

# Through Struggle to the Stars

By Darren Gallagher



*Kylie in Blue Service Dress*

*There are many milestones in our lives, and our first military graduation parade is certainly one of them. Not leaving a stone unturned here at dFM, I ventured out into the bush in search of my story. I was lucky enough to catch up with Nurso, Flying Officer Kylie Jobling, during the final stages of her leadership assessment just prior to her graduation from the RAAF Officer Training School in Point Cook to find out about her, her family and her future.*

**dFM: So Kylie, two weeks left of a 17 week training course. How are you feeling?**

KJ: Excited. Excited about finishing, and starting anew. Excited mostly about seeing my partner and kids in a few weeks time.

**dFM: What has been the hardest part about being under training at OTS.**

KJ: Being away from my family. When you have small children, they seem to grow just that little bit quicker (Laughs). From a training perspective, though, I guess I would have to say it was the initial tempo of the course. With information overload, it can all seem a little overwhelming, but once you get into a routine it starts to slow.

**dFM: So, how much exposure have you had to the ADF nursing field to date, if any? Or are you stepping off on an unknown adventure from here?**

KJ: I had the good fortune of having a small attachment at 1 Air Transportable Health Squadron (1ATHS) at Amberley where I was able to gain valuable insight into the workings of a deployable unit. All the team up there made me feel really welcome and gave me a really positive start to my RAAF nursing career.

**dFM: Noting that you came into the ADF via the Undergraduate Scheme available through Defence Force Recruiting, did you find this to be an optimal avenue of entry?**

KJ: Yeah definitely, again the experience gained at 1ATHS prior to commencement here at OTS has made the whole

transition easier for both my family and I. I'd recommend anyone who was thinking about the Undergrad scheme to look into it further and just go for it.

**dFM: Tell me about your family.**

KJ: My wonderful partner, Keith, while holding down a part time job bar tending and studying environmental health at Griffith University has done an amazing job caring for our three children. Adria is six years, Kristian is three years and Tyler is fourteen months. They're all living up in Brissie and have coped quite well with the separation. Having my parents live nearby has been a great support for Keith and the kids. I know the kids have enjoyed the regular stays at Nanny and Poppy's place and I've enjoyed hearing about it.

**dFM: Did you find the training physically demanding?**

KJ: At times, but the motivation and encouragement provided by the Physical Training Instructors here at the school has made it a lot easier. They make sure that everyone understands the importance of technique and more so safety to ensure that we all get through with minimal injuries. Initially it feels physically demanding with lack of sleep being a real possibility but, again, once the routine is set, you catch up.

**dFM: How did you find the weapons handling?**

KJ: It was my first time handling any kind of weapon so I was a bit nervous at the idea of handling live weapons, but I'll confess it was a little exciting. Again the subject matter experts here at the school knew their stuff and so I had full confidence that at no time was I in any danger. Again, safety was the most important factor when handling weapons.

