$100,000 in 2020)

KEY ACTIVITIES FOR 2021

Each year, the seafarers center aims to host a variety of events and activities that enable us to thank our staff, key stakeholders and supporters while also hopefully engaging with other community organisations and potential volunteers who can assist us in our endeavors. We are continuously engaging with our community and industry stakeholders to pursue a range of projects that will ultimately benefit the services we can provide to seafarers.

The key activities of 2021 were minimal given the restrictions impacting our industry and the port, but nonetheless it gave our staff, followers and supporters the opportunity to continue engaging with our Mission.

Kiribati Seafarers

During mid 2021 we became aware of thirty-nine Kiribati seafarers who had completed their necessary quarantine period and were now residing in a local hotel awaiting a return flight home. The opportunity to engage with these Kiribati nationals was exciting given we had not had seafarers visit the seafarers center since mid 2020. Within weeks these seafarers became familiar with the centre and Heather, Revd. Ian and our small band of dedicated and compassionate volunteers who were only too eager to show them around our city and beyond. Weekly trips to our seafarers centre, local attractions, well known beaches and even up to Toowoomba and Mount Tamborine gave us the opportunity to showcase our home while an occasional service in our Chapel enabled to engage with them spiritually. A highlight was being able to participate with these stranded seafarers on Kiribati National Day.

As the weeks turned into months due to their government’s “closed border” policy, the strain on these humble islanders was only too evident. Our Mission, in partnership with Human Rights at Sea (www.hras.org.uk), spearheaded by an intrepid and “newly minted” local Journalist – Abby

Williams - undertook a coordinated effort to lobby the relevant Departments locally, nationally and internationally in attempt to get these seafarers home. Ultimately, they were provided with opportunities to work within Australia under temporary Visa's while awaiting the opening of their borders. It was a sad day for us to watch our friends from Kiribati leave Brisbane and our warm embrace. They have eventually ended up back upon their home shore with their family and friends. Their time in Brisbane will always be fondly remembered and cherished.



Online Shop

Our online seafarers' shop was established early after the closure of the seafarers centre due to the pandemic. The concept has turned out to be a financial lifeline for our centre and more importantly, it has allowed us to extend our connections with seafarers beyond the wharf while providing a small amount of "retail therapy" and a much-needed boost to the seafarers physical and emotional wellbeing.

By the end of 2021, there had been a total of 305 orders through the online shop with sales exceeding \$47,000. The orders have generally focused on connectivity with Phone and Internet cards topping the order list. Not unexpectedly, given that even to this day, around only 25% of the world's seafarers have access to internet onboard their ships. Not far behind these phone cards purchases were comfort foods and personal hygiene products. The occasional order for "Macca's", Krispy Kreme donuts or KFC along with other orders for some specific electronic products, games and clothing highlighted the need for that missing "retail therapy" and sense of normality and comfort that comes with the isolation onboard ship without access to shore leave.

The "online store" concept has proven it's viability during the pandemic and hopefully established a more permanent connection for those seafarers who aren't able to access shore leave while in port. It is intended to carry the concept forward and access to the service will become more readily

available and promoted as we invest in a more efficient e-commerce system. The new system will cater for products that satisfy the seafarers human needs, as crew sizes and ship turnaround times continue to be reduced.

International Day of the Seafarer

The International Day of the Seafarer (the last Sunday in June) is an annual day recognising the seafarers role and their significant contribution to the efficiency of the global logistics industry. For 2021 it was decided that the local maritime industry should be brought together to recognise this day and to refresh the connections with the local seafarer welfare providers.

A traditional seafarer's lunch was provided and our local maritime industry, along with supporters and volunteers, joined together at the seafarers centre. The day was especially relevant this year given the stranding of the Kiribati seafarers in Brisbane. This humble group of pacific islanders contributed enormously to the success of the day, which was totally coincidental, by entertaining our guests with some traditional Kiribati songs.

The significance of this day is vital for our industry to recognise that support is required by the welfare providers to meet the needs of today's seafarers.



Sea Sunday

Sea Sunday, the second Sunday in July, is an international day for the Mission to Seafarers to recognise their Seafarers. This day, in conjunction with the International Day of the Seafarer allows us to widely recognise the Seafarer and promote the efforts of the Mission to Seafarers as a faith-based service.

Given the restrictions surrounding social gatherings, our Sea Sunday event was smaller than desired however no less important for the spiritual wellbeing of seafarers, volunteers and our supporters. To recognise that joint effort between welfare providers, our Sea Sunday service was delivered by our two wonderful and active Chaplains - Rev. Ian Mc Gilvray and Rev. Stephen Briggs – and the Stella Maris Chaplain Revd. Frank O’Dea.

We are blessed to have some active Chaplains who are engaged at the Mission and provide a strong link to the welfare and pastoral care required by seafarers and to their Parish communities.

Marcia Scholes OAM

Marcia Scholes joined Mission to Seafarers Brisbane on St. Patricks Day 17th March in 1946 and has remained involved with our Mission ever since. Her early life with the Mission involved making the centre a “home away from home” for the many seafarers who visited. With Friday night dances, afternoon teas and home cooked meals over the weekends being the regular contributions of the volunteers at that time.

This culmination of dedicated involvement with several Anglican Parishes, community groups and the Mission to Seafarers has seen this compassionate and generous lady awarded an OAM. We are enormously proud of Marcia and are blessed that she continues to engage with us whenever the opportunities present.



OUR PEOPLE & SUCCESSION

Our people - Supervisors, Volunteers and Management Committee - continue to underpin the services we provide, for which we are truly thankful for their unselfishness. Sadly, and not unexpectedly, the limitations on our operations and the potential for transmission of Covid19 has seen many of our volunteers reduce their availability or stop volunteering altogether. A decision that is totally understandable given these circumstances and the potential impact on their personal health given their demographic.

The demand for our services has increased again in the past year and our improved connectivity and visibility through the online store has kept our communications channels alive. While they may have been restricted to their ships, seafarers still have a greater need for pastoral care, welfare support and a need to live as normal a life as possible while managing the circumstances of their enhanced isolation. Our remaining team of volunteers are responding on demand and are looking forward to the day we can return to interacting face to face with our seafarers.

The impact of the past year on our ability to provide adequate succession for the future is concerning but we are not the only charitable organisation to feel the effects of this. In the year ahead we will continue to broaden our engagement within the Community and seek to slowly rebuild our capability again both at Volunteer and Committee level. This will not only strengthen our team to provide the service but to import new skills and experiences needed to facilitate our strategic plan and guide us to achieving our future centre objectives.

The hope that the synergies for a stronger, collaborative and efficient working arrangement can be delivered by operating the centre in conjunction with Stella Maris which will ultimately assist in strengthening the longevity of both organisations

The Mission continues to maintain its community profile by:

- Engaging with Volunteering Redlands and Volunteering Queensland
- Maintain an interactive social media presence through Facebook Page (now with over 900 followers)
- Distribute a quarterly e-Newsletter ("Brisbane Mission Matters") emailed to volunteers, supporters and other interested persons and associations.
- Attend fora and presentation opportunities within the Port, parishes, service clubs and interested groups.
- Holding engaging events at the seafarers centre
- Seeking to develop meaningful MOU's with key organisations.

Financial Matters

Our financial health is of paramount importance in being able to continue to operate in Brisbane. In the past year we have received income predominantly from the sales of our “online shop”, our investment income and also from a range of financial donations. These income sources however are subject to variation and not fully able to sustain our services indefinitely which requires us to constantly seek strategies and opportunities to provide us with alternative income streams.

Our financial results for 2021 will show Mission to Seafarers Brisbane has delivered an operating profit for the year, which has been substantially due to a “one off” Estate donation. While this surplus is pleasing and reassuring that we can continue with our work, we must be mindful that without the appropriate sustainable income streams, this surplus will be significantly eroded with a potential for an operating loss.

Continued prudence in managing our expenditure for the year ahead, along with assessing opportunities to improve our sources of income, will allow us to maintain and hopefully extend our operations and services to meet the demands of the modern seafarer.

A copy of our financial status at the conclusion of 2021 can be found at the end of the Annual Report.

Mission to Seafarers Brisbane Inc. Points of Contact:

Phone: Seafarers Centre 07 3895 1181

Email: tfa@mtsbrisbane.org.au

Website: Visit us at www.mtsbrisbane.org.au

Facebook: Like us at MISSION TO SEAFARERS BRISBANE

E-newsletter: Please send your email address to tfa@mtsbrisbane.org.au to be added to the mail-out list for this quarterly newsletter

President – Ross Nicholls – presmtsbrisbane@gmail.com

Treasurer – Rick Domann – treasmtsbrisbane@gmail.com

Secretary – Lisa Davis – secmtsbrisbane@gmail.com

Centre Supervisor – Heather Turner volsupmtsbrisbane@gmail.com

Bank details:

Account: Mission to Seafarers Brisbane Inc

BSB: 704 901

Account Number: 0000 3660

Conclusion

At the Mission to Seafarers Brisbane our staff, volunteers, supporters and key stakeholders contribute from their hearts to support our services which continue to cater for the wellbeing of seafarers visiting our Port. Each year we are reminded that our services continue to be of relevance and the challenges faced by seafarers over the previous two years and undoubtedly into the foreseeable future, reinforces the ongoing need for these welfare services worldwide.

We are blessed that our Port continues to innovate, collaborate and facilitate trade which only seeks to underpin our role in providing a range of support services to the seafarers manning these ships. While this year has also challenged the Port, given the impacts on trade, we will continue to monitor trends in the global shipping industry and adapt to provide the best local welfare and pastoral care services possible.

In closing, we pray that our valuable and vital ministry for seafarers visiting the Port of Brisbane will continue with the kind and heartfelt levels of support that we are currently blessed with.

Capt. Ross Nicholls
President 2021

