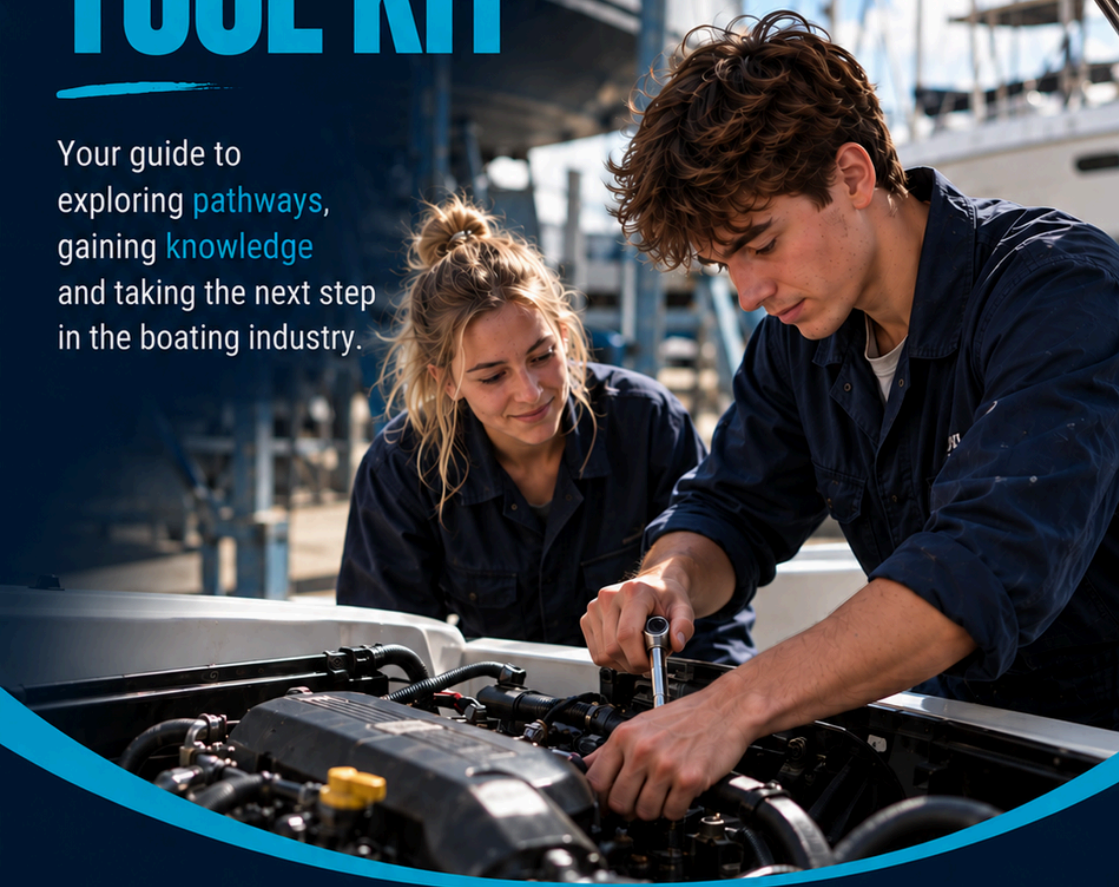


STUDENT TOOL KIT

Your guide to
exploring **pathways**,
gaining **knowledge**
and taking the next step
in the boating industry.



EXPLORE
PATHWAYS



GAIN
KNOWLEDGE



MEET
THE INDUSTRY



BUILD
YOUR FUTURE

What's inside

Jump straight to what you need.

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Why choose a marine trade career?

Real trades. Real boats. Real jobs — right here in Victoria.

Victoria's marine industry needs skilled young people. If you love working with your hands, fixing things, building stuff, or just being around boats, a marine trade could be your future. Best part? You get paid to learn through a real apprenticeship.

EARN WHILE YOU LEARN

Get a wage from day one while training on the job.

HANDS-ON, NOT DESK-BOUND

Work outdoors, in workshops, and hands-on with real boats — not stuck behind a screen.

NATIONALLY RECOGNISED

Every course here leads to a real, recognised qualification.

JOBS WAITING

Victoria's marine businesses are actively looking for apprentices right now.

3 marine trades. One goal: your future.

Marine Mechanic • Boat Builder • Marine Trimmer

900K

registered boats
in Australia

2.5M

marine licence holders
in Australia

75%

of marine businesses are
small, family-owned



Meet Nicole — Superyachts to Strategic Leadership

Scan to see where a marine career can take you.

How to use this toolkit

Everything you need to explore your next step, in one place.

This toolkit brings together the course flyers for marine trade apprenticeships in Victoria. Flip through each course to see what you'll learn, where you'll study, and what jobs it can lead to. New courses get added here as they become available — so keep this toolkit handy.

What's inside

- 1 Part 1 — About Us: who we are & why Boating Careers
- 2 Part 2 — Knowledge: boat parts, motors, sailing & fast facts
- 3 Part 3 — Pathway: real courses & how to find an employer
- 4 Part 4 — Info: getting started, pay & FAQ



Scan to explore every course,
trade video and event on our site:

boatingcareers.com.au

A quick note for careers advisors & parents

This toolkit is designed to sit alongside a conversation with a careers advisor, teacher or parent — not replace one. Encourage students to ask questions and reach out to Boating Careers directly if they want to know more.

Who is Boating Careers?

The people behind this toolkit.

Boating Careers is an initiative of the Boating Industry Association of Victoria (BIAV) — we connect young people to real careers in Victoria's marine industry. No ATAR required, just a willingness to learn.

We exist because Victoria's boating businesses need skilled tradespeople, and most students have never even heard these careers are an option. So we're here to close that gap.

What we actually do

- Run Immersion Days & events — so you can discover a trade before committing to anything
- Connect students with employers and host businesses looking for apprentices
- Partner with TAFEs and training providers across Victoria
- Support you every step of the way, from your first question onward

We're not a training provider ourselves

Think of us as the connector — we guide you to the right course, the right employer, and the right people, across these marine trades.

Come and meet us in person

Two ways to try a marine trade before you commit to anything.

Reading about a trade is one thing — trying it is another. Boating Careers runs real, hands-on events throughout the year where you can meet apprentices, see real workshops, and ask questions in person.

IMMERSION DAYS

School groups spend a day at a real marine business — seeing the workshop, trying real tools, and meeting apprentices doing the job right now. Held at host businesses across Victoria throughout the year.

HOW TO JOIN

Contact Boating Careers to register your class, and we'll get in touch to organise a session near you. We will be in touch with your school and local LLEN.

MELBOURNE BOAT SHOW

An annual, free-entry boat show at Docklands running several days, with a dedicated Boating Careers stand alongside 15+ marine industry businesses. Come see live activations — marine trimming demos, engine and tech displays, and boat-building in action.

GOOD TO KNOW

Free entry, all ages welcome — bring your family or come with friends.



Dates change every year

Scan or visit boatingcareers.com.au for this year's dates and how to register.



PART 2

LET'S DIVE INTO SOME BOAT DETAILS

Boat types, parts, motors, sailing, tools and a few fast facts.

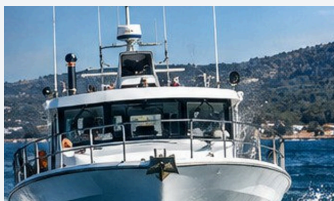
Types of boats

Different boats. Different jobs. Opportunities across all three trades.



Trailer boats

Small to mid-size powerboats kept on a trailer and launched at a boat ramp. Popular for fishing and family days out, and many are powered by outboard motors.



Cruisers and houseboats

Larger powerboats with cabins designed for longer trips or overnight stays. They may use single or multiple outboard, sterndrive or inboard engines. Houseboats are built to be lived on.



Sports boats and runabouts

Fast, open boats built for water-skiing, tubing and cruising around bays and lakes.

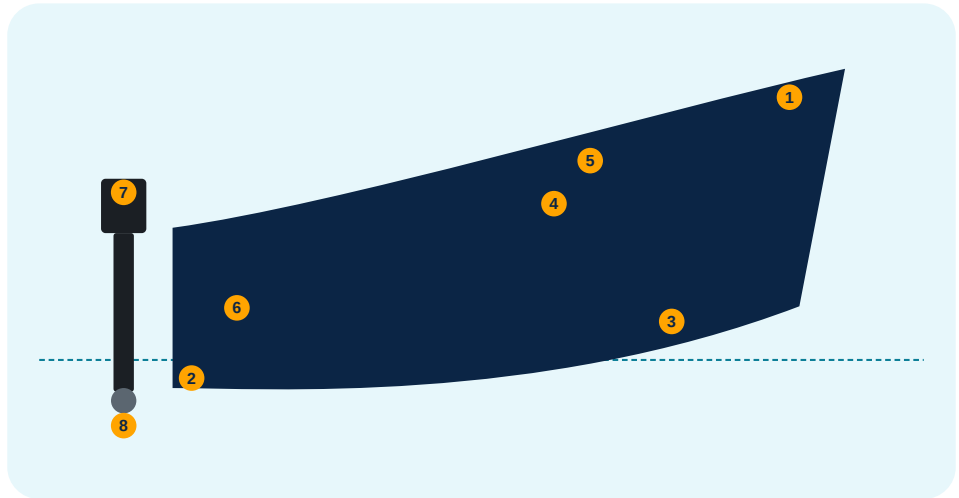
AND MANY MORE

Sailboats use sails for propulsion and often have an engine for manoeuvring and when there is little wind. Tinnies are small aluminium boats. Superyachts are large luxury vessels, often over 24 metres.

Whatever the boat, skilled people are needed to build it, maintain its mechanical systems and create or repair its interior. That is where boat builders, marine mechanics and marine trimmers come in.

Parts of a boat

Get familiar with the words you'll hear on the job.



1 Bow
The front of the boat — built to cut through waves

2 Stern
The back of the boat

3 Hull
The outer shell that keeps the water out

4 Deck
The top surface you stand and walk on

5 Gunwale
The top edge along the side of the hull (say “gun-nel”)

6 Transom
The flat back wall where the motor attaches

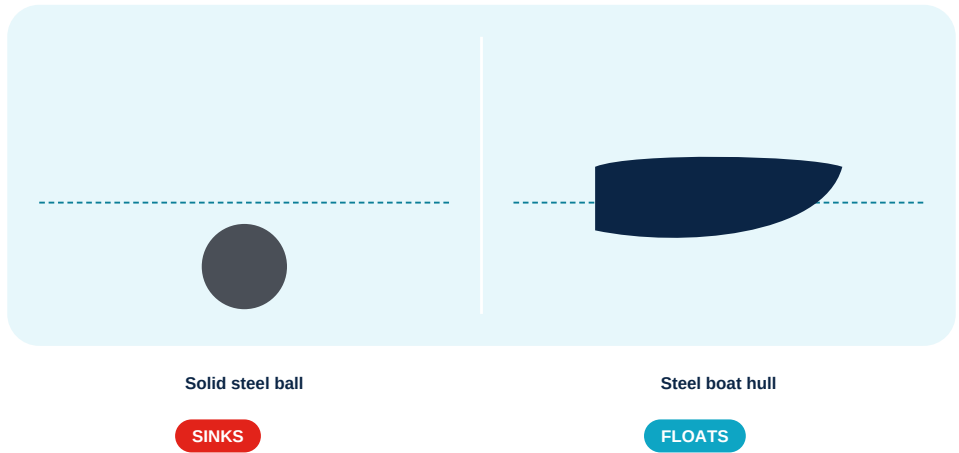
7 Outboard motor
Sits outside the hull and powers the boat

8 Propeller
Spins to push the boat through the water

Why doesn't a boat sink?

The same metal that sinks as a ball floats as a hull.

Drop a solid steel ball in water and it sinks straight away. But a steel ship, weighing thousands of tonnes, floats just fine. What's going on? It's all about shape.



So what's really going on?

- Both are made of the same heavy steel — shape changes everything
- A wide, hollow hull pushes aside ("displaces") a huge amount of water
- If the boat weighs less than the water it displaces, it floats

DID YOU KNOW?

Sealing the hull completely watertight is a big part of a Boat Builder's job — and most boats still carry a bilge pump, just in case a little water sneaks in.

How is a boat built?

Six stages, several different trades, one finished boat.

1

Design & drawing

Engineers plan the shape, size and structure before anything is cut.

2

Build the hull

The outer shell is shaped from fibreglass, timber or metal.

Boat Builder

3

Add the structure

Frames, decks and bulkheads go in to keep it strong.

Boat Builder

4

Fit it out

Seats, canopies, wiring and upholstery are fitted.

Marine Trimmer

5

Install & test the engine

The outboard or inboard motor goes in and gets tested.

Marine Mechanic

6

Launch!

The finished boat hits the water for the first time.

Keeping a boat shipshape

A little upkeep goes a long way — here's the rough schedule.



Every trip

Check fuel, oil and safety gear before you leave the dock.



Every season

Flush the engine, check the battery, and inspect hoses and belts.

Marine Mechanic



Every ~100 hours or yearly

Oil change, spark plugs and a full engine service.

Marine Mechanic



Every 1–2 years

Antifouling paint on the hull, to stop marine growth slowing it down.

Boat Builder



Every few years

Reupholster or replace worn seats, covers and canopies.

Marine Trimmer



Ongoing

Safety gear like flares and life jackets need regular checks and replacing by their expiry date.

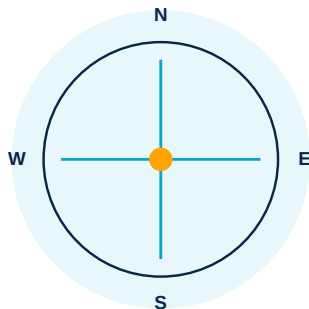
DID YOU KNOW?

Regular maintenance is exactly what keeps these three trades in demand — every boat on the water needs ongoing care, not just a one-off build.

How do you navigate on the water?

No street signs out here — sailors read the water instead.

There are no lanes or signposts on the water, so sailors combine a few simple tools and rules to always know where they are — and where they're going.



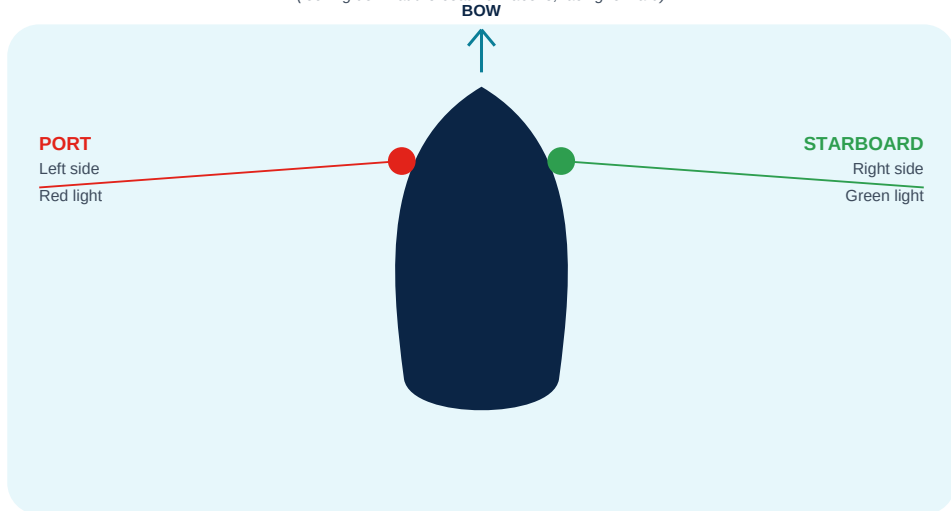
THE TOOLKIT SAILORS USE

- GPS & chartplotters — show exact position on a digital map
- Compass — always points north, even with no power or signal
- Tides & currents — change water depth and push a boat off course
- Buoys & channel markers — mark safe water and hazards

REMEMBER: PORT & STARBOARD

A boat's navigation lights follow the same rule everywhere: red on the port (left) side, green on starboard (right) — so other boats know which way you're facing, even in the dark.

(looking down at the boat from above, facing forward)



Fast facts about boats

A few things worth knowing before your next trivia night.

1

Boats have been around for over 10,000 years — from hollowed-out logs to today's fibreglass hulls.

2

The word "knot" comes from old sailors counting knots on a rope trailed behind the boat to measure speed.

3

Port lights are red, starboard lights are green — so other boats can tell which way you're facing, even at night.

4

Some racing boats can hit speeds of over 200 km/h on water.

5

A boat's top speed is linked to its length — longer hulls can outrun shorter ones before the water pushes back.

6

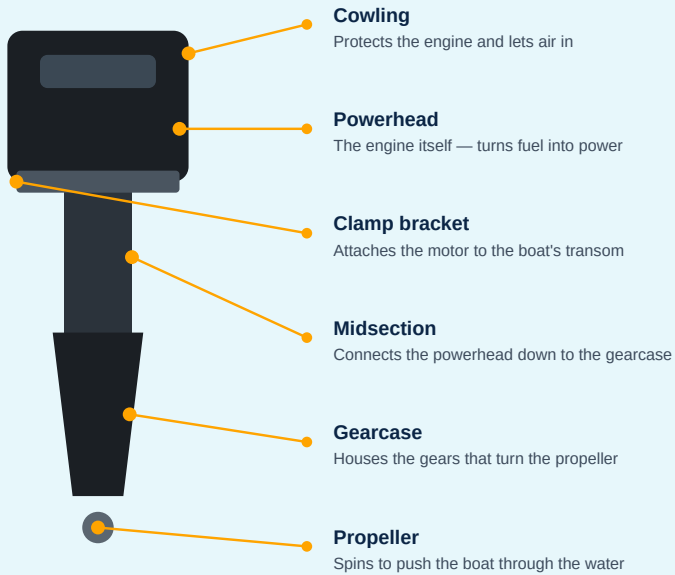
Australia has one of the longest coastlines of any country on Earth — plenty of water for a marine career.

7

You don't need a boat licence for these trades — a licence like Coxswain is only needed to actually drive a boat commercially, not to build or fix one.

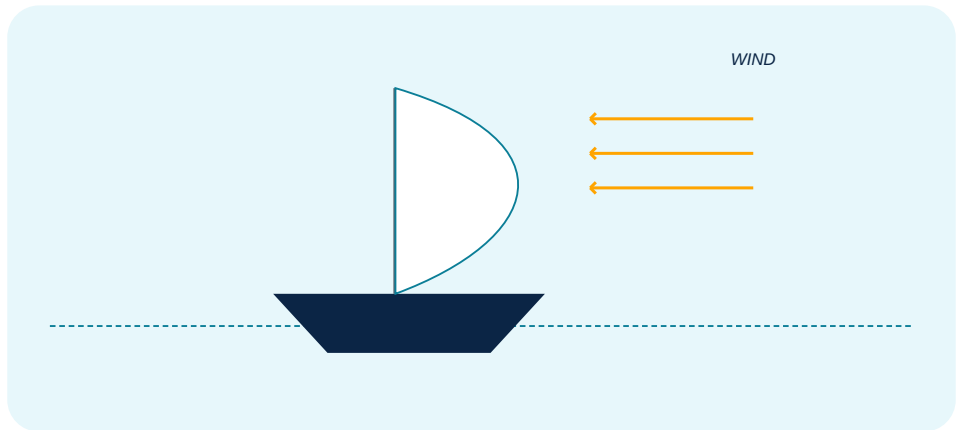
Parts of an outboard motor

The engine that powers most of the boats you'll see on the water.



How does sailing work?

No engine, no fuel — just wind and clever shapes.



Three things make it work

- The sail catches the wind and turns it into a forward push
- A keel or centreboard underneath stops the boat sliding sideways
- Trimming (adjusting) the sail angle controls speed and direction

DID YOU KNOW?

A sailboat can even travel almost into the wind by zig-zagging back and forth — sailors call this "tacking".

What's a hull made from?

Same job, one trade, three different materials.

Fibreglass

Light, low-maintenance and moulded into smooth curved shapes. It's what most recreational boats are built from today.

Boat Builder

Timber

The traditional choice — built plank by plank, it takes real craftsmanship and patience to get right.

Boat Builder

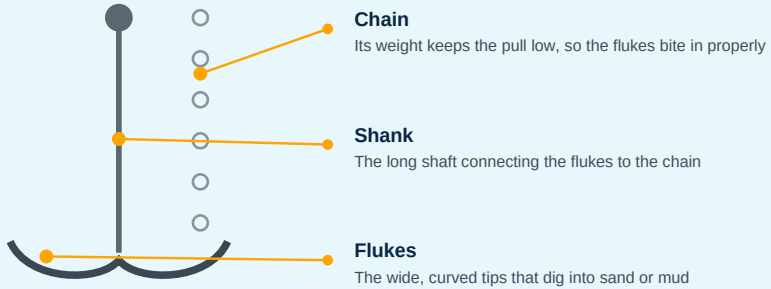
Aluminium & steel

Strong and tough, favoured for larger vessels and working boats. Cut, shaped and welded rather than moulded.

Boat Builder

How does an anchor work?

A simple shape that keeps a boat exactly where you left it.



DID YOU KNOW?

A boat needs enough chain out — usually several times the water's depth — for the anchor to hold properly.

Tools of the trade

What each of the three trades uses day to day.

Marine Mechanic

TOOLS YOU'LL USE



- **Spanners and socket sets** – for taking engines and fittings apart and putting them back.
- **Torque wrenches** – tighten bolts to exactly the right force.
- **Diagnostic tools** – read engine fault codes and operating data.
- **Multimeters** – test electrical systems and find faults.

Boat Builder

TOOLS YOU'LL USE



- **Sanders and grinders** – shape, prepare and smooth hulls and parts.
- **Saws, routers and planes** – cut and shape timber and other materials.
- **Clamps** – hold components in position during assembly and bonding.
- **Rollers and brushes** – apply resin and help laminate fibreglass.

Marine Trimmer

TOOLS YOU'LL USE



- **Industrial sewing machines** – stitch covers, canopies and upholstery.
- **Staple guns** – secure fabric and vinyl to suitable substrates.
- **Shears and cutters** – cut canvas, vinyl, leather and foam.
- **Pattern and measuring tools** – create accurate templates and ensure a precise fit.

WORKSHOP SAFETY

The right PPE depends on the task and may include safety glasses, hearing protection, gloves, respirators and safety footwear. Good ventilation and dust or fume extraction are also important when working with fibreglass, resins, paints and solvents. You'll learn how to use tools and equipment safely while supervised.

Which trade suits you?

Tick anything that sounds like you, then check your colour count below.

☐ I like figuring out how engines and machines work

☐ I like building and shaping things from scratch

☐ I like making things look and feel great

☐ I don't mind getting my hands dirty

☐ I have the patience for detailed, careful work

☐ I'm interested in fabric, design or upholstery

☐ I want a trade I could take travelling — boats are everywhere

☐ I'd love to see a whole boat come together

☐ I enjoy detail-focused, creative work

COUNT YOUR TICKS BY COLOUR

☐ **Marine Mechanic**

☐ **Boat Builder**

☐ **Marine Trimmer**

Whichever colour you ticked the most, that trade could be worth a closer look on the course pages ahead — or ask us about it at your next event.



PART 3

PATHWAY

Real courses and real ways to get an employer on side.



Learn to service, repair and diagnose outboard and inboard marine engines. If you love engines and want a trade with a lifestyle to match, this apprenticeship is for you.

YOU COULD BECOME A...

- Marine Technician
- Outboard Motor Mechanic
- Marine Service & Repair Assistant
- Diesel Fitter – Marine Applications

COURSE SNAPSHOT

CAMPUS

Docklands

DURATION

3 years (apprenticeship)

DELIVERY

Work-based + face-to-face

START DATES

Rolling enrolments

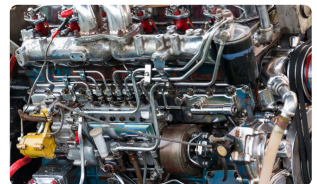
WHAT YOU'LL LEARN

- Servicing & repairing outboard and inboard marine engines
- Diagnostic testing of mechanical & electrical systems
- Workplace safety and environmental sustainability
- Customer service and workshop operations

GOOD TO KNOW

You need to be employed in the marine mechanical industry before you can enrol.

Looking for an employer to do your apprenticeship with?
Talk to Boating Careers — info@boatingcareers.com.au



Real engines. Real workshops. Real Victorian marine businesses.



Meet Will

Apprentice Marine Technician



Meet Caleb

Apprentice to Racing Manager, Asia Pacific

Marine Craft Construction

MEM30719 — Certificate III — Apprenticeship



Train to become a marine craft construction tradesperson — building and repairing boats in fibreglass, timber or metal, or working in a marina or boat yard.

YOU COULD SPECIALISE IN...

- Fibreglass boat building & repair
- Timber boat construction
- Marine metal fabrication
- Marina & boat yard operations

COURSE SNAPSHOT

PROVIDER

Australian Institute of Engineering

DURATION

4 years (apprenticeship)

DELIVERY

Fortnightly online + on-the-job visits

STRUCTURE

96 points: 33 core + 63 elective

WHAT YOU'LL LEARN

- Interpreting technical drawings & measurements
- Hand tools, power tools & safe work practices
- Applying fibre-reinforced materials & coatings
- Timber shaping, fit-out & marine sustainability

PATHWAYS

Leads on to Certificate IV or a Diploma of Engineering – Advanced Trade.

Must be employed under an apprenticeship to enrol

Ask Boating Careers to help you find a host employer



Fibreglass, timber and metal — hands-on boat building from day one.



Meet Ervine

International Student to Boat Builder



Behind the Scenes

Boat building with Edencraft



Turn your creativity into a hands-on marine career — fabricate, modify and repair automotive and marine interiors using leather, vinyl, fabrics and upholstery.

YOU COULD BECOME A...

- Motor Vehicle Interior Trimmer
- Boat Interior Trimmer
- Marine Interior Restoration Trimmer

COURSE SNAPSHOT

CAMPUS

Chadstone

COURSE CODE

AUR32320

DURATION

3 years (apprenticeship)

DELIVERY

On-campus + workplace learning

WHAT YOU'LL LEARN

- Cutting, sewing & shaping upholstery materials
- Working with leather, vinyl & fabrics
- Manufacturing & fitting marine covers
- Installing seats, canopies & side curtains

SCHEDULE & FEES (INDICATIVE)

Monthly blocks, Mon–Wed, 8:15am–3:45pm. 693 hrs face-to-face; 30 units (12 core + 18 elective).
From \$2,838 (concession \$568) + \$80/semester GSF.
Fees vary by individual circumstances.

Must have an employer & apprenticeship contract to enrol
Ask Boating Careers to help you find a host employer



Leather, vinyl and canvas — skills that take you further.



Meet Melissa — Her Journey To Marine Trimming

Scan to watch her career journey, in her own words.

Boating Services

MEM40222 — Certificate IV — International Students



INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS



Covers the general maintenance of boat structures, hulls and engines, through to more complex onboard mechanical repairs — with a strong focus on environmental practices.

YOU COULD BECOME A...

- Boat Builder & Repairer
- Shipwright
- Marine Technician / Trades Worker
- Machinery Operator or Driver

COURSE SNAPSHOT

PROVIDER

Australian College of Pioneers

DURATION

94 weeks (CRICOS registered)

DELIVERY

Face-to-face + practical training

STRUCTURE

26 units: 7 core + 19 elective

WHAT YOU'LL LEARN

- General maintenance of boat structures, hulls & engines
- Safe use of hand tools, power tools, cutting & welding
- Classifying recreational boating technologies
- Environmentally sustainable marine work practices

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

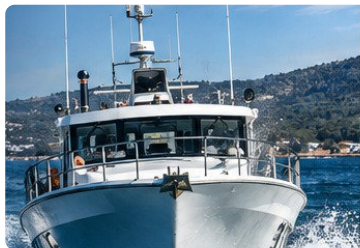
Year 12 (or equivalent) plus English proficiency (e.g. IELTS 6.0). Mature-age entry possible with relevant experience.

This is a fee-paying course for international students

Unlike the apprenticeships in this toolkit, this pathway involves course fees (from A\$35,000) rather than a wage — ask ACP or Boating Careers for details.



NOT AN APPRENTICESHIP



Want to actually drive the boat, not just build or fix it? Maritime Operations trains you to operate and command vessels commercially — from small workboats to larger craft.

YOU COULD BECOME A...

- Coxswain
- Deckhand
- Marine Engine Driver
- Vessel Master

DECK / COMMAND TRACK

CI

MAR10424

Coxswain Grade 2 — command a vessel under 12m in sheltered waters

CII

MAR20324

Coxswain Grade 1 (Near Coastal) — command a commercial vessel under 12m, up to 500kW

CIII

MAR30924

Master up to 24m (Near Coastal) — command larger commercial vessels

ENGINEERING TRACK

CII

MAR20424

Marine Engine Driver Grade 3 — service & operate inboard/outboard motors

CIII

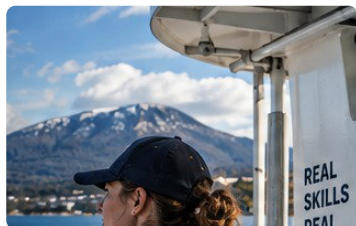
MAR30824

Marine Engine Driver Grade 2 (Near Coastal) — advanced engineering, pathway to AMSA certification

DRIVING FOR FUN VS. DRIVING FOR WORK

Taking a boat out for fun just needs a standard recreational boat licence. Operating one commercially — as your job — needs a ticket like Coxswain or Master, which is exactly what these courses provide.

Direct entry — no employer needed to start training
tafegippsland.edu.au

NOT AN APPRENTICESHIP


Australia's national institute for maritime education, training and research — from hands-on vocational courses through to full university degrees.

GOOD TO KNOW

Campuses are in Tasmania (Newnham & Beauty Point) — this pathway means moving interstate.

OCEAN SEAFARING

Bachelor of Applied Science (Marine Engineering / Nautical Science). Hands-on sea training with pathways to AMSA Certificates of Competency.

MARITIME ENGINEERING

Bachelor of Maritime Engineering (Honours) — specialise in Naval Architecture or Ocean Engineering, in world-class facilities.

GLOBAL LOGISTICS & MARITIME MANAGEMENT

Study pathways in logistics, supply chain and maritime business — the skills behind global maritime transport.

VOCATIONAL MARITIME TRAINING

Maritime Operations & Coastal Seafaring courses, plus AMC Search short courses — no degree required.

A Registered Training Organisation & AMSA Approved Training Organisation
utas.edu.au/amc

Compare the three trades

Course, provider and duration, side by side.

TRADE	COURSE	PROVIDER	DURATION	WHAT YOU'D DO
Marine Mechanic	AUR30520	Kangan Institute	3 years	Service, repair and diagnose marine engines
Boat Builder	MEM30719	Australian Institute of Engineering	4 years	Build and repair boats in fibreglass, timber or metal
Marine Trimmer	AUR32320	Holmesglen (Chadstone)	3 years	Fits out boat interiors — seats, canopies, upholstery

LOOKING FOR SOMETHING DIFFERENT?

Boating Careers also connects students to non-apprenticeship options — see the following pages for Boating Services (international students), Maritime Operations (direct entry) and the Australian Maritime College (university degrees).



PART 4

INFO

Everything you need to take the next step.

Can I actually start now?

Short answer: probably, whatever year you're in.

There's no single "right time" to start a marine trade — it depends on whether you're still at school or have already left.

STILL AT SCHOOL

You can often start a School-Based Apprenticeship (SBAT) — usually from Year 10 or 11 — combining school with real, paid, on-the-job training.

JUST FINISHED SCHOOL

You can move straight into a full-time apprenticeship once you're matched with an employer, whether that's Year 12 or leaving earlier.

ALREADY WORKING OR STUDYING

There's no upper age limit. Plenty of apprentices switch in after trying something else first — it's never too late to start.

GOOD TO KNOW

Entry requirements vary slightly by course — ask your school or Boating Careers whether a School-Based Apprenticeship is available for the trade you're interested in.

How do I actually get started?

Three steps between reading this page and your first pay cheque.

1

Explore

Browse this toolkit, or head to boatingcareers.com.au to see current job vacancies, register for our newsletter, and check out upcoming events.

2

Get support

Contact Boating Careers and we'll get in touch to help match you with a host employer. Still at school? We will put you in touch with Head Start for school-based apprenticeships.

3

Apply & start earning

Sign your training contract and start your apprenticeship. You're paid from day one.

Not ready to commit?

Ask about our Immersion Days — a low-pressure way to discover a marine trade before you decide on an apprenticeship.

Want us to help find your match?

Send us your resume, along with a short note about you — why you're interested in this trade and which area you'd like to work in. We'll share it with employers looking for apprentices.

info@boatingcareers.com.au

What can I expect to earn?

The honest answer, since it's usually the first question.

Paid from day one

Apprentices are employed and paid a wage while they train — right from your very first day on the job.

Pay increases as you progress

Apprentice wages step up each year of the apprenticeship as your skills and experience grow.

Training costs are usually covered

Course fees are generally paid by your employer or Group Training Organisation, not you.

DID YOU KNOW?

Government incentive payments and wage subsidies may also be available for eligible apprentices — and exact award rates for your age are always available on the Fair Work Ombudsman website.



Meet Laura — Apprentice to Quality Coordinator

Scan to see how far this trade took her.

APPROXIMATE PAY BY TRADE

Trade	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Qualified
Marine Mechanic	\$32-39k	\$39-47k	\$47-55k	\$55-65k	\$70-100k+
Boat Builder	\$32-39k	\$39-47k	\$47-55k	\$55-65k	\$70-95k+
Marine Trimmer	\$31-38k	\$38-45k	\$45-53k	\$53-62k	\$70-90k+

Per year, approximate. Apprentice pay varies by employer and award. Adult apprentices (21+) may receive higher starting rates. Qualified ranges vary by experience, location, and employer.

Questions you might not have asked

The honest stuff people usually wonder about but don't say out loud.

Q: Do I need to already love boats?

A: Not at all. Plenty of tradies started because they loved fixing things or building stuff — the love of boats often comes later.

Q: Is it physically demanding?

A: It depends on the trade. Some days are active and hands-on; others are detail-focused and precise. There's a mix across these trades.

Q: What if I start and don't like it?

A: You can switch — between marine trades, or into a different industry altogether. The skills you build (turning up, working safely, solving problems) transfer everywhere.

Q: Is this only for certain people?

A: No. Marine trades welcome anyone willing to learn. You don't need prior experience, a certain background, or to fit any particular mould.

Q: Do I need good grades?

A: No ATAR required — just a willingness to learn and show up. Employers care far more about attitude than your school report.

**Meet Justin — Beyond The Workshop**

Scan to see his move into marine insurance.

Glossary

Every term from this toolkit, in one place, A to Z.

Apprenticeship

A real job where you learn a trade and get paid while you train.

Bow

The front of the boat, built to cut through waves.

Cert III

The qualification you finish with, recognised across Australia.

Chain

Connects the anchor to the boat; its weight helps the anchor hold.

Clamp bracket

Attaches an outboard motor to the boat's transom.

Cowling

The cover that protects a motor's engine and lets air in.

Deck

The top surface you stand and walk on.

Fabrication

Cutting, shaping and joining metal to build boat parts.

Flukes

The wide, curved tips of an anchor that dig into sand or mud.

Gearcase

Houses the gears that turn a motor's propeller.

GTO

Group Training Organisation — employs you and places you with a host business.

Gunwale

The top edge along the side of the hull (say "gun-nel").

Host employer

The business where you do your on-the-job training.

Glossary

Every term from this toolkit, in one place, A to Z.

Hull

The outer shell, or body, of a boat.

Knot

A unit of boat speed — 1 knot is about 1.85 km/h.

Marina

A harbour with docks where boats are kept and serviced.

Midsection

Connects a motor's powerhead down to the gearcase.

Port & starboard

Left and right sides of a boat, facing forward.

Powerhead

The engine itself — turns fuel into power.

Propeller

Spins to push a boat through the water.

Shank

The long shaft connecting an anchor's flukes to its chain.

Stern

The back of the boat.

Tacking

Zig-zagging a sailboat to travel almost into the wind.

Transom

The flat back wall of a boat where the motor attaches.

Trimming

Fitting a boat's interior (seats, canopies, upholstery) — or adjusting a sail's angle to catch the wind.



Ready to start your marine career?

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