

# Career decisions confirmed

By WO2 Graham McBean

WORK experience at 7 Bde is proving an overwhelming success at giving prospective soldiers a taste of military life.

Now in its second year, 7 Bde has chaperoned more than 200 work-experience students from 64 schools since May 2007.

7 Bde work experience coordinator WO1 Peter Thatcher said the two-day activity, that replaced the system of placing students at a single unit for an entire week, had proven popular with secondary schools in the South Queensland area.

WO1 Thatcher said most students had reported that the program had helped confirm their decision about a career in the Army.

He said the aim was to showcase the variety of jobs and the training technology available in today's Defence Force and this had won



**Demonstrator:**  
Capt Adele Catts, 2/14 LHR (QMI), and work experience student Nic Falconer from Mt Maria High School.

Photo by WO2 Graham Mc Bean

over the schools, parents and students.

“There is an impression with a lot of people that when you join the Army you run around the bush with a rifle and a pack on your back,” WO1 Thatcher said. “We show them the other career paths and the diversity of the training technology available in the Army today.”

During the visits, students are chaperoned to a variety of military units and installations at Gallipoli Barracks.

WO1 Thatcher said the infantry and cavalry displays always drew attention but he was surprised by the popularity of the ORs Mess which “got a clean sweep in the ratings with the last group of students”.