



Speech by

Jack Dempsey

MEMBER FOR BUNDABERG

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BUNDABERG NAVAL CADETS

Mr DEMPSEY (Bundaberg—NPA) (10.06 pm): I wish to bring to the attention of the House the great work of the Bundaberg naval cadets, their families, volunteers and supporters. Today's youths are the key to our future. I have had the pleasure of attending many schools, organisations and presentation ceremonies. Numerous champions have been honoured in a broad spectrum of fields, all of whom have been inspirational and leave me in awe of the quality of citizens we have in the Bundaberg community.

Recently, I had the pleasure of being on hand as TS Bundaberg received the Navy League of Australia Annual Efficiency Trophy for 2006. This award means that those naval cadets have been judged as being the best cadet unit in Australia. They have become the first naval cadets to win the coveted award three times. TS Bundaberg has also taken out the Queensland Annual Efficiency Trophy for the past two years.

The national award was bestowed on TS Bundaberg at its annual presentation day by the Navy League of Australia and presented by the Chief of the Navy, Vice-Admiral Russ Shalders. Bundaberg boasts approximately 60 Australia Navy cadets aged from 12 to 20 years who learn the ropes under an enthusiastic team headed by executive officer Lieutenant Reg Rayner and commanding officer Lieutenant Kerry Read. Lieutenant Rayner said that their aim was to—

... teach the youth of Bundaberg area life skills with a view to possibly joining the defence forces. TS Bundaberg belongs to the cadets and they run the unit with our guidance. Consequently, they believe the place belongs to them and they seem to be a lot happier and we continue to get new recruits.

The Bundaberg group will celebrate its 50th anniversary next year. It will be a time to celebrate the thousands of young people who have passed through their ranks, including three generations of some families. This anniversary will be a time to celebrate their achievements not just as a group but in all walks of life. These dedicated youths have made their mark in all fields—captains of naval ships, along with some of the highest ranking members of the Navy. It has been proven that former cadets stay in the Navy longer and reach higher positions than other recruits.

Many organisations could take a leaf out of the book of TS Bundaberg in developing our citizens of the future. I look forward to their continued success.