



Special Edition

CADET NEWS

August
VOL 6, 2022



Officer Commanding No. 4Wing WGCDR (AAFC) Kylie Walker with Director General Cadets - Air Force Air Commodore Craig Heap and former Chief of Air Force Air Marshal Mel Hupfeld (Ret).

40 YEARS OF FEMALE CADETS

The enrolment of female officers and instructors into the Air Training Corps, was approved by the Chief of the Air Staff in September 1980.

In 1982, the Minister for Defence, approved the enrolment of female cadets. Later that year, 17 female cadets were enrolled in my home state of Victoria, the first being Cadet Leanne Lacey. Today this number stands at 27 per-cent female participation in the Air Force Cadets.

I am proud of the evolution of the Air Force Cadets and reflect that in my time, as a cadet, civilian and staff member, I have always been embraced by the organisation as an individual and my achievements, participation and experiences have never been impacted by my gender. As Officer Commanding No. 4Wing, I now follow the footsteps of Beth Flanagan and Dee West, two incredible women who have led the Wing before me.

I hope to inspire those that will come after me, to uphold the AAFC Values, embrace change and to continue to deliver a One Cadet Experience, where each and every cadet, regardless of gender, geography or demographics, is offered the same experiences, state-wide at all levels.

We achieve this through our national initiative of 'people, front and centre', where our people are the focus; every decision, every change and every communication.

One Team. One Dream.

WGCDR (AAFC) Kylie Walker
Officer Commanding No. 4Wing - Victoria

OUR FAMILY



Cadets
7261



Instructors
1258



Volunteers
407



CADET LEANNE LACEY NO.30 FLIGHT, KYNETON

Cadet Leanne Lacey of No. 30 Flight Kyneton, was the first female Cadet to be enrolled in 1982. An old black and white photo shows her in the front row with a beaming smile. Today, reflecting on her time in Cadets, she said she enjoyed her time, the bivouac in the local area, team building and learning self-responsibility. She also has fond memories of going to camp in Sale.

"Funny, I often think about a cadet camp every time I make my bed and do hospital corners," Leanne said. "I didn't really end up staying too long in Cadets, things changed and I went in a different direction but I definitely don't regret joining."



Cadet Corporal (AAFC)

HANNAH YATES 232 SQUADRON - MERRIMAC

Corporal (AAFC) Hannah Yates, joined Cadets two years ago and says there is never a day where she is not learning and expanding on her leadership and teamwork skills. "The AAFC experience has taught me about pushing beyond my limits and challenging myself to reach higher goals and achievements," she said.

Recently Hannah attended a Flight Training Camp at the Elementary Flying Training School, RAAF Base Amberley. After 17 days, she went solo, and became the first female cadet in QLD to achieve a solo flight in the Diamond DA40 aircraft.

"Cadets is an incredible opportunity," she said. "I have seen close-up, the fastest military jet aircraft in the world take-off, and the next week I was sleeping under the stars and navigating my way through the bush, all while making lifelong friendships and growing as a person." Hannah is aiming for a career in the ADF upon completion of high school.

"40 years of women in cadets is such an incredible achievement," she said. "I can only imagine what it would have been like to be those brave women all those years ago. Moving forward I am both delighted and proud to watch the steady growth of women within the organisation."

CAROLYN O'ROURKE, 8 FLT RINGWOOD

When Carolyn O'Rourke (nee Morton) first joined 8 FLT Ringwood, it was an all-male unit, but she says the senior command staff were very supportive.

"It was a bit tough and it took a long time to be processed," Carolyn said. "I still remember going in to get my uniform. It was so exciting."

Today, she still reflects on the lessons learnt in her time at Cadets and one phrase has stuck with her for life; that respect is earned, not given.

"Cadets taught me about resilience, independence and caring about others," she said. "It was one of the best things I ever did. I got more out of it that I realised."

LET'S CONNECT



30,576



5,155



2,290



1,901



218



AIR FORCE
CADETS

INSPIRING TODAY . LEADING TOMORROW

airforcecadets.gov.au