

News from Sailors' Society New Zealand (ISSNZ)

The British Sailors Society Wellington (Inc) (BSS) joined ISSNZ last year. BSS was formed in Wellington around the turn of the 20th century at about the same time as the groups in Auckland and Dunedin. For reasons lost in the mist of time BSS did not join with the other groups when ISSNZ was formed in the 1960's.

At the AGM in Tauranga in September, Terry

Nobbs was confirmed as ISSNZ Deputy Chairman. Terry is also the Chairman of the Sailors' Society Auckland. David Millar was confirmed as Hon National Chaplain with Lt Colonel Peter Savage, the Sailors' Society Port Chaplain in Wellington, as Associate Hon National Chaplain. Our Hon Treasurer, Larry Robbins was re-appointed as ISSNZ Hon National Secretary/Treasurer.



SNIPPETS, NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS



Rev Rod Hoggard JP has served the Society for around 40 years as the Auckland Baptist Association representative on the Board and has also served as the Society's port chaplain. Rod has announced his intention to relinquish his role as Baptist representative and to retire from the Board. We are grateful to Rod for his sterling service over this prolonged period of time. THANK YOU, ROD.

We are extremely grateful for your continuing support – both prayerful and financial. We thank those who have recently made donations to the work of the Society and are especially grateful to those who make a regular donation to the Society by automatic bank payment. This is a great help.

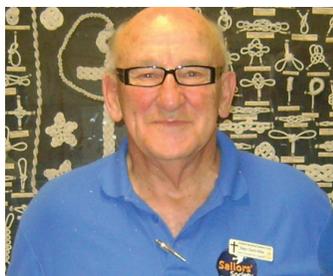
We send best wishes to **Robert Adams**, CEO of Sailors' Society (UK) on his forthcoming retirement.

We are grateful to **BetterPrice Hotels** www.betterpricehotels.com for sponsoring our website www.iss.org.nz and to **Magic Balloons Design Studio** www.magicballoons.co.nz who provide a credit card facility, allowing us to accept donations in this way.

Our newsletter is designed by **Emma Love** emma@cetech.co.nz. Thanks Emma. We are grateful to **NZ Post** who donated 300 Community Post envelopes which are being used to mail out this newsletter.

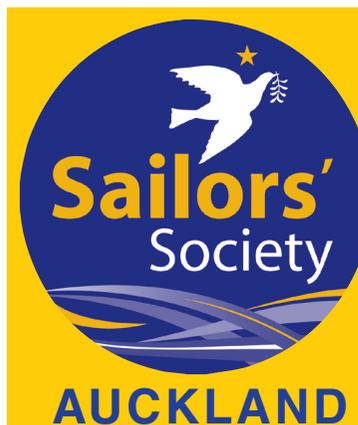
A charitable organisation working in the name of Christ in the ports of Auckland for the welfare of all seafarers

The Sailors' Society is a non-denominational Christian body which is a partner, with the Mission to Seafarers (Anglican) and the Apostleship of the Sea (Catholic), in the Auckland International Seafarers Centre, www.aucklandseafarerscentre.co.nz, 114 Quay Street, Auckland. The Society contributes the services of a part-time chaplain, some volunteers, & members to the Board of the Centre, and modest financial support. The Society's Board includes representatives from the Auckland Baptist, Presbyterian and Salvation Army churches.



The Sailors' Society, Auckland - Replacing Isolation with Belonging

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NEWSLETTER & ANNUAL REPORT 2011/12

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The Chaplain writes...

Ship Visiting is a large part of what we do from the Seafarers Centre. It holds pride of place in the varied activities of chaplaincy service. We visit the seafarers in their workplace (and their home) to ensure that they know about the Centre and the services we offer, to be a 'friendly smiling face' welcoming them to Auckland, to be available if there are welfare matters or concerns. We seek to be approachable and if there are problems we can put the seafarer in touch with the appropriate authorities. It is indeed a privilege to serve the seafarer either on the ships or at the Centre.

I visit the ships on Mondays and Thursdays and to the end of October have visited around 225 ships (that is 450 trips up and down the often steep gangways. It certainly keeps me fit!).

Some ships make regular calls to Auckland and we get to know the crews, the often brief ship visit establishing a friendship which builds with each visit. When I visited MV SOUTHERN LILY in October the Indonesian Chief Officer lined me up for a photograph with most of the deck crew (who are Fijians). I was on duty at the Centre that night and almost the whole crew came in. More photographs were taken and I can now put a name to each one of the seafarers.

Ministering to people of so many nationalities can be a challenge to us, reinforcing the importance of understanding the different cultures, some language difficulties, differing understandings. But it is all a joy. Seafarers pass through the port so quickly these days. We have just a brief contact, but it is our opportunity to demonstrate the concern of caring and our

willingness to be alongside them that we show in the name of Christ. It is an important calling and I thank you for your support which enables us to do this work.

As this will be the last newsletter before Christmas – how time does fly! – on behalf of the Sailors' Society in Auckland may I offer you sincere greetings for Christmas and the New Year. May you be richly blessed at this special time of year ... and indeed throughout the year to come. Please think of the seafarers who undoubtedly brought to New Zealand many of the things you will give as gifts this Christmastime and who will not be with their families at this time of the year.

David Millar
Sailors' Society Port Chaplain, Auckland



**The Sailors' Society
wishes you all a blessed
Christmas and a happy start
to a successful New Year.**

EDITORIAL

The standout events since the last newsletter have been:

- the refurbishment of the Seafarers Centre, a successful grant application to the ITF raising the funds to replace most of the furniture, lay new carpet and vinyl and install replacement computer equipment for seafarers' use (including a HOTSPOT Wifi system allowing laptop access ... though it is working well (and to expectations) now, it is fair to say that commissioning of this system occupied much of our Treasurer's time over the past few months as it did not go entirely to plan!.
- the blessing of two ships in Auckland by the Sailors' Society Port Chaplain, David Millar.

In June, the Seafarers Centre was approached to provide a chaplain to conduct a blessing ceremony on board the container vessel MV ALGARABBO. David Millar was the duty chaplain and happily visited the ship to conduct the ceremony. David visited various parts of the ship conducting the blessing and praying on the bridge, engine room and other spaces. The ceremony was apparently so well received that the Centre was approached to bless another of the company's ships, MV PESCARA, in August. This was conducted in August by David and the Apostleship's chaplain, Sister Joan Hardiman. Our sister organisation in Port Chalmers conducted a similar ceremony on a third company ship.

The correspondence has resulted in a cordial relationship with the German ship-management company, NSC

Schiffahrtsgesellschaft mbH & Cie. KG of Hamburg, who forwarded very generous donations to the Seafarers Centre in recognition of the services provided. Mr Heiko Meyer, the Managing Director said that "The blessing of a vessel is as important for a seaman as for the vessel itself to protect same from any unforeseen circumstances. Further NSC vessels will be blessed in the future whenever and wherever possible." The Managing Trustee of our sister organisation in Otago, Shirley Farquhar, commented that it was gratifying to see a company so concerned for the well-being of its seafarers.

This newsletter doubles as our Annual Report and readers will note the audited financial accounts. The Society relies heavily on investments which are managed by our charitable trust. However with the prevailing low interest rates we are struggling to keep up with the demands upon our funds. For example, changing patterns of shipping and increased internet and decreased telephone usage is having a deleterious effect upon the Centre's income, so the Society and our partners are being required to contribute more to the Centre's operating finances these days. Your donations are therefore not only welcome, but are essential, and we are grateful to our regular supporters.

We accept and understand that there are many demands upon one's finances these days and simply note that all donations received by the Society are put to good use and are very welcome. If you are able to support the Society financially we would be grateful!

ANNUAL REPORT for the year to 31 March 2012

This has been a very quiet year for the Society as we have gone about - in partnership with our sister groups (Mission to Seafarers - Anglican, and Apostleship of the Sea - Catholic) - our calling of providing welfare services for visiting seafarers

at the Seafarers Centre in Auckland. David Millar commented last year that seafarers are the 'invisible workforce' and certainly, while the work we do is important, we are far from visible!
Last year: 8510 seafarers

signed the visitors book at the Seafarers Centre (representing about 10,000 seafarer visitors); 1061 overseas ships visited Auckland with the Centre's chaplains visiting around 80% of them; 2 employment matters were referred to the

International Transport Workers Federation (ITF) and two welfare cases were dealt with. The Seafarers Centre made a written submission to the Ministerial enquiry into Foreign Charter Vessels. As Archdeacon John Marcon, the author of the submission, was unable to attend in person Society Board members Larry Robbins and Terry Nobbs attended in his stead and made a verbal submission. The submission was based on our experience with a number of foreign fishing vessels over the past few years. We were pleased to be able to participate in this process and gratified to see that the panel's report made a number of significant recommendations to end the shocking state of affairs. A large percentage of which have been adopted by the government.

Our team is small but dedicated and are a good example of the maxim that 'if you want something done you give it to busy people.' It is because of busy-ness elsewhere that we have not put out a newsletter for many

months; our Hon Treasurer is busy with a number of small (and similarly unassuming) charities and is currently undergoing training to revalidate his Second Mates certificate; our Hon Secretary works full time and is involved with activities at church; our Chairman not only works as the Seafarers' Centre Manager on a part-time basis, but volunteers there on at least 2 evenings per week and does additional hours as required and chairs the Seafarers' Centre Board. Other Board members are similarly involved elsewhere and our chaplain, Major David Millar, is also heavily involved with the Salvation Army and plays in their band.

A summary of the annual accounts is contained in this newsletter.

The Society's Board (as at 31 March 2012: Mr E (Terry) Nobbs (Chairman), Mrs Jane Robbins (Hon Secretary), Cdr Larry Robbins (Hon Treasurer), Rev Merv Aitken, Rev Rod Hoggard, Ms Carol Forsyth, Mr L Sears
E. Terry Nobbs – Chairman

Extract from the Audited accounts

A full set of the accounts can be downloaded from the Charities Commission website, or is available on request from the Hon Secretary.

International Sailors Society Auckland (Inc) Statement of Income and Expenditure For the year ending 31 March 2012

(last year's figures in brackets)

INCOME

Interest & Dividends	7	(43)
Grants and Donations		
- General Donations	4910	(4801)
- Donations from Shipping Interests	200	(320)
- Donations from Churches	1900	(2120)
- Grants & gifts for specified purposes	5500 ¹	(1850)
- Grants from Sailors Society Trust	10000	(6101)
Legacies & Bequests	2833	(2700)
GST Refunds	505	(588)
Miscellaneous Income	0	(10)
Total Income	25854	(18533)

EXPENDITURE

Accident Compensation Corporation	60	(-32)
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Levy - Sailors Society NZ	250	(0)
Gifts & Donations	100	(0)
Postage, Stationery, Telephone	723	(634)
Travel & AGM Expenses	894	(708)
Audit	661	(647)
Bank Fees	75	(94)
Salaries & allowances	15788 ¹	(13446)
Seafarers Centre Support	3200	(2020)
Fundraising/Advertising	146	(501)
Charities Commission Compliance	51	(50)
Board Support expenses	86	(96)
Printing - newsletters & brochures	2723 ²	(1476)

Total Expenditure **24757** **19641**

Net Surplus (-Deficit) **1,097** **-1,107**

1 George Sevicke Jones Trust \$4000
Chaplain's stipend support.
2 Assisted by residue of grants from C R Stead Trust and Lion Foundation in last FY.