

National Maritime Museum steers students towards marine vocations

The Australian National Maritime Museum conducts a special Marine Careers Forum every year to tell senior high school students how they can make their livelihood on and near the sea.

“The museum is concerned with the sea and how, historically, it has shaped the lives of Australians... so we consider the Careers Forum a very appropriate activity,” says museum education officer Jeff Fletcher.

“It’s certainly popular. The program is in its tenth year now and the forum, which involves a full day of activities, always draws between 200 and 300 Year 11 and Year 12 students.”

To impart marine careers information, the museum invites spokespeople to represent various occupational areas – tourism, defence and protection, sciences, marine engineering, shipping and industry, working on boats/ships, universities, TAFE courses and the Australian Marine College, diving and sailing.

When possible, the museum supplies representatives of its HM Bark *Endeavour* crew who provide information on the sailing of square-rigged ships and traditional maritime trades.

At various times during the one-day forum, the students hear an over-riding address in the museum theatre, collect a ‘showbag’ of information on all the represented industries, attend specialist discussion groups, chat to industry representatives at their stalls, take a short harbour cruise and look through the museum.

The museum promotes its Marine Careers Forum through the Career Advisers Association and by direct communication with individual school career advisers. Cost is \$10 per student.

The Marine Career Forum at the museum, Darling Harbour, is always presented on the second Tuesday in June. The next will be held on Tuesday, 9 June, this year.

For further information or to make a booking, please contact Carolyn Allen on (02) 9298 3655.

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