

The Southern Cross



The Southern Cross 10 is a converted Ferry used by the Anglican Church of Melanesia.

The Melanesian Mission ship series dates back to the 19th century, when the first Southern Cross schooner set sail in 1855. Over the years, a total of ten ships have borne the name, from sailing ships to steamers. Each was commissioned to support the Church's operations by providing vital transportation for missions, personnel changes, and the transportation of students.

The current ship is berthed in Auckland for repairs before being handed over to new owners.

The crew contacted the Seafarers Centre because they were not receiving the delivery allowance they are entitled to during their stay in Port. We were able to contact the local church officials and ensure the crew receive their payments so that they can make the most of their time in the city. Four crew remain onboard and visit the Centre regularly for much needed connection.

A day in the life of volunteer Chaplain Isley Te Aotonga (Tauranga)



I'm grateful to be back doing ship visits—a rhythm I've missed and a reminder of the power of presence. Visiting three vessels on the 30th April it has reminded me how every crew carries a story beneath the surface.

On the CMA CGM Semarang, we met two Ukrainian seafarers. At first, they were cautious, keeping their distance emotionally. But as we sat with them, listened, and shared space, they opened up about their families and the hardship back home. In that moment, war and uncertainty burdened them with worry. We assured them of our continued prayers for their loved ones.

The Handy Tradition was a contrast—lightness in the air, smiles on faces. The 3rd officer has just a month left in his contract. Shore leave was making a real difference, letting the crew breathe and find rest. Sometimes joy doesn't need words; it's in the energy of a place.

Finally, the Baldur was alive with laughter and coffee. The mess was full, and the crew—Filipino and Sri Lankan—were warm, easy-going, and ready to laugh. I left that vessel encouraged. It's not always like this, but when it is, it's a gift. Each ship reminded me: connection takes time, presence matters, and joy can be found—even at sea.