



NEWS FROM MIDDLE EARTH

By Colin Brown
National Co-ordinator

PORTLAND PROUDLY ANNOUNCES ITS INDEPENDENCE

The *Flying Angel* Portland has just held its first AGM and all are very satisfied with the direction the new ministry is heading in. Captain Peter Gracias has been elected President of the management committee and Jo Moyle will carry out the duties of Secretary. Also joining the committee is Fr Dennis Sotiriadis rector at St Stephen's Portland and the ministry should be that much richer for Dennis' involvement.

Hard working and loyal friend of seafarers visiting Portland Neville Manson, will continue to manage the centre, located within the port precincts.

WALLAROO IS MAKING ITS MARK

Brother Martyn Robinson (a seafarer himself in a former life) reports that the Wallaroo ministry is going from strength to strength. An increase in the number of grain vessels visiting Wallaroo is expected this year and Martyn is ready with open arms. He has managed to visit all ships berthing this year, and has been ably assisted by Sr Shirley McLoughlin a Josephite sister and resident of Wallaroo.

Martyn says that, "Sr Shirley brings communion to the Roman Catholic Filipino crews in the absence of Fr Adrian who is in Rome. When she was teaching here in the days of old when wheat was bagged and lumped aboard she had some of the crews attend the school and speak to the students."

Looking at the photo (sent to us by Martyn) of Shirley onboard surrounded by crew, it seems that Martyn is pulling our leg. Shirley looks far too young to fit the description of the one who brought seafarers to the local school in "the days of old"!

No doubt, despite Martyn's poor grasp of local history they make a great team!



Nev Manson- Chinese New Year in Portland



Sr Shirley with crew



Thevenard port

HIGH HOPES FOR THEVENARD AND WHYALLA

Given the significant number of ship visits to these South Australian ports and the fact that overseas seafarers are left to fend for themselves, the Australian Council has been exploring networks and resources with a view of establishing ministries in these ports some time in the future. There is an obvious need for our presence and any feedback in this regard would be helpful.

PORT PIRIE'S FACE LIFT

Pirie's chaplain **Ian Pole** is keen to do a few more renovations to the centre which is a short walk from the port and smelter.

Last year Ian raised enough money for a much needed new roof for the building and is now focused on raising money to make the entrance to the centre more weather-proof, welcoming and comfortable for visiting crews.

We have also got fingers crossed that Ian will share his local knowledge and experience in relation to our hopes for Whyalla and Thevenard ports. Ian has kept a paternal eye on our progress in Wallaroo as well- after all, three of these ports are part of that famous watery pothole named the Spencer Gulf ! But Thevenard is a long way from anywhere else and so we will rely on the good people of Ceduna to point us in the right direction there.



Geelong centre



GEELONG MISSION - A BIG HIT ON UTUBE

Apologies to Geelong for including you in this section- as everyone knows you are really in the East but it has helped balance the parts of the newsletter.

Chaplain Noah Park and his enthusiastic volunteers continue to use latest technology to great benefit for the seafarers to Geelong.

Geelong's monthly newsletter describing the number of video interviews with seafarers sending messages to loved ones that are uploaded on UTube is fascinating and inspiring.

If you visit www.youtube.com/seachurch it will give you an idea of the way Noah and his team are supporting seafarers in getting in touch with family and friends in distant lands.

COMING EVENTS IN 2011

- Sea Sunday celebrations on 10 July around Australia
- Ship visitor's course at MtS Newcastle, NSW on 9-10 August
- ICMA World Conference in Hamburg 19-23 August
- MtS Consultative Forum in London 23-28 August
- MtS biennial national conference in Tasmania on 17-21 October