

SCHOOLS@SEA:

On Thursday 16th June our two "i sea, i care" ambassadors, Jessye Young and Kevin DeWaal and myself participated in the special opportunity of working on the fishing training vessel "Blue Fin" for the day. Our lucky ambassadors were the only Primary School children (along with "i sea, i care" ambassadors from other schools) to have the chance to spend a day aboard the Blue Fin. The Blue Fin is the Australian Maritime College's research vessel and is in Melbourne for only a very short period of time. The FTV Blue Fin is a commercial fisheries research and training vessel owned and operated by the Australian Maritime College in Tasmania, and as such,

hosts a wide range of research equipment.

The day started off with a car trip to Sorrento to join the vessel at the Sorrento Pier. Unfortunately the size of Blue Fin and the depth of its bow meant that the vessel could not actually moor at the Pier. Rather, arrangements had been made for the "I sea, I care" ambassadors to be ferried to the vessel in a smaller boat. The short boat trip to the Blue Fin was quite rough and many of the ambassadors arrived a little wetter than when they started.

The ambassadors assembled on the deck of the Blue Fin and were at once overwhelmed by the size of the vessel. The ambassadors were greeted by Angus, the ship's skipper, who gave an introductory talk and outlined the activities the students would be involved in. The wind had picked up by this time and the skies were threatening so the ambassadors were led through the ship to the top deck, which contained the command cabin. As the ambassadors wandered through the vessel they were allowed to explore the various cabins and work areas on their way. The cabins consisted of sleeping quarters, scientific research laboratories, the kitchen and meals area and showers and toilets. The vessel has three levels and the top command deck consisting of a large meeting area and the steerage controls.

In the command cabin the students were explained several important safety rules and the emergency drill siren was demonstrated so that they were aware of its significance and what action they should take if the siren was sounded. Susan, from the Dolphin Research Institute, had prepared a work booklet for the students to fill in during their stay on the vessel. The ambassadors were allowed to wander around the vessel at their leisure and interact with the crew and were encouraged to ask them questions to find out exactly what their role was on the ship. During the course of their exploration our ambassadors met "Aussie", who was the ship's Chief Mate, "Bo Bo", who was the ship's cook, George, who was the engineer, Chris, who was the ship's Mate and Dave who was the educator. The ambassadors had to interview each person and find out what their role actually involved, how long they had been doing the job, the thing they liked best about their job and the worst aspect of their job. Our ambassadors found out that "Aussie", in his role as Chief Mate, was in charge of the boat when the Skipper wasn't piloting the vessel. "Aussie" had been doing this job for five months and listed the best aspect of his job as "Bo Bo's" cooking and the worst aspect as the long time that was required to be spent away from his family. The ambassadors also had to find out various facts about the Blue Fin from their interactions with the crew

members.

Our ambassadors found out that the length of the Bluefin at the water line is 34.5 metres. The Blue Fin is 24 years old and, in the event of an emergency, the Muster Station was on the bottom deck. They also discovered that the draft of the boat is 4.4 metres. This means that there is 4.4 metres of the boat under the water, hence the reason the Blue Finn could not dock at Sorrento Pier. During their exploration of the vessel our ambassadors discovered that the Blue Fin is normally used to teach people how to fish properly so that the environment is protected.

Following their exploration of the vessel the students returned to the lower deck and examined a large number of living sea creatures which had been caught and brought on board the Blue Fin. The ambassadors examined their unique characteristics and the special role they play in the marine environment. The ambassadors were even able to observe a live small shark in one of the Blue Fin's tanks.

Following this, lunch was called and our now hungry ambassadors climbed the stairs to the second level to be served a "banquet" which "Bo Bo" had prepared. Lunch consisted of homemade vegetable soup, a mountain of freshly made sandwiches and was finished off with ample servings of homemade cakes, biscuits and apple

pies. No wonder "Aussie" listed "Bo Bo's" cooking as one of the best bits of his jobs.

After lunch the ambassadors returned to the command cabin, where Dave, Blue Fin's educator, led them through a dissection of a fish. During this session our ambassadors learnt much about fish biology, including the parts of a fish, the ways fish have adapted to different parts of the ocean and the way scientists classify fish. Following the dissection the students were taken down a level to the scientific cabin where they were able to view various things discovered in the fish's gut, under a powerful electronic microscope. After all the work in cutting up the fish and dealing with the blood and guts, afternoon tea was called. Only one ambassador felt a little queasy at this time and decided to visit the side of the ship to lose a good portion of their lunch! I am happy to report the ambassadors from our school were not so weak stomached and headed straight for the kitchen to consume a hearty afternoon tea.

Following afternoon tea the ambassadors returned to the command cabin where Angus, the vessel's skipper, talked about the relative sizes of ships. Whilst we were all overwhelmed by the size of the Bluefin, Angus had prepared several scaled drawings which showed, compared to some of the big tankers around the world,

that the Blue Fin was moderately small. Angus delighted in telling the students about one of the tankers he had worked on, where the deck was so long that the deck hands had to use bicycles to ride from one end of the deck to the other! Angus also delighted the ambassadors with his recount of the time he had had to "beach" a large tanker in the middle of a holiday resort, much to the horror of a honeymooning couple who had their BBQ tea ruined by the sudden appearance of a large tanker on the beach.

Following this, the ambassadors were presented with certificates which signified they had now become honorary crew members of the Blue Fin. It was then back to the lowerdeck to await the arrival of the ferry to return us back to the mainland.

The day was a fantastic educational experience for our two student ambassadors, who participated in an experience that few primary aged students ever have. The students learned, first hand, of a wide range of different occupations and careers they might like to pursue in the future. The ambassadors of Somerville Rise Primary School would like to thank Jeff Weir and Susan Parry, from the Dolphin Research Institute, for all their hard work and endeavours to ensure that our lucky "I sea, I care" ambassadors were able to participate in such a memorable experience.

It is hoped that the Blue Fin will return to Melbourne on a regular basis over the coming years so, hopefully, the opportunity will exist for more of our students to participate in this fabulous experience.

**Colin Sloper
Jessye Young
Kevin DeWaal
"I sea, I care" Abassadors**

Junior School Writing

Currently one of our Junior School classes is looking at writing procedural texts. A procedural text outlines how to do something. Here is a contribution of Tayla Bocksette in JS Shelton. I particularly liked Tayla's approach to cleaning her room!

How to Clean Your Room

What you will need:

- duster
- vacuum
- bucket
- water
- soap

What to do:

1. Put the cord in the power point.
2. Turn it on.
3. Put the duster on the desk.
4. Ask for \$5.00 from the Bank.
5. Tell someone you will give them \$5.00 if they will clean your room.
6. Sit back and watch the person clean your room.

I am sure we wished we could take this approach on the many tasks we have to do!

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