

# MARINE INDUSTRIES CAREER PATHWAYS



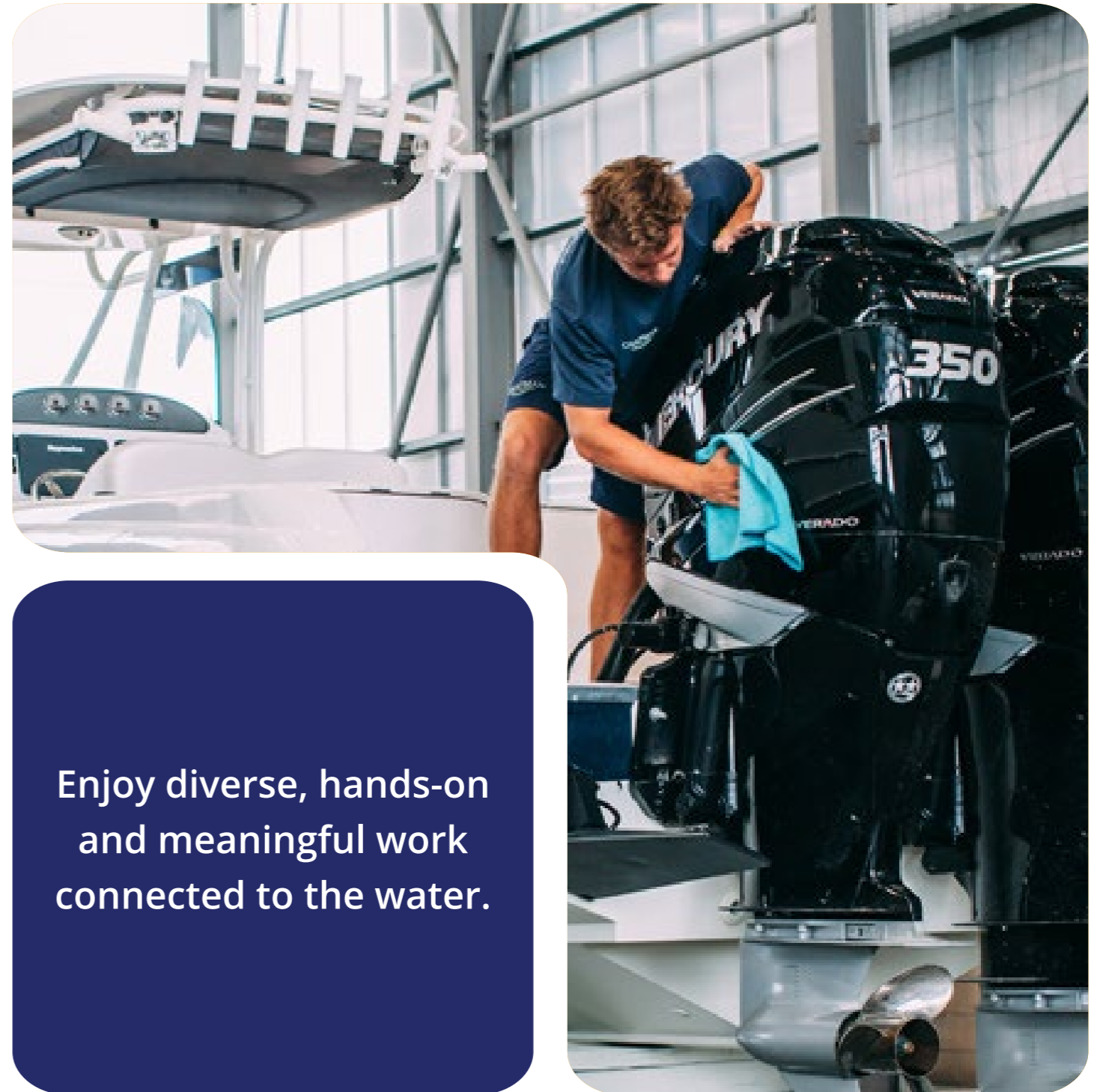
**DIVE INTO**

 **MARINE JOBS**

The Australian boating and maritime industries are calling you to explore the endless career opportunities on and around our waterways.

# MAKE WAVES FROM DAY ONE

Where do you want to go?



Enjoy diverse, hands-on and meaningful work connected to the water.

PROUDLY SUPPORTED BY



This guide has been compiled to the best of our knowledge using information available at the time of publication. While every effort has been made to ensure accuracy, information may change without notice. We endeavour to keep this guide as up to date as possible. If you notice any errors or have suggestions or contributions for future editions, please contact the Boating Industry Association (BIA).

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Getting my ticket for Master V has been one of the most rewarding moments.

**Reef James**

*Lighthouse Shipwrights apprentice at Gold Coast City Marina (GCCM)*

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Making something from scratch and seeing the finished product is so satisfying! But there are many avenues you could go down, from becoming a boat builder, to being a surveyor or a marine mechanic. Just give it a red hot go.

**Stefanie Mannering**

*Fibre glass boat assembler/small parts team leader at Cruise Craft*

# Welcome to the world of opportunity that is Australia's Marine Industry!



As the peak body for recreational and light commercial boating, the Boating Industry Association (BIA) represents an industry that is not only vibrant and diverse but also a vital contributor to Australia's economy and lifestyle.

The boating industry turns over \$10.2 billion annually, supporting more than 34,500 jobs across over 2,000 businesses. From manufacturing, maintenance, marina operations and

retail to marketing, tourism, training and cutting-edge technology, the marine sector offers an incredible range of career pathways.

Whether you're a young person exploring your first job or someone looking to bring transferable skills into a new industry, this guide is designed to showcase the exciting, meaningful opportunities that the boating sector provides.

Our industry thrives on innovation, craftsmanship, adventure and community; and there's never been a better time to get on board.

Dive in and discover how you can chart your course to a rewarding career on and around the water.

**Andrew Fielding**  
*CEO, Boating Industry Association Ltd*



# Why choose a career in THE MARINE INDUSTRY?



**Working in the marine world puts you at the heart of an industry that blends tradition and innovation - from classic boatbuilding and mechanical skills, marina operations to electric propulsion systems, sustainable design and digital navigation technologies.**

Whether you're working directly on the water, designing the next generation of marine products, or supporting the business behind the scenes in marketing, finance, or logistics, you're contributing to a sector that fuels recreation, tourism, transport and community connection.

Importantly, the marine sector welcomes people from all backgrounds and skill sets. It offers genuine career progression, international opportunities, and the chance to work on products and experiences that bring joy and freedom to people's lives.

If you're looking for a career where you can combine your skills and passions, be part of a supportive and engaged community, and play a role in a thriving, future-focused industry, the boating sector is waiting for you.

# Be part of an INNOVATIVE & THRIVING INDUSTRY



## DIVERSE ROLES

With over 100 career paths, the marine industry offers opportunities to suit all skills and interests. Whether you're hands-on, technical, or business-minded, there's a pathway for you.



## CRAFTSMANSHIP & INNOVATION

Be at the forefront of a diverse and forward-thinking industry where tradition meets cutting-edge technology. Develop specialist skills and work with advanced materials and systems.



## IMPACT & SUSTAINABILITY

Play a key role in the use of renewable energies, eco-friendly products and sustainable manufacturing practices, contributing to a more sustainable future for the industry.



## THRIVING INDUSTRY

With Australia's extensive coastline of almost 36,000km, 1 in 5 Australians enjoy getting out on the water. Demand for skilled professionals in the marine sector is ever-growing.



## FAST FACTS

### Why work in the boating industry

Access career pathways across design, engineering, sales, tourism, trades, marinas, marketing, defence, superyachts and more.



Work on the cutting edge of marine technology and sustainability.



Enjoy diverse, hands-on and meaningful work connected to the water.



Join a supportive industry with global opportunities and real career progression.

# START HERE. GROW A CAREER.

Where do you want to go?



## THE POWER OF BLUE MIND

The Blue Mind theory, developed by marine biologist Dr. Wallace J. Nichols, explores the calming, inspiring effect water has on the human brain. Nichols' research shows that being near, in, on, or under water can trigger a meditative, happy state. Reducing stress, enhancing creativity and improving overall wellbeing.

For those working in the boating industry, this connection to water isn't just a weekend escape, it's part of everyday life. Whether you're designing, building or maintaining vessels, working in a marina, selling marine equipment, or guiding customers on the water, you experience firsthand the positive mental and emotional benefits of working around waterways.

A career in the boating and marine sector offers more than just technical skills and job satisfaction - it connects you to the natural world in ways proven to nourish the mind and lift the spirit.

**That's the Blue Mind advantage.**



## YOU DEFINE YOUR GREATNESS

GET THE PRACTICAL SKILLS YOU NEED TO LAUNCH YOUR MARITIME  
CAREER AT OUR **COOMERA MARINE CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE**



// **LEARN MORE**



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MARINE CENTRE  
OF EXCELLENCE

MAKE  
GREAT  
HAPPEN



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## CAREERS OVERVIEW

# REAL SKILLS. REAL PAY. REAL PROGRESS.

Make your career matter.



## Things to consider when getting started

Choosing a career in the boating industry is an exciting step, but like any career journey, it helps to start with a bit of self-reflection and planning.

First, think about your current interests and skills - are you hands on and love working with tools? Do you enjoy working with people and solving problems? Are you drawn to design, mechanics, marketing or customer service? The marine industry is incredibly diverse, so understanding what you enjoy can help guide your career path.

Next, consider your geographical location. Are there marine businesses, shipyards, marinas or

dealerships in your area? Would you be open to travelling or relocating for the right opportunity?

Use our Careers Guide on pg 16 to help match your interests and abilities to the right marine career. Talk to family, friends and your school careers adviser for advice and support.

Most importantly, be proactive: approach local marine businesses with your résumé, and keep an eye on job, apprenticeship or work experience opportunities in marine industry media, websites or job boards.

**The water is waiting,  
and so is your future career!**

## Ready to embark? HERE'S HOW TO GET STARTED:

01

### EXPLORE

Research different marine careers and find the one that excites you.

03

### CONNECT

Speak to your careers advisor at school or you can get advice from us via email or for current job seekers join the Marine Jobs Facebook Group.

@ [info@marinejobs.org.au](mailto:info@marinejobs.org.au)

f [Marine Jobs Facebook Group](#)

02

### LEARN

Seek out educational programs and training opportunities with boat builders and marine manufacturers.

04

### EXPERIENCE

Gain hands-on experience through volunteering and work experience. Consider obtaining your boat licence and complete your Marine Card - Work Health and Safety training.

[Get your Marine Card](#)

# EXPLORE THE ROLES

## The Careers that Keep the Marine Industry Moving



From hands-on trades to cutting-edge technology, maintaining vessels and sales to sustainability, the marine industry offers an incredible range of career options for people with all kinds of interests and skills.

Whether you dream of building boats, designing innovative systems, managing marinas or helping customers set sail, there's a role for you.

Use this guide to discover the many job types that power Australia's vibrant marine sector and find the one that inspires you.

### Boat Building Marina Services

- Production Manager
- Naval Architect / Engineer
- Materials & Parts Logistics Coordinator
- Shipwright / Boat Builder
- Laminator
- Sheetmetal / Fabricator
- Boilermaker / Welder
- Spray Painter
- Composite Technician
- Traditional Timber Shipwright
- Trades Assistant
- Skilled Labourer

### Fit-Out, Refit & Repair Slipway & Services

- Project Manager/ Refit Manager
- Marine Mechanic
- Marine Electrician
- Electronics Technician / Fitter
- Cabinetmaker
- Marine Trimmer
- Upholsterer
- Sailmaker
- Rigger
- Detailer / Repairer
- Marine Wrap Installer
- Marine Glazier

### Boat Sales & Service

- Dealer Principal
- Boat & Yacht Broker
- New / Used Boat Sales
- Contracts Manager
- Finance & Insurance
- Service Manager
- Marine Mechanic
- Spare Parts Interpreter
- Administration / Reception
- Shipwright
- Boat Detailer
- Repair and Maintenance
- Chandlery & Marine Retail

# LEARN. EARN. PROGRESS.

Get qualified & get out on the water

### Boat & Port Operations

- Captain
- Chief Officer
- Bosun
- Coxswain
- Master
- Marine Engineer
- Deckhand
- Port Pilot
- Port Logistics
- Steward
- Chef
- Boating Education and Training
- Marine Operations
- Port Master
- Marine Safety Manager
- Port Pilot

### Professionals Services

- Marine Surveyor
- Health & Safety
- Marketing & Communications
- Public Relations
- IT Support Services
- Boat Interior Design
- Accountant / Bookkeeper
- Human Resources
- Finance & Insurance
- Maritime Lawyer
- Events Planner

### Marina Services

- Marina Manager
- Dockmaster
- Yard Hand
- Service Manager
- Marine Service Advisor
- Maintenance Officer / Engineer
- Receptionist / Administration
- Customer / Concierge Services
- Marketing and Sales
- Chandler

### Tourism Industry

- Tour Operator
- Tour Guide
- Fishing Guide
- Scuba Diving Instructor
- Charter Boat Operator
- Houseboat Operator
- Deckhand / Crew
- Booking agent
- Cleaner
- Research Assistant

### Slipway & Services

- Marine Mechanic
- Slipway Manager
- Forklift / Dry Stack operator
- Shipwright
- Painter / Antifouler
- Commercial Diver
- Detailer / Repairer
- Sheetmetal / Fabricator
- Boiler Maker / Welder
- Rigger
- Sail Maker



## TECHNICAL & ENGINEERING



### ENTRY LEVEL ROLES

- Marine Technician
- Marine Diesel Mechanic
- Marine Electronics Technician
- Apprenticeship or School Based Apprenticeship (SBAT)



### MID LEVEL ROLES

- Marine Engineer or Ships Engineer
- ADF Naval Engineer
- Marine Engineer [About Maritime Engineering](#)
- Naval Architect

### ADVANCED CAREERS

- Compliance and Safety Manager
- Engineering Risk Management
- Shipyard and Commercial Shipbuilder
- Marine Surveyor [About Marine Surveyors](#)

## MARINE TRADES & TECHNICAL



### ENTRY LEVEL ROLES

- Marine Diesel Apprenticeship or School Based Apprenticeship [Cert III Marine Mechanical Technology](#)
- Marine Electrician Apprenticeship or School Based Apprenticeship [Cert III Marine Mechanical Technology](#)
- Shipwright, Boat Builder & Marine Craft Repair, Welder, Boilermaker [Cert III Marine Craft Construction](#)
- Sail Making, Canvas & Awnings [Cert III Manufactured Textile Goods](#)
- Cabinet Making/French Polisher [Cert III Cabinet Making & Timber Technology](#)
- Marine Trim & Upholstery [Cert III in Automotive & Marine Trimming Technology](#)



### JOSHUA Trainee Master

Joshua transitioned from 12 years in construction to pursue his lifelong passion for working on the water. Now a Trainee Master at the Port of Brisbane, he operates dredgers, survey vessels and other specialist craft while building his qualifications toward Master <24m and beyond...

[READ MORE](#)

### MID LEVEL ROLES

- Marine Electrical Specialist Roles:
- Marine Electronics Technician
- Communication Systems Technician
- Instrumentation Technician
- Marine Engineer Driver (Internal combustion engine) [Diploma of Marine Engineering \(Engineer Class 3 Near Coastal\)](#)
- Business owner operator
- Trade Manager
- Operations Manager
- Production Manager

### ADVANCED CAREERS

- Ocean Engineer
- Ships Engineer



## SHIPYARD & MARINA OPERATIONS



### ENTRY LEVEL ROLES

- Yard hand
- Marina hand
- Fuel dock assistant
- Boat detailer/cleaner



### SAM Marine Mechanic

Sam has spent most of his life on the water, turning a childhood love of boating into a thriving marine career. At just 14, he began working parttime as a Junior Dockmaster at The Quays Marina - the very place where his own business, Mona Vale Marine is now proudly based...

[READ MORE](#)

### MID LEVEL ROLES

- Dry stack coordinator
- Fork lift operator
- Marina Reception & Concierge Services

### ADVANCED CAREERS

- Straddle Carrier Operator [Straddle Carrier Operation & Maintenance Course](#)
- Marina General Manager [Intermediate Management Course](#)

## SALES BROKERAGE & CUSTOMER SERVICE



### ENTRY LEVEL ROLES

- Marina attendant
- Chandlery and retail sales assistant
- Brokerage sales and contract administrator
- Marine tourism administration assistant
- Marine tourism reservations assistant



### EMMA Sail Making

Emma Rankin found her way into the marine industry through school sailing programs and Bayview Sea Scouts, despite not coming from a sailing family. Her passion for the sport grew steadily - progressing from NS14s to match racing and later Hobie Cats...

[READ MORE](#)

### MID LEVEL ROLES

- Sales Consultant Boat Brokerage
- Sales consultant Yacht Charter
- Marine Tourism Operations Manager
- Customer Experience Manager

### ADVANCED CAREERS

- Accredited Boat Broker
- Regional Sales Manager
- General Manager

## MARITIME OPERATIONS



### ENTRY LEVEL ROLES

- General purpose deckhand [Cert I in Maritime Operations](#)
- Marine tourism deckhand
- Junior crew/superyacht crew (deckhand or interior crew - [STCW95+10](#))
- Commercial or recreational fishing charter
- Transport and ferries

### MID LEVEL ROLES

- Certified Marina Manager
- Superyacht Roles Chief Stew, First Officer
- Maritime & Shipping Engineers & Officers
- Federal & State Government Regulatory & Enforcement: AMSA, Border Force, Water Police
- Project and Refit Manager
- Port Operations

### MID LEVEL ROLES

- Bosun
- Boat Driver
- Second Engineer
- Master/Sailing Master/Marine Engine Driver
- Coxswain [Cert I & II in Maritime Operations](#)
- [Cert III In Maritime Operations \(Master < 24M Near Coastal\)](#)
- [Master IV In Maritime Operations \(Master < 45M Near Coastal\)](#)
- [Certificate of Safety Training \(COST\) or Standards of Training and Watch Keeping \(STCW 95\)](#)
- [MED \(Marine Engine Driver\) Course](#)
- [Steps to Certificate of Competency International Qualifications](#)
- Tug Pilot
- Coastal Pilot [How to become a Coastal Pilot](#)

### ADVANCED CAREERS

- Accredited Boat Broker
- Regional Sales Manager
- General Manager

## PROFESSIONAL ROLES



### ADVANCED CAREERS

- Shipyard Manager
- Maritime Captain

## APPRENTICESHIPS AND TRAINEESHIPS

# TURN CURIOSITY INTO A CAREER

Your pathway into a career in marine.



APPRENTICESHIPS

VS

TRAINEESHIPS

## What's the Difference?

### APPRENTICESHIPS

- ✓ Typically last 3 to 4 years Full Time or 6 years Part Time.
- ✓ Focus on skilled trades such as boat building, shipwright work, marine mechanical, electrical or metal fabrication.
- ✓ Combine on-the-job training with formal study.
- ✓ Lead to trade qualifications that are in high demand across Australia and internationally.

### TRAINEESHIPS

- ✓ Usually completed in 1 to 2 years.
- ✓ Offer training in non-trade or service-oriented roles, such as operations, administration, retail or marina management.
- ✓ Can be full-time or part-time, offering flexibility while you work and learn.
- ✓ A great way to build practical experience, confidence, and professional networks.

### SCHOOL-BASED APPRENTICESHIPS & TRAINEESHIPS

If you're still at school, a school-based apprenticeship or traineeship allows you to:

- Combine paid work, training, and your school studies.
- Finish Year 12 while gaining credit towards a full apprenticeship after school.
- Get valuable hands-on experience that employers love.

Talk to your Careers Adviser about options in your area or visit your state's Department of Education website and search for "school-based apprenticeship" to find out more.

### HOW TO FIND AN APPRENTICESHIP OR TRAINEESHIP

There are many ways to get started:

- 🔗 **Search online job ads** – Look on platforms like Seek or Indeed, as well as local newspapers and the [Marine Jobs Facebook Group](#).
  - 🔗 **Contact local employers** – Reach out to marine and boating businesses in your area. Even if they're not advertising, they might be open to taking on an apprentice. Be prepared with information from [australianapprenticeships.gov.au](#).
  - 🔗 **Explore industry directories** – Use the Boating Industry Association (BIA) Member Directory on [bia.org.au](#) to find marine businesses near you.
  - 🔗 **Visit the Australian Apprenticeships Pathways** – [aapathways.com.au](#) provides information on industries, training, and job search tools.
- Network** – Talk to family, friends, teachers, and community members. Many apprenticeship opportunities come through word of mouth.

# HOW TO FIND AN APPRENTICESHIP OR TRAINEESHIP

As an Apprentice Connect Provider, MEGT helps apprentices, trainees and employers navigate the entire process from sign-up through to successful completion. Their role is simple: to make the apprenticeship journey easier.

For job seekers and future apprentices, MEGT offers practical advice to help you choose the right qualification and understand where your career can take you. Their national jobs board features live vacancies across a wide range of marine and maritime trades, including roles on the Australian Apprenticeships Priority List.

These priority qualifications - including Marine Mechanical Technology, Marine Craft Construction, Maritime Operations and Fishing Operations - reflect skills that are in strong demand. For eligible apprentices and employers, they may also attract government financial incentives.

Throughout your training, MEGT provides ongoing check-ins, mentoring and personal support to help you stay on track. Whether you need guidance with workplace challenges, training requirements, or wellbeing support, MEGT make sure you have what you need to succeed.

Find a marine apprenticeship or hire your next apprentice today.  
Visit [megt.com.au](http://megt.com.au) or call **13 6348**



## A conversation with Reef James

### RIDING THE WAVES OF THE FUTURE

Apprentice Shipwright & Master V  
at Lighthouse Shipwrights



**“I started young, trained at school, and now I’m building my career in the biggest marine precinct in the region.”**

**Reef James, Apprentice Shipwright**

**“It’s a no-brainer. There are endless opportunities and boats always need to be fixed.”**

**Q** What inspired you to pursue a career in the marine industry?

**A** “My family. Everyone in my family is part of the industry, in some way, shape, or form.”

**Q** How did you get started in the industry, and what was your first job?

**A** “From a very young age, I accompanied my dad as Skipper on fishing charters. My family has always had boats. I’ve visited the Great Barrier Reef multiple times with him, staying out for 7 days and up to a month at a time, operating fishing and black marlin charters.”

*Last year, I completed my Master V with Paradigm Training Group on the Gold Coast.*

**Q** Can you tell us about your current role and what it involves?

**A** “I’m currently working as an apprentice with Lighthouse Shipwrights at Gold Coast City Marina (GCCM). I’m in my first year and will soon be completing blocks training at TAFE QLD Coomera Marine campus to study a Certificate III in Marine Craft Construction. My days are flat out, doing everything and anything—lots of antifouling, gel coat, fiberglass, timber work, there are endless tasks right across the board.”

**Q** What key skills or qualifications have helped you succeed in your role?

**A** “My Master V certification with Paradigm, which allows me to master a vessel up to 24M commercially I undertook this as a school-based training, and became qualified in September 24. I also have a High School Diploma of Business from Southport State High (Years 10, 11, and 12), a Cert 2 in Marine Craft Construction (school-based at TAFE) Once I finish my apprenticeship I will work towards my MED2 Marine Engine Driver certification.”

**Q** What has been the most rewarding moment in your career so far?

**A** “To be honest, getting my ticket for Master V has been one of the most rewarding moments.”

**Q** What advice would you give to someone considering a career in the marine industry?

**A** “It’s a no-brainer. There are endless opportunities to get boats always need to be fixed—it’s very cool. Marine qualifications can be harder to achieve but there’s the opportunity to switch in and out of the industry because of the skill set. Being on the Gold Coast is amazing, with the biggest marine precinct in the region. The marine precinct is it’s growing each year, bringing along with the opportunities to grow as well.”

**Q** Where do you see the industry heading, and what excites you about the future?

**A** “At Lighthouse, we cover all bases of shipwright work. TAFE only had 3 students registered when I attended; we need to get the message out there with younger people about the opportunities the industry hold for them.”

**Q** Can you share with us one of your personal or career goals that you would like to achieve in the next 3-5 years?

**A** “I want to become a qualified shipwright, obtain my MED2, and buy a house soon.”

**“Getting my Master V ticket has been one of the most rewarding moments of my life.”**



## A conversation with Stefanie Mannering

### BUILDING THE FUTURE, ONE BOAT AT A TIME

Fibre Glass Boat Assembler & Small-parts  
Team Leader at Cruise Craft



**“Give it a red-hot go. There are so many avenues, not just boat building. You can be a surveyor, a trainer, a marine mechanic. You can make something from scratch.”**

**Q** What inspired you to pursue a career in the marine industry?

**A** “It all started when I was a 22 with no industry experience, I never even gave the industry a thought. I applied for 300 carpentry apprenticeships with no luck, until I saw a job advertised at Cruise Craft, just a labouring role. Cruise Craft believed in me. I stuck to it and put in 110% effort, finishing my four year apprenticeship and winning both QLD and National BIA Apprentice of the Year in 2022.”

“I didn’t even think I would get started, let alone win an award. I didn’t grow up on the water, it was something I picked up as an adult. I was a recreational fisherman, and before I knew it, I was an apprentice. I had to learn about being around boats. I only knew what a hull was, and port and starboard, that was it!”

**Q** Can you tell us about your current role and what it involves?

**A** “I manage a small component department, I have two apprentices working with me, and I get to be involved in their training. I can share my enthusiasm and inspire them to work together as a team. It’s really cool to be able to teach people stuff. I’ve been in the industry for six years now and get to share my experience with the younger generation.”

**Q** What key skills or qualifications have helped you succeed in your role?

**A** “Definitely completing my Apprenticeship in Marine Craft Construction (Cert III in Marine Craft Construction) plus my win as the BIA Apprentice of the Year in 2022. My soft skills include adaptability, multi-skilling, and transferable skills which can be applied to working with different materials and across other sectors of the industry.”

**Q** What has been the most rewarding moment in your career so far?

**A** “Being given my first apprentice to manage, who now builds boats himself. I was able to give him that skill set, and he continues to work at Cruise Craft. I never realised how much impact I had on him.”

“I stay active on socials to help other people within the marine industry, from resume writing, tips and tricks and the right tools to use. I’m happy to help anyone with the right attitude.”

**Q** What advice would you give to someone considering a career in the marine industry?

**A** “Give it a red-hot go. There are so many avenues, not just boat building. You can be a surveyor, a trainer, a marine mechanic. You can make something from scratch. We get to craft something we can use. I love working, making, creating, and shaping. Every part has been made by me. Stick at it.”

**Q** Where do you see the industry heading, and what excites you about the future?

**A** “Continuous change. Products are always improving and innovating, and there are opportunities to be better all the time. New models, new details which lead to new skills. It’s constantly evolving.”

**Q** Can you share with us one of your personal or career goals that you would like to achieve in the next 3-5 years?

**A** “Moving closer to work. Becoming a TAFE teacher. I was taught by one of the best boat builders in Australia, and the knowledge and skills he imparted, I want to teach kids how to do things the right way, the old-school way.”

**“I stuck to it, gave 110%, and finished my apprenticeship as the QLD and National BIA Apprentice of the Year.”**

**Stefanie Mannering**

**“I love working, making, creating, shaping. Every part has been made by me.”**



## COURSES

# TRAIN TODAY. LEAD TOMORROW.

What will you learn?



## MARINE STUDIES AT RTO'S

From boat building and marine mechanical technology to maritime operations, TAFE and RTO's (Registered Training Organisations) offer practical, hands-on training that gets you job ready for life in the marine industry.

Whether you see yourself crafting sleek new vessels, repairing powerful engines or skipping boats along Australia's coastline, there's a training pathway to help you get there.



### LEARN BY DOING

Learning isn't confined to a classroom - you'll be working with real tools, real boats and real people from day one.

Students gain practical experience in purpose-built workshops, state-of-the-art marine simulators and even on the water aboard training vessels.

This is what makes these courses such a great choice: you don't just learn the theory, you master the skills you'll use in the workplace.

TAFE's and other RTO's across many states offer nationally recognised qualifications designed in partnership with the boating industry. You'll graduate with the skills employers want and a head start on an exciting career in one of Australia's most dynamic sectors.





# CHART YOUR COURSE WITH TAFE QUEENSLAND

With more than 60 campuses and a reputation for hands-on, industry-driven learning, **TAFE Queensland** offers a range of marine courses to suit every interest. You can even study whilst still at school by undertaking a Cert II in Engineering Pathways or Automotive Vocational Preparation.



## Cert III in Marine Craft Construction (MEM30719)

Learn how to build, repair and restore vessels made from timber, fibreglass and composites. This trade-level course is perfect if you love working with your hands and want to become a qualified boat builder or shipwright.

## Cert III in Marine Mechanical Technology (AUR30520)

Gain the technical knowledge and practical skills required to work as a Marine Mechanic with this mid-level course.

## Cert III in Maritime Operations - Master up to 24 Metres Near Coastal (MAR30921)

Prepare for a career on the water as a skipper or deckhand, gaining the knowledge and certification required to safely operate commercial and recreational vessels.

## Cert II in Maritime Operations Coxswain Grade 1 Near Coastal (MAR20321)

This is an entry level qualification for maritime operations.

## Industry Related Marine Trades and Specialist Skill Sets

Explore short courses and qualifications in marine mechanical technology, trades and skills together with shipboard safety, and radio operations, giving you the know-how to maintain engines and equipment that keep boats running smoothly.

## Cert III in Cabinet Making (MSF30322)

Completing this course will offer you a career in luxury boat interiors and fit out projects.

## Cert III in Engineering - Fabrication Trades (MEM31925)

Successful completion of this course will prepare you for a career as a boilermaker, steel fabricator or welder to fabricate vessel components and small aluminium craft.

## Cert III in Electrotechnology Electrician (UEE30820)

Progress your electrical career with this apprenticeship course. Complete this qualification as part of your apprenticeship to become a qualified electrician and apply for your electrical workers licence.

## Cert III in Plumbing (CPC32420)

This course will give you the skills you need to apply for your plumbing licence.

## Marine Radio Operator's VHF Skill Set (MARSS00011)

This two day course will enhance your skills as a Coxswain or Ships Master giving you the knowledge to use a Marine VHF Radio and telephone equipment to transmit information.



TAFE Queensland's maritime facilities are located throughout coastal QLD including Cairns, Townsville and Coomera and include full-mission bridge simulators, boat-building workshops, and even a 20-metre training vessel - making it one of the most comprehensive marine training environments in the country.

To learn more visit [tafeqld.edu.au](http://tafeqld.edu.au) and explore marine courses in Queensland.

# NAVIGATE YOUR FUTURE WITH TAFE QUEENSLANDS COOMERA MARINE CAMPUS

Anchored in the heart of Coomera on the Gold Coast, TAFE Queensland's Coomera Marine Campus is a dedicated marine training facility.

With an \$11.8 million investment, the campus is tailored to meet the rising demand for skilled talent in the booming marine and boating industries.

Purpose-built for hands-on learning, the campus trains students across programs such as [Certificate III in Marine Craft Construction \(MEM30719\)](#) and the [Certificate III in Marine Mechanical Technology \(AUR30520\)](#). In addition, there is also the [Certificate II in Engineering Pathways \(MEM20422\)](#) and the [Certificate II in Automotive Vocational Preparation \(AUR20720\)](#).

New for 2026, is the [Certificate II in Maritime Operations \(Coxwain Grade 1 Near Coastal\) \(MAR20324\)](#), a first for TAFE Queensland's Coomera Marine Campus.

The state-of-the-art campus features four classrooms, soundproof workshops, mezzanine viewing decks, fiberglass chambers, mobile spray booths, and a pergola for boat storage.

It caters to school-based learners, international students, and apprentices of all ages.

For students like Jack Sutherland, an apprentice at luxury boatbuilder, Maritimo, the facilities have been a game-changer.

"The space and equipment here let me refine my skills beyond what I'd do in a regular workplace," said Jack.

Likewise, Jac Harman, a former army truck driver and now marine craft apprentice, is embracing a new career with a creative edge.

"I've used tools I never thought I'd handle. It's hands-on, challenging, and rewarding," he said.

With the marine industry growing, studying at TAFE Queensland's Coomera Marine Campus can lead to many career opportunities - whether you want to build and fix boats, become a marine mechanic or work on the water deck side with a maritime qualification. Learn more about [TAFE Queensland's Coomera Marine Campus](#).

**Jack Sutherland**

*Cert III Marine Craft Construction*



# CHART YOUR COURSE WITH TAFE NSW MARITIME TRAINING

If you're passionate about life on the water, TAFE NSW can help you turn your passion into a rewarding career.

As Australia's largest vocational education and training provider, TAFE NSW offers practical, hands-on training designed in collaboration with the boating and maritime industries, meaning students graduate with the skills employers want.

TAFE NSW offers training for people seeking careers across the maritime industry, whether it be at the helm of a vessel or boat building and restoration, marine engine maintenance, maritime operations or sail making.

## Certificate III in Marine Craft (MEM30719-01)

Train to become a boat builder or repairer, blending traditional craftsmanship with modern technology. Students learn everything from hull design and fit outs to composite materials and finishing techniques.

## Certificate III in Marine Mechanical Technology (AUR30520)

For those who love problem-solving and working with engines, this qualification provides the skills needed for a career as a marine mechanic, specialising in the maintenance and repair of inboard and outboard motors, propulsion systems, and on-board electronics.

## Certificate III in Automotive and Marine Trimming Technology (AUR32320)

Learn how to design marine craft interiors. Develop specialist skills in this highly sought after sector working on a wide range of either new vessels or as part of refit projects.

## Certificate III Manufactured Textiles (MST30222)

Develop a highly sought after skill set as marine sail designer and creator, or shade sail and canvas awning designer.

## Certificate III in Mobile Plant Technology (AUR31220)

Learn to fix and service mechanical and electrical mobile plant equipment including heavy marine equipment.



Maritime operations courses range from entry-level to advanced, these courses prepare students for a career at sea, from deckhand to vessel master with training focused on navigation, safety, and vessel handling.

TAFE NSW Maritime Operations courses offer training for a start in the maritime field working on vessels in roles from deckhand to captain or marine engineer. With a curriculum designed to meet national and international standards, students can graduate as highly employable maritime professionals.

A maritime career training pathway may look like this:

### Certificate I in Maritime Operations General Purpose Hand Near Coastal (MAR10224)

Deck hand on a commercial vessel, Australian waters.

### Certificate II in Maritime Operations Coxswain Grade One (Near Coastal) (MAR20324)

Captain of a commercial vessel less than 12m long, Australian waters.

### Certificate III in Maritime Operations Master up to 24m Near Coastal (MAR30924)

Captain of a commercial vessel less than 24m, Australian waters.

### Diploma of Maritime Operations (MAR50230)

Ships Master up to 500GT.

Strong industry partnerships mean TAFE NSW students are learning directly from professionals, using the same technology and equipment they'll encounter in the field. **To learn more about the maritime courses available visit [tafensw.edu.au](http://tafensw.edu.au).**



TAFE Maritime Simulator

# CHART YOUR COURSE WITH TAFE SOUTH AUSTRALIA

In South Australia, TAFE SA offers a range of courses designed to prepare students for careers in maritime operations and boat building.

Whether you're drawn to working on the water or crafting vessels on shore, TAFE SA provides the skills, safety knowledge and qualifications you need to succeed in the marine industry.

## **Certificate II in Maritime Operations (Coxswain Grade 1 Near Coastal) (MAR20324)**

Take the next step towards becoming a licensed skipper. This course covers vessel handling, maintenance, navigation, and safety management for boats up to 12 metres. It's suited to those seeking work as a deckhand, coxswain or small-vessel operator in commercial or tourism settings.

## **Certificate III in Marine Mechanical Technology (AUR30520)**

Gain valuable skills in workplace safety, marine electrical systems, batteries and charging systems, starting systems, marine engines, controls and instruments, engine science, and the use and maintenance of tools and equipment. Build your career in a boat workshop, in field services and repairs at a marina, or in a combined boating workshop and retail sales outlet.

Visit [tafesa.edu.au](https://www.tafesa.edu.au) for courses in South Australia.



# MARINE INDUSTRY

## RTO COURSES



Registered Training Organisations (RTOs) deliver nationally accredited courses developed to meet government and industry standards. These programs provide industry recognised qualifications that align with national maritime safety and competency frameworks, regulated by bodies such as the Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA).

Marine industry RTO courses go far beyond classroom theory. Students gain hands-on experience in vessel operations, navigation, safety procedures, marine communications, engine-room maintenance and marina operations as well as an understanding of the legal and regulatory frameworks that govern Australia's commercial and recreational marine sector.

Offering a wide range of pathways, from entry-level skill sets to advanced master licences, marine RTO courses provide a credible and flexible route into the industry. Whether you're starting your career or looking to advance into senior operational roles, these qualifications help you build practical skills, recognised credentials, and the confidence to find your place in Australia's growing marine and boating sector.

### Entry-level qualifications

(e.g., Certificate I in Maritime Operations / General Purpose Hand Near Coastal) are geared for those starting out in deck-hand, engine-room hand or similar roles.

### Coxswain / Master licences

(e.g., Certificate II or III in Maritime Operations – Coxswain Grade 1 Near Coastal; Master up to 24 metres Near Coastal) are designed for people who will command or operate vessels within defined near-coastal waters.

### Engine-room / marine engineering driver courses

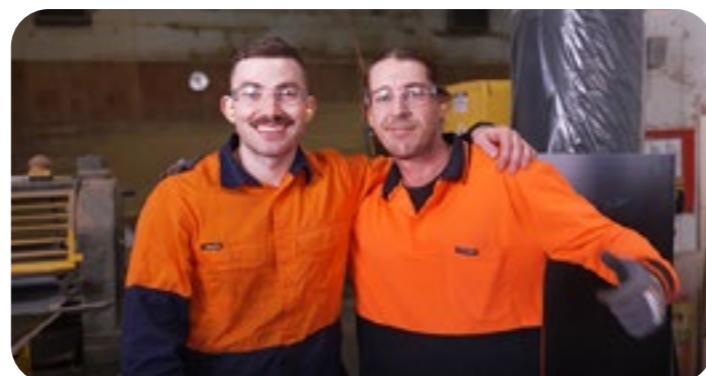
(e.g., Marine Engine Driver Grade 2 / Grade 3) are for those who focus on propulsion, mechanical systems and vessel maintenance.

### Safety and communications skill sets

(e.g., Shipboard Safety Skill Set; Marine Radio Transmit & Receive Information) are vital qualifications for everyone working on commercial vessels or in marine operations.

### Marina Management and Operations

(e.g., dockhand, through to advanced marina management and specialist technical courses such as forklift and straddle carrier) for anyone wanting to work on site at a marina.



## Typical course progression & what you'll learn

Here's a simplified progression you might see:

LEVEL	QUALIFICATION EXAMPLE	FOCUS & OUTCOME
<b>Certificate I</b>	e.g., Maritime Operations – General Purpose Hand Near Coastal	Basic deck and engine room tasks, vessel fundamentals, stability of boats, assisting roles.
<b>Certificate II</b>	e.g., Coxswain Grade 1 Near Coastal	Vessel handling up to a size limit (e.g., 12 metres), navigation, safety management, basic own-boat operation.
<b>Certificate III</b>	e.g., Master up to 24 metres Near Coastal; Marine Engine Driver Grade 2 Near Coastal	Command of small commercial vessels, deeper engine-room work, supervision of deck/engine tasks.
<b>Certificate IV and above</b>	e.g., Master up to 45 metres Near Coastal	Advanced vessel operations, leadership roles, higher competency standards for larger vessels.
<b>Skill-sets &amp; endorsements</b>	e.g., Shipboard Safety, Marine Radio Communication	Focused modules on specific critical skills (safety, communications) that complement full qualifications.

## How to choose the right course

### 01 DECIDE YOUR GOAL

Do you want to start with deck-hand tasks? Or are you aiming to skip the deck and become a vessel master or engineer? Your career goal drives what level you start at.

### 02 CHECK VESSEL/AREA LIMITS

Many courses specify "Near Coastal," "up to 24 metres," etc. These matter because they tie into licensing and where you'll be legally allowed to operate.

### 03 CONSIDER PREREQUISITES

Some roles may require prior sea-service, licences, or additional units (e.g., Marine Radio).

### 04 LOOK AT MODE OF DELIVERY

Some providers offer hybrid or online theory + face-to-face practical training in vessels/engine rooms.

### 05 BUDGET & SUBSIDY

Check whether the course is eligible for subsidies or is full-fee.


### 06 CHECK REGULATORY ALIGNMENT

Make sure the qualification you undertake qualifies you for the licence or competency you need to work commercially.

Some leading RTO's include the **Australian Institute of Engineering** and the **Australian Maritime and Fisheries Academy**.

[Australian Institute of Engineering](#)

[Australian Maritime and Fisheries Academy](#)

 Search marine industry RTO courses online to learn more. Or visit AMSA (Australian Maritime Safety Authority) [here](#).

# TERTIARY EDUCATION & CAREER PATHWAYS

If you're looking for something beyond hands-on trade training and aiming for a tertiary-level career in the maritime sector, there are university-system degrees designed specifically for maritime engineering, logistics, seafaring and offshore sectors. These programs position you for high-skill roles across the global marine industry.

## What these degrees cover

These maritime degrees are developed in collaboration with industry and government, ensuring their relevance to today's global maritime and offshore sectors. Programs typically include:

- Core engineering fundamentals and specialist disciplines such as naval architecture, ocean engineering, marine and offshore engineering.
- Logistics, port and supply chain management within international maritime trade and business.
- Ocean and coastal seafaring operations, covering vessel navigation, operations, safety and regulatory compliance.
- Access to purpose-built maritime facilities such as towing tanks, ship simulators, model basins, and research vessels - giving students a competitive edge.
- Flexibility in study mode including full-time, part-time, blended or distance delivery to suit different lifestyles.

## Typical study pathways & qualifications

**Bachelor degrees:** A four-year honours-level degree in maritime engineering is one exemplar. It emphasises practical skills plus specialised study in e.g. naval architecture, ocean engineering or marine/offshore systems.

**Graduate level:** For those with industry experience or earlier qualifications, postgraduate certificates, diplomas or master's programs offer the chance to build leadership or research capability.

**VET & Seafaring courses:** While not purely tertiary degrees, there are vocational/trade routes in coastal seafaring and maritime operations that align into higher degrees.

## Career outcomes you can aim for

### Naval architect or ship designer

Crafting hulls, offshore structures or next-gen vessels.

### Ocean engineer or offshore systems specialist

Working on renewables, subsea systems, coastal infrastructure.

### Marine and offshore mechanical / electrical systems engineer

Managing propulsion, energy systems, vessel instrumentation.

### Seafaring professional / vessel master

Commanding or operating commercial vessels, international shipping or offshore craft.

### Maritime business and logistics manager

Working in ports, supply chains, international trade, marine services.

### Research or specialist roles

In marine technology, autonomous vessels, hydrodynamics, marine safety and regulation.



## WHY CHOOSE THIS PATH

Maritime degrees combine hands-on practical learning in cutting-edge marine environments with the development of advanced analytical and professional skills through research, design, and leadership-focused study. Designed with flexibility in mind, the programs provide multiple entry points and clear progression pathways, whether you're entering straight from school or looking to advance an existing marine career.

For further information on tertiary pathways visit **Australian Maritime College (AMC)** part of The University of Tasmania - [amc.edu.au](http://amc.edu.au)



# THE AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE OF ENGINEERING

School Based Apprenticeships & Traineeships (SBAT's) are a great way for school students to try a trade and embrace hands on learning. With more businesses looking at SBAT's as an option to employ staff and train then in new skills ready for post-secondary school opportunities.

Australian Institute of Engineering (AIE) specialises in SBAT training from hands-on learning initiatives to career-building pathways, AIE continues setting the standard in engineering education!

The AIE SBAT program is delivered in the workplace with regular virtual training sessions. The virtual sessions can be delivered from the secondary school at the apprentices attends during spare study lessons. With online learning materials available SBATS can continue studying outside the formal sessions.

## Cert III Marine Craft Construction (MEM30719)

The skills associated with this qualification are intended to apply to a wide range of marine craft construction work, including undertaking manufacturing and repairs of boats in fibre-reinforced materials, timber and metal and marine/boat yard operations, fitting out of internal and external components of vessels and installation of engineering drive systems.

This apprenticeship qualification is designed for someone interested in completing an apprenticeship in the marine craft construction/repair industry.

Units can be selected for the manufacturing and repair of boats in fibre-reinforced plastics, timber, and metal, or marina/boat yard operations

This program is to be delivered through facilitated virtual training sessions and practical skills training will occur in the workplace or an AIE Training location.

## Cert III in Engineering- Composites Trade (MEM31119)

Composites Trade prepares apprentices to work with advanced composite materials used across aerospace, marine, automotive, renewable energy, and specialist manufacturing. You'll learn material selection, fabrication, assembly and production techniques, and safe operation of industry-standard power tools and machinery.

Units can be selected to cover a range of skills including composite materials and properties, fabrication and assembly techniques, process selection and planning, quality and workplace safety and compliance

This program is to be delivered through facilitated virtual training sessions and practical skills training will occur in the workplace or an AIE Training location.

Apprentices trained in composites are in growing demand as industries shift from metals to lighter, stronger composite solutions. Career roles include composite technician, laminator, production operator, quality inspector, and progression into maintenance, supervision, or design support roles.

## WHY DO A SBAT?

### SBAT Participant

"I chose an SBAT because my school didn't offer any VET or non-ATAR subject choices for Years 11 & 12. It meant I could work one day a week doing something practical and something I'm interested in, instead of trying to study chemistry or history, and still get my HSC.

The best bit is getting a day away from school to work on something I enjoy and working with people who have similar interests to me. I enjoy working with my hands and learning to create something useful."

Talk to your teacher or careers advisor about finding a SBAT opportunity in your area.

## WHY DO BUSINESS EMPLOY SBAT'S?

### Brett Van Munster- Business Owner

"I see it as a very positive pathway from School to the workplace. It is an ideal transition for younger apprentices- An issue that we have seen younger apprentices struggle with over the years.

Other benefits are that it accelerates their formal study and qualifications early in their apprenticeship while providing an ideal transition into the workforce.

We see the online training model through the RTO system as far more efficient and a higher standard than the traditional method. The delivery of subjects is more flexible and consequently more relevant to our business activities; The result is that apprentices develop their skill set faster by having a better engagement with their studies and workplace."



## Workplace Based Apprentice Training

MEM30719 Certificate III Australian Institute of Engineering in Marine Craft Construction (Shipwright)

RTO ID : 45356 | CRICOS CODE : 03685G



## Are you after a flexible Apprentice training program?

- 1 Workplace based
- 2 Online Theory classes
- 3 Face to Face Workshops
- 4 School Based Apprentice options
- 5 Regional delivery
- 6 Customised Training Plan

For more information about Australian Institute of Engineering's training options please contact Brett Ambrosio for further information: Email : bambrosio@aie.edu.au | Tel : 0466260795



# FINDING THEIR SEA LEGS:

## Journey through the Marine Academy

For many young people, finishing school can feel like a voyage without a map. For Jack Gabites and Toby Sykes, the turning point came when they discovered The Industry School and its specialist Marine Academy; a program designed to connect students with hands-on, immerse experiences and real career opportunities in the thriving marine and boating sectors.

Their former schools offered little in the way of industry engagement, leaving them uncertain about the future. When Jack and Toby saw an advertisement for The Industry School, they each made the bold decision to switch schools at the beginning of Year 10; a move that would change their lives.



### A Strong Start

Like all new students, Jack and Toby began with the Rookies Challenge, a three-day camp designed to build resilience, confidence, and teamwork. For someone who loved camping, fishing, and the outdoors, it was the perfect introduction for Jack. "The camp got me excited about the school," Jack recalls. "The mud, swimming in the dam, the night walk... it was all my kind of thing." It was also where he forged new friendships, including meeting his now best mate. "It started with a quick wave and by the end of the week we were camping by the creek," he recalls.

The Industry School introduced Jack and Toby to the breadth of industry pathways and placed value on exploration and discovery. Toby already had a growing passion for marine after the family bought their first boat when he was 15 years old. A visit to the Sanctuary Cove International Boat Show opened Jack's eyes to the scale of the marine and boating industries. "I never realised the size or scope of the marine industry. I'd always assumed it was limited to the traditional trades but I love being out on the water, so I decided to pursue an electrotechnology pathway for boats."

### Testing the Waters

Through the Academy, Toby trialed a mechanical pathway while Jack trialed an electrical pathway, both through TAFE Trade Taster program. Toby found his fit, but Jack soon realised electrical wasn't for him... "too much Maths," he admits with a laugh. Instead, the real turning point came through the Marine Academy's strong network of industry partners, where work experience became his compass.

Over two months, Jack rotated through the Marine Academy consortium including Gold Coast City Marina (GCCM), Stella, Telwater, AME, and SeaTech to name a few. The variety gave him clarity: he enjoyed the diversity of a workplace and thrived in customer-facing environments. While he admired the opportunities at each workplace, he soon realised where he was a natural fit.

"I found that work experience wasn't only about the work and what I like and don't like, it was also about the people. Work experience forced me to talk to and meet new people," Jack says.

### Anchored in Success

That openness and attitude paid off. Jack secured a School-Based Traineeship in Warehouse and Logistics with GCCM, where no two days are the same. "Every day is different," he says. "There could be an emergency lift, working in dry storage, or helping a customer bring their boat from Brisbane." He loves being around customers — "boat owners are happy people."

This enthusiasm is shared by his colleagues and manager, Chloe Duroy at GCCM, who recognise his positive outlook and willingness to learn. "Jack is a real asset to GCCM. He's polite, well-spoken, and always willing to learn... every day we see him grow confident in how he communicates. Many vessel owners praise Jack on his willingness to help and how professional he is when he is down on the dock ready to catch lines."

After a series of work experience opportunities, Toby's hard work paid off and he was recently signed up into a School-Based Apprenticeship in Marine Mechanical Technology with Marine Mechanical Solutions. "I like tinkering with motors so this is a great opportunity for me. It's a small team, which really suits me, and I'm learning something new every week."

Toby is watching the industry closely as technology and electric boats start to play a larger role in the marine sector. "I may need to upskill later down the track to make sure that my qualification is relevant," Toby says.

Jack and Toby's teachers at The Industry School's Gold Coast campus have also played a role in keeping them on course. Once doubtful about the value of finishing Year 12, both students are now committed to graduating. "The help and support from the teachers and aides are much better. The learning is relevant... like in maths we're doing electrical work, in VET we're studying business skills, and in English we're writing a pitch. I still want my QCE so that I have other options later in life," Jack recalls.

### Charting the Future

With graduation just months away, Jack and Toby are set to move into full-time roles with their employers. Jack is saving for his own boat and dreams of one day working as a deckhand on a superyacht, travelling the world.

Reflecting on his journey, Jack says, "I'm ahead of where I thought I would have been had I not joined the Marine Academy. I've had a complete switch in attitude to everything in my life... I think that's because I'm doing what I love."

For students like Jack and Toby, The Industry School's Marine Academy isn't just about learning technical skills, it's about finding purpose, community, and a future that feels as wide and open as the ocean itself.

The Marine Academy is open to students in Years 10-12 at The Industry School's Gold Coast and Redlands campuses.

Visit [deliberatelydifferent.com.au](https://deliberatelydifferent.com.au) for more info.



## FEATURE ARTICLES

# WORK WITH PURPOSE

We all have a responsibility to protect our waterways.

# SUSTAINABILITY IN THE AUSTRALIAN MARINE INDUSTRY



Australia's love for boating goes hand in hand with our respect for the water. As more people embrace the boating lifestyle, the marine industry is stepping up to ensure our oceans, rivers and waterways remain healthy for generations to come. Today, sustainability isn't just a trend, it's driving innovation and opening up exciting new career pathways.

Across the country, forward-thinking marine businesses are leading the way with practical solutions that balance adventure with environmental care. Take GoBoat, for example. This homegrown success story operates a fleet of hire-and-drive boats with a difference, every vessel is 100% electric. By swapping traditional petrol engines for electric propulsion systems, GoBoat customers can enjoy a peaceful cruise with zero emissions and minimal impact on local waterways and wildlife. It's a model of how technology and sustainability can come together seamlessly in leisure boating.

Another standout is Sail Exchange. Founded on the simple yet powerful idea of reducing waste, this innovative company rescues sails that would otherwise end up in landfill. These used sails are inspected, graded and given a second life, then sold on to new owners, used for smaller craft, or transformed into practical goods. It's a brilliant example of the circular economy in action, where nothing goes to waste and resources are valued for as long as possible.



Seavolt is developing the nation's first DC fast-charging network for recreational and commercial electric boats.

## There's strong demand for skilled tradespeople who can maintain & service new-generation boats

Beyond individual businesses, the broader Australian marine sector is embracing sustainable materials, cleaner energy, and greener production methods. Boat builders are trialling eco-friendly resins and more efficient hull designs. Marinas are installing solar panels and adopting smart water and waste management systems.

This sustainability push isn't just good for the planet, it's creating rewarding work for people who care about making a difference. New roles are emerging in electric propulsion, renewable energy systems, green manufacturing, waste reduction and recycling, environmental monitoring, and customer education. There's strong demand for skilled tradespeople who can maintain and service new-generation boats, as well as marketers and business leaders who can champion sustainability and guide customers towards responsible choices.

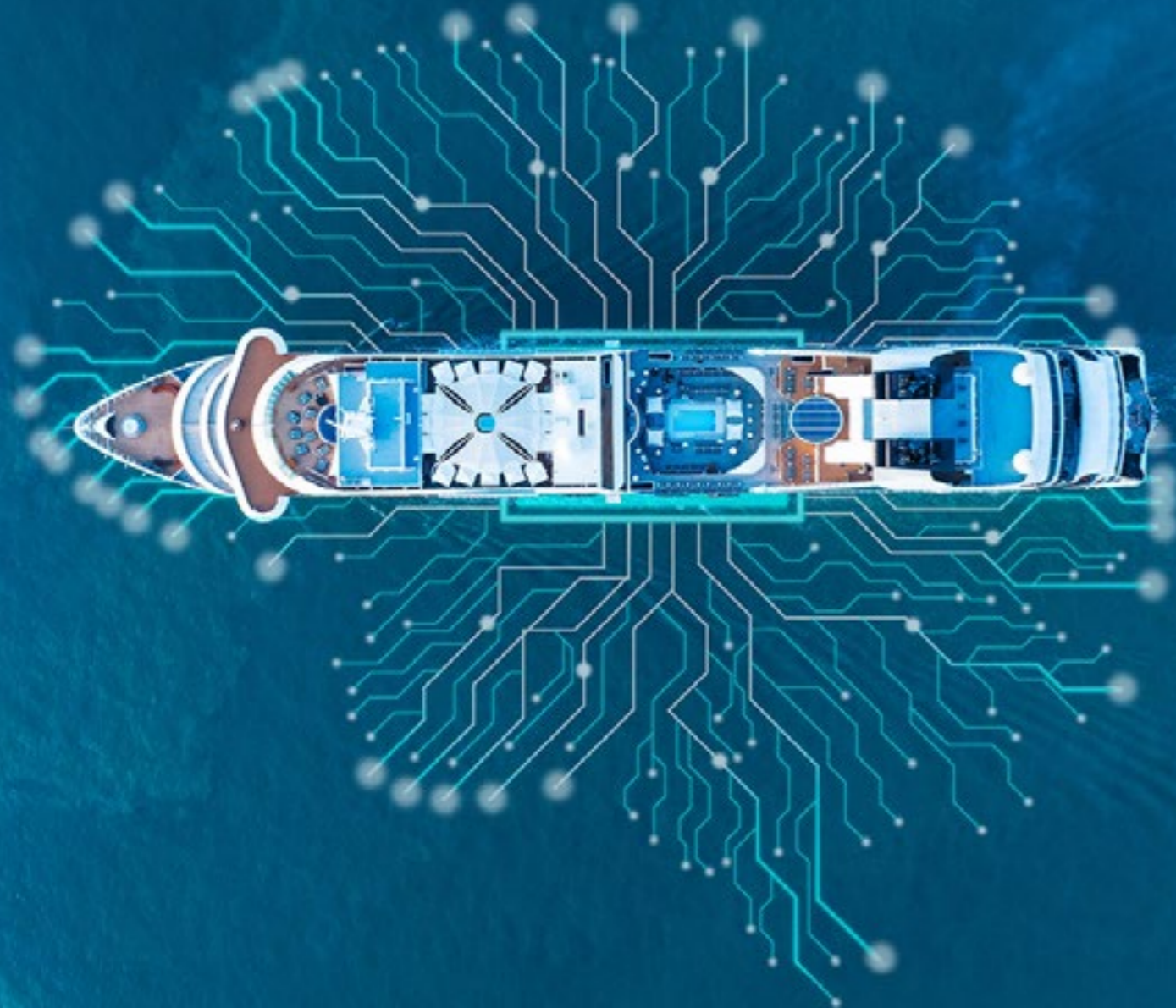
Whether you see yourself as an innovator designing tomorrow's eco-friendly vessels, a technician fine-tuning the latest electric engines, or a sustainability manager working to reduce a marina's carbon footprint - one thing is clear: the Australian marine industry is full steam ahead on its sustainability journey, and there's never been a more exciting time to be part of it.



# RIDING THE AI WAVE

HOW ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE IS SHAPING CAREERS IN THE MARINE INDUSTRY

The rise of AI means more interesting jobs, more problem-solving, and a future where people and smart technology work hand in hand to keep Australia's boating lifestyle thriving.



Artificial Intelligence (AI) is rapidly transforming industries across the globe, and the marine sector is no exception. From smarter boats to more efficient marinas, AI is unlocking opportunities that will define the future of work on and around the water.

So, what does this mean for people thinking about a career in boating or the broader marine industry? In a word: **opportunity**.

Across boat building, servicing, marina management, logistics, and marine research, AI is helping businesses work smarter, not harder. For example, predictive maintenance powered by AI can forecast when an engine or hull needs attention, helping boat owners avoid breakdowns and costly repairs. For technicians and mechanics, this means more rewarding work using cutting-edge diagnostic tools instead of just traditional wrench work.

In marinas, smart monitoring systems use AI to track vessel movements, improve berth allocation and optimise power and water use. All creating demand for roles in systems management, data analysis, and smart infrastructure maintenance.

On the water, autonomous vessels and navigation aids are becoming a reality. These innovations need designers, software engineers and skilled operators to test, refine, and maintain them. Even in customer-facing roles like sales or brokerage, AI tools are improving customer experience through personalised recommendations and smarter pricing, making staff more efficient and freeing up time for higher-value tasks like client relationships and tailored advice.

Far from replacing jobs, AI is creating new career pathways, evolving traditional trades, and attracting fresh talent. For people entering the workforce, it's a chance to gain sought-after digital skills alongside practical marine know-how - making you adaptable, employable, and ready for the next wave of innovation.

In marinas, smart monitoring systems use AI to track vessel movements, improve berth allocation and optimise power and water use.



# DIGITAL TWINS IN MODERN SHIPBUILDING

How AI and Digital Technology are Shaping the Future of Naval Architecture

## The Digital Revolution in Shipbuilding

Incat Crowther, a global digital shipbuilder with over 40 years of experience and more than 793 vessels delivered worldwide, is pioneering the use of digital twin technology in marine vessel construction. A digital twin is a complete 3D digital model of a vessel that exists throughout its entire lifecycle—from initial design through construction and into operation.



## What is Digital Shipbuilding?

Digital shipbuilding combines cutting-edge technology with traditional naval architecture expertise. At Incat Crowther, vessels begin as a 3D computer model - a digital twin - that captures every system, component, and detail of the ship. This technology allows:

- Designers and clients to visualise the vessel before construction begins.
- Shipyards worldwide to build from identical, precise specifications.
- Problems to be identified and solved digitally, reducing costly construction delays.
- Operators to receive a complete digital model for lifetime maintenance planning.



## Real-World Applications: Leading the Zero-Emissions Future

Incat Crowther is applying digital twin technology to design next-generation electric and hybrid vessels. Recent projects include Hydromover 2.0, an all-electric cargo vessel for Singapore featuring advanced autonomous capabilities, and a fleet of 12 hybrid passenger ferries for Italian operator Liberty Lines. The company has also designed electric ferries for New Zealand, hybrid crew transfer vessels for offshore wind farms, and the world's first large dual-fuel LNG catamaran ferry, Eleanor Roosevelt.

## CAREER PATHWAYS: WHERE STEM MEETS THE SEA

The digital shipbuilding revolution creates exciting career opportunities for young people passionate about technology and the marine industry. Naval architects and marine engineers now work with:

✓  
3D CAD software and virtual reality systems for ship design

✓  
Battery systems and electric propulsion technologies

✓  
Sustainable design principles reducing maritime emissions

As the maritime industry transitions toward zero emissions by 2050, digital twins and AI-powered design tools will be essential. Students interested in combining environmental sustainability, cutting-edge technology, and global impact should consider naval architecture - where every design helps shape the future of sustainable ocean transport.

Learn more about Incat Crowther: [incatcrowther.com](https://incatcrowther.com)

## PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT AND TRAINING

# A CAREER WITH A HORIZON

Stand out from the crowd.



## Getting your **BOAT LICENCE**

For more information on getting a licence in your state.



- [NEW SOUTH WALES](#)
- [SOUTH AUSTRALIA](#)
- [QUEENSLAND](#)
- [VICTORIA](#)

If you're thinking about a career in the marine industry, one of the best things you can do is get your boat licence. Not only is it an essential credential for many boating-related jobs, but it's also a fun and empowering experience that gets you out on the water, builds your confidence and familiarises you with the language and safety principles of boating.

Whether you're looking to work in marina operations, boat sales, marine rescue or on-water services, holding a licence shows initiative and gets you closer to the action.

You don't need to wait until you're an adult, either. In Queensland, you can get your boat licence from age 16, and in New South Wales you can apply from age 12 (though younger licence holders will have some restrictions such as speed limits and supervision requirements).

There are many accredited training providers offering practical and theory-based courses. To find an approved, trustworthy BIA member near you, jump onto the [BIA website](#) and search the directory.





## Your WHS Induction to the Marine Industry!

Are you a high school student interested in boats, the ocean, or working in the marine industry?  
The Marine Card allows you to get started safely and professionally.

### Why the Marine Card matters



- Industry Requirement** – Most marinas, boatyards, and marine businesses require a Marine Card Induction before you can step on-site.
- Safety First** – It proves you understand basic safety and environmental practices—critical in marine workplaces. Keeping you and your co-workers safe.
- Stand Out to Employers** – It shows initiative and responsibility, which employers love to see in young applicants.

### What employers are looking for



- Safety awareness**  
Marine Card Inducted.
- Willingness to learn**  
Show you're ready to grow.
- Reliability**  
Turning up on time and working hard.
- Teamwork**  
Being respectful and helpful on-site.
- Passion for the industry**  
If you love boats, let it show!

#### COURSE DELIVERY OPTIONS

#### ONLINE

Learn at your own pace, anytime, anywhere.

#### IN-CLASS

Delivered face-to-face for groups of 15 or more students.



## READY TO LAUNCH YOUR MARINE CAREER?

Your Marine Card induction is a simple but powerful first step. It opens doors to real-world experience and shows you're ready to be part of Australia's exciting marine industry.

**READY TO GET STARTED?**  
[marinecard.org.au](http://marinecard.org.au)

Speak with your teacher/careers advisor or reach out to us.  
[info@marinejobs.org.au](mailto:info@marinejobs.org.au)

## FIRST AID + CPR TRAINING



In the marine industry safety is paramount. Being trained in First Aid and CPR allows you to respond swiftly and confidently during emergencies, whether it's at sea or on land, and shows your commitment to safety in the boating community.

Make sure the First Aid course you select includes the nationally recognised units of competency: **HLTAID009 (Provide Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation)** and **HLTAID011 (Provide First Aid)**. These certifications ensure you are trained in emergency first aid techniques, such as CPR, wound management and dealing with medical emergencies.

Completing a nationally accredited First Aid course not only enhances your ability to handle emergencies but also improves your professional credibility. It's an essential skill that not only contributes to workplace safety but also makes you a more valuable asset to an employer.



## Find your gift for Maritime

Everyone has a gift. And at TAFE NSW, we want to help you find yours. Get your maritime career underway with affordable, practical courses to get the skills you need.

- + Maritime Operations (General Purpose Hand Near Coastal) (MAR10224)
- + Maritime Operations (Marine Engine Driver Grade 3 Near Coastal) (MAR20424)
- + Maritime Operations (Coxswain Grade 1 Near Coastal) (MAR20324)
- + Safety Training Certification Skill Set (MARSS00033)

Enrol now at TAFE NSW

🔍 TAFE NSW Maritime

☎ 131 601



# VOLUNTEERING

Volunteering is an excellent way to gain hands-on experience, develop your skills and contribute to the marine community. Organisations like **Marine Rescue NSW / Marine Rescue QLD, Marine Rescue SA, Marine Rescue VIC, Surf Lifesaving Australia** and **Making Waves Foundation** offer opportunities for individuals to learn valuable skills in marine safety, emergency response and teamwork. Volunteering with these organisations can provide real world experience in high pressure situations, which is an asset to anyone pursuing a career in the boating and maritime industries.

By volunteering, you'll gain exposure to essential marine operations such as search and rescue, marine radio communication and emergency management. It's an opportunity to give back to the community while developing a skill set that will enhance your professional development and make you more competitive in the job market. You'll also build strong networks with professionals in the marine industry, creating valuable connections for your future career.



# A hands-on taste of MARINE CAREERS FOR STUDENTS

Ever wondered what it's like to work in the marine industry? The **Marine Taster Program**, run by the Boating Industry Association (BIA) and Marine Jobs is delivered in conjunction with schools and local Registered Training Organisations (RTOs), gives you the chance to find out. Over four days, you'll roll up your sleeves and try real marine trade skills - like working on outboard engines, learning fiberglass techniques, and even applying gelcoat. You'll also earn your BIA Marine Card, which is a great first step toward future training and jobs.

It's not just about learning skills - you'll meet people who work in the industry every day. At the end of the program, you will join an Industry Meet & Greet, where you can talk to employers and mentors about what it's really like to build a career on the water. If you love boats, technology, or hands-on work, this program could be the start of something big.

## FOR PARENTS AND CAREERS ADVISORS: Opening Doors to Real Opportunities

The Marine Taster Program is designed to help young people explore practical, rewarding career paths in the marine sector. It combines hands-on training with industry networking, giving students a clear picture of the opportunities available -from traditional trades to emerging technologies like vessel electrification and digital systems.

By participating, students gain confidence, skills and valuable connections with local businesses. This program is an excellent stepping stone for those considering vocational training or apprenticeships. In helping address the growing demand for skilled professionals in the marine industry, it also allows students to "try" out the marine industry before committing to further study, a SBAT or apprenticeship.



For further information and to enquire about the possibility of running a Marine Taster program in your school please email us at [info@marinejobs.org.au](mailto:info@marinejobs.org.au)



# Marine Jobs Scholarship Program 2026

## YOUR GATEWAY TO A FUTURE ON THE WATER

The marine industry is evolving rapidly, offering exciting opportunities for those passionate about life on and around the water. From marina operations to cutting-edge technologies like vessel electrification and AI integration, the sector needs skilled professionals ready to shape its future.

The Marine Industry Futures Scholarship Program is designed to help you take that first step. Whether you're a school leaver, a career changer, or someone already working in the industry, this program provides financial support and professional development to launch your marine career.

### THE PROGRAM AIMS TO:

**Build the workforce of tomorrow** by encouraging training and retention in the marine sector.

**Promote diversity and inclusion**, welcoming applicants from underrepresented groups.

**Support regional marine hubs**, ensuring opportunities reach every corner of Australia.

**Foster innovation and sustainability**, preparing the industry for a greener future.

**Inspire school students** to explore marine careers early.

**DESIGNED TO HELP YOU TAKE THAT FIRST STEP**

### WHO CAN APPLY?

To be eligible, you must:

- Be an Australian citizen or permanent resident, aged 17 or older.
- Be enrolled or planning to enrol in a marine-related qualification at a Registered Training Organisation (RTO).
- Show a genuine interest in the marine industry, demonstrated through work experience, volunteering, or even holding a recreational boat licence.

Priority will be given to applicants who:

- Live in regional or remote areas.
- Belong to underrepresented groups (e.g., women, Indigenous Australians).
- Have financial need.
- Demonstrate commitment to the industry through studies or hands-on experience.
- Are volunteering for a related not for profit such as Surf Lifesaving Australia or a marine rescue organisation in their state.
- If at school, re enrolled in schooling and have/will have completed year 12.

### WHAT'S IN IT FOR YOU?

**Financial Support:** Up to **50% contribution** toward RTO course fees.

**Mentorship:** Access to the **Marine Jobs Mentor Program**, connecting you with industry leaders.

**Professional Development:** Invitations to workshops, conferences, and training sessions, including the **BIA Marine Card** and webinars.



### HOW TO APPLY

You'll need:

- A personal statement outlining your career goals and passion for the marine industry.
- Academic transcripts and certificates.
- Proof of enrolment or acceptance in your chosen course.
- Letters of recommendation from your school or employer.

### SELECTION CRITERIA

We're looking for:

- Passion and commitment to the marine industry.
- Academic merit and potential.
- Community involvement or leadership experience.
- Alignment with industry skill needs.
- Willingness to accept scholarship terms and conditions.

### AFTER YOU GRADUATE

Recipients expectations:

- Provide evidence of course completion.
- Contribute to industry outreach, such as social media engagement or attending career events.

### Ready to Set Sail on Your Career?

The Marine Industry Futures Scholarship Program is more than financial support. It's your chance to join a thriving, innovative sector that's shaping the future of boating and maritime.

To request an application form along with scholarship terms and conditions, please email: [info@marinejobs.com.au](mailto:info@marinejobs.com.au)



# BIA'S MENTOR PROGRAM

YOUR CHANCE TO LEARN FROM THE BEST

If you're serious about building a career in the marine industry, the Marine Jobs Mentor Program is your opportunity to take things to the next level. In 2026 this program connects you with experienced marine professionals who've been where you are and know what it takes to succeed. Imagine having a mentor with over a decade of industry experience guiding you through your career decisions, helping you set goals, and helping you to open doors to new opportunities.

The program is designed to make mentoring easy and effective. Using the Mentorloop platform, you'll have structured sessions every four weeks where you and your mentor can track progress, refine your career objectives, and tackle real-world challenges together. It's not just about advice - it's about building confidence, growing your network, and learning from someone who's already achieved what you're aiming for.



**READY TO  
LEVEL UP  
YOUR  
CAREER?**

**Don't wait for opportunities to come to you - Create them!**

Apply now for the Marine Jobs Mentor Program and start building the connections and skills that will shape your future in the marine industry. Email [info@marinejobs.org.au](mailto:info@marinejobs.org.au) to register your interest and obtain an application form. Places on this mentor program are limited and each application is reviewed against our criteria so ensure that you complete the application as fully as possible.

# PUTTING YOUR BEST FOOT FORWARD

## TIPS FOR STARTING OUT

Starting your career journey can feel daunting, especially if you don't have much work experience yet. But don't worry! Marine employers understand that everyone starts somewhere. The key is to show your enthusiasm, your willingness to learn, and your interest in the industry.

### Writing your resume

Your resume is your chance to introduce yourself and make a great first impression. Here's what to focus on:

Keep it clear and simple. Use a clean layout with headings like Contact Details, Education, Experience, Skills and Interests.

Focus on what you do have. If you don't have job experience yet, highlight things like:

- ✓ Any school projects, clubs or sports teams (these show teamwork and commitment).
- ✓ Volunteer work or community activities.
- ✓ Skills like communication, punctuality, and a good attitude.

Show your interest in boating. If you have a boat licence, have done sailing courses, or love being on the water, include this! Employers love to see genuine interest.

**Check your spelling and grammar. Ask a teacher, family member or friend to proofread it for you.**



### Preparing for an interview

Landing an interview is exciting, it means an employer sees your potential.

Here's how to make a good impression:

Do your homework. Learn a little about the business. Look at their website or social media so you can talk about why you want to work there.

Dress neatly and arrive early. Even for casual jobs, looking tidy and arriving 5-10 minutes early shows respect and reliability.

Be friendly and positive. Smile, shake hands if appropriate, and thank them for their time.

Show you're keen. Be ready to answer questions like: Why do you want to work here? or What do you enjoy about boating? Also, prepare to ask your own question, for example, What skills would help me do well in this role?

**Follow up. After your interview, a quick email or message thanking them for the opportunity leaves a great impression.**



YOU'LL BE ON THE WATER IN NO TIME!

### Try to remember

Everyone starts with no experience, what matters is your attitude. Marine businesses value team players who turn up on time, work safely, and show respect for people and boats alike. So be honest, be yourself, and be ready to learn.



# NOW HIRING

## Find Your Next Career

**Australia's world-class marine industry is calling for motivated people of all ages, backgrounds, and skill sets.**

With such a wide range of career pathways, from hands-on trades to advanced technologies, there's never been a better time to build your future on the water.



**DISCOVER YOUR FUTURE IN AUSTRALIA'S MARINE INDUSTRY**

[marinejobs.org.au](http://marinejobs.org.au) | [facebook.com/groups/marinejobsfindyournextcareer](https://facebook.com/groups/marinejobsfindyournextcareer)