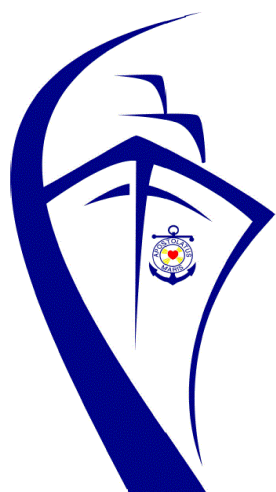


2nd Quarter 2012



Volume 2, Issue 2

### Inside this issue:

Notes from the Editor	1
Ladies Luncheon 2012	1
Easter 2012	2
Burmese Memories	2
Centre News	2
Vietnamese Runners	3
m/y Texas	3
Members' News	3
Cooking Onboard	4
Seafarer's Recipe	4
Reflections by Fr Tony Cox	4

# Stella Maris Melbourne Volunteer Newsletter

## NOTES FROM THE EDITOR

Due to staff being away and a host of other things I have not had the opportunity to catch up with the last few newsletters. As this can be a continuous problem I have decided to do the newsletter on a quarterly basis. The newsletter will consist of 4 pages, not 2, and have a few extra stories in it from both volunteers and seafarers. Each month we will also feature a home recipe from a randomly picked cook from one of the vessels. Some volunteer & seafarer profiles will also be added from time to time. If anyone else has a story they would like to add, plus a photo, please email me on [scott@smcit.com](mailto:scott@smcit.com).

## LADIES LUNCHEON 2012

The month of May saw the centre full of activities. The most recent was the Ladies Luncheon & Boutique Extravaganza which was held as a fundraiser as well as a social event for the ladies and their friends. Seventeen stalls selling a variety of goods were on offer, as well as free drinks and a 2 course meal.

One hundred and eighteen women attended to enjoy the afternoon. A total of \$3600 was raised for the Centre which was a great effort.

I wish to thank Ann Maree for her endless work making sure that everything went to plan. Also would like to thank the other ladies on the Committee who helped with the organisation, namely Georgina, Josette, Mary Boland, Christina and Lee-Anne. A big thanks as well to all the guys who dressed up and assisted on the day. The event was such a great success that already people are asking when the next one will be held. Keep tuned!!!



© SMC 2012

**118 LADIES ATTENDED THE LADIES LUNCHEON & BOUTIQUE EXTRAVAGANZA HELD AT STELLA MARIS DURING MAY. IT WAS AN EXCITING AND WELL PLANNED EVENT.**

## SEAFARER STATISTICS 2012

SEAFARERS 1st QUARTER 2011 - 4,407

SEAFARERS 1st QUARTER 2012 - 4,559

SHIPS VISITED 1st QUARTER 2011 - 149

SHIPS VISITED 1st QUARTER 2012 - 219

## EASTER 2012

Well Easter came and went before we knew it hit us. Our service was held as usual on the Friday afternoon followed by the Saturday Mass. Over 300 Easter bunnies were given out to the seafarers lucky enough to visit us over the Easter weekend. A few prizes were also given out, 3 glass jars full of Easter eggs. Seafarers had one guess each until the correct guess was made. An Easter raffle was also held as a fundraiser.



**Roger Camacho hands over 1st prize to Felito, 3rd Officer on the m/v Island Chief. Felito comes the city of Cagayan de Ora, in the south of Philippines.**

## BURMESE MEMORIES



We recently had a visit by four happy seamen from Myanmar, all serving on "MSC VIENNA". Their names were Soe, Min, Phone and Thet. They talked of the Myanmar Brewery in Yangon and 'Hops' mentioned that he had visited the brewery on business several times. He showed them a photo taken at the front of the brewery which had advertising for the various brands of beer that was produced there.... "Myanmar Lager", "Tiger", "Anchor" and "ABC Stout". Soe was familiar with the "Inya Lake Hotel" in Yangon and 'Hops' said he had always stayed there on his business trips. The four visitors wanted a few photos of them at the bar, one showing the big Aussie flag at the front. Bobby got a camera and obliged the group by taking the above photo of them. Soe gave his email address so that 'Hops' could send the photo to them. They bought 8 Casks of the "Chateau Cardboard" Red wine to take back to their ship and were quite pleased with the reasonable price. It was a pleasure to have these polite visitors with us and we wish them the best of good luck in their future.

*"WE MAKE A LIVING BY WHAT WE GET,  
BUT WE MAKE A LIFE BY WHAT WE GIVE."*

SIR WINSTON CHURCHILL



## CENTRE NEWS

- We are now selling a small range of mobile phones for seafarers to buy. All the phones are **unlocked** so that seafarers can use them in any country providing they have a Sim from that country. Information about each phone can be found in the 'Product' folder on the left of the cash register.
- SeaRoam Sims & Recharge cards are now for sale and on display in the Cube Cabinets near the Kiosk counter. As these are priced in Euros please do NOT ring any sales onto the front till but ask for a Staff member for assistance.
- Wireless Broadband Modems are becoming very popular now with seafarers. These modems make it possible for seafarers to be able to communicate with their families whilst still along the Australian coast or in anchorage. Please contact Staff if you have any questions that you are unsure about. It is much easier to assist them here than by over the phone.
- We have good news from Christina who has informed us that Rotary in South Melbourne are happy to supply and fit new carpet for us in the seafarer accommodation units. This will finally complete the main upgrades that we have been working on.
- When selling Sim Kits please make sure you fill in ALL relevant details as requested on the form. Activation can not be done successfully if the relevant information is not supplied. We also no longer sell Lebara Sims or Recharge.



## VIETNAMESE RUNNERS

For the first few months of this year we have had a few vessels visit Melbourne from Vietnam. The guys were warmly received at Stella Maris and Lo was kept very busy helping out with a variety of requests. Some of the crew had already been onboard their vessel for more than twelve months.

Working for the Vietnamese Government doesn't bring the best of benefits. Since the first visit of the two vessels three of the crew have jumped ship whilst their vessels were docked in Melbourne. Thinking that life could not get any worse these 3 Vietnamese have decided to risk all and try to make a new life for themselves. However, life will be very hard, always on the lookout for Immigration, not being able to get decent work and no health cover. As a result of this, the two vessels have now been 'blacklisted' which means that their crew are no longer allowed ashore in any foreign or Australian port. Because of this, the crew rely very heavily on Seafarer Centres to be able to help them with the purchase of phone cards, Sim cards and other necessities such as toiletries, snacks etc. Since the Vosco Sky was in port last week, Lo has been very busy helping with the purchase of fresh fruit, phone cards and other items that the crew have requested. I wonder if the three crewmen who decided to jump ship realised just how much problem their actions would cause for the rest of the crew.



**Lo, with some of the Vietnamese crew, before they were blacklisted from coming ashore. The crew will suffer heavily not being able to come ashore in any future ports.**

## m/y TEXAS

Some of you may have read about Solomon Lew lately in the newspapers. Some of you may know Solomon Lew as one of Australia's richest men. Some of you may know that Solomon Lew owns a luxurious 44m yacht called Texas. For Bernadette, Melvin & Christine, the Texas is their home for the next year. All from Philippines, the 3 have a variety of duties onboard the yacht. Melvin has already been onboard for 3 months and is responsible for maintenance. Bernadette has been onboard already for 5 months and is responsible for cooking and cleaning. Christina helps with the cleaning and other services. All three are on board for a 12 month contract. Melvin has 3 children and a wife waiting for his return, Bernadette has 2 children and Christina is still single. While the yacht is tied at Docklands the three of them have been making Stella Maris their second home.



**Christina, Melvin and Bernadette on board the m/y Texas. They are all very grateful for the facilities on offer to them at the Stella Maris Seafarers' Centre in Melbourne.**

***"IF YOU ACCOMMODATE OTHERS,  
YOU WILL BE ACCOMMODATING YOURSELF"***

**OLD CHINESE PROVERB**

**友**

## MEMBERS' NEWS

- We welcome back Lo from his visit to Vietnam. Lo, accompanied by his sister Phuc Nguyen, went to Vietnam to commemorate the first anniversary of the passing of their mother. It was also a great time for all of the family to catch up. Lo even got to travel to North Vietnam to the city where his parents lived as children.
- The Kucera children are on the move. Paul is heading to Netherlands to give a lecture and then heads to Rome and Florence to work on an archeological site. Anne & Lauren are back in the United States again, this time traveling prominently down the east coast of the States to as far south as Florida. On their Music & Jazz Tour, Lauren was allowed to play the Steinway Elvis Presley played and which featured in most of his songs.
- We welcome a few new volunteers to Stella Maris. Philip is from Vietnam and found out about us when he joined for Salsa lessons. At the moment he is looking for work and helping us out on Saturday afternoons. Cindy Thao is also from Vietnam and studying here at the Australian Catholic University in Melbourne. Part of her curriculum entails her doing voluntary work for a catholic organisation, and seeing that she is living in the city she chose to volunteer with us. Some may have already met Cindy at the Ladies Function, if not, please make her and Philip welcome when you see them.

## COOKING ONBOARD

One of the most important, but often forgotten jobs onboard any vessel is that of the Cook. As well as preparing and cooking the meals, the Cook is also responsible for submitting the monthly shopping list to the captain for his approval before it is sent off to the next port's provider for supplies to be purchased. The cook is usually allocated a certain amount of money per person, and this amount dictates what he can afford for the crew to eat. Barry, (pictured below) from Papua New Guinea, is the cook onboard the Papuan Chief. He has a budget of \$6.50 per crewman per day for the ordering of food. With a crew of 21, that gives him a total of around \$136 to feed his crew per day. He also has the challenge of trying to cook meals while the ship is rolling and pitching in the sea. Crew have their watches based around meal breaks so he can't just put off cooking until the sea is calmer, there would be a mutiny onboard. Still Barry enjoys the work and the challenges of trying to cook for the various nationalities that he works with. Aboard this vessel he has fellow Papuan crew along with Chinese & Ukrainian officers. Every once in a while the crew manage to catch a good size fish. As well as having some fresh meat to eat, instead of the usual frozen meat, it allows Barry extra money from his budget to buy something a bit different at their next port of call.



## FILIPINO CHICKEN ADOBO

- 2.5lbs of chicken pieces
- 3-4 garlic cloves minced or smashed
- 1/3 cup white vinegar
- 1/4 teaspoon black peppercorns, cracked
- 1 bay leaf
- 1/3 cup soy sauce
- 3/4 teaspoon salt (or as required for your taste)
- To taste vegetable oil (for sautéing)
- To taste water (to cover)

### Directions:

1. Combine all ingredients in a deep glass or stainless steel sauce pan
2. Bring to a boil over medium heat, then reduce heat to medium low
3. Cover and simmer for about 30 minutes or until the meat is very tender
4. Gently turn the meat occasionally during the course of cooking
5. Remove the meat from the sauce and pan-fry in a little oil until browned on all sides
6. Transfer to a serving platter or bowl and cover with sauce. Serve with warm steamed rice.



## REFLECTION BY FATHER TONY COX

### PRAYER

Holy God, we give thanks for the many ways we have been blessed.  
Help us to see beyond the present, however, new visions of what should and can be.  
Transform our personal goals into an awareness of what is possible when we seek your will  
and your presence. In Christ you have shown us the way.  
Grant that we may follow where he leads. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

### REFLECTION

Some things will never come into being unless someone imagines them.  
Some of the potential in us will never be realised unless someone calls it forth.  
Some horizons will never be noticed unless someone lifts our vision.  
Living in the present involves planning for the future. Christ calls us to follow him.  
May we find him to be the Way, the Truth and the Light.