Whether you want to sail around on the Derwent, Tasmania or the world, SailTrain at the Derwent Sailing Squadron has a course to suit you.
WELCOME TO SAILTRAIN

Whether you want to sail around on the Derwent, around Tasmania or around the world, SailTrain at the Derwent Sailing Squadron has a course to suit you.

As a training centre of excellence that is accredited by both the Royal Yachting Association (RYA) and Australian Sailing (AS) we provide professional training in a safe and fun environment.

Situated in a magical spot on the banks of Hobart’s Derwent River, next to Wrest Point Casino and opposite the University of Tasmania, learning to sail from this fabulous location is really second to none.

A year-round calendar of courses is run by SailTrain’s highly experienced and credentialed team of instructors, with the aim of helping the student attain qualifications that will make them a better sailor. All instructors are qualified through RYA or AS, and place an equal importance on the safety and comfort of the student and enjoyment of the course, all to create a perfect environment in which to learn.

SailTrain is the only training organisation in Tasmania that is accredited to deliver world-recognised RYA courses, with online, onshore and practical learning available.

“The beauty of sailing is that however much a sailor already knows, they never stop learning.”
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**RYA PATHWAY TO YACHTMASTER**

**SUGGESTED PATHWAYS**
MAST MOTOR BOAT LICENCE

The MAST BoatSafe Motor Boat Course is an INTENSIVE one-day session delivered by instructors accredited with Marine and Safety Tasmania. This course will teach safe boating procedures, combining practical exercises with theory instruction. Successful candidates will be issued a MAST Recreational Motor Boat Licence. Candidates between 12-17 years will be issued a Provisional Licence. The MAST Motor Boat Provisional licence is a great way to get kids engaged with responsible boating. The syllabus and exam is identical to the full licence course and kids are welcome on any of our scheduled sessions, but we are also happy to arrange special Provisional Licence sessions for school and youth groups.

PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE

This course assumes you have read and understand the Tasmanian Safe Boating Handbook, a publication available at the Derwent Sailing Squadron, Marine and Safety Tasmania and Service Tasmania.

SYLLABUS

This course will cover launching, trip planning, safe loading and buoyancy, use of flares and distress signals, meteorology, rules of the road, special rules, safe navigation, vessel preparation and maintenance, damage control, Man Overboard and recovery, operational areas, safety equipment, marine radios, anchoring, responsibility and restrictions of provisional motorboat licence.

COURSE DURATION

To gain the MAST Motor Boat Licence requires attending a 4.5 hour course which includes a practical session in a motor boat, a theory session and exam.

WHAT TO BRING

Instructor will provide all learning support material and resources as required. You will need to bring warm clothing, spray jacket, non-marking shoes, cap, sun block, drinks and snack. Lifejackets are provided.
RYA START YACHTING PRACTICAL

A short introduction to sailing for complete beginners.

By the end of the course you will have experienced steering a yacht, sail handling, rope-work and will be aware of safety on board.

Holders of the Start Yachting certificate can go on to complete the Competent Crew course in a reduced time of an additional three days.

PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE

This course assumes that you have no prior knowledge of sailing.

SYLLABUS

This course will cover basics of the yacht, rope-work, getting underway, rules of the road, man overboard recovery, clothing and equipment, emergency equipment and precautions, and meteorology.

COURSE DURATION

To gain the RYA Start Yachting certificate requires attending a 2 day course, which is normally run over a weekend.

WHAT TO BRING

You will need to bring warm clothing, thermals, spray jacket, non-marking shoes, sailing gloves, cap, beanie and sun block.

An inflatable PFD yoke and harness is provided.
RYA COMPETENT CREW PRACTICAL

This course is for beginners and those who would like to become active crew members rather than just passengers. Experience really getting to know the boat with virtually all the course being hands on. You are the crew - without you the sails won’t go up and the boat won’t be steered.

By the end of the course you should be able to steer, handle sails, keep a lookout, row a dinghy and assist in all the day to day duties on board. You should also have visited some interesting places and had an enjoyable time on the water.

PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE

This course assumes that you have no prior knowledge of sailing.

SYLLABUS

This course will cover knowledge of sea terms and parts of a boat, her rigging and sails, sail handling, rope-work, fire precautions and fighting, personal safety equipment, man overboard, emergency equipment, meteorology, seasickness, helmsmanship, general duties, manners and customs, rules of the road and dinghies.

COURSE DURATION

To gain the RYA Competent Crew certificate requires attending a 5 or 6 day course, which is normally run over 3 weekends including 1 night live-aboard.

Students who have completed either the RYA Start Yachting course or the RYA Basic Skills course may complete Competent Crew over 2 weekends including 1 night live-aboard.

WHAT TO BRING

You will need to bring warm clothing, spray jacket, non-marking shoes, sailing gloves, cap, beanie and sun block. An inflatable PFD yoke and harness is provided.
RYA DAY SKIPPER PRACTICAL

This course is for aspiring skippers or anyone who owns, or is purchasing, a yacht. Learn to skipper short passages with an instructor on hand to give advice and encouragement and ensure your safety. Experience being in charge, taking credit when it all goes well and being responsible when it doesn’t.

Each student is given opportunity to helm, navigate, practice boat handling and passage planning. Students will also learn about radio, meteorology and COLREGS.

PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE

This course assumes that you have some yachting experience, with navigation skills to Day Skipper Shorebased level, and a basic sailing ability.

SYLLABUS

This course syllabus covers knowledge of sea terms and parts of a boat, rigging and sails, sail handling, rope work, helmsmanship, personal safety equipment, emergency equipment, man overboard, fire precautions and fighting, manners and customs, rules of the road, meteorology and general duties.

COURSE DURATION

To gain the RYA Day Skipper practical certificate requires attending a 5 or 6 day live-aboard course, which is normally run over 3 weekends.

WHAT TO BRING

You will need to bring warm clothing, spray jacket, non marking shoes, sailing gloves, cap, beanie, sun block, lunch and a drink. An inflatable PFD yoke and harness is provided.
RYA DAY SKIPPER SHOREBASED

We are not currently offering this course.

Candidates for DS Practical may attend the inshore and coastal navigation course and will be offered guided home study to cover the remainder of the syllabus.

Candidates who require a DS Shorebased certificate may opt for further classroom tuition and will be required to sit three exams.
AS SAFETY AND SEA SURVIVAL

The Australian Sailing Safety and Sea Survival Course is an INTENSIVE course aimed to deliver up-to-date information and current techniques in an interactive and safe learning environment. The course includes a practical wet drill, where candidates will become familiar with the deployment and use of a life-raft and life jackets, as well as a flare demonstration where you get to experience firing distress flares. Our theory sessions encourage free discussion of equipment, techniques, regulations and drills, drawing on the combined knowledge and experience of instructors and students to greatly enhance your chances of survival in the event of an emergency at sea.

As well as being of tremendous value to all mariners - sailors, cruisers and racers alike - the Certificate awarded also meets the eligibility requirements of the World Sailing Offshore Special Regulations for Category 0, 1 and 2 offshore races.

For entrants in categorised offshore races your SSS Certificate is valid for 5 years from the date of the course. Certificates must be re-validated at the end of this period by attending a refresher or repeat SSS course.

For cruising sailors a 5-yearly repeat course is strongly recommended.

PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE

This course assumes that you have no prior knowledge of sailing but some practical experience is desirable.

SYLLABUS

This course will cover safety and emergency planning, safety and survival equipment, meteorology, heavy weather strategies, marine emergencies, damage control, distress communications, abandoning ship, deployment and use of life-rafts, helicopter rescue and pyrotechnics.

COURSE DURATION

To gain the AS Safety and Sea Survival certificate requires attending a 16 hour course held over 2 evenings of 4 hours and 1 day of 8 hours.

WHAT TO BRING

Your instructor will provide course packs, registration forms, coffee and biscuits, practical flare demonstrations, pool session, course completion certificate. You will need to bring a note book, pen, lunch, towel, change of clothes, safety harness with crutch strap, PFD 1 life jacket with crutch strap, offshore wet weather gear including sea boots.
INTERNATIONAL CERTIFICATE OF COMPETENCE (ICC)

Many European countries require the skipper of a pleasure craft to provide evidence of his or her competence in the form of an International Certificate of Competence (ICC).

While the requirements vary from country to country, the ICC is generally recognised throughout most of the European Union. It is of particular importance if you are chartering a vessel in a foreign country, or using the European inland waterways. You are advised to check current requirements before you go.

To gain an ICC you will need to prove your competence by completing a practical on-water and theory assessment.*

The Derwent Sailing Squadron ICC package includes a very comprehensive pre-assessment briefing session followed by the practical assessment afloat. Successful candidates may then apply to the RYA in UK for the ICC on payment of a certificate fee - approximately $90.00 depending on exchange rate.

Candidates are advised to allow sufficient time for mail to and from UK. Fast-track processing is available from the RYA at an additional charge.

ICC is valid for 5 years and may be renewed within that period without the need for re-assessment.

*Holders of the RYA Day Skipper Practical Certificate or higher qualification may apply directly to the RYA for ICC without the need for assessment.
PRIVATE SAILING LESSONS

All our practical courses may be taken on a private basis with only you or with your family and friends on board with the instructor. This is perfect for refresher lessons for sailing skills that need improvement.

We can provide an instructor aboard your own yacht for the most personalised instruction available or on our instructors yacht.

We can create a tailored course program to match your needs to enable you to become the sailor you always wanted.
RYA ESSENTIAL NAVIGATION AND SEAMANSHIP

An inspiring online course for anyone interested in sailing, motor boating, sea angling, diving - or pretty much anything else on the water! This course gives you the essential knowledge needed to get afloat, from navigation to safety and seamanship to passage planning.

You can take our online course at anytime, anywhere and at your own speed; all you need is a computer and the internet. But you won’t be on your own; all through the course you will have access to a qualified RYA Yachtmaster instructor who will monitor your progress and provide feedback and tuition should you have any problems with any part of the course.

The RYA Essential Navigation and Seamanship course is suitable for anyone interested in getting afloat competently, confidently and safely. It is easy to use, flexible and provides you with real skills, knowledge and serves as a great starting point for our more advanced courses.

SYLLABUS

Charts, publications, engine checks, tidal awareness, pilotage, anchoring, passage planning, safety, buoyage, visual and electronic navigation, rules of the road and weather forecasts.

COURSE DURATION

Online the course will take around six hours, but the beauty of it is that you can work through it at your own speed, whenever and wherever you like.

WHAT YOU NEED

You will receive a course pack which includes a chart, plotter, dividers, course handbook, exercises and an electronic chart plotter CD.
RYA MARINE DIESEL

All too often Marine Rescue services are called out to attend to engine breakdowns, and in many cases these could have been avoided if the skippers had carried out some routine maintenance or simple troubleshooting.

The aim of the RYA Diesel Engine course is to prevent machinery breakdown at sea. If you do have mechanical problems this course will teach you how to get going again. As a crewmember on a racing or cruising sailboat this course will extend your maritime skills and enhance your value as a crewmember.

PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE

This course assumes that you have no prior knowledge.

SYLLABUS

This course will cover principles of diesel engine operation, systems and parts of the engine, fault finding, rectification of common problems, bleeding the fuel system, changing the impeller, routine maintenance and winter layup procedures.

COURSE DURATION

To gain the RYA Marine Diesel certificate requires attending a 7.5 hour course held over 3 nights of 2.5 hours.

WHAT TO BRING

Your instructor will provide all learning support material and resources. It is advisable to bring old clothing as you will be hands on a diesel motor and parts.
DISCOVER COASTAL NAVIGATION

Why do we navigate? What is the purpose of navigation and what fundamental questions does navigation answer?

This intensive single session won’t teach you how to get safely from A to B without hitting C, but it will show you how navigation works and why we need an understanding of its techniques and tricks before setting out on the water.

Learn how map makers transfer the surface of the earth onto a flat piece of paper, and how navigators can use this to find where they are and where they are going.

Learn about the hazards that may send them off course and how to combat them - tides, compass errors, weather, obstructions, ships and regulations.

And learn how your GPS fits in to all this.

For sailors hoping to head out to sea we hope this session serves as an introduction to the techniques of navigation and encourages them to learn more; for the merely curious please come and learn the basics of this fascinating art.

PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE

This course assumes that you have no prior knowledge.

SYLLABUS

The purpose of navigation, the tools of navigation, charts, the magnetic compass, where is north, where are we, getting from A to B, tides, weather, rules of the road, GPS and safety.

COURSE DURATION

A single 3-hour evening session

WHAT TO BRING

Yourself and your curiosity.
CELESTIAL NAVIGATION FOR YACHTSMEN

The principal aim of this course is to provide amateur yachtsmen who may be planning an ocean passage with the practical tools they would need to confidently and competently use a sextant and sight reduction tables at sea in a small yacht. It is not intended to be an exhaustive course of study aimed at professional navigators however, anybody planning a career in commercial yachting would find it a useful introduction to study for the Yachtmaster Ocean.

The intention is that students will go away from this course with a set of useful and practical tools to use in real life at sea, as well as sufficient theoretical knowledge to encourage further study of more advanced techniques should they wish.

PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE

An understanding of the techniques of coastal navigation.

COURSE DURATION

Course is 21 hours and consists of 2 x 7hr and 3 x 3hr sessions.

WHAT TO BRING

Chart plotting instruments: Protractor / plotter, dividers / compasses, pencils (2B), sharpener and eraser. Notebook, graph paper, calculator and watch. Your instructor will provide: Practice sextants, nautical almanac*, sight reduction tables*, star sight planner* and plotting sheets.

*Tables and almanacs will be reduced facsimile versions suitable for course study.
INSHORE AND COASTAL NAVIGATION

A comprehensive introduction to navigation suitable for beginners and more experienced skippers alike. We cover coastal navigation from the ground up, so this course will equip anyone with the necessary knowledge to safely navigate inshore and coastal waters.

You’ll learn about charts, using a compass, position fixing, tides and tidal streams, electronic navigation, meteorology and passage planning.

This course serves as preparation for the RYA Day Skipper course.

PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE

This course assumes no prior knowledge.

SYLLABUS

The syllabus covers the techniques of navigation by reference to features on or near the land, including charts and chartwork, position fixing, estimating position, setting a course to steer, buoyage and lights, the magnetic compass, tidal streams and tidal heights, meteorology, restricted visibility, passage planning, pilotage, electronic navigation and collision regulations.

This course covers the navigational elements of the RYA Day Skipper Shorebased course and further study may result in the issue of a Day Skipper Shorebased course certificate

COURSE DURATION

This course requires you to attend a 22 hour course held over 5 nights of 3 hours, and 1 day of 7 hours.

WHAT TO BRING

Your instructor will provide all learning support material & resources as required. You will need to bring 2B pencils, sharpener, eraser, Portland Plotter or equivalent, dividers, note book and pen.
FUNDAMENTALS OF GPS NAVIGATION

This session serves as an introduction to the use of GPS, suitable for first-time users and experienced navigators alike. The session looks at how GPS works, its strengths and its weaknesses. It covers passage planning and navigation using GPS and demonstrates ways of incorporating GPS into your navigational strategy.

PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE

This course assumes that you have no prior knowledge.

SYLLABUS

This session focuses on GPS in general and won’t necessarily address the workings of your particular unit, but it will cover the main functions common to all GPS receivers, as well as GPS Chart Plotters, electronic charts and computer navigation.

COURSE DURATION

This course requires you to attend a single 3-hour evening session

WHAT TO BRING

Your instructor will provide all learning support material & resources.
OUTBOARD MOTOR MAINTENANCE

All too often Marine Rescue services are called out to attend to engine breakdowns, and in many cases these could have been avoided if the skippers had carried out some routine maintenance or simple trouble-shooting.

If you own or operate an outboard motor of any size you need it to start easily and perform reliably and safely. To make that happen you need to know some important basic information to keep it running correctly.

Most problems can be avoided by carrying out the pre and post usage checks and the basic maintenance that should be listed in your owners manual. This course will help you understand your manual and what it suggests you do.

SYLLABUS

Basic systems, fuel, filters, lines, connections, mixing, storage etc, cooling systems, lubrication systems, mounting and adjusting trim to optimise performance, starting and stopping procedure, trouble shooting and basic maintenance.

COURSE DURATION

Course is 6 hours and consists of 2 x 3hr weeknight sessions from 6.30pm to 9.30pm.

WHAT TO BRING

The instructor will provide all learning support material and resources.

It is advisable to bring old clothing along with you, as you will have the opportunity to handle some old outboard motor components.
SHORT RANGE (VHF) RADIO COURSE (SROCP)

Did you know that it is an offence to use a Marine VHF Radio without a Licence to Operate? There are severe penalties for the misuse of Marine Radio, including operation without a licence, and this includes hand-held portables. The Short Range Operators (VHF) Certificate of Proficiency is designed for those who are only carrying and/or operating a Very High Frequency (VHF) (Short Range) radio. Successful completion of the exam qualifies you to receive the SROCP* certificate. Course fee includes manual and examination.

The purpose of this course is to help you pass the exam, gain your licence and be competent and legal in the operation of your radio. VHF Radio is a vital safety aid for vessels on coastal and inshore passages and is required carriage for vessels navigating in Coastal and Offshore waters. A knowledge of the correct procedures for operating a Marine Radio in an emergency could save your life.

PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE

This is an elementary course that requires no previous knowledge.

SYLLABUS

The course will cover all aspects of the operation of Marine VHF Radios including:- Legal matters, principals of VHF Marine Radio, Radio Propagation, Channels and Frequencies, Ship and Shore Stations, Priority and Routine Communications, DSC, GMDSS, EPIRBS and SARTs and Power Supplies and Antennas.

COURSE DURATION

Course is 6 hours and consists of 2 x 3 hr weeknight sessions from 6:30pm to 9:30pm.

WHAT TO BRING

Instructor will provide all learning support material & resources. You will need to bring with you a colour passport photograph, note book and black pen. You will also need to show photo ID.

*The SROCP certificate replaces the MROVCP. Radio operator licences are valid for life and holders of MROVCP do not need to upgrade or convert to SROCP.
LONG RANGE (MF/HF) MARINE RADIO (LROCP)

Did you know that it is an offence to use a Marine Radio without a Licence to Operate? There are severe penalties for the misuse of Marine Radio, including operation without a licence, and this includes hand-held portables. This course covers what you need to know to competently operate a radio and obtain a Long Range Operators Certificate of Proficiency (LROCP)* for VHF, MF and HF radios.

PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE

This is an elementary course that requires no previous knowledge.

SYLLABUS

The course will cover all aspects of the operation of Marine Radios including:-

Legal matters, principals of VHF, MF and HF Marine Radio, Radio Propagation, Channels and Frequencies, Ship and Shore Stations, Priority and Routine Communications, DSC, GMDSS, EPIRBS and SART, Power Supplies and Antennas.

COURSE DURATION

Course is 9 hours and consists of 3 x 3 hr weeknight sessions from 6:30pm to 9:30pm.

WHAT TO BRING

Instructor will provide all learning support material & resources. You will need to bring with you a colour passport photograph, note book and pen. You will also need to show photo ID.

*The LROCP certificate replaces the MROCP. Radio operator licences are valid for life and holders of MROCP do not need to upgrade or convert to LROCP.
RYA YACHTMASTER™

An RYA Yachtmaster™ Certificate of Competence may be your ultimate aim as an aspiring yacht skipper. It tells everyone, and most importantly yourself, that you have demonstrated your competence and confidence to skipper any yacht, anywhere with any crew and have the knowledge and experience to back this up.

And if you are looking for a career in yachting, a Yachtmaster’s is your first step on the pathway to internationally recognised professional and commercial qualifications.

There is no requirement to attend any formal courses before being examined for Yachtmaster, but the exam calls for a high level of competence, knowledge and experience. At DSS we can put together a program of tuition, study and experience-building, tailored to your individual experience, knowledge and skills, to get you exam ready.

If you would like to chat with our chief instructor to discuss your plans and aspirations then call us to arrange a no-pressure, no-charge meeting to assess your current level and advise you of the best course to steer towards a Yachtmaster Coastal, Offshore or Ocean.