



## FIRST GRADUATION FOR THREE YEARS !

by David Lugton

The second shortest day of the year turned into one of the brightest nights for Doxa. Close to three years of lockdowns and workplace readjustments gave a significant event an even greater festive feel as we were able to get together in person and share in celebrating the achievements of a new group of Doxa graduates. Celebrating the completion of cadetships from 2019, 2020 and 2021 with good food and good company brought the full effect of being involved with Doxa to everyone's mind; working with others to help them achieve their potential.

We were very grateful to have many of our sponsor companies represented on the night. They are the foundation of the program, provide mentorship and real-world learning opportunity,

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**This year** is the 50th Jubilee of the Doxa Youth Foundation and we will be holding a big birthday party at our Malmsbury Camp on October 2. DYF was established by Joe Giacobbe to expand opportunities and build brighter futures for children and young people from disadvantaged backgrounds. He was keen for DYF not to pursue government funding so that it had the capacity to flexibly respond to community need. We currently run two camps, one in Malmsbury and another in the Melbourne CBD and the cadetship programme.





VCE and Careers Expo 2022

# GETTING OUT AGAIN



Completion Certificate presentations

by Julie Harrison; CEO, Doxa Youth Foundation

The removal of COVID 19 restrictions, workers moving back into the office and schools reopening is breathing new life into the Cadetship Programme.

Our priority during March and April was to raise the profile of the Cadetship programme within schools to attract cadets for 2022 and 2023. Our promotions blitz included emailing and sending hard copies of programme material to careers teachers across Victoria and having stands at the VCE Careers Expos in Melbourne and in the Wimmera Mallee region. The response has been positive with a strong flow of applications to the programme and we have now accepted 35 young people to

be matched with a sponsor.

We are also planning and beginning to reinstate all our usual Cadetship Programme activities. We held a graduation dinner for our cadets who finished their courses from 2019 to 2021 in late June and a cadet social event in early July, both in the CBD. We have a cadet camp planned for March 2023 and will soon launch a revitalised personal and professional development programme for cadets.

Most pleasingly, many of our existing and previous sponsors are expressing interest in taking on new cadets whereas before this year they had been deterred by COVID restrictions and lockdowns.



Western Victorian Careers Expo 2022

***"The only way to achieve anything is to start"*** – Fr Joe Giacobbe

You may have noticed from the front page that Doxa is fifty years old this year. Amongst all of the tremendous achievements in that time is the Cadetship Program which itself has been operating for almost thirty years.

The Cadetship Program has provided over 400 cadets from disadvantaged backgrounds with life-changing experiences and trajectories toward successful professional careers. The core value of the program is the recognition that the path in life we are presented with isn't necessarily the only one available, and that with a little help from the right source at the right time great things can be achieved.

Through mentoring, financial assistance and wrap around support as well as professional training, the program aims to show cadets their own potential and provide them with a framework to achieve their professional goals.

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# THIS IS WHAT WE DO

by David Lugton: Cadetship Manager



## WHY WE GET INVOLVED

Written by Chris Gatt; CEO, ATOM

Back in 1993 I put in an application for a Cadetship with DOXA while finishing up my year 12 studies. At that time I was part of a great family but with some significant financial hardships so being accepted as a Cadet with Foster's group through DOXA was instrumental in allowing me to focus on my engineering studies and preparing for a start to my career.

The program trained me on important skills for my working life, provided a

community of people in similar circumstances and the company placement put me a long way ahead in understanding business and corporate culture.

Today I am the CEO of a Australian Terminal Operations Management (ATOM) which is a national mid-sized company in the energy space and we are excited to be soon taking on our first DOXA cadet!

Exciting to see such an amazing program come full circle.

## Applications for the 2023

**Doxa Cadetship Program will open in October, but we are here all year round to answer questions and chat with prospective students who see themselves making the transition from year 12 to university in the future. If anything you have read here piques your interest, or if you know of someone who could benefit from the program, feel free to contact us any time:**

[info@doxa.org.au](mailto:info@doxa.org.au)

**or visit the website:**  
[doxa.org.au/cadetship/](https://doxa.org.au/cadetship/)

This is the first of a new series of newsletters aimed at keeping our many generous past, present and future Cadetship supporters in touch. It is an occasional publication and will vary in length and content. If you have any comments, or something you would like to add, please contact us at: [info@doxa.org.au](mailto:info@doxa.org.au)

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The Cadetship Program, like many activities took a big hit during the Covid lockdowns and has provided us with the opportunity to re-evaluate our activities as we address a new world of work. It goes unsaid that the methods of the future are not necessarily reliant on those of the past: new technologies have emerged alongside new social norms and the emphasis on global existential threats have coloured our ways of how we regard ourselves and each other.

Transitioning into the professional world is tough enough for a young person, but our traditional ways of acquiring skills and knowledge have been upended and we can't just rely solely on a university course any more (if we ever could) to provide the necessary learning. The opportunity to have a professionally linked mentor throughout the course of studies becomes an even more important - perhaps essential - component of learning. Partnering with a mentor provides the real-world experience of engaging the profession and being part of the team that is developing the future.

2022 has so far been for Doxa one of increased program development and reaching out to our communities to reestablish connections, make new ones and consider how we best meet their needs. We have directly contacted over 400 secondary schools and partnered with career advisor organisations as well as presented at VCE and careers expos regionally and in Melbourne. We are developing connections at executive levels of the education department and we have already seen the results of this effort with good application numbers. Schools have only been properly operational since March, so we look forward to solid and sustained progress from the beginning of 2023.



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... and we hope they will continue to partner with us on our ambitious journey. We were also honoured to have Fr. Joe Giacobbe, Doxa's founder with us to hand out the Completion Certificates.

We were sad but proud to be able to formally bid farewell to Ivana Crabb as she moves forward with her career as a student counsellor. Many of those involved with Doxa acknowledge Ivana's tireless work in keeping the wheels of Doxa Youth Foundation turning while the worlds of education and business were in lockdown. We miss you already.

## PRE-CADETSHIP TRAINING.

In early July **KPMG** provided some of our current Cadetship candidates with an invaluable experience at their Melbourne head office. Candidates were given an extensive presentation of the organisational structure, driving principles and ethical framework of the business: valuable insights for those hoping to move into this level of professional consulting practice. Each candidate was then partnered with a KPMG member for a tour of the organisation and a mock interview. They were then scheduled for formal online interviews for potential cadetship placements. Fingers crossed!

KPMG has always been a generous sponsor of DYF and for them to provide this amount of training even before a cadetship placement illustrates their genuine commitment to community social responsibility.

We are grateful and look forward to working with Aahrabie, Kash, Robinson and the KPMG mentors into the future.

