

The Case for a Maritime Specialist Skills Centre at Kangan TAFE Docklands

“The Maritime industry is an intrinsic part in the Australian economy in the provision of importation and export of goods, as well as tourism and other value added activities. The Australian Maritime industry has estimated annual revenue of \$5.76 billion. Over 95 per cent of Australian exports are carried by sea and 10 per cent of the world’s cargo passes through Australian ports. The Maritime industry will continue to face increased workforce pressures, including competition from skilled international workers competing for local jobs and access to training. The ageing workforce is also a continued area of concern. Succession planning will be vital to maintain a robust and sustainable industry into the future.” April 2018 Executive Summary extract. See: https://www.australianindustrystandards.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/DRAFT-Maritime-Skills-Forecast-2018-Final_v2.pdf

Given the size and growth of the boating industry, the paucity of maritime education and training in Melbourne is inexplicable. There is an opportunity to consolidate what marine training occurs in Melbourne and readily expand the scope of training offered without any significant investment. Kangan TAFE is located in Docklands and has opportunity for expansion into adjacent Fox land if necessary.

The political landscape for Maritime education and career opportunities may soon change. An extract from ALP Election Policy Platform states: *“The new Labor Government promises to enhance Australia’s economic sovereignty and national security by creating a Strategic Fleet to secure access to fuel supplies, even in times of global instability. Labor will appoint a Taskforce to guide the establishment of the Strategic Fleet, which is likely to include up to a dozen vessels including oil tankers, container ships and gas carriers. Labor will address skills shortages in the Australian maritime sector by re-establishing the Maritime Workforce Development Forum, abolished by the Coalition Government after it took office in 2013.* See: <https://www.alp.org.au/policies/australian-shipping-industry>

The delivery of marine technology, marine services and related training courses will enhance Melbourne’s credibility as an international port city, will activate Docklands and will support the recreational boating industry, which is a major economic driver in this State. Training in the Docklands area will encourage watercraft-based employment of all types (e.g. tourism, ferry transport, recreation boating, shipping). Increased numbers of students and staff will generate economic up-lift for Docklands.

In relation to Melbourne, currently an unmet need exists for training in the **recreational boating** industry e.g. marine engineering, small boat building, sail making, electronics repair skills, heritage boat restoration etc.

Note:

Victoria University no longer delivers maritime training and GoTAFE is in Werribee.
Chisholm Institute of TAFE delivers skills training for the NAVY

Industry stakeholders support

- **Victorian Skills Commission** is ultimately responsible for determining industry skills requirements in Victoria.
- **PwC Skills**, the national skills service organisation with responsibility to determine strategic direction of maritime skills training. The PwC industry Sector Forecast is currently being prepared by PwC Skills.
 - **Boating industry** sources indicate that the sector could absorb graduates with an expanded set of maritime technical and other related skills. Growth in the cruise ship industry and coastal tourism in the region may offer employment dependent on new skills.
- **Boating Industry Victoria (BIAV)** in its recent report '*Future Outlook*' by Ben Scullin states:
The Department of Education and Training is estimating our 2019 total Victorian industry 'training needs' to be in excess of 300-400 apprentices above current numbers.
The Department of Education and Training '**JOBS and TRAINING NEEDS REPORT**' (*Metro Melbourne*) 2019 has estimated that there are **200-300 Marine Craft Construction apprenticeships required in 2019** Each year for the past decade the Federal Government **National Skills Needs List** has included all marine trades - Boatbuilding and Marine mechanic
 - The recent establishment of **Better Boating Victoria by the State Govt** is indicative that support for the recreational boating sector has been identified and this is likely to include skills training.
- **M.I.A.L Maritime Industry Australia Ltd.** July 2019 *Produced the Seafaring Skills Census Report.* An industry wide analysis on skills demand in the maritime industry – on and off-shore. It indicates that the demand for qualified seafarers will rise and there is already a deficit in certain skill-sets.

- **Collaborations**

There is the potential for collaboration between several **universities in Melbourne** and collaboration with the **Australian Maritime College** Launceston. The AMC has recently "*expanding the national footprint in 2018*" commenced delivering short courses and post-graduate courses at a newly created Study Centre at the National Maritime Museum in Sydney. Other opportunities for collaboration may occur with the **Australian Maritime Safety Authority**. AMSA reports that in order to work in the Australian maritime industry accredited qualifications (or 'tickets') from a registered training organisation are required. Fields include maritime safety, pollution response or handling dangerous cargo, and specialist training. Specialist training is necessary for responding to or handling dangerous cargo.

- **Australian Maritime College (University of Tasmania)**

Incorporates the ARC Research Training Centre for Naval Design and Manufacturing (RTCNDM)

- **The Australian Navy** recognises that while construction of new vessels will occur in South and Western Australia it is significant that Victorian expertise in advanced manufacturing and marine technology will be integral to these projects. Training in maritime technology as well as seamanship will be critical. **The Australian Navy** states that although Victoria is one of the most populous states it accounts for only 12 per cent of Navy recruits. This is inconsistent with strong historic links between the Navy, the State of Victoria and the City of Melbourne in particular. The Australian Navy originated as the *Victorian Naval Brigade* formed in the 1800s prior to Federation, Navy headquarters were in Melbourne at Victoria Barracks until moving to Canberra in the mid 1960s.

Note: TAFE NSW recently acted to boost engagement with Navy maritime training “*TAFE NSW Strengthens Pathways to Naval shipbuilding jobs*”. See

<https://www.defenceconnect.com.au/maritime-antisub/4354-tafe-nsw-strengthens-pathways-to-naval-shipbuilding-job>

- **Australian Maritime Safety Authority**

Mick McKinley CEO

Gary Prosser

Australia’s national regulatory body, promoting the safety and protection of our marine environment and combat ship-sourced pollution. We provide the infrastructure for safety of navigation in Australian waters, including lighthouses and maintain a national search and rescue service for maritime and aviation. <https://www.amsa.gov.au>

- **Off-shore and Specialist Ships Association (OSSA)** has within its vision stronger engagement with young people to disseminate information around the diversity of careers within shipping and related industries. OSSA has noted an absence of careers advice in this sector of the modern economy. OSSA members are determined that this deficit be addressed.

- **Women’s International Shipping and Trading Association**

Industry peak body for women in management in maritime transportation and related trades.

Presence in Australia since 1974. See: <https://www.wista.net/>

- **Port Education Centre, Fisherman’s Bend**

Owned and operated by the Port of Melbourne, the Port Education Centre hosts education and training seminars for school and community groups and the logistics industry. Most port activities not accessible to the public, but the Port Education Centre provides a unique opportunity to see and learn about the port’s operations and the vital role it plays in the national economy.

See: <https://www.portofmelbourne.com/community-education/port-education/port-education-centre/>

- **The International Specialist Skills Institute. Carlton**

CEO Wendy Draayers

A Melbourne based independent, national organisation that for over two decades has worked with Australian governments. Its Vision is to be the leading provider of fellowships, which address specialised skills in key areas of Australian industry and education. The potential for collaboration around enabling promotion of specialist maritime skills training.

- **The Nautical Institute** (AMC Tasmanian Branch)

An international professional organisation for maritime professionals, based in the United Kingdom. It was established in 1971 and has the status of a company limited by guarantee and is registered with the Charity Commission. It has over 7,000 members in over 110 countries.

- **Australian Maritime and Fisheries Academy (AMFA)**

Campuses Port Lincoln, Port Adelaide South Australia and Darwin NT

Hagan Stehr - Chair

Delivers training in maritime, fishing and seafood industry

See <https://www.amfa.edu.au>

- **Australian Merchant Navy**

Member Organisation for all merchant marine ratings, officers, engineers current and retired.

See <http://australianmerchantnavy.com>

Kangan TAFE Institute Context

There are obvious advantages in establishing a **Marine Skills Specialist Education Centre** within an existing TAFE and most importantly at Docklands.

- Already has global presence in China, Korea, India and South America. Training in Marine technology and allied marine retail services is now being delivered. The scope of training is limited and could be expanded to include delivery of non-accredited units related to licensing and safety.
- Already delivers marine technology yet has no water access.
- Already an international presence and relationships with India, Indonesia, Sri Lanka and Malaysia – all maritime nations requiring maritime training.
- Could deliver training related to **Watercraft Licensing**.
- Could deliver AMSA approved **credentials in Water Safety and Response** consistent with and compliant with the National Training Plan.
- Could apply to **Australian Maritime College** for permission to deliver a suite of programs (as has recently occurred in Sydney).
- Could collaborate with and access the planned Melbourne Marine Operation Service Depot for training purposes.
- Could deliver marine related hobby courses (e.g. navigation, boat repair, sail making).
- Could expand training in maritime skills – related to cruise shipping, events, hospitality, retail.
- Plans are proposed expand Kangan into a new Fox development adjacent to and to the north of Kangan TAFE.

Note: Kangan Institute hosted the **2019 Global Skills Challenge**. Australia's biggest international skills excellence competition in 2019 – 500 competitors and officials from 15 different countries competing in 24 in a range of trades and skills, from carpentry and cookery through to 3D game design and cloud computing. WorldSkills Australia CEO Brett Judd said Australia was regarded as a high performing Vocational Education Nation, and we were currently 10th on the WorldSkills rankings after the 2017 International Championships.