



Officer Commanding 3 Wing **3/18 BULLETIN**

OC 'CATCH UP'

Doesn't time fly! The last couple of months have been so busy with the CAF Scholarship interviews, Sword of Honour finalist interviews at Government House, IMT and UMT courses at Richmond, Wings Over Illawarra, the Cadets Execs conference, the Wing competition weekend and the recent northern region staff meeting at Williamstown. I guess one of the highlights for many of us was the Wing Competition weekend including the formal welcome to our two 3WG Ambassadors Matt Hall and CPL Milly Hodgins.

Over the next couple of weeks we will have some important visitors seeing what 3WG does. We will induct Sir William Deane AC KBE QC, former Governor General of Australia into the 3WG Hall of Fame. The presentation will be done by Air Chief Marshal Mark Binskin AC in Canberra. The Deputy Prime Minister the Hon Michael McCormack will be the reviewing officer at the forthcoming promotion course at Wagga.

This weekend I have headed to Bathurst to hopefully, fingers crossed! do a bit of flying with our students on the gliding course. However, as I sit on the ground here at Bathurst I am getting that deja vu feeling as the winds are too strong to fly along with rain showers. I can hear little murmurings from our cadets of 'oh god he has done it again and brought the bad weather with him'! Also this weekend I will be handing over the command of 3WG to my XO until I return from IACE in Canada in early Aug.

18+ TRANSITION UPDATE

In my last Bulletin to you I may have inadvertently implied that for those serving Cadets who are age 18 years + there would be an exemption provided and a possible phased implementation to facilitate an exemption for current cadets, or groups of current cadets. To be clear, while DGCADETS-AF holds the delegation to extend Cadets beyond their 18th birthday year, age extensions will only be considered where extenuating circumstances exist and on a case by case basis.

There is no intention to provide any general exemptions and the transition will take place by the end of this year as per the CDR's Directive. Please accept my apologies for any false expectation I may have implied' I believe that the 18+ Transition implementation plan will commence from 1 Sep 18 with the release of the letters of offer. Once we hear more we will communicate this to you.

PILOT EXPERIENCE FLIGHTS (PEX) – 300 AVIATION TRAINING SQUADRON

The entire RAAF glider fleet nationally will be going through a rigorous maintenance program throughout August and possibly into September 2018. This along with the structural changes to the Aviation Operations Wing and all of the hundred squadrons, AOW and CB-AF have ceased all glider operations for this period. Therefore, Squadrons who were scheduled for GPEX with 300ATS at BATAC will have their activities rescheduled by PEX Coordinator, FSGT(AAFC) Rachel Turnell. Contact will be made with the Commanding Officers of the Squadrons involved.

CADET EXECUTIVES CONFERENCE AND WORKSHOP

Over the weekend of 1-3 Jun 18 at RAAF Richmond we held the first 3WG Cadet Executives Conference and workshop this century! 31 CUOs and CWOFFs gathered together from across the WG to discuss current issues and challenges as well as develop strategies for the 2023 'Evolution' strategic plan.

'SETTING THE STANDARD LEADING THE WAY'

It was an absolute privilege and pleasure for the XO and I to host this dynamic group sharing their insights, passion and humour with us. Thank you guys for inspiring the XO & I and reminding us why we are part of this fabulous organisation.

Some excellent outputs from this workshop included finalising our 2023 vision and developing specific measurable strategies to achieve goal no 1 around providing access to a contemporary learning environment for our cadets. The delegates also received training around resilience, mentoring, an opportunity to tackle the 'Zin problem' and to listen to an inspiring and moving talk from Michaela Gilewicz, a participant in the last Invictus Games in Canada.

CHIEF OF AIR FORCE FLYING SCHOLARSHIPS

After the announcement of the Air Force Flying Scholarships for FY18-19, 300ATS on behalf of 3WG HQ commenced and completed the application process which included face to face interviews. These results have been sent to the Aviation Operations Wing (AOW). However, we are still awaiting the confirmation of the budget allocation before we then communicate to the successful applicants. I do apologise to all those applicants who have attended interviews and are awaiting the results. As soon as this information is provided to us we will ensure that results are immediately published.

INVICTUS GAMES SYDNEY 2018

I mentioned in my last Bulletin 2/18 about potential involvement for cadets and staff of 3WG in the Invictus Sydney Games 2018. The Games will take place from 20-27 October and will host more than 500 competitors and 1000 family members from across 18 nations competing in 11 sports. Events will be staged across Greater Sydney, including Sydney Olympic Park and in and around Sydney Harbour. This will be an unforgettable event as we welcome 500 competitors and 1000 family members and friends to Sydney for a once in a lifetime experience.

Shortly, I will send out an email to our COs with an opportunity for personnel to become Community Champions in their local areas. Community engagement activity is about 'Make Your Mark Down Under' to support our wounded warriors, their family and friends and really encouraging local communities to get behind the 18 competing nations. The email to COs will include a 'Community Champions Volunteer Toolkit' which provides detailed information for those who want to get involved. Aside of this there will also be opportunities for 3WG personnel to be involved with a number key events up to and including the Games itself so watch this space.

3 WING HALL OF FAME

On the 12 Jul in Canberra the Honourable Sir William Deane AC KBE QC, a former Governor-General of Australia and Cadet of 3 Flight will be inducted into the 3 Wing Hall of Fame. Air Chief Marshal Mark Binskin AC will make the presentation.

I am signing off now for a few weeks as I head over to Nova Scotia, Canada to learn more about the 23,000 Royal Canadian Air Cadets. Whatever you are doing over this school holiday period stay safe and I look forward to talking to some of you on my squadron visits from late Aug and Sept.

Take care.



Paul Hughes
Wing Commander (AAFC)
Officer Commanding

5 Jul 18