

Homesickness on Board a Ship

Recently, one of our team visited a container ship and engaged in a conversation with an officer who had been assigned to the vessel at short notice. This officer, from a different nationality than the senior officers, was feeling the strain of cultural differences and missed his home and his pregnant wife. He shared how the free WiFi provided by the Ports of Auckland allowed him to have a long, meaningful call with his family, making him feel connected and supported despite being far from home. "It helped me get my smile back!" he proclaimed.

After contacting our colleague Tim in Wellington, he was able to keep the smiles coming when he brought the seafarer a special gift for his unborn child—a great example of working together to support special cases.

Auckland International Seafarers Centre Board meeting

Representatives from Mission to Seafarers, Stella Maris AKL and Sailors Society NZ met for the final time this year. The meeting reflected on the successful implementation of the MOU with Maritime Welfare Ltd for the delivery of services in Auckland. The topic of a potential relocation to a new site were initiated as MTS continues discussions with the company who own the building the Centre inhabits.

Vessel prepares for sale

The Cook onboard a vessel asked one of our team to come to the Galley for a private conversation. He confided that the Master has informed him that the company intended to sell their vessel and that they would be signing off at the end of the voyage after handing over the ship to the new owners. None of the crew had been informed about this development and were concerned that the company would not honour their contracts and place them on a new ship.

"I told everyone that we should tell the Seafarers Centre, because if anything goes wrong—I know they will help us" the Cook explained.

Deneb Harmony loves the Centre

During their recent stay to discharge Bulk Cargo, the crew visited the Centre almost every night. ON one evening they made the Centre their own— twelve of the twenty crew spent the evening together playing pool and enjoying our high-speed Wi-Fi.

Maritime Welfare Board

The Board of Maritime Welfare Ltd had its final official meeting for the year. We welcomed Mike Ardern, Operations Manager for Conversion Marketing as a new director of the company. The meeting reflected on the successful transition to the new grants contract and looked forward to developing the services in Bluff for 2025.

Safeguarding Training

In the wake of the Royal Commission of Inquiry into Abuse in Care, we initiated a new policy regarding the need for Safeguarding Training. Our Mission to Seafarers Chaplains are required to complete this as part of their role with the Anglican Church. In the spirit of collaboration the two Sailors Society chaplains and Maritime Welfare Executive Director completed the Church of England Safeguarding: Basic Awareness online course.