The Maritime High School based at Le Fevre High School is an initiative of the South Australian government and combines secondary school studies that have a specific focus on high level maths and science and technical Vocational Education and Training (VET) within a maritime context.

The Maritime High School now combines secondary school studies that have a specific focus on maritime studies for the Western Adelaide regional schools. In addition to the maritime vocational courses, a number of maritime scientific studies courses have been developed providing opportunities for students to study ship design, electronics, radar, GPS and navigation technologies. This provides a training pathway towards achieving a nationally recognised vocational accreditation and the South Australian Certificate of Education (SACE) at the same time.

Maritime High School continues to flourish
Refurbished technical studies facilities at the South Australian Maritime High School were officially launched in October 2012 by the Honourable Mark Butler MP at the same time as acknowledging the re-naming of the school, formerly known as Le Fevre High School. A memorandum of understanding was also signed on the occasion with the Australian Maritime College, Launceston, and the University of Tasmania to further the educational opportunities for young people in maritime programs here in South Australia.

The Engineering Trade Training Centre which houses state-of-the art manufacturing equipment will be the centre for maritime engineering, CADCAM and technology courses. In addition, a ‘clean’ technology centre comprising computing and electrotechnology suites will provide a science, mathematics and technology (STEM) focus for students.

The building is named in honour of one of Le Fevre’s longest serving staff members, Conrad Carey, the man who pioneered South Australian metal work text books and courses from the 1940s through to the 1970s while teaching at Le Fevre.

Trade and technical skills are essential for young people entering the maritime industries and in particular, the defence maritime industry requires highly qualified employees with suitable levels of science and mathematics.

During 2012, 30 students from the Western Adelaide regional schools were involved in maritime engineering vocational pathways classes based at Le Fevre. Students worked towards their Certificate II in Engineering with assistance from their industry accredited vocational pathways teacher, Chris Christakis.

This year Thierry Herman, a maritime studies teacher introduced Year 10 students to boat building with a focus on the mathematics and physics principles involved in the design and
sailing of the model boats. During 2013 students will be able to continue with maritime scientific studies at Stage 1. This new course will investigate marine design and architecture and utilise new production technologies such as laser cutting for project construction.

The Australian Maritime and Fisheries Academy (AMFA) has developed a close relationship with the Maritime High School and established pathways in maritime industries. A proposed Certificate in Maritime Operations will provide opportunities for students to develop maritime skills that will prove useful in a variety of maritime industries.

During December 2012, a group of 18 students spent three days aboard the sailing ship the One And All as an extension to maritime safety studies completed earlier in the year. Students sailed the One And All in rough weather from the Port Side Dock to Edithburgh where they spent the night and then to Kangaroo Island the following day before the return sail in calmer waters to Port Adelaide.

This year the programs have introduced students to the many maritime pathways that exist and are becoming increasingly important to the growth of our State. Some 25% of Australia’s defence projects are based here and represent a diverse range of future career pathways for young people. The Maritime High School Program aims to prepare young people with the necessary maritime knowledge and skills to access these opportunities.

Le Fevre High School is a partner school for the Advanced Technology Project, managed by Henley High School, lead school for the Western Adelaide regional schools.