GLOBAL MARITIME HISTORIES: CASE STUDIES FOR CHANGE

PHASE ONE PROJECTS 2024-2026

Oceania Maritime Museum Administrators Course

Building resilience and skills in Pacific maritime museums

Background

The Australian National Maritime Museum (ANMM) is dedicated to preserving and promoting Australia's shared maritime heritage, including through financial support, training, technical services, and sharing information to other organisations.

A key outreach initiative is the annual Maritime Museum Administrators Course, a week-long training program for staff and volunteers of regional Australian maritime museums which builds their capacity to care for maritime cultural heritage.

This program served as a model for the Oceania Maritime Museum Administrators Course (OMMAC), enabling the ANMM to collaborate with international maritime heritage organisations and share information across the Oceania region.

Project Aims

Through the ICMM, the ANMM received funding from the Lloyd's Register Foundation to host the inaugural OMMAC in November 2025 at the Grand Pacific Hotel in Suva, Fiji.

The goal of OMMAC was to connect maritime heritage practitioners in Oceania for knowledge-sharing and capacity building, focusing on:

- **Sustainable exhibitions**
- **Managing underwater cultural heritage**
- **Long-term preservation**

Funding from the Lloyd's Register Foundation was crucial in supporting participant travel expenses, inviting specialist speakers, partnering with the Fiji Museum, and tailoring course content.



Participants attended from 10 countries and 13 cultural institutions

"[OMMAC] brought together the region's knowledge holders to build stronger, resilient, and connected maritime museums for the future."

Future Directions

The success of this project positions OMMAC as a model for repeat courses, allowing for an expanded reach to more participants. This approach enhances global capacity-building through the ICMM Global Maritime Histories Project.

Additionally, the ANMM can further strengthen connections among Oceania institutions and promote local voices globally, including facilitating Oceania practitioners' participation in the 2026 ICMM Congress in Sydney.



"Over four inspiring days… participants explored how Pacific maritime museums can strengthen storytelling, research, and collaboration.

Outcomes

- **Strengthened regional networks and collaboration** among maritime museum and cultural heritage specialists.
- **Enhanced access to expertise and professional development** through skill-sharing from the Australian National Maritime Museum in various areas.
- **Improved understanding of Pacific museum priorities**, aiding informed future partnerships.
- **Established a sustainable training model** for ongoing programs and professional learning opportunities.







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