

# JACK MACKLAN

## TRAINEESHIP, AUSTRALIAN DEFENCE FORCE

**Why did you choose to apply for the ADF Gap Year?** The reason that I applied for the ADF Gap year was I wanted to do something productive after completing VCE and traveling or working a casual job just wasn't for me. Being a part of the Military was always something that I've wanted to do and the ADF Gap Year's commitment of only having to work for 12 months was appealing.

### **What has the gap year been like so far what duties do you undertake in**

**your job?** Since I enlisted into the Army on the 10th of January the ADF Gap year has definitely been challenging at times but very rewarding. During basic training at Kapooka some common duties undertaken as a recruit are Physical Training, Drill, Navigation, Shooting, and First Aid practise. Along with being able to wash, iron, and cook for yourself.

After basic training had concluded, I was posted to Bandiana to undergo Initial Employment Training which focused on Logistic support. During my time at Bandiana the duties I undertook were more focused on my role within the Army. This included learning the basics of warehousing, getting my High Risk Work licence and being able to navigate around software that is used in supplying the wider Army.

After this I was posted to Brisbane where I could put the knowledge that I have learnt to use at my unit. Some duties that I have undertaken in Brisbane are operating a forklift, driving for supply runs, using Military programming to order equipment and general warehousing.

**Highlights from this year so far?** One of the first highlights that I had this year was the March Out Parade at Kapooka. The parade represents finishing your time at Basic Training and passing all the requirements of being a soldier. This is made even more special as family is invited to attend and for most recruits it's the first time you get to see your family in eighty days. I remember feeling proud to be marching along side my friends and overjoyed to catch up with family after eighty days.

Another highlight of my time in the ADF Gap Year was getting posted to Brisbane. Although I've always loved living in Albury Wodonga it has been a positive experience living in a major city and being able to travel to the Sunshine and Gold Coast on weekends. Along with seeing all the sites in Brisbane.

My ultimate highlight of the ADF Gap year though, would have to be the friendships I've made. Although from all around Australia and only knowing each other for under a year, I know I've got mates from this year that will last for life.

