



## BEST IN THE BUSINESS

By Cadet Corporal Michael Wild, 417SQN, AAF

I have been reading CONTACT Air, Land and Sea since Christmas Day last year, when I was given every back issue and a one-year subscription as a present.

Since then I have been waiting for something to write about – and that thing came on 21 February 2010, when the whole of 4 Wing, Australian Air Force Cadets, marched onto the parade ground at RAAF Base Point Cook, to receive the National Banner and Royal Australian Air Force Trophy for the most proficient Wing of the AAF for 2009.

The parade consisted of approximately 1100 cadets and officers, and was one of the largest parades held at Point Cook in recent years. It represented a significant achievement for the cadets, staff and their families and friends who put many hours into supporting the development of young people under the cadet structure.

Ten minutes after it started the reviewing officer was called on to the parade ground – Chief of Air Force Air Marshal Mark Binskin.

After reviewing the parade, a march-past was done and the National Banner was presented to 4 Wing. A small speech was made by the CAF before he left and the parade concluded.

It was then that we got to mingle.

A lot of cadets found friends from other squadrons they knew from courses and other activities. But some of the braver ones headed to the dignitaries' tent to have a word with none other than the CAF.

I too, headed there with a mate, hanging outside the tent waiting for the CAF to appear. After about five minutes we were granted the chance to meet him and grab a photo opportunity. Unfortunately, after about an hour of wearing it, my hat wasn't so flat anymore – rather cowboy style – and it was a bit embarrassing wearing it in a photo next to the CAF but, it was a once in a lifetime opportunity, so I'm going to have to live with it.

I also heard (after the parade, much to my disappointment) that the Warrant Officer of the Air Force WOFF JJ Miller was also present and I missed him. But a few sergeants from my squadron had the pleasure of meeting him.

But, I enjoyed the chance to meet up and have a good yarn with mates from around the Wing that I knew from my recently completed JNCO Course.

At the end of the day, it was time to wind down in the car on the way home, and do some things that should never be done in cadet uniform. But hey, we are the best Wing in the AAF!



## CADET'S MEET AIR RACE HERO

Seventy Australian Air Force Cadets got a mighty shock when they left the Aviation Heritage Museum in Perth on 19 April and were greeted by Red Bull Air Race pilot Matt Hall.

Twenty-four hours earlier, the cadets watched in awe, as Matt, a former Australian Air Force wing commander and F/A-18 pilot, finished second in the Red Bull Air Race – and here he was right with them in a park alongside Perth's Swan River.

The meeting had been prearranged with cadet leaders, but it was a closely guarded secret from the cadets themselves.

"I was asked to come and speak to the cadets and I jumped at the chance," Matt said.

He spoke to the cadets about his youth, his start in aviation, as well as his experiences as an Air Force fighter pilot – and, of course, as a Red Bull Air Race pilot.

"I am so passionate about flying and I love talking to young people about the pathways to achieving their own goals in aviation.

"If my talk with them and my performance on the weekend can inspire just one of these young guys to follow their dreams and get airborne as a career, then it is all worth it."

The appearance was the last of many in an action-packed fortnight for Matt before relaxing back home in Newcastle before heading to Rio for the third round of the Red Bull Air Race.

The Air Cadets came from almost every squadron across

Words Captain Cam Ward  
Pics Sub Lieutenant Carolyn Docking

A glittering prize tempted 100 enterprising Australian Army Cadets (AAC) and Australian Air Force Cadets (AAFC) to give up Easter school holidays – but it wasn't foil-covered chocolate that focused the cadets' attention, with the highest accolade they can wear on their uniform on offer.

The occasion was the national Adventure Training Award (ATA) and their goal was the prized ATA 'Boomerang and Torch' badge.

This year's ATA was significant because, for the first time in more than a decade, members of the AAFC joined their AAC counterparts.

For six days and five nights their home was the bushland of the Buckland Military Training Area north of Hobart.

As was the case in 2009, the ATA was conducted by Victoria Australian Army Cadets Brigade, under the command of Lieutenant Colonel (AAC) Don Shearman, himself a previous recipient of the ATA.

"The ATA is not an event to be taken lightly or underestimated. Just to get here required each cadet to be nominated by their home unit and then pass a barrier test," Lieutenant Colonel Shearman said.

4 Wing, Victoria and all had paid their own return airfare for the trip to Western Australia.

Over the course of the week in Perth, the group visited HMAS Stirling and RAAF Base Pearce, the Army, Aviation, Maritime and SASR Museums, and conducted teambuilding activities. One of the highlights of this week was joining with 7045QN in Madeley to run a combined sports night, barbecue and parade.

But the Red Bull Air Race was a focal point. The cadets gathered in Kings Park on Saturday to watch some qualifying races, then watched the entire day's action on Sunday, cheering Matt to a second-place finish – his highest ranking since joining the circuit.

No prizes for guessing they'll probably be talking about meeting Matt Hall for a long time to come.



## TASSIE'S SWEET EASTER TREATS



CDTWO2 Zakariah Martin-Taylor 16 of 50ACU in Western Australia on the range.

"It says something about the regard they hold the ATA in that so many young people from around Australia would willingly give up such a large part of their holidays to test themselves in such a demanding fashion."

The cadets' endurance, initiative, decision-making, teamwork and field skills including navigation, communication, first aid and marksmanship were tested in a variety of scenarios.

Among the activities undertaken in the seven-night course were abseiling, night patrols, canoeing, 50km of hiking and problem-solving.

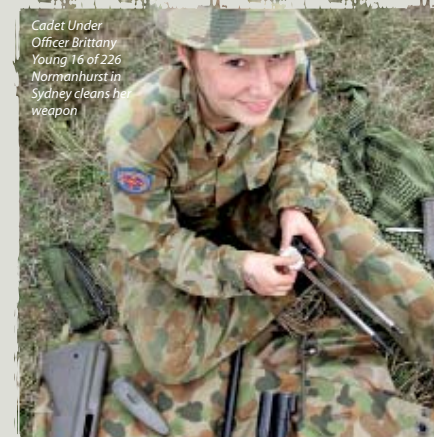
"It was very challenging, definitely a task to be undertaken by people who are confident in their skills but one that should be undertaken," Cadet Sergeant Matthew Hines said.

"I've already recommended it to three other cadets in my unit."

The 88 cadets who successfully qualified were presented with the coveted badge by Deputy Chief of Army Major General Paul Symon.

This year's Candidate of Merit was Cadet Under Officer Jessica Roberts from Melbourne High School Army Cadet Unit.

Cadet Warrant Officer Class 1 Joshua Vogel, the Regional Regimental Sergeant Major from NSW AAC Brigade, was awarded the Deputy Commander's Commendation.



Cadet Under Officer Brittany Young 16 of 226 Normanhurst in Sydney cleans her weapon