



CADET NEWS

VOLUNTEERS EDITION

February

VOL 18, 2024



HELP THEM BE THEIR BEST

The Air Force Cadets cannot survive without our volunteers. For our volunteers, it can be challenging, but it's extremely rewarding and satisfying.

In our recent cadet recruitment round, we experienced unprecedented expressions of interest for our program, and our future expansion is only restricted by our ability to attract more experienced, dedicated and well-trained adult volunteers.

We are proud of our mission; educating, guiding and mentoring Australia's future leaders.

If you have experience to share, or would like to develop your skills in teaching, leadership and influencing, we can offer you the opportunity to give back to your community in a very meaningful way.

From the classroom to the field, there are many engaging admin and operational roles - from inspiring young minds in the classroom, to leading parade nights and field exercises, and logistics duties like the issue of uniforms, ordering and management of stores.

Join us in 2024 and help us bring out their best!



COMMANDER UPDATE

Group Captain (AAFC) Stephen Johns

Now is the time to become involved with the Australian Air Force Cadets.

We are proud of our work shaping the future leaders of our communities and we see this as our part of nation building for Australia.

If you know someone who is motivated to serve their community and is looking for an opportunity, send them a message and ask them if this is something they would like to do.

If becoming involved in the Air Force cadets has been in your thoughts and have hesitated pushing the apply button, then now is the time to do it.

Go to airforcecadets.gov.au and click the Volunteers tab OR visit the link via the QR code:



YOU GET BACK WHAT YOU PUT IN!



LAC(AAFC) Damian DeCandia from 2 Wing, loved his cadet experience growing up. He said it allowed him to grow and develop as a person and as an adult he wanted to give that back to ensure other kids could get the same experience.

"The Air Force Cadets has a solid program of followership and leadership, teaching great life skills and of course, learning to become a good citizen," Damian said.

He says the more you put in as a volunteer, the more you will get out of it, and for his efforts Damian was awarded the AAFC Instructor of the Year for 2023, presented by Air Marshall Robert Chipman, Chief of Air Force and Group Captain (AAFC) Stephen Johns, Commander AAFC.

"The time commitment required is not as onerous as some people think. At the minimum, it is 3 hours a week at your Squadron parade night, an hour or so on the weekend to plan and catch up on admin, then a one-week commitment to your Wing to do an activity."

When **FLTLT(AAFC) Melissa Jones**, Commanding Officer of 346 Squadron, first joined the Air Training Corps as a cadet in the 1990s she recalls it being very regimented. She is now very proud of her role of not only helping raise a new Canberra Squadron in 2023, but also how she has been able to mentor and enable Cadets to take a more active role in teaching, supporting and shaping the journey of their peers.

"We are letting the senior cadets take a more active role in managing the junior cadets learning program both at home parades and wider activities. On a recent bivouac, it was great so see our initiatives and innovations at a Squadron level come to fruition in the field," Melissa said.

"It has been fantastic to be part of the evolution of the AAFC. Many of the opportunities and experiences we are able to provide to Cadets under the current program were unheard of when I was in their shoes. Their confidence, enthusiasm and engagement is now there from the start of their Cadet journey,

"I think that everyone can make a difference."

In 2023, Melissa was awarded a rare Chief of Air Force gold level commendation for superior achievement for her dedicated service to the Air Force Cadets.



QUOTE of the day

"We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give."

- **Winston Churchill**

OUR FAMILY



Cadets
9,289



Instructors
1,371



DAH
463

LET'S CONNECT

