SYDNEY SAILORS’ HOME

The Sailor’s Home offered a place to sleep and meals to seafarers of all nationalities seeking rest after long voyages. It also provided some security from the many predatory and unscrupulous merchants in the normal everyday lives of the city’s working-class sailors and their families.

Mariners were often isolated in their boarding houses and their lives led of seaport work and long voyages. For some men who had deserted.

In 1937, the Home closed and the company was renamed the Australian Maritime Welfare Trust. Thousands of its members have benefited from support to visiting seafarers in 30 ports around Australia.

For more information visit www.maritimewelfare.com.au

HOME AWAY FROM HOME
1865-1979

ATTEMPTED ASSASSINATION OF PRINCE ALFRED

On 13 March 1864, a public picnic was held at Centennial Park to raise money for the conversion of the Sydney Sailor’s Home. The Prince attended and presented a cheque for £25.

Minutes later he was shot in the back by Irish nationalist Peter Kavanagh. The attempted assassination failed, however it turned into a rally against Sydney’s Irish Catholic community. It later created a poisonous public atmosphere and great support for the Colony.

When the Prince returned to England, Queen Victoria remarked: “It was worth being shot to see how much one is loved.”

For more information visit www.realme.official.gov.au