



AUSTRALIAN
WOMEN
PILOTS'
ASSOCIATION



"Celebrating Our Past, Embracing Our Future"

NATIONAL CONFERENCE AND AGM PROGRAM

30.04 - 04.05.2025 | ESPLANADE HOTEL, BUSSELTON

DAY ONE - WED 30 APRIL

1100 to
1530

Registration

Geographe Bar, Esplanade Hotel, 30-38 Marine Terrace

1500

Air Navigation Trial Final Briefing

Naturaliste Room, Esplanade Hotel

1630 to
1800

Official Welcome

Function Room, Hilton Garden Inn, 4 Jetty Way

1830

First Time Conference Attendees' Dinner

Function Room, Shelter Brewing, Busselton Foreshore

1830

Dinner Options

Shelter Brewing

Esplanade Hotel

Hilton Garden Inn

DAY TWO - THURS 1 MAY

0700 to
1400

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

0900 to
1230

Industry Forum - Professional Development Session

Facilitated by Natalee Johnston

Function Room, Shelter Brewing Co

1800

75th Anniversary Party

Naturaliste Room, Esplanade Hotel

Dress code: 1950s or pioneering aviatrix



DAY THREE - FRI 2 MAY EDUCATION DAY

- 0830** **Registration**
Naturaliste Room, Esplanade Hotel
- 0850** **Welcome**
Margy Hawke, AWWA Education Coordinator
- 0910** **Wing Threads Flight Around Australia**
Milly Formby
- 0940** **The Evolution of Ejection Seats and how they Enabled Women to Fly**
Mel Kirkness, Martin-Baker Australia
- 1010** **Morning Tea**
- 1040** **Space Weather**
Andrea Henderson, Bureau of Meteorology
- 1120** **First Female Navy Helicopter Pilot**
Natalee Johnston
- 1150** **Practical Session Facilitated by Natalee Johnson**
- 1250** **Lunch**
- 1330** **Roulette #3**
Brodie Sweeney, RAAF
- 1410** **Panel Discussion**
Including Helen Trenerry, Natalee Johnston, Belinda Beatty
- 1515** **Communications Session**
- 1700** **Networking Event - Drinks & Smorgasbord**
Sponsored by Maroomba Airlines
Function Room, Shelter Brewing Co
- 1900** **Cultural Walking Tour**
Commences from Shelter Brewing Co



DAY FOUR - SAT 3 MAY

0900	Annual General Meeting Naturaliste Room, Esplanade Hotel
Before morning tea	Group Photo Esplanade Hotel <i>Please wear pink or white shirts and pearls in honour of our founder, Nancy-Bird Walton, recognising the AWPA 75th Anniversary.</i>
1800	Presentation Dinner Naturaliste Room, Esplanade Hotel

DAY FIVE - SUN 4 MAY

If you're not departing at the crack of dawn, there is a wealth of great venues to choose from for your morning coffee or breakfast in the CBD and foreshore precinct.

Stay and watch the excitement of the Busselton 100 triathlon on the foreshore (race starts at 7.30am), take a walk along the iconic jetty (you can even swim round it!), hire a SUP to paddle on the azure waters of Geographe Bay, or go a little further afield to find some great wineries!

Whatever you do, we hope you have had a wonderful time here in Australia's South West and wish you safe travels home.



INDUSTRY SPEAKERS AND PANELLISTS



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.



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.



INDUSTRY SPEAKERS AND PANELLISTS



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 2022/3 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.



In 2015, **Belinda Beatty** found herself in the vast, brilliant blue skies of Exmouth, WA, training the next generation of elite pilots for the Royal Australian Air Force. In the cockpit, every second mattered - executing with precision was the difference between mission success and failure.

She learned that the ability to perform under extreme pressure wasn't just about technical skill; it was about mastering mental resilience, decision-making, and the ability to reset under stress.

At night, under stage lights, she embraced a completely different challenge - commanding presence, storytelling, and capturing an audience's attention with every move.

We'd like to thank all our Industry Forum and Education Day speakers and panellists for their time and generous support of the Association and National Conference.

We can't wait to be inspired by your incredible stories!



SPONSOR & SUPPORTER ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We would like to express our gratitude and thanks to all our 2025 Conference financial and in-kind sponsors and supporters for their generous contributions towards facilitating our event.



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We would like also like to thank all our long-term national sponsors for their ongoing support of the Australian Women Pilots' Association.



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