

PORT WATCH AUCKLAND

A monthly newsletter from the Auckland International Seafarers Centre



A Baptism of Fire

In June we welcomed Judith Jayasinghe to our team of Welfare Officers. Judith has been an enthusiastic volunteer for a couple of years, having completed her studies at the NZ Maritime School and working for a local shipping agency.

Her first training day at the Port quickly exposed her to myriad of welfare issues the team deals with each month. The first ship had not yet received their Port phone or Wi-Fi router and were concerned about contacting security for transportation.

The second ship had already contacted us regarding lack of access to Shore Leave. By chance, Port State Controller Daniel Gardner was still close to the Port and agreed to visit the ship with us. A company rep on board was anxious to learn the truth about this complaint. Later that evening a group from the ship visited the Centre and revealed that one seafarer was having shore leave for the first time in 6 months! They were beyond grateful for our support.

Judith's training day ended with visiting an injured Filipino seafarer recovering in Auckland hospital. She visited him several days during his convalescence.



Judith was now well-prepared to visit ships by herself the following weekend. One of the crew she encountered sent her a private message a few days later to reveal some serious issues onboard. Not only were there overtime and bonus payment irregularities, the C/O forced a sailor to attempt welding in the rain and another to work in the dark!

It was a relief to see that our referral to ITF had resulted in a quick response from the company to remedy these issues.

One might say that Judith helped to free one seafarer from being a slave and possibly saved the life of another a week later!

We received the following message from the ship:

"Permission to post commendation to Ms. Judith Jayasinghe, We really appreciate your kind heart also for giving us same time and effort we experience to Ms Judith once again thank you very much.."

Day of the Seafarer June 25

Every year our team honours the tireless work of seafarers by taking them some donuts to mark the Day of the Seafarer.

This sweet treat brings a smile to crew that warms our hearts.



Maritime Welfare Ltd delivers services at the AISC with grant funds from Maritime NZ and local partners.