



**Auckland**

## **ANNUAL REPORT 2008-2009 & NEWSLETTER**

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

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*The Sailors' Society represents Auckland's "non-conformist" churches and 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](http://www.aucklandseafarerscentre.co.nz) at 114 Quay Street, Auckland. The Society contributes the services of a part-time chaplain (Major David Millar, Salvation Army), some volunteers, & members to the Board of the Centre, and modest financial support.*

#### **REPORTS FOR THE 2008-2009 YEAR**

(These reports have been slightly abbreviated – please contact us if you would like a copy of the full reports).

**CHAIRMAN (Terry Nobbs):** The Board has been busy this year. We perceive that the Society structure may need to change in coming years so we have formed a Trust in preparation and are running both organizations in tandem.

Murray Robertson has come onboard as Honorary Fundraising Adviser. He has formulated a Fundraising Plan which has been accepted by the Board and we thank him for his efforts. The Society was represented at the AGM of the National Body and our Hon Treasurer serves as Chairman of the Seafarers Welfare Board. There have been some Board changes; Rev Linda Hope and Major Bernie Knowles resigned on posting. Carol Forsyth has joined as the Salvation Army representative. Thank you Linda and Bernie, welcome Carol.

The Seafarers Centre continues to be well patronized. The recession has not yet lead to a decline in the number of sailors visiting the Centre. Opening hours have been extended and the Centre is now open 0900-2200 on weekdays. This has been appreciated by the seafarers. There has been no change in respect of proposals by the Britomart developers to redevelop the site and we remain active here for the immediate future.

Rev Ian Hanley replaced Rev Hope as the St James seafarers' chaplain and he has been well received. We continue to be active in the governance of the Centre. In closing I wish to thank Board members and our supporters and members for their support.



**CHAPLAIN (Major David Millar):** The WIFI/laptop connections introduced at the Centre this year are proving popular. Five separate matters have been referred by the Centre to the new ITF Inspector for New Zealand, Grahame McLaren this year.

I was privileged to attend the World Chaplains' conference of the Sailors Society in UK in July last year. 34 chaplains from 16 countries attended. One statistic stands out. The ITF advised that of \$US163 million owed to seafarers in unpaid wages in 2007, only \$US 28 million was recovered. (The situation is unlikely to improve).

I have enjoyed working with the chaplains of the partner bodies at the Centre. The lifeblood of the Centre is the volunteers – including the Boards of the societies – and I especially appreciate the support of Sharon Dunning of St James who efficiently handles our admin and serves the seafarers with kindness. Naida Shaw retired during the year after many years of faithful service.

Ours is a challenging ministry in the service of our Lord. Life is sacred. Relationships are sacred. Seafarers make great sacrifices in being absent from loved ones for long periods of time. There can be great loneliness and yet great camaraderie, unmatched in any other walk of life.

***Thank you all for the support - prayerful, financial, and voluntary effort - that you give to our work.***



left: Seafarers use the internet terminals at the Centre

## **AUDITED ACCOUNTS AND FINANCIAL REPORT**

The audited annual accounts for the year to 31 March 2009 were accepted at the AGM in July.

If you would like a copy of the full accounts please either access them through the Charities Commission website or contact the Hon.Secretary, and we will be pleased to forward them to you.

### **Summary of the Statement of Financial Performance For the year ending 31 March 2009**

| <b>INCOME</b>        | <b>This Year</b> | <b>Last Year</b> |
|----------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Interest & Dividends | 17,529           | 15,806           |
| Grants and Donations | 12,035           | 2,652            |
| Legacies Bequests    | 1,350            | 1,250            |
| <i>Total Income</i>  | <b>30,914</b>    | <b>19,708</b>    |

## EXPENDITURE

|                                 |               |              |
|---------------------------------|---------------|--------------|
| ACC                             | 184           | 205          |
| Levy - ISS                      | 250           | 0            |
| Postage and Stationery          | 200           | 300          |
| Travel & AGM Expenses           | 912           | 2,037        |
| Audit                           | 782           | 534          |
| Bank Fees                       | 71            | 46           |
| Salaries & allowances           | 12,358        | 11,543       |
| AISC Support                    | 1,425         | 2,116        |
| Fundraising/Advertising         | 211           | 107          |
| Charities Commission Compliance | 50            | 0            |
| Legal & Professional Fees       | 2,967         | 0            |
| Board Support expenses          | 80            | 0            |
| <i>Total Expenditure</i>        | 19,490        | 16,888       |
| <b>Net Surplus (-Deficit)</b>   | <b>11,424</b> | <b>2,821</b> |

*Treasurer's comment:* The Society's income was boosted as a result of a special appeal at the end of 2008. The response of our friends and supporters was most encouraging. **THANK YOU!**

It will be noted that the net surplus was almost the same as the income from the appeal and that without such generosity on your part the Society would be barely breaking even and certainly not keeping place with inflation.

Interest rates decreased towards the end of the FY and have continued down. The boost in capital funds from the appeal should ensure that a similar level of interest is received this year so that our work can continue at the same level. Travel expenses last year included the Chaplain's trip to the UK. Legal expenses this year were for derivation of a new Trust Deed. Requests for supplementation of direct funding to the Centre (AISC) were lower this year.

## "THEY THAT GO DOWN TO THE SEA IN SHIPS ..."

Rev Merv Aitken was Minister of St James church and, ex-officio, that church's Seafarers Chaplain until he retired last year. He is currently interim Minister at Tawa Union Church. He recently recorded some thoughts about his seafarers' ministry in that church's magazine:

*Exciting things happen when we are open to new ideas ...* When the St James Congregation (Auckland) moved into the Seafarers' Centre we discovered a whole new dimension of ministry.

The Sailors' Society, and two other societies were working together in one place to share the work of seafarers' welfare. St James added its minister as part of the chaplaincy team which included a Salvation Army Major [our own chaplain – Ed] and a retired Anglican Priest (the Catholic position is vacant).



Each day a chaplain and some lay volunteers would go out onto the wharves, board the berthed ships and bring to all the sailors an invitation to come and share the hospitality of the Centre for those precious hours when they were able to come ashore.








And so they come ... to relax, to shop, to play snooker, to watch TV, to pray in the chapel, to change their money, to phone home, to access the computers and the internet, to play the piano, or the guitar. They come from Germany, China, Russia, Ukraine, Poland, the Philippines, ... you name it! They come knowing that they will be cared for as strangers in a foreign land. Opportunities arose to build friendships, to counsel, to pray, to help in industrial matters. I found this a totally refreshing ministry in an ecumenical setting.

Look around your house, your garden, your car ... what have you got that did NOT arrive by sea? Not very much. When we look at our exports – most of those go by sea. We are a seafaring nation, but we easily forget the sailors whose lives are immeasurably enriched by the Seafarers' Centre which are to be found in most of the major ports around the world. To be a chaplain or a volunteer in a Seamen's Mission is a great privilege. I enjoyed working in that place that was so connected to the sea !

## 2010 – THE YEAR OF THE SEAFARER

The International Maritime Organisation (IMO) has agreed that "2010: Year of the Seafarer" will be the theme of next year's World Maritime Day. It will be an opportunity to pay tribute to the contribution of the world's seafarers, and recognise the risks they face. The theme was proposed by IMO Secretary-General Efthimios Mitropoulos. He said: "The unique hazards confronting the 1.5 million seafarers of the world – including pirate attacks, unwarranted detention and abandonment – coupled with the predicted looming shortage of ships' officers, make it ever more incumbent to take immediate and effective action to forestall a situation from developing in which ships are not manned with sufficient skilled personnel." Every year IMO celebrates World Maritime Day. The exact date is left to individual Governments but is usually celebrated during the last week in September. The day is used to focus attention on the importance of shipping safety, maritime security and the marine environment and to emphasize a particular aspect of IMO's work. To mark the occasion, the Secretary-General of IMO always prepares a special message and this is backed up by a paper which discusses the selected subject in greater depth.

## NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

 We would be delighted to have the opportunity to tell your Probus, Rotary, Lions Club etc about our work. Please contact the Hon. Secretary if you need a speaker for your meeting.  The Sailors Society Auckland has moved into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century! You can now follow the Society on Twitter **@SAILORSSOKAKLD**  We are grateful for your continuing support – both prayerful and financial. We thank those who have recently made a donation to the work of the Society. We acknowledge a generous grant from **C R STEAD TRUST** which has allowed us to produce a Society brochure, the generous regular support of the **AUCKLAND BAPTIST ASSOCIATION** and a grant from the **PERRY FOUNDATION** for the costs of printing and distributing this newsletter  We welcome **Rev Chris Barnes** who has joined the AISC as Mission to Seafarers (MtoS) Chaplain and also as St James' church seafarers chaplain on an interim basis. We look forward to working with you, Chris.  **Fr Ian Hanley** has moved to the position of chaplain at North Shore Hospital. **Rev John Marcon** continues to work with MtoS at the AISC but on reduced hours  We send our congratulations and best wishes to member **Maurice Cavaney** who shortly retires from the position of Manager of the Baptist Savings and Development Society and as Hon Treasurer of the Auckland Baptist Association. We appreciate your continuing support, Maurice, and send best wishes in your 'retirement'.  In June, 11 Seafarers from fishing vessel SHIN JI were aided by ITF at the Seafarers' Centre. Read about it online: [\*\*http://bit.ly/SSA14\*\*](http://bit.ly/SSA14) 