Mission to Seafarers Darwin Inc.

Caring for Seafarers Around the World

MtS NEWSLETTER AUGUST 2026

Welcome

Welcome to our August newsletter from the **Seafarers Welfare Centre at East Arm Wharf, Darwin Port**, open 24/7.

We are pleased to welcome our 2026 Executive team.

President: Gabrielle Martin,
Vice President: Beverly Baker
Treasurer: Grant Maddern
Secretary: Miriam McDonald
Executive members: Cate Bell, Ian McDonald, Carl Stephens
Chaplain: Giovani Madura
Administration Officer: Mary Martin.

A strong team of MTS volunteers attend the Centre on most weekdays and weekends to ensure that it is ready to receive seafarers, and to provide for them a safe and comfortable 'home away from home'.

The Centre provides ecumenical and multi-faith services to the many seafarers who visit the Port of Darwin, coordinated by **Mission to Seafarers Darwin Inc.** and the **Catholic Diocese of Darwin**, with strong support from other Christian denominations, faith representatives, service clubs, shipping agents, industry partners and individual supporters.

The number of seafarers visiting the centre continues to increase, with positive accolades for the services that are provided.

2026 Volunteer Hours

Our volunteers are dedicated and have already spent 992 hours for MTS this year.

Community Support – Beyond the Numbers

In addition to recorded volunteer hours, many community groups and businesses contribute generously through donated goods, services and expertise.

- Craft groups knitting and crocheting beanies and items for gift packs
- Probus and Lions Clubs donating goods for seafarers







Relaxing in the Seafarer Welfare Centre





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- Uniting Church and Vinnies Op Shop volunteers supplying clothing, soft toys and gift pack items
- Ongoing assistance from staff of the Catholic Diocese of Darwin

These contributions are essential to the efficient operation of the Centre.

2026 Impact

- New and secondhand clothing continues to be popular for seafarers and their families. Toys and children's clothing are also becoming increasingly popular distributed free.

Kindness Reaching Home

- Letter from the Philippines*: "I am one of the volunteers who helped collect the donations from Living Waters Op Shop and personally delivered them to the mountainous area of our town. Thank you so much for the toys and donations. Your kindness reached even the farthest corners of the Philippines and brought happiness to these children - we are truly grateful for your generosity and support."*



- With an increase in female seafarers both Mens and Women's Care Bags are being provided.

Reliable Wi-Fi continues to provide contact with home

The reliable fast WiFi continues to be of prime importance to seafarers, with connections being made to family and friends.

International Impact Strait of Hormuz

The continuing conflict around the Strait of Hormuz is having a profound impact on seafarers. As at 12 August, the security threat remained Severe, with attacks, harassment, drone activity and mine risks continuing and commercial shipping movements greatly reduced.

Recent attacks have caused deaths and injuries, while crews have faced prolonged uncertainty, danger and separation from their families. Behind every ship are people carrying the human cost of global conflict. Welfare support, communication with families and simply having someone who will listen are more important than ever.

Seafarers Happiness Index



The Q2 2026 Seafarers Happiness Index shows a concerning fall in overall wellbeing, from 7.18 to 6.87 out of 10.

- Shore leave and workload remain major concerns.
- Fatigue, long hours and limited time ashore affect wellbeing.
- Strong crew relationships remain an important source of support.
- Reliable connectivity with family and friends makes a significant difference.

The message is clear: seafarers are resilient, but resilience should never be taken for granted. Practical welfare support, a welcoming place ashore and connection with home really matter. For the full report

https://www.seafarershappinessindex.org/wp-content/uploads/SHI_Q2_2026.pdf

Mission to Seafarers Darwin Inc.

Caring for Seafarers Around the World

The Australian Mariners Welfare Society's chair David Parmenter states in the recent newsletter that: "the Seafarer Help 2025 Annual Review compiled by ISWAN is very relevant. It found a 35.9 per cent increase in contacts relating to mental health concerns compared with 2024, reaching the highest level they had ever recorded. While helpline data cannot by itself measure the wellbeing of the entire global seafaring workforce, it demonstrates an ongoing need for welfare support. The Review offers a unique insight into the realities of life at sea through thousands of confidential helpline conversations. They reveal the sustained emotional toll from life at sea and the pressure of balancing responsibilities on board with concerns about family life at home."

Ship Visiting

Ship Visiting is a vital component of the work to support seafarers at sea. Our chaplain Giovani Maduro continues to provide this invaluable service to vessels visiting East Arm Port Darwin.

Fundraising in Action

Wednesday sausage sizzles at Bunnings remain our major fundraiser and a key community awareness activity.

Recycling aluminum cans and plastic bottles, supplied regularly by Monson Offshore Agents and other volunteer collectors provides an additional income stream.

Both initiatives are entirely volunteer-run and provide our major source of income.

Chaplain Giovani Maduro
MtS Admin Manager Mary Martin

DONATIONS TO MTS
Mission to Seafarers Darwin
BSB 035302 ACC 517523



Chaplain Ship Visiting

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