



**PORT LINCOLN NAVAL RESERVE CADETS UNIT *TS FLINDERS*  
6 February 1996**

**Mrs PENFOLD (Flinders):** I bring to the attention of the House a very worthwhile organisation for youth. Youth, from primary school age to adulthood, face a difficult time today, with high unemployment leading to lack of motivation. Families can also be stressed financially, which makes alternative leisure pursuits impossible for some. But there is an organisation for boys and girls which can increase motivation, train its members and often lead to a career for very little cost to the participants. I refer to the Naval Reserve Cadets. I am particularly proud of the Port Lincoln Naval Reserve Cadets Unit *TS Flinders*. Cadets pay \$10 per term or about \$1 per night—a cost that can be afforded by any family. The current outstanding Commanding Officer in Port Lincoln, Lieutenant Gary Maclure, was himself a cadet. He was appointed CO in 1990, and in 1992 received a commendation from Rear Admiral DB Chalmers RAN, Assistant Chief of Naval Staff Personnel.

Gary Maclure took over command from Rob Chambers, who headed the unit for many years. The first CO was Mr Ashman, a police officer stationed at Port Lincoln. These men and their officers, both male and female, give their time voluntarily to support this youth training activity. Few of the public appreciate the commitment required to front up one night a week, year after year, plus the work needed in between parades to plan and organise the unit and its activities.

*TS Flinders* was established in 1960 but did not acquire its own premises, the former South Australian Railway Barracks in Port Lincoln, until 1990. New floor coverings were put down last year at a cost of \$2 000 and space between the buildings was roofed to provide a covered area seating 85 to 100 people for a week-long advancement camp last October.

The camp was for senior cadets, who came from all over South Australia, plus four from Western Australia. Junior cadets went to *Cerberus*, the main training centre for all the defence forces in Melbourne for their camp. Cadets pay \$110 each to attend camps, no matter where they come from or where the camp is held. The money is put into a central pool from which all expenses are paid. Parents and supporters raise all the money necessary to run the unit—an example which could be emulated by other groups in the community. The cadets, immaculate in their uniforms, have assisted at parades and civic functions—notably, Anzac Day remembrance services. It is a pleasure to behold the discipline with which they carry out their duties. They certainly add to the dignity and pageant of any occasion. The quality of leadership is best judged by the awards which *TS Flinders* has won over the years. The unit has been judged best in Australia on numerous occasions. A career in the Navy is not the primary aim for the unit. However, many do join the service. Commander David Cunningham, from the Naval Support Command Headquarters in Sydney, when inspecting *TS Flinders* in September last year, said:

Not all members of the Naval Reserve Cadets go on to join the Navy, but the training is useful for all walks of life. However, young people who join the Navy after being a cadet are often happier and stay in the service longer.

One of the outstanding honours accorded to a cadet in *TS Flinders* went to AB Kent Hage last year. He was one of six cadets from Australia selected to travel to Canada to be part of the centenary celebrations of the Navy League tour of Naval and Sea Cadets International. Kent's father, Darryl, was in the first cadet intake in Port Lincoln in 1960. The Australian party left Sydney International Airport on 23 July, arriving at their destination in Ottawa after 30 hours of travel and, as might be imagined, they were very tired. Cadets from Belgium, Sweden, the United Kingdom, Holland, Bermuda, the United States of America, Japan and Australia made up the contingent, who were guests of the Navy League of Canada as part of the league's centenary celebrations. Participation in a regatta, tall ship sailing, training in boating and whaler familiarisation were some of the events, along with visits to Niagara Falls, the Universirt de Quebec a Trois Riviere and the Museum of Science and Technology at Ottawa. Kent said that he gained valuable experience not only in travel but also in personal development and meeting new people.

Commander Frank Doe this year at the annual inspection of South Australia said that being a naval cadet builds confidence, pride and team unity. He also said:

The Naval Cadets prepares young people for the future and they usually respond better to challenges in life. The support provided from parents is incredible, and there are a lot of people here who do not have children involved in the cadets. If the cadets wanted quality role models, they are all around them.

I reiterate Commander Doe's comments, because youth needs role models. I again commend the adults who work so hard to make these opportunities available to our community, particularly Lieutenant Gary Maclure, the commanding officer in Port Lincoln.

**The ACTING SPEAKER:** Order! The honourable member's time has expired.