

## **Growth agenda at newly-integrated AMC**

Growth and excellence are the major agenda items for 2008 for the Australian Maritime College, which integrated with the University of Tasmania from 1 January this year.

As some of the first AMC students for the year today learned how to abandon ship safely and deal with capsized life-rafts, AMC marketing manager general Louise Batchelor said both organisations would gain from the integration.

“The university will gain from the AMC’s international profile and the AMC will benefit from formal university status,” she said.

“That will help us to achieve our aims of increased student numbers and increased excellence.

“The AMC wants to retain its position as one of the leading maritime providers in the world; it also wants to support Australia’s economic goals in terms of maritime industries.”

Currently, about half of the AMC students are Australian; the majority do courses related to the marine environment and resource management. International students mainly take seafaring courses.

Ms Batchelor said that if the Maritime College were to play a significant role supporting Australian trade, 45 per cent of which is done by sea, it needed to equip more Australian graduates with skills in sea transportation, shipbuilding, fisheries and offshore industries.

“In addition, marine tourism and recreation is a huge growth area for Australia. The AMC is contributing with research, such as determining the economic value of Australia’s beaches.”

The new-look AMC will be structured into three national centres:

- The National Centre for Engineering and Hydrodynamics; Director, Tom Hardy
- The National Centre for Ports and Shipping; Director, John Lloyd
- The National Centre for Marine Conservation and Resource Sustainability: Director, Chad Hewitt

The university’s former School of Aquaculture has become part of the Australian Maritime College within the new National Centre for Marine Conservation and Resource Sustainability.

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