

NAVY EXCHANGE

Words Natalie Andrews

My experience as a Navy Cadet taking part in an International Sea Cadet Exchange was absolutely amazing. The exchange started off with just a few people from all over the world coming together in Canada. There were six cadets from UK, four each from Holland, Japan and Korea, three from the USA, Sweden and Australia – with each group escorted by an officer. We spent our first night together in a hotel lobby getting to know each country, but the language barriers were a challenge. As the days folded out and turned into weeks, and we got used to one another, we formed solid friendships within our small group and with a few other Canadians. Through the various activities on the exchange, we got to learn so much about each country and their sea-cadet organisations. Some of the different things I learnt were about their uniforms, ranking systems, staffing, operation and management. It was amazing to get to know people from all over the world who also have such a deep devotion, passion and love for sea cadets. We spent almost every day around cadets from Quadra, learning how to do all sorts of things, from driving powerboats, whalers and other motorised boats to sailing cutters and the glorious Maple Leaf – a tall ship. We spent a few hours of some afternoons learning the basic Canadian drill for their morning divisions, and some other afternoons taking part in their Samson's Cup games, joining in on extreme frisbee and volleyball. We also got out of our comfort zones and grew with one another through fear and fun. We joined in on some unbelievable fun



Cadet Petty Officers Carolina Caleandro, Natalie Andrews and Kirsty Reaks with Sub Lieutenant Tracy Hanson

things, like participating in the jetty jump, running through the confidence course and eating massive ice creams at a place that grew grass on the roof! As our time was coming to a close, the hardest part wasn't saying goodbye, but simply realising it was all nearly over. We were going our ways and left with only memories – and tonnes of photos – that would last for years. If I had to pick my favourite experiences of the exchange, I couldn't! To me the whole experience opened up my entire mind to what is out there, what is possible to achieve as a young devoted and passionate cadet.

ARMY EXCHANGE

Aaron Leong, 19, usually plays footy on the weekend with his mates from the Melbourne High School Old Boys Football Club, but he missed a few weekends in the past winter – and he thinks he had a great excuse! For two weeks in July, Aaron participated in the Army Cadet Exchange.

During the exchange, Aaron assisted in escorting 24 cadets from Canada, the US, Germany and Korea as they travelled from Sydney to Newcastle, via Canberra, and back again. Aaron helped act as a tour guide, taking the overseas cadets to military bases, museums, beaches and on a mountain-biking excursion. The cadets were given a taste of army life by participating in rifle-range practices, a high-wire course, an obstacle course and a few days 'out bush'. "The obstacle course at ADFA was pretty cool. Most of us didn't get through – it was a real challenge. Me? Nah, I didn't make it either," Aaron said with a laugh. "The exchange tour is a lot of fun. It can be painful – I stacked on the mountain biking – but yeah, it was good fun."

Aaron has been in the Australian Army Cadets for five years. When he first joined, he did so because it was compulsory for his school, Mentone Grammar School, but he chose to stay with it.

Aaron has taken part in several inter-state activities during his time in Cadets, but this is his first experience with cadets from overseas and he took two weeks off from his studies at Melbourne University to participate. "Yeah, it was a sacrifice to take two weeks out of university to come here, but it was worth it. I'd do it again tomorrow if I could," he said.



EXERCISE EMU

More than 1200 Australian Army Cadets from around Victoria were exhilarated after undertaking one of the highlights of the annual Australian Army Cadets (AAC) calendar recently. Exercise Emu brought cadets from the Victoria Australian Army Cadets Brigades and school-based units to the Australian Army base at Puckapunyal over a two-week period to attend the annual camp.

During the course of the camp they took part in challenges to test their knowledge in drill, weapons' safety, communications, first aid, field engineering, decision making, fitness and military knowledge.

Commander Victoria Australian Army Cadets Brigade Lieutenant Colonel (AAC) Don Shearman said the annual camp was always eagerly anticipated by cadets and staff because of the challenges it presented and the camaraderie it provided.

"This was no holiday camp. Cadets came expecting to learn new skills and be tested – and the staff were keen to ensure those expectations were met," Lieutenant Colonel Shearman said. "It was a chance for the cadets to put what they have learnt in their regular parades into practice – and getting the chance to do so in the field was an added bonus."

Australian Army Cadets Commander Brigadier John Withers said the annual camp gave cadets from geographically diverse regions a chance to meet, and also get to experience life in a military environment.

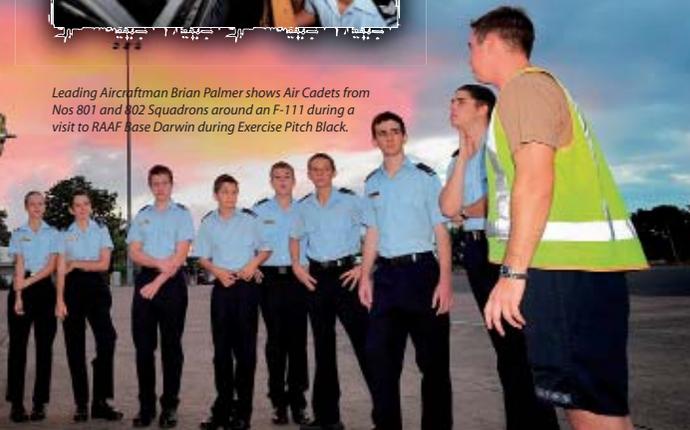


PITCH BLACK IN THE FOREND



Leading Aircraftman Lachan Dorey shows Air Cadets Kartikeya Singh-Freeman, Samuel Yiak and Patrick Ballesteros an F-111 cockpit during a visit to RAAF Base Darwin. The Australian Air Force Cadets from the Northern Territory came face-to-face with the 'Pig' while getting a good look over some of the hardware participating in Exercise Pitch Black.

Leading Aircraftman Brian Palmer shows Air Cadets from Nos 801 and 802 Squadrons around an F-111 during a visit to RAAF Base Darwin during Exercise Pitch Black.



NAVY CHALLENGE

Words Lieutenant Commander (ANC) Jake Radloff

Senior Australian Navy Cadets (ANC) recently experienced an exciting and demanding leadership challenge at Emu Gully, near Brisbane – the first national event of its kind ANC has conducted. Thirty-two cadets, aged between 16 and 19, together with six staff from around Australia attended the Queensland-based Emu Gully Adventure Park during the weekend of 24–26 September 2010.

Over the course of the weekend the cadets and staff participated in numerous leadership- and teamwork-based activities, all based on an ANZAC theme and aimed at developing the potential of the participants. They included climbing through underground tunnels and carrying a stretcher cleanly through a mud-based obstacle course.

The leadership challenge was designed to put participants outside their comfort zones and focus attention on their leadership and teamwork skills.

All activities provided new challenges, enjoyment and self reflection for all.

Cadet Petty Officer Laura Kelly of Training Ship Gayundah, awarded Best Cadet of her division, said of the experience, "I am actually a lot more capable than I ever realised. I never thought I would be able to crawl in tunnels, get over the wall or complete the mud run. I was really pleased to find I could get through every activity successfully and it really put life in perspective for me".

All six staff also participated in the activities, inspiring the cadets and providing them with a positive experience, enabling the cadets to see the staff leading by example. This ultimately led to a successful weekend that cadets recommended be conducted again in the future for other senior cadets following in their footsteps.

Director General ANC Commodore Geoff Geraghty said the activity provided an opportunity for cadets from all regions of Australia to face new challenges, identify key aspects of leadership and teamwork, and focus on good morals of citizenship.

