



Mission to Seafarers Darwin Inc.

Caring for Seafarers Around the World

MtS NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2026

Welcome

Welcome to our first newsletter for 2026 from the **Seafarers Welfare Centre at East Arm Wharf, Darwin Port.**

The Centre provides ecumenical and multi-faith services to the many seafarers who visit the Port of Darwin. These services are 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.

We are deeply grateful for the commitment shown over the past eight years and look forward to a busy and successful year ahead as we continue to expand and strengthen our services



2025 at a Glance

- **19 registered and inducted volunteers**
- **1 salaried Chaplain (2 days per week)**
(Chaplain Giovanni's hours are recorded separately)

Volunteers attended the Centre on most weekdays and weekends, recording hours, tasks undertaken and matters of note at each visit.

Accurate records were also maintained for: - **Bunnings Trower Road sausage sizzles** (fundraising and community awareness) - **Recycling deposit container program** operated from the Centre

Total recorded volunteer hours in 2025: 1,936.



Community Support – Beyond the Numbers

In addition to recorded volunteer hours, many community groups and businesses contributed generously through donated goods, services and expertise, including:

- Craft groups knitting and crocheting beanies and items for gift packs
- Probus and Lions Clubs donating goods for seafarers
- Provision of MtS Darwin branded clothing and signage
- IT support, security systems, accounting and legal services
- 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.



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2025 Impact

- **2,500–3,000** clothing items and soft toys distributed free
- **1,000+ Men's Care Bags** provided
- **1,934 seafarers signed in**, plus an estimated **800 additional visitors**

150 Christmas Gift Bags prepared and distributed by the Catholic Diocese of Darwin and Stella Maris



Special Visitors – November 2025

A highlight of November was the visit of: - **The Venerable Dr Peter Rouch**, Secretary General of Mission to Seafarers Worldwide (London) - **Sue Dight**, Director for Australia and Papua New Guinea

During their visit they met with the **Administrator of the Northern Territory, Hugh Heggie**, members of Mission to Seafarers Darwin, and the congregation of **St Luke's Palmerston**, long-standing supporters of MtS Darwin.



Reliable Wi-Fi at Last

Internet access has been challenging since the Centre's relocation and loss of NBN connectivity. In response to frequent concerns raised by visiting seafarers, a **Starlink system** has now been installed.

Our sincere thanks to: - **Todd Shone** for coordinating the purchase and installation - **Australian Mariners Welfare Society** for fully funding the equipment, installation and most monthly costs

The new system has been warmly welcomed for its reliability and speed.

Fundraising in Action

- **Tuesday sausage sizzles** at Bunnings Trower Road remain our major fundraiser and a key community awareness activity
- **Recycling aluminium cans and plastic bottles**, supplied regularly by Monson Offshore and Wilhelmsen Shipping Agents, provides an additional income stream

Both initiatives are entirely volunteer-run

Business Plan

The **Mission to Seafarers Darwin Inc. Business Plan (2023–2025)** is now available. If you would like a copy, please contact the Secretary via the Mission to Seafarers email.

Chaplain Giovanni Maduro
MtS Admin Manager Mary Martin

DONATIONS TO MTS

Mission to Seafarers Darwin
BSB 035302 ACC 517523