



Cadets on the Mountain

Words and pics Cadet Corporal Hayden Swift
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The night grows long as I settle back into the civilian frame of mind and contemplate the possibility of doing some homework before school tomorrow. The weekend has been challenging, both mentally and physically. Between 21 and 23 August, 220 Army, 40 Navy and 10 Air Force cadets from the eastern district of Victoria took part in Operation 'Cadets on the Mountain', in and around the areas of Callignee, Le Roy, Koornalla and Traralgon South, in the Gippsland region in south-east Victoria.

Under the command of La Trobe's Leading Senior Constable Peter Olorenshaw and Captain (AAC) Clint Wilson, cadets were involved with tasks such as gardening, general cleaning, trenching, removing burnt-out fencing and replanting trees.

Cadets arrived at Newborough Barracks between 2000-2130hrs on Friday 21 August, and quickly installed themselves into the lines. Reveille was called at 0600 by the ever-capable NCOs on duty, and cadets were bused into Traralgon South Community Centre to be treated to breakfast served by the generous Lions Club, various Rotary organisations and the Make a Difference Foundation or M.A.D.

Army cadets were then split up into sections of 10 and assigned tasks for the first half of Saturday. The section I was in was directed to assist in some gardening tasks around the Traralgon South sports oval.

After a good four hours work, we had produced a small garden bed that would go towards helping to feed 120 members of the community still affected by the bushfires.

Lunch was also provided by the generous team of volunteers, ready to support our cause.

After lunch we were assigned our tasks for the second half of the day. 11 Section was bused out to an elderly lady's property, whose house (which once had a million-dollar view of rolling



Cadet Pearce gets some legwork happening



Cadet Corporal Warner directs the flow of work on the mountain (above)
Cadets pause to get an overview of the work ahead of them - and the magnificent though fire-altered views from one Victorian property (below)



hills) had been destroyed by the fires. We quickly set to work, planting new trees and bushes and clearing deadfall.

After about an hour of this sort of work, Private (AAC) Poulton turned to the property's owner and said; "This view is beautiful", to which she replied, "If you think it's beautiful now, you should have seen it six months ago!" I think this was one of the moments when it really hit home to the cadets the impact the bushfires really had on these people's lives.

We worked for another three hours, at which time a bus arrived to take us back to Traralgon South for dinner at the barracks. Unfortunately, though, the journey was not without a hitch, as the bus slipped on the steep driveway and slid back into a trench-like gutter on the side of the road. The exercise safety vehicle was called and two officers of cadets arrived to recover the vehicle.

In an awe-inspiring display of initiative and teamwork, the section managed to lift the back end of the vehicle out of the gutter and support its movements back to the bottom of the driveway and, thankfully, there were no further dramas on the roads.

Cadets arrived back at Newborough Barracks at around 1830hrs and were quickly put on stand-down for the night. Enjoying the luxury of the barracks' mess, as well as a well-stocked canteen, cadets from all three services quickly found themselves well at home. A fire picket was organised, with an amazing number of volunteers, as other cadets retired to bed, preparing for the day ahead.

Reveille, to the dismay of cadets and officers alike, had been moved to 0520hrs for the Sunday, though the cadets quickly remembered what they were really here for and took the early start well in their stride. Once again, cadets were treated to a very selflessly offered breakfast, and were very thankful for the meal.

Again, tasks were allocated and 11 Section was on the bus to work. We arrived at a property that had obviously been greatly affected by the fires, and had been previously visited by a group of volunteers of 60 university students.

Individual tasks were allocated to cadets until we were all formed together to do a sweep of the former fence line, scouring the land for barbed wire left from the fires. After loading it on to a trailer, all the barbed wire was successfully relocated to an allocated dumping area, ready for further processing.

All cadets were very enthusiastic about the work they were doing, and this was reflected in the property-owner's emotions, who seemed overjoyed at the help he was receiving – yet another defining memory the cadets would take away from this exercise.

After this, it was back to Traralgon South for a dismissal parade and a community barbecue, followed by dismissal speeches from various individuals. Emotions were running high. I don't think there was a single cadet there who, by the end of the day, had not gained a heightened sense of appreciation for what the Gippsland community had been through, and just how thankful they were for our help and support.

Cadets were then finally bused back to Newborough Barracks, where, after cleaning and packing up, they were dismissed.

Old friendships renewed and a new alliance with a large community formed, the exercise was highly successful, with all cadets taking away memories and seeing the impacts of an event that hit Victoria hard and scarred it forever.



Former TS Tyalgum members at the unit's 50th anniversary dinner

Training Ship Tyalgum Celebrating 50 years

Words Lieutenant Commander Christine Sheppard ANC

The Gold Coast Bulletin wrote that, "In a city with such a relatively short history, it is a source of great pride when an organisation reaches 50 years service – and on Saturday night TS Tyalgum celebrated that milestone."

Training Ship Tyalgum celebrated the unit's 50th anniversary in style at the Gold Coast Art Centre on Saturday 19 September with 247 people attending a Presentation and Reunion Ball – among them, 75 former cadets from all eras from 1959, including current Chief of Navy Vice Admiral Russ Crane.

The ball was about celebrating the cadet-unit's history and events that brought it from humble beginnings to where it is today.

The reunion was about celebration, rekindling friendships and reliving memories of cadet days.

Info Tech Upgrade

A project to upgrade Cadet units with new equipment through the Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) Refresh Program, which includes broadband internet access, new desktop computers and replacement printers, is expected to be completed by the end of this year.

The rollout includes provision of laptops and data projectors for units without an audio/visual and mobile capability, enabling DVD and other training materials, as well as internet access, to be available in classrooms at all Cadet units.

Parliamentary Secretary for Defence Support Mike Kelly has commended the Department of Defence for its ongoing commitment to the project.

"This program is an important initiative that will see Cadet units provided ICT equipment that will assist them in the day-to-day administration and running of their units," Dr Kelly said.

New uniforms

During a speech at the TS Tyalgum 50th Anniversary reunion on the Gold Coast in September, Chief of Navy Vice Admiral Russ Crane announced two major new initiatives that will greatly affect Australian Navy Cadets.

He said a major recruiting drive currently underway – and already producing significant results – would see the ANC grow from 2100 cadets and 350 staff in 87 training ships to about 4000 cadets within the next five years.

"Cadet numbers have increased by 5 per cent in just the past two months as a result of this recruiting drive," Vice Admiral Crane said.

The Chief of Navy – himself a former Navy cadet – also told the crowd that all Navy cadets would be issued with two sets of the new disruptive-pattern Navy uniform and new boots beginning in February next year.



Chief of Navy Vice Admiral Russ Crane celebrates his former cadet unit's 50th anniversary with current members and staff

Following a unit tradition, female TS Tyalgum cadets wore gowns the colours of the rainbow, while males wore ceremonial uniform. With the format being similar to a debutante ball, all took part in the Presentation of Cadets 2009, when 22 cadets were presented to the the Chief of Navy and Mrs Crane.

Jim Spiers and Ron Lather, Naval Association and Navy League founding members on the Gold Coast who were amongst those responsible for the formation of Training Ship Tyalgum, were also present and recognised by CN for their contribution. These men were instrumental in the building of the unit premises. In his speech, Vice Admiral Crane reflected on his days as a young lad, along with brother Terry and their dad, going to the unit site and helping out, even before they became cadets.

On Sunday, a barbeque was held at the unit for more than 130 people, including CN, where former cadets toured the unit, checked out old photos, met with old friends and reflected.

TS Tyalgum was raised in April 1959 at Broadbeach on the Gold Coast. The unit was granted freedom of the City in 1986 and exercised the right in 1992. It is housed in a beach-side building at a part of Broadbeach that was once out of the way, but is now surrounded by developments. When the unit's lease runs out in just over four years from now, the unit will be forced to move, but hopes to secure a new building nearby.

Chief of Navy Vice Admiral Russ Crane was a cadet member of TS Tyalgum in the 1960s. He joined the Navy as a sailor in 1970 before being selected for officer training two years later.

Commander of the NT Australian Army Cadets Battalion Lieutenant Colonel Mark Christopher said that all the recruits did extremely well and he was sure that they all ended the week better for the experience.

"I have enjoyed the experience immensely and am heartened by the dedication and enthusiasm shown by the Cadets and their staff" Lieutenant Colonel Christopher said.

The Cadets finished their courses with a parade at Larrakeyah Barracks, to show off their new drill skills, on Saturday 3 October and join 180 other Australian Army Cadets in the Northern Territory.



End of a successful senior leaders' course in Darwin

New Darwin Recruits

Twenty six young Darwin teenagers completed an initial induction and recruitment course with the Australian Army Cadets (AAC) in October, with a further 25 Cadets undergoing a Junior Leaders' Course, and eight more completing their Senior Leaders' Course.

The week-long Recruit/Induction course was conducted at Larrakeyah Barracks and Defence Establishment Berrimah and covered aspects of basic navigation, how to live in the field, drill, radio communication, as well as self-discipline, respect for others and themselves, and teamwork.



New Army Cadets parade at Larrakeyah Barracks