The eagle has landed as top tanker crew returns from Middle East
The nerve centre for this year’s Exercise Bersama Lima operated from the Changi Naval Base in Singapore.

Air Force committed its KA350 King Air, KC-30A, E-7A Wedgetail, P-8A Poseidon and a squadron of F/A-18F Super Hornets, which operated across Singapore and Malaysia from October 1-19.

The multinational air planning team facilitated the training serials, and the missions required high levels of coordination.

Combined Task Force Commander RADM Edwin Leong, of the Singaporean Navy, sat in on the air picture update each day to approve or deconflict the sorties.

Operations Officer No. 38 Squadron FLTLT Aaron Whitaker said the air plans room was one of the most exciting places to be during the exercise.

He said that during Bersama Lima one of their King Air missions was intercepted by a Malaysian F/A-18F, as part of the exercise, and forced down to the air base at Kuantan.

“We were also testing the surface action group’s operating procedures in the South China Sea,” FLTLT Whitaker said.

The exercise serials delivered great training value for all parties, including the ground forces at the airbase.

The feedback was provided to the exercise headquarters after each mission, which enabled lessons to be captured and effectiveness to be measured.

The E7-A Wedgetail detachment commander operating from Subang, Malaysia, SqnLdr Brad Machan, said participants did not simply look at the training points from last year and repeat them.

“No. 2 Squadron deployed the E-7A to the Bersama series of exercises for several years, so we did not just re-identify the same lessons. We deliberately extended ourselves regarding exercise objectives,” SqnLdr Machan said.

“We conducted air-to-air refueling (AAR) training and consolidation operations and the exercise also allowed us to train another AAR captain.

“It was very important to make the most of the opportunities these types of exercises provide.”

Air operations formed part of the multilateral combined task group, which included maritime strike, defensive and offensive counter-air, and AAR serials.
Exercise Bersama Lima

Firming up the power of partners

Bersama Lima demonstrated the strength of the longest-standing arrangement in the region, CAPT Roger Brennan writes.

The Five Power Defence Arrangement’s Exercise Bersama Lima 2018 proved the relationship is stronger than ever, according to Australian Contingent Commander GPCAPT Nicholas Pratt.

The multilateral combined joint task force exercise, from October 1-19, included defence personnel from the UK, Singapore, Malaysia, New Zealand and Australia.

Established in 1971, the Five Power Defence Arrangement is the longest-standing in the region and Exercise Bersama Lima allowed member nations to put their air, land and sea interoperability on show.

GPCAPT Pratt said the exercise tested the member nations across a wide range of security activities.

“Our relationship has never been better,” GPCAPT Pratt said.

“We have been able to operate a combined task force from Changi Naval Base with assets disposed throughout the region. The air, sea and land assets simulated maritime attack, amphibious lodgement and air-to-air combat serials, which afforded great training value for all personnel involved.”

The exercise, involving 800 ADF personnel, directly contributes to the security and stability of the region.

Chief of Staff for the Command Post Exercise on Bersama Lima, LTCOL Jim Ryan, said the exercise was increasingly significant for the region as it promoted multilateral cooperation.

“The exercise is important for Australia as it develops five-member nation security and my role here ensures we have the correct operational products and procedures to direct the combined joint task force,” he said.

The exercise is one of three Five Power Defence Arrangement activities conducted each year. The others are Bersama Shield and Suman Warrior.
Planning makes perfect

Eamon Hamilton

NO. 33 SQUADRON’s maintenance team secured a perfect mission record during the latest deployment of the KC-30A Multi-Role Tanker Transport to Operation Okra.

Working through a summer in the Middle East, the heat was on the team to live up to the standards it set during its previous deployment, from September 2014 to February 2015.

During that time, the KC-30A earned the moniker of coalition tanker of choice due to the ease of refuelling operations. That same deployment helped set up 33SQN for success during its latest four-month rotation.

Detailed preparation was conducted on how to best sustain the KC-30A away from home, according to the deployment’s senior engineering officer, FLTLT Janetta Biscontini.

“This allowed for the safe and productive conduct of maintenance to support a 100 per cent mission success rate,” FLTLT Biscontini said.

“Comprehensive planning meant we were able to adapt to a flexible flying program with minimal impact on aircraft serviceability even with additional tasking.

“It’s a testament to our maintenance personnel that the deployed aircraft returned to Australia with an improved level of serviceability and was available for tasking the following day.”

During the four-month deployment, 33SQN’s KC-30A clocked 776 hours of flying over Iraq and Syria, offloading 5.6 million pounds of fuel to coalition aircraft over 95 missions.

This amounts to an average of six missions a week flown with the one airframe. 33SQN sent a 17-person maintenance and logistics team, providing two 12-hour shifts to keep the aircraft mission-ready.

“The maintenance team was a self-sufficient contingent and conducted all maintenance on an operational flightline alongside coalition partners,” FLTLT Biscontini said.

The team contributed to a 100 per cent mission success rate with no safety incidents, upholding a ‘mission first, safety always’ mentality.

– FLTLT Janetta Biscontini, 33SQN senior engineering officer

Middle East Operations

MAKING physical contact in mid-air might be the primary role of the Australian KC-30A, but social contact between the pilots is also an important part of the exchange.

The day-to-day role of the Multi-Role Tanker Transport in the Middle East was to refuel coalition fighter aircraft engaged in the battle to defeat Daesh in Iraq and Syria.

Pilot FLGOFF Ben Price said the fighters could be in the air for up to eight hours and the tanker’s job was to refuel the aircraft so they could stay on station.

But it was not necessarily just the aircraft that needed refuelling. After so long in the air, the fighter pilots sometimes needed some conversational sustenance.

“It’s great when we have a chance to chat with them and brighten their day, as they are flying a single-seat aircraft for eight to nine hours a day without the same comforts we have in our aircraft,” FLGOFF Price said.

Air Force’s six KC-30A aircraft are from No. 33 Squadron, based at RAAF Base Amberley. Their latest deployment to the Middle East ended in October, when they made way for the next rotation of the E-7A Wedgetail.

The KC-30A is fitted with an advanced refuelling boom system mounted on the tail of the aircraft and a pair of all-electric refuelling pods under each wing.

FLGOFF Price said the KC-30A could remain up to 1800km from its home base, carrying 50 tonnes of fuel to offload for up to four hours. He said the tanker was well suited to its role in the Middle East because it could refuel most coalition aircraft, including the F/A-18 Hornet, Eurofighter Typhoon and the Dassault Rafale.

“During this deployment we mainly supported US Marine Corps, US Navy, British, French and Italian aircraft,” FLGOFF Price said.

“We have to listen hard to some of the accents of the coalition pilots, but we all use similar procedures and drills.

“It has been incredibly rewarding to be a part of Operation Okra and work with our coalition partners while flying an impressive piece of kit with a great crew.

The KC-30A cockpit is equipped with both two- and three-dimensional screens and can seat a pilot, co-pilot, air-refuelling officer and mission coordinator.

Air-refuelling officer SGT Michael Nester said when the KC-30A was airborne and in the area of operations, a rendezvous time was made with the receiver aircraft.

“They approach the tanker after making visual contact and we then trail our refuelling pods and they fly into contact to receive fuel,” he said.

“There can be challenges working with the coalition partners because there’s a variety of ways they join our aircraft. English is often not their first language, as well.”

SGT Nester said the KC-30A extended the range of the fighter aircraft they refuelled. It also allowed the fighters to carry a heavier payload and to stay in the area of operations longer.

“The KC-30A is a great platform and I feel fortunate to work in such a tactical role,” he said.

“...the highlight of my deployment is being a part of a good crew and being able to rely on them to get the job done.”

Tankers reaching out with more than just a boom

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Eamon Hamilton
Raptor and KC-30: A likely couple

Eamon Hamilton

REFUELLING trials with the US Air Force (USAF) will clear No. 33 Squadron’s KC-30A Multi-Role Tanker Transport aircraft to work with the advanced F-22 Raptor fighter.

Eight test flights between the two aircraft were conducted from Edwards Air Force Base in California in August and September.

The data is now being assessed to complete the standard procedures for refuelling activities involving both aircraft.

Serving as an air dominance fighter for the USAF, the F-22 combines stealth technology with advanced manoeuvrability and high-speed performance.

It has an internal fuel capacity of 8.2 tonnes, and can supplement this load with air-to-air refuelling and by carrying external tanks underneath the wings.

The KC-30A, which has a fuel capacity of more than 100 tonnes, can use its 15-metre-long advanced refuelling boom system to connect with the F-22.

Commander Air Mobility Group AIRCDRE William Kourelakos said the refuelling trials were an important step towards future exercises and operations between Air Force and USAF.

“We’ve seen the F-22 deploy to Australia in the past, whether it’s been for the Enhanced Air Cooperation program or to the Australian International Air Show,” AIRCDRE Kourelakos said.

“Being able to refuel the F-22, whether it’s in Australia or elsewhere, increases our interoperability and enhances the reach and mobility of these aircraft.

“The KC-30A already has refuelling clearances for a number of unique USAF aircraft, such as the B-1B Lancer. It is an enabling capability”, a flight test team from the RAAF’s Aircraft Research and Development Unit (ARDU) worked with its USAF counterparts to plan the trial and collect data during flights.

Jeremy Sequeira, the Flight Test Lead with ARDU at RAAF Base Amberley, said the trial posed few challenges aside from the highly sensitive nature of the F-22’s security.

“Overall, there were few real issues as the KC-30A and F-22 are fairly mature platforms for aerial refuelling,” Mr Sequeira said.

“Much of the lead-up to the trials was spent planning to ensure we only hit the essential points in the trial to minimise the impact on the high-tempo KC-30A fleet.”

Refuelling test programs ensure the performance of the KC-30A and receiver aircraft are not adversely affected as they “couple” in flight.

The trials test whether both aircraft can safely manoeuvre together while connected and with the receiver aircraft carrying different payloads.

“Data from other F-22 refuelling trials gave us a good expectation of how it would perform, and the aircraft met our expectations during the eight flights we conducted in this trial,” Mr Sequeira said.

“The KC-30A’s boom handled very well and the F-22 pilots consistently enjoyed flying with our tanker.

“We had a very good team behind us – the engineers at home who gave technical clearances for the test, the ARDU and USAF test teams, our contractor air refuelling officers and the technicians who got us airborne.

“It was a great trial to be a part of, and demonstrated the RAAF’s ability to conduct safe and efficient tests to deliver an operational capability.”
Kuga took the bullets for ‘me and my mates’

CPL Sebastian Beurich

IF YOU needed any more confirmation dogs are man’s best friend, a moving presentation ceremony for the PDSA Dickin Medal to special operations military working dog (SOMWD) Kuga on October 26 would have convinced you. Kuga, a Belgian Malinois who died in 2012, is the first Australian dog presented with the medal, joining two other Australians – both WWII carrier pigeons – on a list of only 70 other animals worldwide.

On task in Afghanistan with his handler SGT J as part of an SASR patrol in August 2011, Kuga was shot five times while detecting and breaking an insurgent ambush. Actions said to have saved the patrol.

SSLR Senior Dog Liaison Officer RAAF SGT C was Kuga’s carer and first trainer when he came to the cell at eight months of age.

“Kuga was a strong-willed dog, intelligent and easy to train, but the bond he had with his handler would have certainly driven him forward until his training kicked in,” SGT C said.

“For him to be awarded the Dickin Medal is pretty significant and I think he’s more than a worthy recipient.

“It took almost three years of work by a small number of people, including the PDGA, who did an enormous amount of work to have Kuga officially recognised.”

His actions meant the patrol would return home to their families, with SGT J saying he was proud of what Kuga did.

“Ultimately, he’s the one who chose to go forward, who chose to take bullets for both me and my mates,” SGT J said.

When CPL Mark Donaldson, VC, and retired SOMWD Odin accepted the medal on behalf of SGT J and Kuga at the Australian War Memorial, SGT Donaldson said it was a great recognition of not only Kuga’s efforts, but of all the canines and handlers for years of “blood, sweat and tears”.

“They say the Dickin Medal is like the animal equivalent of the Victoria Cross. I understand the responsibility that comes with that – you’re wearing it for other people who were there that day,” CPL Donaldson said.

“I’m pretty sure if Kuga were here today, he’d be pretty proud, walking around with his chest out, knowing his actions were for all of his canine mates.”

SOMWD Odin accepted the Dickin Medal on behalf of SGT J and Kuga.

THE WORKING DOG

My nose is your nose, to watch you and protect you and yours,
My ears are your ears, to hear and detect evil minds in the dark,
My eyes are your eyes, to scent the invader of your domain,
And so you may live, my life is also yours.

(Excerpt, author unknown.)

Military working dog memorial unveiled in Middle East

‘They saved many of us’

CPL Carla Armenti

A MEMORIAL to honour military working dogs killed on operations in the Middle East was unveiled at Australia’s main operating base in the MEB on October 23.

A short service was held to mark the occasion on the ninth anniversary of the death of Explosive Detection Dog Nova in Afghanistan.

Commander of Australian operations in the Middle East RADM Jamie Hatcher said the dogs had been “partners in completing our important mission here” and deserved the recognition.

“It is important to remember and, on occasion, to commemorate the legacy of these military working dogs alongside that of our ADF personnel as we will do here in this memorial garden, in this special place, in the Middle East,” RADM Hatcher said.

LACW Jessica Holmes was the driving force behind the memorial.

She first deployed to the Middle East 18 months ago and noticed the Australian base had a memorial for soldiers who had died on operations but not for the dogs.

LACW Holmes said she wanted a reminder “that people would walk past every day and recognise the protection that dogs provide to us as a defence force”.

“We ask our military working dogs to do a lot, to work at a high tempo and in extreme environments,” she said.

“The dogs would have saved dozens of people, including Australian soldiers, on patrol and it is important to recognise how important a part of the ADF team they are,” she said.

Military working dogs have contributed to Australian operations in many ways since WWII as sentries, scouts, for casualty and evacuation and as messengers.

Today, dogs contribute through search and detection, tracking, crime prevention and attack roles.

The names of the 10 Australian dogs that have died on operations in the Middle East are written on the memorial, with an excerpt from a poem entitled The Working Dog.

The military working dog memorial stands alongside a memorial honouring the 43 Australians who have died on operations.
The DAHCES is an ongoing service that supports current and former Defence employees (ADF, APS and cadets) who believe they have been exposed to asbestos or hazardous chemicals during their employment. By registering with the Scheme, health information and medical advice can be accessed through Defence’s specialist health provider.

If you believe you have been exposed to asbestos or hazardous chemicals during your employment with Defence, contact 1800 DEFENCE (1800 333 362) and register with the DAHCES.

Further information on the Scheme can be found at defence.gov.au/whs/programs/asbestos-exposure-evaluation-scheme.asp
Look on bright side of life

FROM an early age AVM Joe Iervasi had always wanted to be a pilot. In fact, during his childhood he had model planes dangling from his bedroom ceiling.

“As I went through school I was looking at what I needed to get into aviation and flying. At that stage Air Force seemed to be well beyond my reach,” he said.

“I was looking at going down the path of becoming a commercial pilot, but then I saw how expensive pilot lessons were.”

Around that time a good mate of his, whose brother was already an Air Force pilot, asked AVM Iervasi if he wanted to tag along for a visit to Air Force recruiting.

“I said I would give that a crack. So, it was only by circumstance that I went to recruiting and I was fortunate enough to get in to Air Force,” he said.

Joining in 1985, he completed his flying training in 1989. He served at No. 3 Squadron as a junior pilot before proceeding on exchange to No. 5 Squadron RAF, flying the Tornado F3. Upon returning to Australia in 1995, he served as a flight commander at both No. 77 and 75 Squadrons. Numerous command postings along the way included No. 81 Squadron in 2010. AVM Iervasi has more than 3000 hours flying fast jets and is an A Category Fighter Pilot.

Growing up in NSW, AVM Iervasi’s father migrated from Italy in the ‘50s, and his mother was born in Australia to Italian immigrants. He is the first member of his family to join the ADF – effectively breaking the mould of family occupations.

“Technically, I am a full blood Italian, and the family had, of course, all the stereotypical jobs associated with migrants at the time.” AVM Iervasi said.

On his father’s side, they were farmers and green grocers and on his mother’s they were mechanics and truck drivers. “At one stage we owned a pizza shop,” he said. The Iervasi family dabbled in concreting.

“Good friends of mine would always joke that they could remember where they were by a concrete slab. They would know exactly the day, the time and what happened in the world when that slab was laid,” he said.

A keen sportsman, AVM Iervasi played both cricket and soccer. Introduced to cricket by his neighbours, he would grow to love the sport and is the Air Force cricket team patron.

“I love Test cricket. You can associate a lot of analogies with cricket and life, such as playing by the umpire’s rules and the game goes for five days – an example of adapting to change etc.”

Growing up in the ‘80s, his all-time favourite cricket hero is Greg Chappell.

“Greg was a hero of mine. Not only for his performance, but I remember writing a letter to the Channel Nine commentary team on ways of improving the game.” AVM Iervasi said.

“He was the only one to reply to me. In my eyes he was my hero.”

AVM Iervasi loves his job and enjoys the opportunity to lead a dynamic team at the Air Warfare Centre.

Outside of work, he enjoys gardening with his wife Donna and spending time with his twin daughters, Rosie and Lily.

As a Monty Python fanatic, it’s not surprising that his philosophy is: “Always look on the bright side of life.”

AVM Iervasi was promoted on November 2, and will deploy to the Middle East region in January 2019 as Commander JTF633.
Operation APEC 18 Assist

Offering our support

ACM Sir Angus Houston (ret’d), who trained on the C-130H, will be the guest speaker at an event to celebrate the Hercules’ 60th anniversary of Air Force service.

ACM Houston did pilot training on the C-130H Hercules in 1993 before his posting as OC No. 86 Wing at RAAF Base Richmond from 1994 to 1995.

The No. 37 Squadron Association is coordinating the function, at the Clarendon Tavern opposite RAAF Base Richmond, as part of a reunion to mark the anniversary.

Mr Col Coyne, a former loadmaster on the C-130E and president of the 37SQN Association, invited all past and present members of the RAAF Hercules community to attend.

“This December we celebrate 60 years since the arrival of the first C-130A Hercules, A97-205, at RAAF Richmond,” Mr Coyne said.

“This reunion is an opportunity for past and present C-130 Hercules aircrew, maintenance and support personnel to reminisce on their Air Force careers and association with the venerable Hercules.”

Four models of the Hercules have been operated by Nos. 36 and 37 Squadrons and a host of other units have been critical to their operation.

This includes maintenance and logistics support from No. 503 Wing, No. 486 Squadron and the Air Lift Systems Program Office, and essential support from agencies such as No. 285 Squadron and the Air Mobility Training and Development Unit.

Past members will also be able to visit 37SQN at RAAF Base Richmond on the day of the reunion.

Temporary CO 37SQN SQNLDR Adrian Willey said thousands of people had been involved with Hercules operations in the past 60 years.

“Everyone who’s contributed to this capability has something to be proud of, whether it’s been directly on operations or from bases in Australia,” SQNLDR Willey said.

“The squadron today is proud to carry a legacy that began with 36SQN in 1958 and would be forged during operations in Vietnam and following Cyclone Tracy.

“More recent members of our Hercules community have contributed to airlift operations in the Middle East Region since 2003 as well as disaster relief missions in Indonesia.”

Four models of Hercules have served Air Force in the past 60 years.

C-17A Globemaster III pilots SQNLDR Tim Smith and FLGOFF Alex Cavanagh descend into Port Moresby to drop off ADF personnel deploying on Operation APEC 18 Assist.

Photo: FSGT Glen McCarthy

AN Air Force C-17A Globemaster III has played a major role in deploying ADF personnel for the 2018 Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum in Papua New Guinea.

The personnel, representing all three ADF services, arrived in Port Moresby as part of Australian Government support to the Government of Papua New Guinea to deliver the APEC forum.

Over the coming weeks ADF personnel, as part of Joint Task Force 658, will support PNG to deliver a successful APEC, further enhancing the long-standing partnership with the nation.

Senior ADF officer on the ground MAJGEN Paul McLachlan said the ADF’s arrival symbolised the commitment between neighbours to deliver a safe and secure APEC 2018 Leaders’ Week from November 12-18.

“The most visual aspect of what we have in country at the moment is HMAS Adelaide, which provides a maritime security effect in support of the Papua New Guinea Joint Security Task Force,” MAJGEN McLachlan said.

“The relationships between the PNG Defence Force and the ADF, borne out of the Defence Cooperation Program, have been really important in the planning over the last 18 months.

“We have continued our close bond by setting up a partnered operations centre to help coordinate security arrangements.”

The C-17A isn’t the Joint Task Force’s only Air Force contribution to supporting APEC 18. Other aircraft include F/A-18F Super Hornet operating from RAAF Base Townsville, KC-30A Multi-Role Tanker Transport operating from Cairns as well as E-7A Wedgetail and P-8A Poseidon operating from the Northern Territory.

The ADF is also providing high-end security capabilities and assistance, including a partnered and joint headquarters, airspace and maritime security, and additional Army capabilities in support of Papua New Guinea Defence Force.

HMA Ships Adelaide, Glenelg and Larrakia have deployed to Port Moresby, as well as ground and aviation capabilities from Army.

PNG is hosting a program of APEC meetings throughout 2018, culminating in the Leaders’ Summit of presidents and prime ministers from 21 Pacific Rim member economies.

Bookings are limited and can be made at www.trybooking.com. For more information email raaf37sqnassoc@outlook.com or contact Col Coyne on 0402 815 015.
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All systems go

FLGOFF Belinda Scott meets an Aviation Systems Technician who thrives in a fast-paced environment

From maintainer, instructor and now designer, Aviation Systems Technician SGT Jason Smith has embraced the diverse workforce that Air Force has to offer.

When he joined in March 2001 as an avionics technician (AVTECH), SGT Smith was interested in aviation maintenance and being paid to train in that field was appealing for him at the time. He then successfully re-mustered from AVTECH to AVSYSTECH in 2011.

SGT Smith works within the Systems Design and Development (SDD) Flight of Air Warfare Engineering Squadron (AWE SQN) as an Avionics Designer, alongside both service and APS personnel, at RAAF Base Edinburgh.

“SDD Flight activities focus on the design and development of data acquisition and processing systems to measure aircraft, equipment and aircrew performance during flight test. This covers both airborne and ground-based systems,” SGT Smith said.

“I enjoy the challenge of solving problems. My work is primarily centred on finding a way to gather data required during specific flight and ground testing where the data either is not readily available or is not recorded in normal operation.

“Seeing a system that I designed gather the data that was required is extremely satisfying.”

SDD Flight activities include research, development and testing of data acquisition and processing systems, from data acquisition and processing systems, to system and data validation, test planning and execution, and data management.

Prior to posting into this position, I was involved in deeper level fault finding within No. 92 Wing. I found this role interesting and challenging as it deviated from the regular procedures and practices of regular aircraft maintenance,” he said.

“I decided that I enjoyed this type of work and as such sought out a position within AWE SQN in order to continue working at a design level of avionics systems.”

Training for his current role involved the initial AVTECH Initial Employment Training (IET), and also a pre-requisite to re-muster to AVSYSTECH, and a further two years completing an advanced diploma in electronics and communications engineering.

“My role within AWE SQN has required training on some of the specialist instrumentation systems used within the unit, which has been really interesting,” SGT Smith said.

“The main challenges I face from day to day come from the late notice/short timeframe aspects of my position.

“Being able to complete a design in time while allowing manufacture, installation and testing activities to be conducted can be difficult at times but still rewarding.

“I’m fortunate to work with a great team.”

AWE SQN is part of the Air Warfare Centre, Test and Evaluation Directorate, focused on delivering specialist technical advice, systems engineering, design development, prototyping and innovation services to enhance ADF integration, and enable the development of modern air power capabilities.

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NEVER LOSING ITS FOCUS

Cold War encounters with the Soviets form just one part of the P-3 Orion’s colourful 50-year history with Air Force, writes FLTLT Tom Maclean.

For those who have ties to the venerable P-3 Orion, fond memories are flooding back as the aircraft marks 50 years of Air Force service.

Thousands of former and current members are reflecting on the teamwork and mateship that develops during long sorties and even longer hours on the ground keeping aircraft serviceable and supporting operations.

Many are re-discovering photo collections that captured behind-the-scenes moments from working with P-3 aircraft over the past five decades.

WGCDR Leigh Collins, of the History and Heritage Branch – Air Force, spent the 1980s as a sensor operator and then progressed through various roles with P-3 aircraft.

WGCDR Collins has shared some of the images he has captured during exercises across Australia and overseas with the P-3 Orion.

These included nuclear submarines, major anti-submarine warships, intercepting merchant vessels and the challenge of removing nuclear warheads from aid ships.

WGCDR Collins said equally satisfying for him were Operations Caterpillar (June 1982) and Enquarter (March 1983).

WGCDR Collins said throughout its long and distinguished service life the P-3 Orion had always engendered strong feelings.

WGCDR Smith said there was an air of excitement building towards the 50th anniversary celebrations.

“It is wonderful to see the RAAF Maritime Patrol community sharing photos, reliving memories and reminiscing on the unique bond we have with the people and the extraordinary aircraft which is still making an important contribution 50 years on,” WGCDR Smith said.

HOW 92WG PLANS TO MARK ORION’S 50TH ANNIVERSARY

NO. 92 Wing will host a series of events to mark the 50th anniversary of P-3 Orion RAAF service on December 1 including:

- **92WG Family Day**: Starting at 10am, past and present members and their families can attend a fun and informative event featuring aircraft and memorabilia on display. The day will acknowledge the important contribution of families towards the success of P-3 Orion service. For access, pre-registration is required via the event website.

- **Formal dinner**: Starting at 6.30pm at the Adelaide Convention Centre, the dinner will showcase the contribution and achievements of Orion’s important maritime capability. The day will bring into focus the dedication, commitment, sacrifice and exemplary service of personnel who have supported P-3 Orion service past and present. Tickets are required to be pre-purchased from the event website by November 25.

For pre-registration, ticket purchases and more information visit www.50yearsofP3Orions.eventsmart.com.

A P-3 above HMY Britannia in March 1986.

Photo: WGCDR Leigh Collins.


Photo: WO2 Leigh Collins.

For pre-registration, ticket purchases and more information visit www.50yearsofP3Orions.eventsmart.com.
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‘Edgy’ livery ushers in new era

The covers have come off the RAAF Roulettes new colour scheme for the next generation aircraft.

CAF AIRMSHL Leo Davies unveiled the new livery at Fairbairn on October 17 with the new PC-21 flying in formation with the current PC-9/A Roulettes example.

AIRMSHL Davies said the new “edgy” livery would set the aircraft apart from other aerobatic display teams.

He said it would also generate discussion and interest for the next generation of pilots.

The livery uses the traditional colours of the Air Force and the Australian national flag to create a visually striking design that is unique to the RAAF and Roulettes,” AIRMSHL Davies said.

“The predominantly red top and side is contrasted against a deep blue underside. This design helps pilots distinguish whether an observed aircraft is viewed from above or below, aiding judgement of the flight path.

“When viewed from below, spectators will see one of Australia’s national symbols, the Southern Cross, against representative deep blue of the night sky.”

Roulette leader SqnLdr Jay Tuffley said the Roulettes had been flying the PC-9/A since 1989 and he was very excited about the transition to PC-21.

“These PC-21 aircraft, as part of the new pilot training system being established under Project AIR5428, will allow the ADF to deliver pilots with skills that meet the requirements for our next generation aircraft,” SqnLdr Tuffley said.

“We have great people and they are working hard as part of a team with our industry partners to move forward for the long term.

“We are confident the new pilot training system will demonstrate its ability to increase pilot graduation numbers, generate pilot skills to operate highly advanced aircraft and meet the needs of ADF aviation for the next 30 years.”

The new pilot training being delivered under Project AIR5428 will commence at RAAF Base East Sale in January 2019.

Give AASAM a shot

Preparations are now under way to ready the Air Force team for the Australian Army Skills at Arms Meet (AASAM) 2019.

After competing at AASAM for the past two years, LACW Rebecca Roach, Medical Assistant from RAAF Base Amberley, said she couldn’t wait to go back.

“I have been incrementally building my marksmanship skills on the F88 and Browning since joining the team two years ago,” LACW Roach said.

“I have competed in a few marksmanship competitions while at the Army School of Health and take every opportunity I can to do the same at Amberley.

“I am lucky enough to be a part of Joint Health Unit South Queensland, my CO LTCol Coferton, has been very supportive of my shooting and being Army, managed to get me qualified on the new EF88 which is not standard issue for Air Force.”

The Air Force Marksmanship Team team is made up of shooters from a diverse array of musternings who come together as a team due to their enjoyment of marksmanship as a core skill to the Profession of Arms.

“The best thing about competing at AASAM is of course the friendships you make,” LACW Roach said.

“You get pretty close to your team mates during the lead up and competition, as well as every other competitors you meet. We tend to stick together particularly well and help each other out.”

With stand-down looming and nominations for AASAM open, the RAAF shooters are looking forward to 2019.

“The kind of shooting done at AASAM, particularly the combat shoots, are unlike anything you are likely to find anywhere else. Particularly among Air Force,” LACW Roach said.

Nominations and enquiries relating to the Air Force marksmanship team for AASAM can be emailed to the dsec-af@drn.mil.au inbox (attention Capability and Plans 14) no later than February 8, 2019.

The Air Force team captained by LTJG Rowan McBride (rowan.mcbride@defence.gov.au)
Get a quote on 1300 131 050 stratton.com.au /defence

Not all Novated Leases are created equal

SGT Mark Doran wraps up the Invictus Games, in which human spirit shone more brightly than the medals

And the winner is ... mateship

AFTER a week of inspirational athletic and human performance, the Invictus Games Sydney 2018 was a magical experience with such a great group of people who have become a close family. “Team Australia did extremely well and we have fantastic reasons to be proud of ourselves. We nailed it this year.” Team Australia took home a swag of medals and personal bests from the archery competition. Darren Peters won gold in the novice men’s recurve and Jocelyn McKinley won silver in the women’s open recurve, while Garry Robinson, Stewart Sherman and Steve Sandman collected silver medals in the men’s team compound event.

In one of the final competitions of the Games, the Australian team played the UK and the Netherlands in the wheelchair basketball pool matches on the same day. Australia went down to the UK, 6-3, before beating the Netherlands, 15-8, in the next match and going on to win silver after losing to the US in the final.

The Invictus Games provided a great platform to inspire the world and to communicate the powerful message of mateship, the theme of the Games. “It is about more than your physical performance, it is about your emotional and mental barriers,” CPL Shaun Connolly, No. 35 Squadron said.

“The Invictus Games gave Australians an understanding that regardless of someone’s length of service or if they have discharged we still treat each other as brothers or sisters. We’re one big family.” SGT Susan Robinson.
**Invictus Games**

Team physiotherapist FLTLT Sue Pescud at the selection camp for the Invictus Games in Melbourne. Photo: FLTLT Adam Corran

IT WAS a busy year for the Team Australia medical staff, especially with the 72 Invictus Games competitors requiring adaptive sport classifications and health screenings. Classifications ensure the type and severity of a competitor’s impairment has a minimal impact on the outcome of a race, event or match.

Physiotherapist FLTLT Sue Pescud, of No. 1 Expeditionary Health Squadron, said baseline screenings showed where the participants were at the beginning of the year.

“By retesing them throughout their training we were able to see the changes in their weight, measurements, strength and flexibility,” she said.

“The best part was seeing these changes. Preparation for the Invictus Games is a life-changing rehabilitation program, not just physically but psychologically as well. The competitors’ attitudes improved, they became more resilient and practised better people skills.”

FLTLT Pescud said the main lesson the staff shared with Team Australia centred on what they could do, not what they couldn’t do.

“The takeaway message from the Games was for the competitors to go home and become involved in sport with their local community and friends,” she said.

“Using sport to get people off the couch and involved with the community means they need to train and become part of a team, which in turn leads to mateship or, as with the Invictus Games, the chance to represent Australia.”

Assistant archery coach FLGOFF Kirsty Lewis, of Health Operational Conversion Unit, has represented Australia in archery championships and said she planned to train for the next Olympic Games.

She said the sport was a powerful instrument for recovery and rehabilitation.

“When we began training, some of the team couldn’t look at each other or handle crowds. But by the time they were in Sydney they were competing in a stadium with people clapping and cheering, and they were encouraging the competitors from the different nations,” she said.

“It was fantastic to see them succeed in the Games – it was like a proud-parent moment. The best thing about archery is it is a centring activity and it’s great for anger management. There’s nothing like shooting a target until you drill the centre out of it to get you grounded again.”

**’It was like a proud-parent moment’**

**SGT Mark Doran**

**Wearing yellow shirts and smiles**

Air Force and other ADF personnel were among the team of passionate volunteers who made the Invictus Games a memorable and inspiring experience for the competitors, their families and spectators.

The 1000 volunteers, wearing yellow shirts, helped at all venues with enthusiasm and smiles to ensure the Games’ success.

They travelled from as near as Parramatta and as far as the United Kingdom, Brazil, Canada, Ghana and the Netherlands to be part of a unique experience and to give back to the defence community.

Among those investing their time was LACW Sara Bennett, of No. 41 Wing, who said her interest in supporting the Invictus Games began when she saw reports on the Games in London in 2014.

“I love sport. I’ve a background in disability sports and studied exercise science so I thought this was a fantastic way to assist with the rehabilitation of serving and former military personnel,” she said.

“I volunteered as soon as I heard they were looking for people to help in Sydney and became a member of the competitors’ services team. It was about ensuring everyone had fun and being the smiling face of the Games.”

LACW Bennett said highlights included seeing the technical side of the powerrlifting competition and assisting with the sitting volleyball matches.

“It was great to be face-to-face with the competitors and to wish them good luck,” she said.

“It was humbling to meet them, hear what they have been through and where they are now on their recovery journey.

“It was amazing watching the Australian girls in the powerrlifting events. They were all down-to-earth, friendly and willing to chat.

“It’s good to know if something happens to me within Defence, sport is an option I can turn to for my own recovery.”

**Top job in and out of the public eye**

**CAPT Gregory Smith**

**BEHIND the scenes of the fourth Invictus Games, the ADF ceremonial and logistics support was coordinated by Joint Task Force (JTF) 646 on Operation Invincible.**

With about 230 personnel, JTF646 provided a range of support to the Games, from medal presenters to baggage handlers, from wayfinders to moral-raisers.

From the opening ceremony, the personnel of JTF646 seized every opportunity to help, often going from one event to another and giving their time well beyond their scheduled tasks.

Placing an emphasis on personal interaction with the competitors, their families and the public, JTF646 invested heavily in training its personnel in the lead-up to the Games.

The training helped them gain a deeper understanding of wounded, injured and ill veterans and the role played by adaptive sport in the physical and mental recovery process.

Commander JTF646 BRIG Michael Bond said the investment paid off and the personnel had a positive impact on the competitors, their families and the conduct of the games themselves.

“The nature of the event meant they could lean well forward with uniformed personnel. And everyone loved it,” he said.

“The largest element of JTF646 was the part-time soldiers of the 5th Brigade.

“Their initiative, professionalism and sustainability for public engagement tasks made them highly regarded by the competitors and sought after by the Games organisers and staff.”

BRIG Bond said the JTF’s centre of gravity was its people.

“They were invited in, given clear commander’s intent and trusted to deliver a professional and caring response,” he said.

“Much of what they did was out of the public eye, working behind the scenes to prepare venues or providing supportive words or company to the veteran competitors during tough times.

“The competitors and their families remained the focus of the operation and each JTF646 member contributed to the profound and far-reaching effect.”

The personnel of Joint Task Force 646 went above and beyond the call of duty.
Seeking the next generation of personnel

Skills out of the box

Alisha Welch

INTRODUCING the F-35A Joint Strike Fighter (JSF) into service is a key step in Air Force’s fifth-generation transformation and a skilled workforce is needed to support its operations.

By the end of 2023, Australia’s 72 F-35A aircraft are anticipated to be operating from RAAF Bases Williamtown, in the Hunter region of NSW, and Tindal, in the Northern Territory.

F-35A Air Vehicle Sustainment Manager SQNLDR Nathan Draper, of the Air Combat Systems Program Office, is promoting Air Force careers in the Hunter, where most of Air Force’s F-35A aircraft will be based.

“I visit local schools as part of my involvement with the Regional Development Australia (RDA) Hunter team,” SQNLDR Draper said.

With a skills shortage in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) fields, SQNLDR Draper knows it is important to engage with people early and get them thinking about Air Force as a career option.

“I paint a picture of my experiences in Defence, working on capabilities and future technologies like the F-111, F-35A and Super Hornet, so young people can connect and aspire to follow a similar STEM career,” he said.

SQNLDR Draper, who started his career 32 years ago as an apprentice fitter and went on to gain masters qualifications in engineering, began conducting youth group visits while posted to Luke Air Force Base (AFB) in Arizona.

“I talked about the RAAF and our partnership with US, as well as the F-35 program and what was happening at Luke AFB with the international partnership. I also talked to school groups visiting Luke AFB.

“When I returned to Australia, it seemed like a natural progression to get involved with our schools and offer the same type of insights to energise our youth. I was lucky that RDA Hunter was always positive.

“School groups and younger students understand new capabilities like the F-35A because they have grown up in a touchscreen world and are the ‘Xbox generation,’” he said.

He said his engagement with students was always positive.

“School groups and younger students understand new capabilities like the F-35A because they have grown up in a touchscreen world and are the ‘Xbox generation,’” he said.

“ICT and computers are second nature to them, so they are a perfect fit for the next generation Air Force.”

For information on the F-35A Project, visit defence.gov.au/af/72f-35. For information on STEM careers, visit defencejobs.gov.au.

For information on RDA Hunter, visit rdahunter.org.au.

STEM skills will power a workforce including skilled aircraft technicians such as CPL Lorna Hill, who conducts maintenance on a Joint Strike Fighter at Luke Air Force Base. Photo: GJ Christopher Dickson

Inspired WOFFs connect

WOFF Christine Hill

MORE than 30 group, base and wing warrant officers from around Australia attended the inaugural Air Force Senior Enlisted Leadership Team (SELT) seminar in Canberra in July.

The seminar offered presentations and speakers, along with a rare opportunity for the SELT cohort to engage and network.

WOFF-AF Robert Swanwick said he based the idea for the seminar on the highly successful Senior Leadership Team model sponsored by DCAF.

“I believe the SELT seminar had not only inspired thinking within SELT but had left WOFFs much more connected and cohered,” WOFF-AF Swanwick said.

The SELT seminar offered highly informative presentations on Plan Jericho, cyber, professional military education and mindfulness.

The seminar included a High Performance Behaviours presentation from the Directorate of Organisational Behaviour and Culture Director and Psychologist Tony Hewson.

After the success of the inaugural SELT seminar, WOFF-AF Swanwick plans to make the event a biannual seminar which would dovetail the movement of warrant officers in and out of the WOFF Continuum.

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THE annual review of ADF members’ housing assistance will be completed by the end of this year and new rates will be published early next year. This includes contribution rates for service residences, rental allowance and living-in accommodation, rent ceilings and other allowances and charges. Payments to, and contributions from, members are reviewed and adjusted annually where necessary.

The annual review of service residence and rental allowance contributions involves assessing the national average rent for Defence houses in each rent band. Contributions are then calculated on actual rent changes rather than forecast changes.

Director Military Conditions and Housing Policy Derek Cox said providing housing assistance to ADF members was a long-standing policy.

“Defence undertakes the annual review to ensure the Defence requirement of sharing the national cost of housing with ADF members on a 50/50 basis is met each year,” Mr Cox said.

“The rent band method offers transparency for calculating contribution increases based on actual rental increases rather than forecasts.”

Member contributions for living-in accommodation will be adjusted in line with the September 2018 Rents and Utilities subcomponents of the Consumer Price Index.

Casual meal rates and fortnightly meal contribution will also be reviewed to ensure rates are based on the reasonable recovery of actual national average costs incurred by Defence in providing meals.

The new rates will be reflected in ADF members’ salaries six weeks after their release, expected to be early to mid-February.

IN BRIEF

Presenters needed

All THE school year draws to a close, military volunteers are needed to present students with ADF Long Tan Youth Leadership and Teamwork (YLT) Awards. At least 4000 students from more than 2250 schools are expected to receive the awards this year. ADF members are invited to visit www.adflongtanawards.gov.au and register to become a voluntary military presenter.

Centre centralised

The Defence Force Recruiting Centre Sydney has relocated from Parramatta to Rhodes Corporate Park. Defence Personnel Minister Darren Chester said the central position of the centre ensured better access for recruits from the broader Sydney metropolitan region. “The Defence Force Recruiting Centre Sydney is critical to driving ADF capability and is responsible for 12 per cent of the new recruits into permanent positions each year,” he said.

New facility open

Defence Minister Christopher Pyne said the ADF would be better supported by a new high-tech facility in Sydney. At the official opening of Safran Electronics and Defense Australia’s new state-of-the-art workshop in Sydney on November 6, Mr Pyne said Safran already delivered and supported complex systems to a variety of ADF platforms, including the Collins-class submarines and the MRH-90 and Tiger helicopters. It has also developed apprenticeship programs covering mechanics and logistics.

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September and October trial results

OFFICER
Defence Force
Magistrate
1 x Unauthorised Access to Restricted Data – DFDA s 61(3) and Criminal Code (Cth) s 478.1(1)
1 x Unauthorised Modification of Restricted Data – DFDA s 61(3) and Criminal Code (Cth) s 478.1(1)
Member was accused of moving and modifying restricted data held in a computer. Member pleaded guilty to the charges and was found guilty of the charges. Member was severely reprimanded and fined $3600 (with $1800 suspended and the balance to be paid in instalments).

OFFICER
Defence Force
Magistrate
1 x Negligently Damaging Service Property – DFDA s 43(3)
1 x Failure to Comply with a General Order – DFDA s 29(1)
Member was accused of damaging service property by driving a service vehicle in such a manner that it collided with an object. Member was also accused of failing to comply with a general order. Member pleaded guilty to the charges and was found guilty. Member was convicted without punishment and ordered to pay reparation to the Commonwealth of $272.00. Member also forfeited seniority in rank and was fined $1000.

OTHER RANK
Defence Force
Magistrate
1 x Assault Occasioning Actual Bodily Harm – DFDA s 33A
Member was accused of assaulting another member, causing actual bodily harm to the member. Member pleaded guilty to the charge and was found guilty. Member was dismissed from the ADF.

All Court Martial and Defence Force Magistrate trial results are subject to command review and appeal. The results indicated are of trials across the ADF.
Heat is on in the pool

Sgt Dave Morley

Six teams, three ADF and three civilian, went head-to-head in a gruelling water polo tournament at Kapooka K-Series on October 27.

In a nail-biting grand final, the local Wagga Wagga Octopuses defeated ADFAs 11-5. Another Wagga Wagga team, Dolphins 1 defeated ADFWP Vipers 11-5 for third, with Dolphins 2 coming fifth and ADFAs 2 in sixth.

ADFWP Vipers player FLTLT Peter Spearman, a C-17A Globemaster pilot at No. 36 Squadron, has been playing water polo for 10 years and enjoyed being with his team.

“We only get together three times a year and it’s always a shock on a big day — it’s pretty intense,” he said.

“Water polo is awesome for fitness, it’s an awesome social environment and you get to travel around Australia — what more could you ask for?”

Patron of ADF Water Polo BRIG Stephen Jobson said the event was successful and everyone had a great time.

“In all of the many sports Kapooka runs, water polo tends to have fewer players in the field, which means the tempo is high, and water polo is the real winner at the end of the day,” he said.

BRIG Jobson said water polo was a tremendous sport and great for fitness.

“I started playing water polo in Townsville in the mid-1990s as an off-season sport and it really grew on me,” he said.

“It’s great for cardiovascular fitness. I’m an older brigadier and here I am in the pool with these young men and women all going pretty hard but 20-plus years in the pool enabled me to keep pace with them.

“I’d encourage anyone who wants to both dramatically improve their fitness and wellbeing, and also play sport well into their service life, to get involved in water polo.”

BRIG Jobson said Kapooka had been committed to running sports for a couple of decades.

“I’m thoroughly impressed with how this event has been organised and I take my hat off to the commandant and all the men and women on the staff at Kapooka who have put this together,” he said.

“It really matters and they make a difference.”

The Wagga Water Polo Association provided referees for the day.

Intense contests in lawn bowls

CPL Julia Whitwell

Pitting states and services against each other, the ADF Lawn Bowls Competition came to an end on October 19 in Ipswich, Queensland.

State teams played one another for the first two and a half days of the tournament — with NSW placing first and WA coming second — then teams were selected to represent each service, with Army winning and Navy placing second.

Sgt Gerard Harkins, of No. 22 Squadron at RAAF Base Richmond, said he was unlucky against Army, but overall the Air Force team did well.

“We only had 14 RAAF players to choose from, Army had a strong team and we only had 14 RAAF players,” he said.

Patron of ADF Lawn Bowls BRIG Stephen Jobson said:

“We looked over the master board, at the scores across all four rinks and realised this was going to be tight.

“We managed to get some of our better players up there for the competition.

“With each team made up of 16, though, we only had 14 ADF players on the green, so had to borrow some Army players.”

With a surplus of players to choose from, Army had a strong team to bring them to victory.

WO1 Mick Carley said their strategy was to work to the strengths and weaknesses of the whole team.

“Other teams tended to play by their rinks of four, whereas we approached as it a combined team of 16;” WO1 Carley said.

“We looked over the master board, at the scores across all four rinks. If one was down, we’d cover the losing one and in the end we won all rinks.”

From the inter-service competition, selectors put an ADF representative side together, including five Air Force players.

Representative team member CPO Black, of EMAS Chooler, said the ADF side proved strong against the local Ipswich players.

“We had our representative match against the local team, on the last day,” CPO Black said.

“We absolutely pounded them. One rink won 20-14, another 30-7, and the other two were 26-8 and 28-13. We gave them a fair touch up.”

WO1 Carley said the competition was intense, but friendly.

“There’s a strong commitment from the players and they’re very enthusiastic,” he said.

“It’s young, it’s lively, we have music playing and everyone is right into it.”

For more information on joining the ADF Lawn Bowls team, visit: collab/vcdf/org/AIR_Force_Lawn_Bowls/Home.aspx

Kapooka K-Series

Airforce aims to please

Sgt Dave Morley

ARCHEERY featured for the first time at the Kapooka K-Series held from October 29 to November 2 and competitors came from as far away as Darwin to compete.

ADF members took part with a Wagga Wagga civilian team, the Wagga Field Archers, who joined in to augment the competition.

Air Force was well-represented by LACW Yvonne Dennett, a medic from No. 2 Expeditionary Health Squadron at RAAF Base Darwin. It was her first time at the K-Series.

“The competition was fantastic, all the team were really inclusive, with some good banter that made the days go quite well,” LACW Dennett said.

LACW Dennett took up archery with her family in Gippsland when she was 15 and travelled extensively throughout Australia going to different shoots.

“I love the camaraderie of the sport — you can go any club in Australia and there’s always going to be someone you know,” she said.

“There are challenges, such as the places you go to and the environments you shoot in — it’s an all-weather sport, so it might be raining, or it might be dirty and dusty or it could be beautiful weather.

“You can be shooting on flat ground or uneven ground, which can change your distance estimation as well.”

LACW Dennett said archery was a sport where you could choose to specialise or shoot multi-disciplinary.

“Archery is an emerging sport in Defence and once we get out there, and our prescription is seen, I think we’ll get quite a few more women into the sport too,” she said.

LACW Dennett said she’d encourage Air Force members to take up archery because of the sport’s inclusive nature.

“It doesn’t matter who you are, where you’re from, or what you do — everyone can come along and try archery,” she said.

“Friendships made in archery, like most sports, can be lifelong.”

“It is one of those sports that in no time at all, you’ll have friends all over Australia.”

Results: Teams event — Team Darwin (CFN Brad Hawkess of 101 WSFS and LACW Yvonne Dennett of 2EHS); bowhunter unlimited — CFN Brad Hawkess, freelance unlimited — Ken Morley; and bare bow — LACW Yvonne Dennett.

Airmen and airwomen interested in taking up archery within Defence, or taking part in the 2019 K-Series archery competition, should contact SGT Paul Portelli at paul.portelli@defence.gov.au

 amigo. LACW Dennett.

arrows for the 2019 K-Serices archery competition, should contact SGT Paul Portelli at paul.portelli@defence.gov.au
Terms and conditions apply, for full details visit smartleasing.com.au. Promotion period is 01.11.18 at 0:01am – 31.12.18 at 11:59pm. Joint promoters are: Smartsalary Pty Ltd (Smartleasing is a registered business name of Smartsalary), AccessPay Pty Ltd, Salary Packaging Solutions Pty Ltd, Salary Solutions Australia Pty Ltd, Selectus Pty Ltd and Autopia Management Pty Ltd. One (1) in every four (4) eligible customers who reach vehicle ordered stage with the Promoters during the Promotion Period will be selected as a winner to receive a cashback EFT payment equal to the winner’s monthly lease payment, excluding GST. The winner must finalise their novated lease i.e. their vehicle order must proceed to vehicle delivery to be eligible to receive the cashback. Note: refinancing an existing novated lease vehicle or salary packaging a used vehicle, irrespective of finance type, are not eligible to receive the cashback offer. Permit numbers: ACT TP 18/02136, NSW LTPS/18/29330, SA Licence No: T18/1927.