

Callala Junior Sailing School (CJSS)

How You Help as a Volunteer?

CJSS has been run by an enthusiastic group of volunteers since its inception. A 'learn by doing' approach is used, rather than formal lessons. If you have previous experience with sailing or boating, even as a youth, you can help the students learn how to sail. You don't need formal yachting tuition experience. The dinghies are simple to rig and control, and the basics of sailing are easy to master. Students progress to larger and more complicated boats as they get older and get more experience. Many former CJSS students have gone on to win major regattas and been selected for Olympic training squads.

Volunteers help in many ways apart from sailing. There is great companionship and social benefits as well. Below are some of the ways volunteers can join in and help:

Sailing Instructor - Teach students how to rig and sail the range of sail-boats available. This is done by wading in the shallows, or from the rubber-duckies as the more experienced students move offshore and practice sailing around buoys and marks.

Support Boat - CJSS has 2 rubber-ducky support boats. We need people with a boat licence and some experience with small-boat handling and outboard motors. Crew on board these boats help students with tuition and help students who get into difficulty or capsize.

Boat Rigging and Set-up - Teach students to rig and handle the boats. The dinghies need to be carried from the shed to the shore for rigging and launching, and returned to the shed after sailing. Students and their parents do most of this boat handling work, once they learn the ropes.

Boat Care and Maintenance - The 'Seafarers Work Group' offers Mens & Womens Shed opportunities, for repairing and maintaining the boats and equipment. The group also helps maintain the boat-shed facilities, which are shared by various other clubs as well. The 'Seafarers Work Group' meets on Thursday mornings from 0830-1130 for work sessions and yarns. It is a very easy going and friendly group. Pop in any time to check out what the group do, and see the facilities and boats.

Administration - People who can help with administration and accounts are also most welcome.

On-Shore Tuition and Class Work - The school runs seminars and tuition sessions to provide introductory lessons for newcomers. Other skills are also taught such as boat maintenance, knot tying and rope work. People who have these presentation skills are most welcome. Games, training videos, and wind and weather tuition, are offered on-shore when the weather is unsuitable for sailing.

Note 1: Working with Children - All volunteers must have a current 'working with children' certification, which is easy to obtain using an online checking procedure.

Note 2: Parents and Carers are encouraged to stay during the classes and to offer assistance in a variety of ways such as boat rigging and setup, boat launching, crewing on the support vessels. It is a family activity.

For more details see the website: <http://www.callalajuniorsailingschool.org/>