



**NAVY
CADETS**

AUSTRALIAN NAVY CADETS

OUR ISLAND CADET UNIT IS LOOKING FOR INSTRUCTORS

The Australian Navy Cadets (ANC) are fundamentally a volunteer community based youth development organisation under the stewardship of the Navy. Although sponsored by the Navy it must be supported by the community with provision of staff for admin and instructional activities, as well as funding. If the community cannot provide this the Unit is not viable and cannot exist.

The Magnetic Island Unit was established in 1999 as a sub-Unit of TS CORAL SEA. During the past 13 years since the Magnetic Island Navy Cadet unit was established the local community have contributed much in the provision of staffing and funding. Our current staff members have been at the helm for many years and will be stepping down over the next 12 months.

The island cadet unit urgently require volunteers to become involved in the Unit and learn the ropes over the next 12 months to replace the current staff as they step down.

The Cadet Unit is searching for at least 5 volunteers to join the Unit, at least one who must be a female. No previous experience is required, nor does the applicant need to have a military background. During the past 13 years of operation only one of the appointed staff members had previously been in the ADF. Duties include admin and/or instruction.

Instructor training is provided. Some of this training is done at the parent Unit TS CORAL SEA in South Townsville. Successful applicants receive an allowance based on rank once they are appointed. Uniforms are also provided. Appointment is usually as a Petty Officer Instructor. The Magnetic Island Navy Cadet Unit is a sub-unit of TS CORAL SEA.

Magnetic Island Navy Cadet Unit is currently undertaking a cadet recruiting programme. However if new staff members are not forthcoming to fill the staff vacancies this worthwhile island youth development facility will be closed down.

Anyone interested in finding out more about the role of Cadet Instructors and what is required to become one, or what can be done to help in other ways, can contact Jim Davis on 0400 534 068 or Unit OIC Chief Petty Officer Robert Allan on 0408 005 830.

IF YOU CAN'T HELP PLEASE SPREAD THE WORD TO SOMEONE WHO CAN.

A Short History of the Magnetic Island Navy Cadet Unit.

Magnetic Island RSL Sub-Branch is a proud sponsor and supporter of the Magnetic Island Australian Navy Cadets Unit. The Sub-Branch was active in the establishment of the Unit in 1999 and the RSL Hall was made available as a training venue. Training Ship MAGNETIC ISLAND is a Sub-Unit of the Townsville ANC Unit TS CORAL SEA. The parent unit provides admin and training assistance to Magnetic Island Sub-Unit.

By 2001 the number of cadets had increased to such an extent that the RSL Hall was not big enough to hold parades. Also the fledgling unit had acquired a number of Sabot sail craft and there was no room to store them. TS MAGNETIC ISLAND moved to the Picnic Bay SLSC. The Picnic Bay SLSC venue was perfect for sailing and water activities being right on the water. The Surf Club committee were generous with the Cadet Unit's use of the premises but the cadet programme had to be arranged around the Surf Club's programme which caused some difficulties during the summer months. By 2005 the number of cadets was around 20-25 and the Unit had acquired more watercraft, including a couple of power boats.

The Magnetic Island RSL initiated a project to acquire the old redundant Fire Station at Picnic Bay for use as a storage facility for the Cadet Unit. Pending a decision the Sub-Branch rented the facility from the QFRS and the cadet unit moved all its accumulated equipment there. The funds to pay the rent on the Fire Station was raised by the RSL Citizen's Auxiliary.

The RSL was successful with having a planned auction by the State Government postponed but unsuccessful in having a grant of a deed to the RSL due to State Government legislation. However the Department of Defence became involved and eventually purchased the Fire Station and renovated and extended the facility for use as a Cadet Facility. The then OIC of the unit, LEUT Neil Morris, was the driving force in the successful outcome

In May 2006 the Magnetic Island Cadet Facility was officially opened by the Federal Member for Herbert, Peter Lindsay MP. 100 Navy Cadets from the NQ area were in attendance as well as approximately 100 Island residents. All this had been achieved between November 1999 to May 2006, a period of only 6 years and made possible by the support from the Island Community.

The Magnetic Island cadets have done the Island proud. They have on many occasions been ambassadors for the Island at various events, carried the colours at the RSL Dawn Service since 2001, and participated in many island events.

In 2009 an Island Cadet was assessed as the Best Cadet in the NQ Flotilla. In 2010 the Magnetic Island Unit won the National ANC Commanders Award as the Best Unit in NQ Flotilla. NQ Flotilla comprises Units as far north as Thursday Island down to Mackay.

It would be a sad day if the Island Cadet Unit were to be closed down due to lack of volunteers to become an Instructor .