

welcome onboard

Australian Navy Cadet News
September 2019

The Inside Story



*RAN Recruit Melinda
Marion leads the pack.*

*See over for more of her
story.*

Editor: LCDR Barbara Butterworth, ANC

Email: Barbara.Butterworth@navycadets.gov.au

The Inside Story

by SMN Melinda Marion, RAN

On the 16th of August 2019 I graduated from the Royal Australian Navy Recruit School at HMAS Cerberus with around 140 other recruits.

I am an ex-Navy Cadet from TS MANOORA and I believe that prior involvement in cadets heavily assisted me in my time at Recruit School. Throughout my four years at cadets I was given many opportunities that I am still grateful for today and I was able to learn a lot of things that were very beneficial.

It was the simple things such as knowing how to march, basic seamanship, the correct way to iron the uniforms and polish boots, the dress and grooming standards, colours and sunset, understanding living in communal harmony - the list could go on. In my opinion more than likely everything that I learnt from Recruit to Petty Officer in the ANC aided me in my time at Recruit School.

Being given the chance to see different Navy bases, go on a live fire, participate in some Survival at Sea training and look around the School of Survivability and Ship Safety were also opportunities that assisted me majorly.

I was fortunate to have different staff within the ANC give me advice prior to joining the Navy.



One of the things I found a real advantage was speaking to cadets and staff after they went on the National ACT at HMAS Cerberus. The PTI at HMAS Cerberus had emphasised to them about having maximum fitness prior to enlisting which I then pushed myself to increase my fitness even further.

I did not go into Recruit School announcing that I was an ex-cadet but when my class was asked I proudly said yes. During most of the outside instruction (Steyr training, School of Survivability and Ship Safety, Survival at Sea, Seamanship etc.) the instructors will ask if anyone has prior experience or was an ex-cadet to gain an understanding of everyone's level of ability. As aforementioned, being given these opportunities during cadets helped remarkably during external instruction.

At the graduation I was awarded the 'Recruit of the Intake' and also in the week leading up to graduation I was the only recruit in my division to receive a 'Gold Personal Quality Report'. I just wanted to share my achievements and thanks to the ANC, as I cannot express enough how grateful I am for Navy Cadets.



I am being posted to HMAS Kuttabul next and plan to finish the rest of my Sailor Gap Year which will assist me in gaining a wider understanding of the various jobs available. Currently I am interested in commissioning to become an officer, but I am still working out the specific job that I would like to choose.

The instructors at Recruit School and during outside instruction were great and helped to make recruit school very informative and it is 11 weeks that I will never forget. I encourage any cadets that are interested in joining the Navy to go for it as it has already been a very rewarding experience and I cannot wait to see where the Navy takes me next.



Class photo at the Opera House

“Recruit of the Intake” - a very proud moment for an ex-ANC cadet turned RAN SMN. Melinda Marion is presented with her trophy by the Deputy Chief of the Navy Rear Admiral Mark Hammond

