

Introducing School Children to the Maritime Industry

A program by Offshore & Specialist Ships Australia

A letter from Ross Brewer to OSSA members.

I would like to bring all members up to date with our School Program and to seek your support going forward.

The program has now been finalised and will be introduced to schools and career councillors during March/April. It is an opportune time to create awareness of the Maritime Industry and the career potential for youth. There has been much press in recent times highlighting the valuable role the maritime industry plays for Australia yet very little is known about the industry by the general public let alone school children. Our program is one step to turn this around and demonstrate the maritime careers that are potentially available to Australian youth.

As with all such programs they come with a cost. In this instance the development of the program has been \$10,000 and we estimate potentially a further \$5000 will be required to deliver it to schools around the country. Initially we will focus on Victorian schools but our stated aim is for an Australian wide roll out. This will involve travel and supportive costs. The Board has said in authorising the project that it will need to develop a separate funding source and not to use membership fees which go towards our existing memorabilia and general costs. Therefore we have approached businesses and this has already had some good success and we will continue to engage with industry in this regard.

Several members have asked if they can contribute and some have already. We welcome this added support and would love to have further donations for this valuable project. This can be done by accessing the link at the bottom of this page. All donations are tax deductible under our DGR status and donations can be of any amount. It all helps.

As a reminder the program is part of a key objective for OSSA is to promote to youth the extensive range of employment and career opportunities within the Maritime industry. Looming skills shortages as outlined last year in the Seafaring Skills Census, indicated that vital career information on Seafarer Training options for the Australian Maritime Industry needs to be developed and promoted amongst secondary school students to capture their interest as potential future employees. Developing the next generation of Seafarers through career modules and training opportunities is the key to the success of the industry.

OSSA engaged the services of The Australian Centre for Career Education (see link <https://www.ceav.vic.edu.au/industry-immersions/online-learning-resources/>) who support clients and those most disadvantaged within the broader community to access career education, quality career development services and products.

Please follow this link (<https://offshorespecialistships.com/school-program>) to view the program format that will be provided to the schools. A number of OSSA members have obtained their Working With Children certification and will be attending all on-line school presentations to answer questions and expand on the program. These members will then also act as mentors so we hope that further members would be involved with this in the future.

OSSA is planning (subject to Covid restrictions) fundraising events in Melbourne and Sydney. Details of the events are still being finalised, but the intention is to conduct a series of activities which will include dinner and entertainment, a book launch, a silent auction of articles or services donated and a variety of other activities giving guests the opportunity to win prizes.

Should you have any further questions to this project please contact me at any time.

Yours Sincerely

Ross Brewer

Offshore & Specialist Ships Australia Ltd

PO Box 215, Malvern, Victoria 3144

ABN:57624185217

Email: admin@ossa.org.au

Website: <https://www.ossa.org.au>

2nd March 2021

Link to donate: <https://offshorespecialistships.com/ossa-schools-education-initiative-donation-page/>