



# CADET NEWS

March  
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## DGCADETS-AF UPDATE

Air Commodore Craig Heap AM, CSC  
Director General Cadets - Air Force

It was great to see the strong AAFC representation at the memorable Avalon International Airshow (AIA) 2023.

The AAFC continues to develop and inspire young people, which was reinforced during numerous conversations I had with cadets, volunteers, the Defence leadership and Defence industry participants.

The AAFC has recently grown to 1,669 adult volunteers and 9,076 cadets. The figure of 9,076 cadets represents the highest intake since records commenced in CadetNet in 2017.

Considering the modernisation of our continuum learning programs for cadets and adults, which is building momentum this year, we are clearly on the way to reinforcing the AAFC's position as one of the key organisations for youth development in Australia.

Thank you to everyone who supported an outstanding AAFC display at AIA 2023 – you are a credit to the AAFC and the ideals we all share.



## AAFC ON DISPLAY AT AVALON

The Air Force Cadets were at the Avalon International Airshow 2023 with a large display this year. Thousands of visitors toured the displays inside the marquee and viewed two Diamond DA-40's and a DG1000 glider.

During the week, the cadets met the Deputy Prime Minister, The Hon Richard Marles MP, The Hon Matt Keogh MP, The Hon Matt Thistlethwaite MP and the Chief of Air Force, Air Marshal Robert Chipman. They also met Qantas aircrew and Air Force F/A-18F Super Hornet aviators.  
Well done all - you did us proud!



## NOONGAR SEASONS PATCHES FOR WA

No. 7 Wing recently commissioned seven flight patches, each with a unique design reflecting the six seasons of the Noongar seasonal calendar. The patches were created by Ballardong Noongar Woman and artist, Jade McGuire, with the intention to provide course and flight identification to cadets and volunteers whilst displaying the culture of the lands on which No. 7 Wing operates.

The six seasons, Birak, Bunuru, Djeran, Makuru, Djilba and Kambarang are incorporated into each of the six flight patches with the volunteer patch combining all six designs.

Officer Commanding No. 7 Wing, Wing Commander (AAFC) Damian Lambert, explained how these flight patches promote esprit-de-corps and team bonding while contributing to greater understanding of indigenous culture: "The patches provide a unique way for 7 Wing cadets and volunteers to identify themselves. They serve a practical purpose whilst proudly displaying the culture of the traditional custodians of the land."



The AAFC has a licence to conduct the Duke of Edinburgh Award for all cadets and adult volunteers under 25yrs.

The framework consists of 3 Levels Bronze/Silver/Gold and 4 sections per level Physical, Skill, Service, Adventurous Journey and a 5th for Gold - Residential Project.

The AAFC currently has 943 participants undertaking the Award and in 2022 presented 87 Bronze, 40 Silver and 21 Gold Certificates and Badges.

The Duke of Edinburgh National Awards Office has launched a campaign to promote the Award. Known as "Be Your Own Champion" it invites eligible Australians to participate in the Duke of Edinburgh's International Award - Australia which can help young people uncover, strengthen and enjoy the process of finding their passion that brings out their champion instinct.

All the information you need about joining and completing the Award is available on the Duke of Edinburgh Portal on CEA.

Or the Duke of Edinburgh's website:  
[dukeofed.com.au](http://dukeofed.com.au)

Now is the time to start your Award and see where the adventure takes you.

## OUR FAMILY



Cadets  
9,100



Instructors  
1278



Volunteers  
382

AIR FORCE  
SHOP

SCAN ME



Air Force Shop invites all AAFC staff and members to use promo code AAFC10PERCENT at the checkout for a 10% discount off all products, including those already discounted.

## LET'S CONNECT



## QUOTE

of the day



Tell me and I forget.  
Teach me and I remember.  
Involve me and I learn.

Benjamin Franklin

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INSPIRING TODAY . LEADING TOMORROW

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