



## MAKING STORIES COME ALIVE

### **Blue Fin** by Colin Thiele - an Australian children's classic

Everyone in Port Lincoln thinks Snook Pascoe is a loser. People joke about his clumsiness. His teacher ridicules him and even his father, skipper of the tuna boat **Blue Fin**, is convinced that Snook will never amount to anything. After all, tuna fishing is a hard life for real men.

When Snook is allowed for once, to sail on **Blue Fin**, he faces a terrifying disaster. A waterspout engulfs the ship, the deck is swept clean, the radio and rudder are wrecked, the engine is disabled, the crew is lost overboard and Snook's father lies unconscious down below.

Snook is on his own, far out to sea.





Port Lincoln students participating in a **Blue Fin** Day on the **MFV Tacoma**

# A Blue Fin Day on MFV TACOMA

- Activities
- Welcome aboard
- Class formed into teams
- Back deck poling
- Baiting
- Galley & bunk house
- Engine room
- Pilot house
- Eating tuna
- Making brine

School excursions can be a great way to engage students with inspiring subject matter and ignite their love of learning.

That's why a day aboard the **MFV TACOMA** is more than just a day out of the classroom. With so much to see do explore and discover, it's a journey of adventure packed with unique education opportunities designed to inspire.

Programs can be directly aligned with the syllabus and support teaching requirements. The Tacoma offers a unique platform to enhance the learning experience from forestry, the sea, the dinner plate and every topic imaginable, using Tacoma as a unique learning opportunity.

And above all, it is an enjoyable experience for both students and teachers.

Many students have read or are studying Colin Thiele's **Blue Fin**.

The **MFV TACOMA** has a very close affinity with the book. While he was teaching at the Port Lincoln High School, Colin Thiele was fascinated by his students who were the sons of the tuna fishermen who had arrived in Port Lincoln from all over Australia for the tuna 'gold rush'. He spent many hours with William Haldane, discussing the subject matter of the book and Bill's son Roger illustrated the original edition of **Blue Fin**. The character Boris Bellamy in the book is named after a Tacoma crew member, Jack Bellamy who will be aboard the boat when the students visit. At 86 years young, Jack is a treasure and a living legend.



This program transposes school subjects into reality as students undertake a series of activities to gain a better understanding of what it would have been like on a 1950s **Blue Fin** tuna boat, fishing out of Port Lincoln. It immerses the student into the skill of tuna poling, the beat of the engine, the lofty pilot house and the cosy galley and bunk house.

**Become a tuna crew member of a tuna boat:** Students swap their school subjects for lessons in how to become a tuna poler. School mathematics becomes counting fish, measuring their weight, knowing their price and the share the crew receives. English becomes sending messages via radio to the factory or a mayday call involving position, geography, distance and time. PE becomes poling tuna of various weights. History surrounds the vessel, biology oozes from the deck and human endeavour is evident in every plank of the vessel. Activities vary depending on the age of the students. Our crew dress up in 1950 clothes to set the scene for the period.



Students can learn vessel part names, as listed in the **Blue Fin** book. They embark on a hunt around the MFV Tacoma in search of familiar items. Principal character Boris Bellamy shows them clues allowing them to find the elusive 'X' that marks the spot indicating the finds. At the end of the program, students are awarded their own can of SAFCOL tuna to take home.

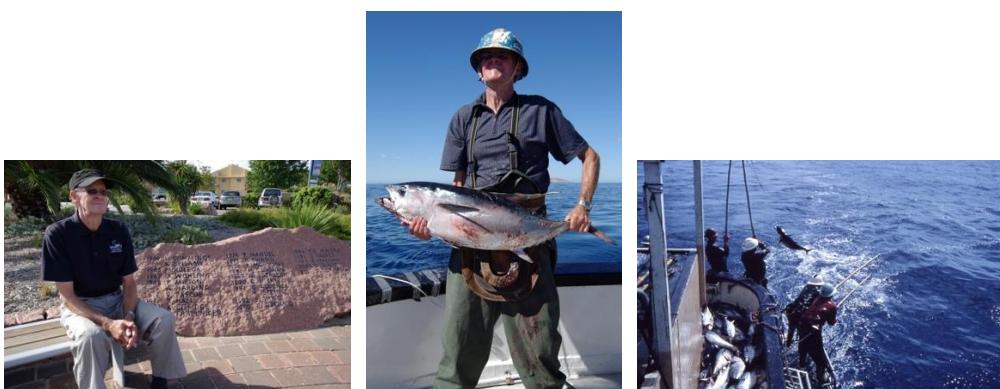


**Cost:** \$5.00 per student.

Teachers and supervising adults visit free of charge within the ratios specified in **Plan Your School Visit**. Additional adults will be charged the student rate.

## More information:

- A supervisor / student ratio of 1:15 applies
- **Duration and start/finish times:** contingent on student numbers and will be arranged and explained during the booking process
- **Breaks:** Groups are welcome to take recess or lunch around the galley table or as a crew steering a watch
- Visit the website [www.tacoma.org.au](http://www.tacoma.org.au)
- Contact **President Tacoma Preservation Society** Ross Haldane on 0427 173 860 or 0428 821 125 or email [tacoma.org@gmail.com](mailto:tacoma.org@gmail.com)



One-time holder of the world record for poling tuna, Tacoma's **Jack Bellamy**