

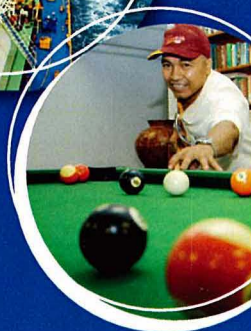
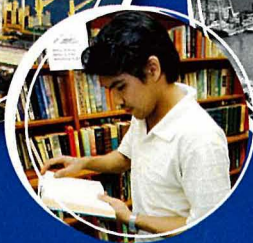
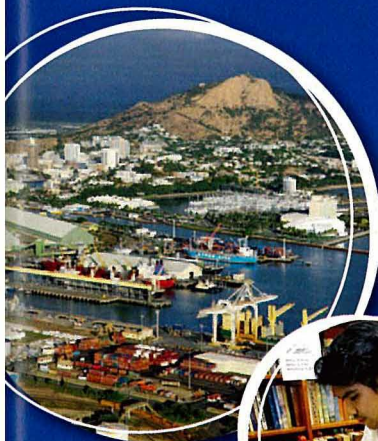


The Mission to Seafarers

CARING FOR SEAFARERS AROUND THE WORLD

A History 1927 - 2010

A History of *The Missions to Seamen*,
now *The Mission to Seafarers*,
at the Port of Townsville.



This booklet has been produced to celebrate the rich history of The Mission to Seafarers in Townsville and was first published in August 2010.

We acknowledge the work of Mrs. Jacqui Stockdale in compiling the history.

Many thanks to the volunteers and friends of the Mission who have shared their stories and photographs.

Credit for photography must also go to the Port of Townsville Limited and the Anglican Diocesan Archives

Design and Printing by 121 Creative Townsville.

Preface



Diocese of North
Queensland

*The Right Reverend William James Ray
Diocese of North Queensland*



Anglican Church
of Australia

22 July 2010

The Mission to Seafarers, as we now know this most worthy organisation, has a long and proud history both here in Townsville and world wide.

During the past eighty three years, many who sail on our waters have been helped, supported, encouraged and ministered to in the name of the Church. I know from my associations with the Mission in other places and here in Townsville how much this ministry is appreciated and valued by sailors.

We live in a changing world. The stevedoring industry has undergone massive changes, such as, from manual to mechanical loading. This has meant that vessels are not in port as long. The life for the seafarer has changed. Thus the ministry of the Mission to Seafarers has to adapt to changing times and meet the ever changing human needs that seafarers have today.

In Townsville, the Mission has had several locations, but the strong and constant factor is and has been our chaplains, mission managers and host of volunteers who have provided ministry over the years. The ministry has been undergirded and enhanced by the wisdom of the current and past Committees.

This exciting book captures many of the changes over the past eight decades. It highlights the key aim of the Mission - to reach out in love to those who assist with the trade among our nations on the seas and oceans of the world.

I strongly recommend this brief history and give thanks to God not only for the past ministries, but knowing our history helps us to look forward to future ministry with our seafarers with excitement.

+ William, N.Q.

+ William, N.Q.

Foreword



PORTof
TOWNSVILLE

Since 1927, Port of Townsville Limited, under its various names, has recognised the importance of the Mission to Seafarers in providing facilities and a friendly environment for seafarers far from home, family and loved ones. In that time, technology has changed with small steam ships replaced by large bulk carriers and container vessels; bags and crates replaced by loading in bulk. Vessel time in port has been reduced enormously from weeks to hours, giving today's seafarers less and less time ashore. Changes in crewing arrangements over the years have been reflected in an increasingly diverse range of accents heard in the Mission, as well as a greater cultural and religious diversity. What has not changed is the fundamental human need of all seafarers for social interaction, recognition, appreciation, relaxation and spiritual wellbeing.

Services provided by the Mission have kept pace with advances in technology, today providing instant electronic communications and entertainment. Seafarers of yesteryear, who would have entrusted their hand written letters to the Mission to post back to their home country, would certainly marvel at today's instant internet communications..

What has remained constant over the years is the Mission's traditional companionship, and warm welcome from its dedicated volunteers.

This book chronicles the Mission's work through the personal memories of its volunteers who have clearly enjoyed the friendships and shared experiences of their involvement. I trust that the volunteer group continues to provide their time to ensure this important service continues long into the future. For its part, Port of Townsville Limited is committed to continuing its strong association with, and support for the Mission to Seafarers in the Port of Townsville.

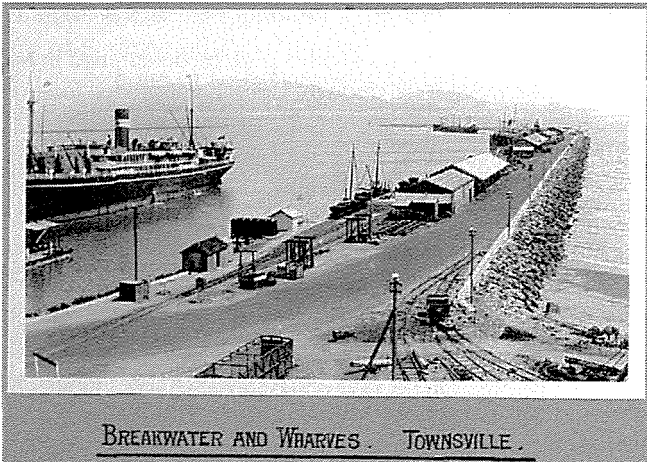
I welcome this publication and congratulate its contributors, sponsors and publishers for their involvement and commitment.

Barry Holden
Chief Executive Officer
Port of Townsville Limited



The Breakwater looking across Melton Hill, c. 1900

The Story of The Mission to Seafarers, Townsville The “Flying Angel”



Townsville port c. 1924