

**REGISTER
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**Tall Ships
Victoria**

THE OCEAN EDUCATION SHIP

Engaging with the marine environment

Tall Ships Victoria invites you to attend a Scoping Workshop
at the Royal Society of Victoria, Melbourne,
on 20-21 September 2007

THE PROJECT

Tall Ships Victoria Inc (TSV), established to promote all aspects of tall ship presence and activity in Victorian waters, has developed a marine science-based project to:

1. Engage and foster interest in science, science education and science careers among senior secondary and tertiary students
2. Focus on the growing need for a greater knowledge of environmental change
3. Use communications and information technologies to reach a broad spectrum of the population which might not otherwise engage with today's science
4. Meet the growing demand among adult audiences for active engagement with topical issues related to science and the environment

The TSV project is based on a purpose-built and substantial vessel – a traditional square-rigged ship – designed to conduct science programs at sea and to become a highly visible icon for Australian science and environmental awareness. Flexible design will allow long-term planning of programs for the national and international tertiary education markets, corporate, government and industrial sectors and for the general public. The ship will be an ambassador for the stakeholders and provide for active participation in research projects and in the unique combination of “edu-tourism” and adventure opportunities available on a large sailing ship.

The outcomes sought from the Workshop are:

- To determine the scope of the project
- To identify major stakeholders and sponsors
- To commission a business plan and design specifications.

Overseas speakers have been invited to attend to present their experiences with similar projects, to review the operation of sea science education ships in the USA over the past 35 years, and to outline a joint venture between a city council and an international staffing agency company, who built and operate a modern clipper ship.

The full workshop program will be circulated shortly.

WHY SUPPORT THIS PROJECT?

Environmental change

There is a substantial, growing and sustainable global interest in education related to topical issues in environmental science and policy, particularly in relation to marine and coastal areas.

Science education

There is a current and predicted need to attract high quality students into science programs and careers. This can be supported by immersive authentic research with educational experiences for senior secondary and tertiary students.

Knowledge transfer

Demand for marine-based education creates opportunities for knowledge transfer, through access to expertise in the sciences and other areas of scholarship and broad engagement with universities, institutes, government, corporate and community organisations.

Marine science

Because marine and environmental sciences are at the heart of the TSV concept, educational needs can be met in an innovative manner for all levels of learners, from secondary through to adult, by defined periods of immersive, interactive engagement with the topics in an authentic and structured program aboard a mobile hands-on 'classroom' – a ship.

Maritime trades

If built locally the Ocean Education Ship would provide valuable training opportunities for TAFE students and maritime trades apprentices followed by sea-going training for officers and crew.

THE SHIP

The Ocean Education Ship – a mobile classroom and laboratory – is a square-rigged, auxiliary powered sailing ship accommodating up to 70 students or guests, plus crew, instructors, invited speakers and leaders; as well as laboratory and other teaching facilities for active student participation. The ship's accommodation will be suitable for 'cruise

passengers', with telecommunications for tele-presence to shore via the internet.

"To go to sea as a science student, a potential science student, or an adult interested in what the ocean can teach us, aboard a sailing ship purpose-built to conduct marine research, provides an intensely personal interaction with the ocean; an educational experience and an adventure of a lifetime."

A marine science icon

"All the world loves a sailing ship". The Ocean Education Ship will attract attention wherever she goes. Substantial and distinctive, the ship will attract public and media attention, representing Australian science discovery and education, becoming a highly visible icon for Australian science.

The combination of traditional maritime technology with modern computer-based communications can showcase Australian science, education and industry and, with a sailing ship as the vehicle, have irresistible public and media appeal.

Why a sailing ship? A sailing ship is intrinsically 'environmentally friendly'.

- Use of sail minimises fuel consumption.
- Progress is affected by the weather and by ocean currents, requiring an understanding of these natural forces as part of the curriculum.
- Participation in the working of a sailing ship is a powerful attraction for active and adventurous learners and quickly develops team skills and personal confidence.

THE OPERATING PROGRAM

Research cruises

Tertiary students – An accredited twelve-week semester including four weeks of shore-based training, including introduction on a sail-training vessel, followed by eight weeks at sea aboard the Ocean Education Ship. The shore-based curriculum will provide the background to the research program to be undertaken by each student while at sea.

Secondary students – Guided tours of the ship during port visits with a lecture or demonstration included. Limited cruises at sea designed to introduce secondary students to environmental issues and to the potential of a science education and career.

Edu-tourism

A themed cruise centred around a guest expert who follows a theme during a voyage; usually of short duration, up to five days at sea.

Active participation 'working with scientists' research voyages, where individuals pay for the opportunity to travel as passengers to assist and observe scientists in marine science projects. A 'working' holiday with

a difference – making a contribution to the environment, science and Australia's future.

Potential Edu-tourism themes include:

- Water use and re-use
- Environmental management
- Global warming – the role of the sea
- Pollution
- The future of the sea (eg. coral bleaching)
- Food from the sea
- Drugs from the sea
- Immigration (sea-bourne migrations)
- Languages: distribution and evolution
- History along the route
- Cultural links (eg. Pacific Island Populations)
- Genetics (what can we learn from the sea)
- Astronomy
- Changes in the weather
- Marine wildlife (eg. bird and whale migration)

**Register for the Workshop using the enclosed registration form,
or download a form at www.tallshipsvictoria.org**

For more information, please contact:

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