

# Preparing South African youth for a nautical career

**Article and photos by Lt Cdr Glenn von Zeil, SA Naval Reserves**

**T**he motto "Honour and Skill" of the South African Sea Cadets is proudly displayed under their badge. These words embody the core values of the Corps which are: Integrity, excellence and service, which are instilled in the Sea Cadets via their training and interaction with competent instructors. These three words embody the cardinal points of a Sea Cadet's compass of life and include: Honesty, morality, loyalty, responsibility, discipline, accountability, self-respect and obedience.

The Sea Cadets also teach the necessary knowledge and provides practical skills underwritten by accredited courses necessary for those who wish to follow a career at sea within the maritime industry.



**ABOVE:** Sea Cadets practicing "pulling" which forges teamwork.



**LEFT:** Sea Cadets undergoing survival at sea training while on an annual year end camp at the SA Navy's Seamanship School at SAS SIMONSBERG.

*Where and when does the training take place?*

The Sea Cadet in South Africa movement traces its origins back to the first South African Training Ship (TS), located on Woodstock beach Cape Town, TS Woltemade was opened on 8 June 1905. The movement spread throughout South Africa and currently there are 15 training ships, nine are active and developing those values and skills required to ensure that the maritime industry is provided with recruits who have a passion for the sea.

## Who are the Sea Cadets?

Sea Cadets are school going boys and girls from Grade 6 to Grade 12 who enjoy having "serious fun" while learning leadership, self-discipline and maritime orientated skills as a voluntary extra mural activity. Any youngster irrespective of race, gender or religion is welcome.

The land based training ships located around the country provide a safe space with competent instructors at which training can take place. Training takes place on Fridays or Saturdays or Sundays depending on the training ship involved, with leadership camps scheduled during the school holidays. The highlight of the year is the annual camp hosted by the SA Navy in Simon's Town.