



Jobs ahoy as trainees set sail

THESE young men are learning to become deckhands, coxswains and even skippers in a new program for indigenous job seekers.

Five young people are learning how to sail the *Tribal Warrior* in a unique Federal Government pre-employment program.

Damien Reddy from Cranbrook is working on the 15.4m gaff rigged ketch with two others from Palm Island.

Herbert MP Peter Lindsay went on board yesterday to farewell them for the 10-day voyage in which they will learn seamanship and navigation skills.

"When these participants come back to shore, they know there are jobs waiting for them," Mr Lindsay said.

"So far, P and O Cruises and Sun Ferries in Townsville have guaranteed positions for job seekers who finish the certificate, and more employers are expected to come on board."

The ketch will head from Townsville to Palm Island, where a new batch of trainees will step on board, before it travels down the east coast picking up and dropping off recruits as they are trained.

Those taking part will receive a Certificate 1 in Maritime Services with hands-on experience in sailing, basic navigation, anchorage, basic first aid, fire-fighting and survival-at-sea training.

RIGHT: Damien Reddy, of Cranbrook, with ropes, and Leighton Little, of Bundaberg, prepare to sail

