

Heritage Citation



T.S. Paluma Naval Cadet Hut

Key details

Addresses	At 352 Stafford Road, Stafford, Queensland 4053
Type of place	Hall, Defence site
Period	Postwar 1945-1960
Lot plan	L5_SP150610
Key dates	Local Heritage Place Since — 1 July 2003 Date of Citation — January 2016
Criterion for listing	(A) Historical; (B) Rarity; (D) Representative; (G) Social; (H) Historical association

The T.S. Paluma was purpose-built in 1953 as a training ship (shore depot) for the Dolphin Sea Cadets. The unit

was formed in Ashgrove in 1951 and moved to Stafford in 1952. The depot was designed to simulate a ship with a gunnery deck, companionways and associated equipment, including a Bofors 40mm anti-aircraft gun. To maintain a link to Queensland's naval history, the hut was named after the former Queensland Maritime Defence Force gunboat Paluma. In 1961, the unit became part of the Royal Australian Navy's Sea Cadet Corps. Until late 2015 the site included a 24-pounder Carron naval cannon, which was relocated to the Botanic Gardens following the naval cadets vacating the site. The hut is rare as Brisbane only had two naval cadet huts, with the Alice Street hut now demolished.

History

Founded at Ashgrove in September 1951, the Dolphin Sea Cadets met in a number of venues before moving to a purpose-built training depot, T.S. Paluma*, erected in 1953-54 in Gibson's Park. The depot was designed to simulate a ship with a gunnery deck, companionways and associated equipment. It was extended in 1961. The construction of the building was funded by parents' subscriptions and fundraising activities.

T.S. Paluma was recognised as an Australian Sea Cadet Corps unit in 1961 and supported by the Australian Navy with uniforms, instructors and equipment. The T.S. Paluma has a maximum crew of 120 members and offers cadets training in elementary seamanship, small boat work and sailing. In addition, older cadets are offered seamanship training in a RAN vessel.

Now a Naval Reserve Cadet Unit, T.S. Paluma is one of 14 such units in Queensland and the only unit in Brisbane. The T.S. Gayundah, located first at the Alice Street Reserve Training Depot, then at the Kangaroo Point Naval Stores Depot and later at Newstead, has been decommissioned and demolished.

TS Paluma transferred its operations from Stafford to Shorncliffe in 2004. The Dolphin Sea Cadets Corps, for those aged under 13 years, operated at Stafford until and is one of eight Queensland Dolphin Units.

*HMS survey vessel Paluma (360 tons) was built by Armstrong Mitchell in Britain and commissioned in September 1884. She was transferred to the Queensland Maritime Defence Force in 1894 and became a gunboat. Following Federation, she was transferred to the Commonwealth in 1904 and then to new Royal Australian Navy in 1911. She served as a training ship at Williamstown, Melbourne during World War I. In 1918, she was sold to the Victorian Ports and Harbour Dept and became the Rip. She was decommissioned in 1949 and broken up in 1950-51.

Description

A two-storey rectangular masonry and timber building, the T.S. Paluma Naval Cadet Hut stands in the northeast corner of Gibson's Park. The building is remarkable for accommodating a gunnery deck, companionways and other naval equipment, including a Bofors 40 mm gun, to simulate conditions of a naval ship for training purposes.

Statement of significance

Relevant assessment criteria

This is a place of local heritage significance and meets one or more of the local heritage criteria under the Heritage planning scheme policy of the *Brisbane City Plan 2014*. It is significant because:

Historical

CRITERION A

The place is important in demonstrating the evolution or pattern of the city's or local area's history
as a naval cadet training depot since the 1953 and one of only two such establishments in Brisbane.

Rarity

CRITERION B

The place demonstrates rare, uncommon or endangered aspects of the city's or local area's cultural heritage
being the only remaining naval cadet training depot in Brisbane plus the site has a 1803 cannon linked to the early defences of colonial Queensland.

Representative

CRITERION D

The place is important in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a particular class or classes of cultural places
as a purpose-built naval training depot simulating agunnery deck which includes a Bofors 40mm anti-aircraft gun.

Social

CRITERION G

The place has a strong or special association with the life or work of a particular community or cultural group for social, cultural or spiritual reasons

being the purpose-built training depot for the local Dolphin Sea Cadets unit from 1953-1961.

Historical association

CRITERION H

The place has a special association with the life or work of a particular person, group or organization of importance in the city's or local area's history

for training naval reserve cadets for the Royal Australian Navy from 1961 to 2004.

References

1. Gibson's Park – T.S. Paluma BCC Conservation Management Study. Site Report 2002
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Note: This citation has been prepared on the basis of evidence available at the time including an external examination of the building. The statement of significance is a summary of the most culturally important aspects of the property based on the available evidence, and may be re-assessed if further information becomes available. The purpose of this citation is to provide an informed evaluation for heritage registration and information. This does not negate the necessity for a thorough conservation study by a qualified practitioner, before any action is taken which may affect its heritage significance.

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