

Overview

The below data has been sourced from public web services; this information is accurate as of **4 March 2026**. In Australia, marine craft construction trades are classified as skilled technician roles under ANZSCO Unit Group 3991 Boat Builders and Shipwrights and offer competitive remuneration for both graduates and experienced workers. Table 1 summarises indicative annual salary ranges for entry level and experienced roles across Queensland, New South Wales and Victoria, while Table 2 provides a comparative overview of selected international markets.

Summary

Graduates of the MEM30719 - Certificate III in Marine Craft Construction (119144G) can expect competitive starting salaries in Australia (roughly A\$50k/year) with considerable growth as they gain experience, often reaching A\$70k–\$90k for seasoned professionals. Queensland, New South Wales, and Victoria each host active marine industries, with Queensland (especially the Gold Coast area) boasting the largest workforce and numerous opportunities.

On the international stage, Australian boat builders and shipwrights are well-paid relative to their peers in many other English-speaking countries. While a UK or Canadian boat builder might earn the equivalent of A\$40k–\$60k, and a US boat builder around A\$50k–\$70k (with higher potential in certain regions), Australian tradespeople commonly see higher base salaries and generous overtime/add-ons.

Table 1: Summaries salaries for QLD, NSW, VIC

Occupation	Queensland (QLD)	New South Wales (NSW)	Victoria (VIC)
Shipwright (Graduate)	~\$50,000 – \$55,000 [salaryexpert.com]	~\$50,000 – \$60,000 [salaryexpert.com]	~\$50,000 – \$55,000 [salaryexpert.com]
Shipwright (Experienced)	~\$85,000 – \$95,000 [au.jora.com] , [salaryexpert.com]	~\$75,000 – \$85,000 [p-mbuilders.com] , [salaryexpert.com]	~\$80,000 – \$100,000 [salaryexpert.com]
Boat Builder / Repairer – General (Graduate)	~\$45,000 – \$55,000 [salaryexpert.com]	~\$50,000 – \$55,000 [salaryexpert.com] , [salaryexpert.com]	~\$47,000 – \$55,000 [salaryexpert.com]
Boat Builder / Repairer – General (Experienced)	~\$70,000 – \$80,000 [careerone.com.au]	~\$75,000 – \$85,000 [p-mbuilders.com] , [careerone.com.au]	~\$62,000 – \$75,000 [salaryexpert.com]
Boat Builder (Wood & Aluminium) (Graduate)	\$55,000 – \$60,000 (specialist skills attract higher start) [salaryexpert.com]	\$60,000+ (often higher due to demand in Sydney) [salaryexpert.com] , [salaryexpert.com]	\$60,000+ (specialised trade premium) [salaryexpert.com]
Boat Builder (Wood & Aluminium) (Experienced)	\$85,000 – \$100,000+ (common for senior wooden boat builders) [salaryexpert.com]	\$90,000+ (specialist shipwrights in demand) [au.jora.com]	\$95,000 – \$100,000+ (master craftsperson level) [salaryexpert.com]
Boat Builder (Fibreglass/Composites) (Graduate)	\$45,000 – \$50,000 (entry-level laminator) [salaryexpert.com] , [salaryexpert.com]	\$50,000± (similar to national avg for composites) [salaryexpert.com] , [salaryexpert.com]	\$45,000 – \$50,000 [salaryexpert.com] , [salaryexpert.com]
Boat Builder (Fibreglass/Composites) (Experienced)	\$55,000 – \$60,000 (limited senior premium) [salaryexpert.com]	\$55,000 – \$65,000 (for skilled FRP laminators) [salaryexpert.com] , [salaryexpert.com]	\$55,000 – \$60,000 [salaryexpert.com]

Table 2: Comparison of salaries in other countries

Country	Entry-Level Salary (Local)	Entry-Level (AUD approx.)	Experienced Salary (Local)	Experienced (AUD approx.)	Source(s)
Australia	A\$45,000 – A\$60,000		A\$70,000 – A\$100,000+		SalaryExpert , CareerOne SEEK
UK	£24,000	~A\$45,000	£42,000	~A\$80,000	UK National Careers Service
USA	US\$37,000 – \$52,000	~A\$55,000 – A\$78,000	US\$70,000+	~A\$105,000+	North Pacific Yachts Salary.com BLS
Canada	C\$33,600	~A\$38,000	C\$46,000	~A\$52,000	SalaryExpert Glassdoor
New Zealand	NZ\$40,000 – \$60,000	~A\$37,000 – A\$55,000	NZ\$80,000 – \$120,000	~A\$75,000 – A\$115,000	SalaryExpert PMBuilders GigExchange

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