




Speech By
Julieanne Gilbert

MEMBER FOR MACKAY

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ADJOURNMENT

TS Pioneer

 **Mrs GILBERT** (Mackay—ALP) (12.22 am): I had the honour of attending the training ship *Pioneer* Australian Navy cadets' mess dinner, held recently in Mackay. The *TS Pioneer* Navy cadets has been named the most efficient unit in the North Queensland flotilla. The dinner was an opportunity for cadets to celebrate this great achievement. The awards recognise the hard work and dedication of all *TS Pioneer* cadets and staff. Units are judged on the general presentation of cadets and staff, training skills, cadet skills, the operation of the unit and community support. *TS Pioneer* Navy cadets were recognised as being outstanding in all of those areas. It is a wonderful achievement for the unit, which is comprised of 45 cadets aged between 13 and 19 years. While speaking to the cadets, it was wonderful to hear about their experiences and to see the pride that they felt from their accomplishments. Each and every one of those young people personifies the values championed by the Australian Navy cadets: honour, honesty, courage, integrity and loyalty.

The *TS Pioneer* has a long and proud history in Mackay. Thousands of young people have gained quality learning opportunities and valuable life skills through their experiences as cadets. The *TS Pioneer* began operation in 1958 as a unit of the Australian Sea Cadet Corps and received RNA recognition on 20 March 1959. The *TS Pioneer* became the perpetual holder of the AMP shield for the most efficient unit in Queensland back in the early days and soon gained a reputation for being a well-equipped and well-organised unit. The cadets' annual camps were held in the sand hills north of Mackay Harbour, with cadets sailing out to Slade Rook and beyond in the unit's 27-foot whaler.

The standard of training in these activities saw the unit become the most efficient unit in Queensland for 1986, 1987, 2001 and 2003. The unit won the national award in 2001. The *TS Pioneer* was awarded best in flotilla in 2011 and again is the proud holder of that outstanding title in 2015. The unit now has its sights set on competing in the national title later this year. Based on their past achievements and from what I could see during the time I spent with the cadets and staff, the *TS Pioneer* is certainly a strong and deserving contender for that title. Young people are the future of our communities, our state and our nation. I am incredibly proud to see—

(Time expired)