



AUSTRALIAN
WOMEN
PILOTS'
ASSOCIATION



"Celebrating Our Past, Embracing Our Future"

NATIONAL CONFERENCE AND AGM PROGRAM

30.04 - 04.05.2025 | ESPLANADE HOTEL, BUSSETON

DAY ONE - WED 30 APRIL

11:00 to
15:30

Registration
Esplanade Hotel, 30-38 Marine Terrace

16:30 to
18:00

Official Welcome
Function Room, Hilton Garden Inn, 4 Jetty Way

18:30

First Time Conference Attendees' Dinner
Function Room, Shelter Brewing, Busselton Foreshore

18:30

Dinner Options
Shelter Brewing
Esplanade Hotel
Hilton Garden Inn

DAY TWO - THURS 1 MAY

07:00 to
14:00

Air Navigation Trial & Women in Aviation Trophy
Busselton Aero Club, Busselton Margaret River Airport,
Neville Hyder Drive, Yalyalup WA 6280
Bus times TBC on registration

Guest Presenters:
Milly Formby (WingThreads) & Alice Klingberg (OzRunways)

TBC

Industry Forum - Professional Development Session
Facilitated by Natalee Johnston
Function Room, Shelter Brewing Co

18:00

75th Anniversary Party
Naturaliste Room, Esplanade Hotel
Dress code: 1950s or pioneering aviatrix



DAY THREE - FRI 2 MAY

08:30

Education Day

Naturaliste Room, Esplanade Hotel

15:15

Communication Session

Naturaliste Room, Esplanade Hotel

17:30

Networking Event - Drinks & Smorgasbord

Sponsored by Maroomba Airlines

Function Room, Shelter Brewing Co

19:00

Cultural Walking Tour

Starts from Shelter Brewing Co

DAY FOUR - SAT 3 MAY

09:00

Registration - Annual General Meeting (09:30)

Naturaliste Room, Esplanade Hotel

Before
morning tea

Group Photo

Esplanade Hotel

Please wear pink or white shirts and pearls in honour of our founder, Nancy-Bird Walton, recognising the AWPA 75th Anniversary.

18:00

Presentation Dinner

Naturaliste Room, Esplanade Hotel

DAY FIVE - SUN 4 MAY

09:00

Farewell Breakfast

Esplanade Hotel



INDUSTRY SPEAKERS

We'd like to thank all our Industry Forum and Education Day speakers for their time and generous support of the Association and National Conference. We can't wait to be inspired by your incredible stories!



Natalee Johnston grew up on a farm in the Western Australia wheatbelt. She joined the Navy at 17, then after completing her undergraduate studies and military flying training in 1998, Natalee became the Royal Australian Navy's first female pilot and the only one for 8 years.

Her strength, perseverance, and decision-making enabled Natalee to survive and thrive in her 24-year naval career. She fulfilled roles as a qualified helicopter instructor, operations manager, leader, and safety professional.

Natalee not only successfully dealt with the challenges of flying a naval helicopter, but also the additional obstacle of being one of the only women in a male-dominated arena, gaining a high level of respect from her peers.



Mel Kirkness is an Ejection Seat Technician working on the RAAF's PC-21 fleet. Her work is on ejection seats and its system which includes parachutes, personal survival packs and the aircraft canopy detonating cord.

Over the last 6 years, she has completed her type training, Cert IV in WHS, Diploma of Quality Auditing & Diploma in Aviation Management.



Andrea Henderson is the Manager Defence and Space Operations for the Bureau of Meteorology, overseeing critical operations such as Defence Weather Services, the Australian Space Weather Forecasting Centre, and spaceflight operations.

Andrea is also the Chair of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) Standing Committee on Services for Aviation (SC-AVI). She has over 20 years of experience in service delivery, workplace training, competency development, project, change and people management, business continuity, and regulatory compliance.



INDUSTRY SPEAKERS



Helen Trenergy is a Qantas Captain with 35 years of experience as a pilot, including 24 years as a Captain. She is type-rated on the B747, B767/757, B737NG, and B787, and played a key role in aviation history as the Captain of the first Project Sunrise non-stop flight from London to Sydney in 2019.

Helen is also a Human Factors Facilitator, specialising in First Officer to Captain upgrade courses, and has served as the Pilot Recruitment Assessor for the 2022, 2023, and 2024 Qantas pilot intakes. Helen is the current AWPA Queensland President.



Milly Formby is a zoologist turned pilot who flew a microlight around Australia in 2022/23 to raise awareness for endangered migratory shorebirds.

She is also the co-author and illustrator of the children's book, A Shorebird Flying Adventure, which she shared with over 6500 primary student at 105 schools in urban and regional Australia during her trip. Milly currently works in Perth for BirdLife Australia and is an active AWPA member.



Flight Lieutenant Brodie Sweeney joined the Air Force in 2006, graduating from the Australian Defence Force Academy with a Bachelor of Technology in Aeronautical Engineering. She completed Number 222 Pilots Course in 2011, prior to posting to 37 SQN to fly the C-130J Hercules.

Brodie completed her Flying Instructor Course in 2021, going on to instruct Advanced Flying at No. 2 Flying Training School at RAAF Base Pearce, WA. Brodie returned to Central Flying School in 2024 to instruct new Qualified Flying Instructors, subsequently being selected as Roulette Three.



SPONSOR & SUPPORTER ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We would like to express our gratitude and thank all our financial and in-kind sponsors and supporters for their generous contributions towards facilitating our event.



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