

## A profile: Jubilee Sailing Trust Australia

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The Jubilee Sailing Trust is a globally unique charity that integrates disabled and able-bodied sailors aboard its two purpose-built tall ships, Lord Nelson and Tenacious. Late 2015 saw the charity establish its first overseas operation, in Australia, and in early August 2016 Tenacious arrived in Melbourne, its home port for a ten-month Australian visit. Use your special promo code as an MHYC member to claim a discount.

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Voyage with Tenacious for a life-changing experience!  
and  
Claim your MHYC discount now!

Sydney 5-day round trip	Sydney to Melbourne	Melbourne to Melbourne
<b>2-for-1</b>	<b>10% off for MHYC</b>	<b>10% off for MHYC</b>
6 <sup>th</sup> to 10 <sup>th</sup> March 2017	20 <sup>th</sup> to 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2017	10 <sup>th</sup> to 14 <sup>th</sup> April 2017
Use promo code <b>2FOR1MHYC</b> when at booking stage	Use promo code <b>MHYC10</b> when at booking stage	Use promo code <b>MHYC10</b> when at booking stage
\$1,155 for 2 people	\$2,736pp	\$1,359

*Peter Mitchell* profiles the organisation.

THE JUBILEE SAILING TRUST (JST) aims to provide opportunities for adventure in an all-inclusive environment. Its tall ships sail some 50,000 nautical miles every year and have a bespoke design and build to enable a mixed-ability crew to sail them. Since the first voyage 30 years ago, 43,720 people have sailed on these two iconic ships, including 5,579 wheelchair users, 1,913 people who are blind, and 1,676 with cerebral palsy.

### *Bespoke design*

Special design features on *Tenacious* include a deck that has ribs, tracks and locking points enabling wheelchair users to navigate independently even in rough seas, and for those who are blind to track exactly where they are on the ship. A speaking compass allows blind people on the helm to set the course and then maintain that course with a port/starboard

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sound tracker. While many people will steer the ship using the traditional wheel, those with very limited mobility can steer it using a joystick (much like that on electric wheelchairs). The design of both *Tenacious* and *Lord Nelson* allows for as much independence as possible on board – for example, vibrating pads under the bunks act as an alarm for those who are hearing impaired, waking them for their watch. People living with more extreme disabilities who require their own carer can be accommodated in dedicated cabins that provide more privacy and suitable facilities.

Both ships are entirely wheelchair accessible. For the more adventurous, the crow's nests (the platforms at various heights up the masts) are larger than usual, so that wheelchair users can be winched up the mast and experience the thrill just the same as any able-bodied crew member.

The aim of the JST is to encourage those living with disability to challenge themselves while having an adventure that is for people of all abilities (not the typical activity designed exclusively for the disabled), and in doing so build their self-esteem and confidence. This benefits all on board, as the able-bodied experience real inclusion and see beyond the disability to the person, challenging their preconceptions and realising the true extent of the contribution that everyone can bring to the team. In other words, they see the ability rather than the *dis*-ability. A great example is how well blind people steer sailing vessels – their feel for the wind and when the boat is sailing at its fastest is better than that of most sighted people. In this case they are more able than the seemingly able-bodied.

*Tenacious* sails with nine professional crew who are assisted by volunteer bosun's mates, watch leaders and cook's assistants. These volunteers have previously sailed with Jubilee Sailing Trust and have had sufficient training and hours of sailing to qualify for these roles. (If you want to support *Tenacious'* crew in this way, or assist the charity with everything else from fundraising to maintenance, please email [info@jst.org.uk](mailto:info@jst.org.uk).)

As well as the professional crew, *Tenacious* carries 40 'voyage crew', typically comprising half who are living with disability and half who are generally able-bodied. Ideally, across the 40 members of voyage crew, there will be a wide range of disabilities, from the deaf and blind, to amputees and paraplegics. *Tenacious* can take up to eight wheelchair users on each voyage, including two with more complex medical and support needs (assisted by their own carer). The rest of the crew will 'buddy up', pairing a physically disabled crew member with an able-bodied person.

They will support each another throughout the voyage, sharing experiences and developing a special bond and friendship, often creating a positive and lasting impression.

### [Partners, sponsors and supporters](#)

The JST benefits from the support of various organisations and individuals around the world, from the British royal family – HRH Prince Andrew, the Duke of York, has been the JST's patron since 1984 – to yacht clubs (including Royal Geelong Yacht Club), schools, charitable institutions and the United Nations, which recently accredited the JST under its Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

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One example of these partner institutions is Spinal Cord Injuries Australia, an Australian disability enterprise that aims to create independence, dignity and unlimited opportunity for people living with spinal cord injury. The JST also works with a number of organisations whose mission is to help injured ex-service people, such as Help for Heroes in the UK and now Mates4Mates and SoldierOn in Australia. Many service men and women have quite severe injuries and as a result may have fallen to the edges of society and out of employment, with resultant low self-confidence. The JST has developed dedicated voyages and programs to help these people reintegrate into society, and return them to a more fulfilled life and better employment prospects.

With other charitable partners, the JST collaborates to raise the funds for voyage opportunities that would otherwise not be accessible. These partners include a variety of secondary schools, various Sailability programmes around Australia, cerebral palsy charities, mixed-ability sports organisations, as well as some of the charities providing opportunities for the less advantaged in our society, such as Streetwork in Sydney. By working collaboratively with other institutions, the JST seeks to provide a greater awareness of disability inclusion into society across the world.

The JST also works with companies to develop strong leadership development programs. Corporate high-flyers develop their leadership skills, while seeing the power and success of a mixed-ability team. This increased awareness also helps them to view those with disability as something else – a potential employee or colleague – and changes attitudes in the workplace.

It costs a large amount of money to keep these iconic and highly regulated tall ships sailing the world to fulfil the JST's mission of disability and diversity inclusion. Although each berth on a voyage is bursary-assisted, the JST's corporate partners may donate funds, provide sponsorship, utilise the leadership development programs on board, or use the venue for a unique client event. The funds raised from these activities subsidise the cost of sailing for those who would otherwise not be able to afford the experience of a voyage on *Tenacious*.

Concluding with a trip from Melbourne to Wellington, New Zealand, *Tenacious* will be finishing her grand tour of Sydney, Melbourne, Adelaide, Geelong and Hobart. From the Australian ports, there are numerous opportunities to join the crew of the ship – from single day sails to voyages lasting five or seven days, and even the chance to crew the ship between ports on a passage adventure across the oceans.

Peter Mitchell is the Project Manager of the Jubilee Sailing Trust Australia.

To donate to the JST, visit [justgiving.com/jst-australia](http://justgiving.com/jst-australia)

For corporate donations, personal philanthropy or corporate enquiries, phone Peter Mitchell +61 (0)410 468 470

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