



# CAF MESSAGE

## 100 YEARS OF CENTRAL FLYING SCHOOL

Today marks 100 years since the formation of Central Flying School at Point Cook, Victoria. CFS has a rich and varied history, originally training pilots for the Australian Flying Corps, and later training instructors, which it continues to this day.

Since its inception, several thousand personnel have passed through the School as students or staff and in the hundred years since it was established the school has operated over 50 different types of aircraft.

It is possible to trace the beginnings of CFS back to 1909, when the Department of Defence recognised the potential of aviation. In 1912, Lieutenants Henry Petre and Eric Harrison were selected to establish CFS, beginning with four mechanics, three other staff and five aircraft including a Bristol Boxkite for initial training.

The first flying course in 1914 had just four students, including Air Marshal Sir Richard Williams. CFS was disbanded in December 1919 — having trained 156 pilots.

CFS was reformed in April 1940 as part of the fledging Royal Australian Air Force, seven months after Britain declared war against Germany during World War II. The unit had a number of homes including Camden, Tamworth, Parkes, returning to Point Cook, before being moved to its current home in East Sale in November 1947. During World War II, CFS trained 3600 instructors - a phenomenal effort.

From 1948 to 1981, CFS also trained Air Traffic Controllers, in addition to pilot trainees and instructors. In 1978, the achievements of CFS were recognised with the presentation of the Queens Colour.

Although the role of CFS has changed over time, CFS has a proud tradition of setting the high standard for Air Force's flying standards. CFS has an integral part of setting and maintaining our customs, traditions and esprit de corps for our Air Force.

I congratulate CFS on their outstanding achievements. It is a magnificent milestone that we can all be justifiably proud to celebrate. Many Air Force personnel – past and present – have contributed to the proud tradition and high standards of CFS, which I am confident will prevail into our future.

*original signed*

**G.C. BROWN, AO**

Air Marshal

Chief of Air Force

7 March 2013