



Australian Maritime College senior instructor Wayne Schwartz supervises as federal Infrastructure and Local Government Minister Anthony Albanese tries his hand at the ship simulator.

Picture: PHILLIP BIGGS

AMC takes the helm with ship simulator

By PIP LEES

THE Australian Maritime College in Launceston impressed international marketers with its vision for maritime training simulators, unveiling the new facility yesterday.

Through a partnership with Kongsberg Maritime, the training facility is a \$4 million complex including two training rooms with a state-of-the-art ship simulator, one of just 800 worldwide.

Kongsberg Maritime sales

director Mark Treen said the AMC pushed for a unique facility and the result was a training centre tailored specifically to the needs of the students.

“What impressed me was these guys had a vision of technology and functionality and pushed the envelope,” Mr Treen said.

“This is very much at the forefront and it is all because they got it there.”

The two simulators allow students to practise manoeuvring ships without

the risk of real complications and damage, and they are complete with changing weather, birds and seals.

The simulators were officially opened by federal Infrastructure and Transport Minister Anthony Albanese, who tried his hand at steering a ship into Sydney Harbour.

“This is a vitally important piece of infrastructure which is about providing skills to our seafarers so that they can make a contribution to the Australian shipping industry.

“Australia is a shipping nation,” Mr Albanese said.

“Our exports go just about exclusively on ships — we rely on them as an island continent.”

The simulator is extremely realistic, set up as the bridge of a ship and simulating the movement and conditions of the sea.

“The reality is extremely close, but if a mistake is made you just take it back and do it again — it’s about positive learning,” Mr Treen said.