



MLC  
SCHOOL



CELEBRATING 140 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE IN GIRLS' EDUCATION | 1886-2026

4 May 2026

Dear MLC School parents and carers,

### Re: MLC School Army Cadet Unit Registration 2026-2027 Cycle

The establishment of the MLC School Army Cadet Unit (MLCSACU) marks a significant milestone in the expansion of Experiential Learning opportunities at MLC School. The program offers a unique experience that promotes independence, self-motivation and leadership within a military context, while also focusing on endurance and the development of mental strength and character.

The Australian Army Cadets seeks to build key attributes within youth by instilling a sense of:

- **Identity** – cadets wear the uniform of the Australian Army, with cadet insignia
- **Purpose** – cadets participate in community remembrance service and assist with the leadership development of junior cadets.
- **Belonging** – cadets organise and lead activities and have a strong voice in the development and improvement of the program.

Throughout the year, cadets participate in a diverse range of outdoor education experiences, including abseiling, high ropes, navigation, drill, first aid, and a range of other structured activities designed to develop resilience and teamwork.

The MLCSACU adopts the values of the Australian Defence Force to empower youth to achieve their potential. These values are:

- **Service** – The selflessness of character to place the security and interests of our nation and its people ahead of my own.
- **Courage** – The strength of character to say and do the right thing, always, especially in the face of adversity
- **Respect** – The humanity of character to value others and treat them with dignity
- **Integrity** – The consistency of character to align my thoughts, words and actions to do what is right.
- **Excellence** – The willingness of character to strive each day to be the best they can be, both professionally and personally.

Importantly, **cadets are not members of the Australian Defence Force**. It is a youth development program providing challenging opportunities in a safe manner that also encourages fun and friendship.



MLC SCHOOL  
A UNITING CHURCH DAY SCHOOL FOR  
GIRLS, PRE-KINDERGARTEN TO YEAR 12

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From Term 2 2026, MLC School students in Year 8 will have the opportunity to register to join the MLCSACU. In addition, we are in the unique position of being able to offer current Year 9 – Year 11 students with the opportunity to join the program, even if they did not commence in Year 8. This pathway will **only** be available for the **2026-2027 intake**.

Existing cadets who participated in the program during the 2025-2026 cycle will receive a **separate notification with a link to reenrol their daughter**.

Please note that once registered, the cadet program is **strictly a 1-year commitment**. Students are unable to leave the program until Term 3, 2027.

To assist with understanding the opportunities available to students if they join the MLCSACU, the following Fact Sheets are attached to this letter:

- **Fact Sheet** – *MLC School Army Cadet Unit Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)*
- **Fact Sheet** – *Home Training*
- **Fact Sheet** – *Promotion and Elective Courses*
- **Fact Sheet** – *ATAR Adjustment Factors*

Registration closes Friday 29 May 2026. [The registration page can be found here.](#)

Guided by the command philosophy, '*Dare to Lead. Walk with Purpose*' this program aims to develop confident, young women of character who contribute positively to the school community and beyond.

If you have any questions or wish to learn more about the program, please do not hesitate to contact me via email at [mlcsacu@mlcsyd.nsw.edu.au](mailto:mlcsacu@mlcsyd.nsw.edu.au)

Kind regards,

*Xavier Maling*

**Xavier Maling**

Officer Commanding of MLCSACU



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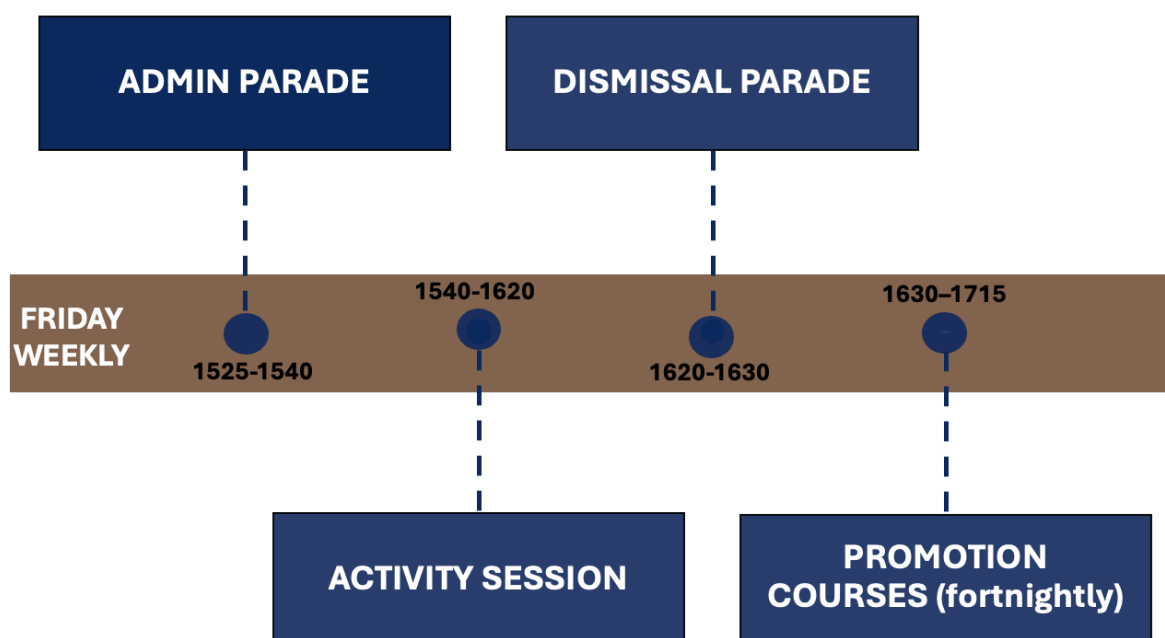
## FACT SHEET – HOME TRAINING OVERVIEW

Home training is conducted every Friday, featuring drill, customs and traditions of Australian Army Cadets. These weekly parades prepare cadets with the skills and knowledge to attend the annual field exercise (AFX) and develop their leadership and outdoor education skills.

### Timings

- Home training is conducted between 1525-1630. See Figure 1 for specific timings.
- Promotion courses run every second Friday (even weeks) after home training concludes from 1630-1715.

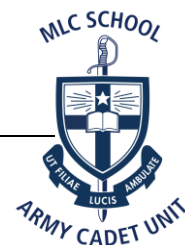
**Figure 1**



### Attendance

As part of the commitment made upon registration for Cadets, we kindly request that all appointments be scheduled outside of home training times.

Cadets are expected to attend all scheduled Home Training activities. If a Cadet is unable to attend, they must email the unit [mlcsacu@mlcsyd.nsw.edu.au](mailto:mlcsacu@mlcsyd.nsw.edu.au) in advance and copy their parent/carer into the message.



## FACT SHEET – PROMOTION AND ELECTIVES COURSES

This fact sheet outlines the key requirements for attending MLC School Army Cadet Unit (MLCSACU) promotion and elective courses and provides an overview of the two development streams offered within the program. The areas covered are:

- Rank Promotion Courses
- Elective Courses

### RANK PROMOTION COURSES:

MLCSACU courses are structured leadership development programs designed to prepare cadets for increasing levels of responsibility within their unit. Each course aligns with a specific rank—such as Corporal, Sergeant, or Cadet Under Officer—and builds on the leadership, instructional, and field skills required at that level.

### WHY DO A PROMOTION COURSE?

Promotion courses are an opportunity for cadets to:

- **Develop Leadership Skills:** Learn how to lead peers, manage teams, and support junior cadets both in the field and during structured training.
- **Build Confidence and Responsibility:** Gain real-world experience in public speaking, decision-making, and mentoring.
- **Advance in Rank:** Promotion is not automatic; completing a course is one part of a merit-based process that includes demonstrated performance, conduct, and the needs of the unit.
- **Enhance Life Skills:** Communication, teamwork, time management, and resilience developed on course are highly transferable to school, work, and future careers.
- **Contribute to the Unit:** Senior cadets play a vital role in shaping unit culture, delivering training, and supporting the development of younger members.

MLCSACU promotion courses challenge cadets to step outside their comfort zone and grow as leaders. They are a core part of what makes the cadet program a unique and rewarding experience.

- Cadets who successfully pass a promotion course are eligible to attend the next leadership course, regardless of their rank.
- Cadets will be given ample opportunity to successfully pass these leadership courses.
- Please note that full commitment and maximum attendance are expected of all cadets enrolled in these courses.

**Figure 1**

Year 8	Year 9		Year 10		Year 11
RCT Course (HT)	JNCO Course	No Course	SGT Course	No Course	CUO Course



## JUNIOR LEADERSHIP COURSES

### RECRUIT COURSE

The **Recruit Course** is the entry-level training program for new cadets joining the MLCSACU. It introduces cadets to the core skills, values, and expectations of the program, laying the foundation for future participation and progression.

**Course Focus Areas:**

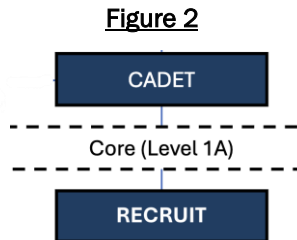
Cadet Code of Conduct and AAC values, uniform care and dress standards, basic drill and parade skills, introduction to fieldcraft (navigation, bushcraft, teamwork), radio and communication basics, safe use and handling of cadet equipment.

**Prerequisites:**

- Newly enrolled Year 8 student to MLCSACU

**Appointment:**

- Company platoon member and promoted to the rank of **Cadet**.



### JUNIOR NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICER (JNCO) PROMOTION COURSE

The **JNCO Promotion Course** is the first leadership training step in the MLCSACU, designed to prepare cadets for their initial promotion into a junior leadership role. Lance Corporals help lead small teams, assist with training delivery, and play a vital role in the day-to-day function of their platoon.

**Course Focus Areas:**

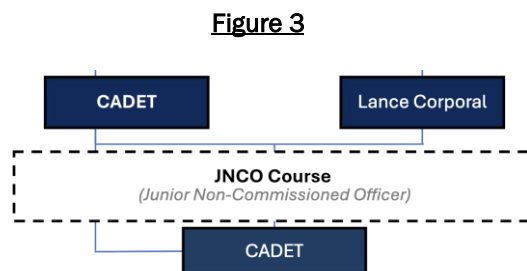
Introduction to leadership and command, leading small groups in field and barracks environments, instructional skills: planning and delivering basic lessons, drill instruction and basic command voice, communication, teamwork, time management, cadet discipline and leading by example.

**Prerequisites:**

- Must have successfully completed the **RCT Course**

**Appointment:**

- Platoon Section Commander and promoted to the rank of **CPL**.
- Platoon Section 2IC and promoted to the rank of **LCPL**.
- Platoon Section Cadets and remain with the rank of **CDT**.



## SENIOR LEADERSHIP COURSES

### SERGEANTS (SGT) PROMOTION COURSE

The **SGTs Promotion Course** is a merit-based leadership development program within the MLCSACU. It is designed to prepare cadets for the responsibilities of senior leadership roles by developing their skills in instruction, communication, discipline, and mentoring. Cadets are assessed across key areas including leadership in the field, theoretical knowledge, initiative, teamwork, and attitude.

Completion of the course does not guarantee promotion, but successful candidates may be considered for appointment based on performance, conduct, and unit requirements.

#### Prerequisites:

- Must have successfully completed the **Recruit** and **JNCO Courses**
- Minimum Rank: **Cadet**

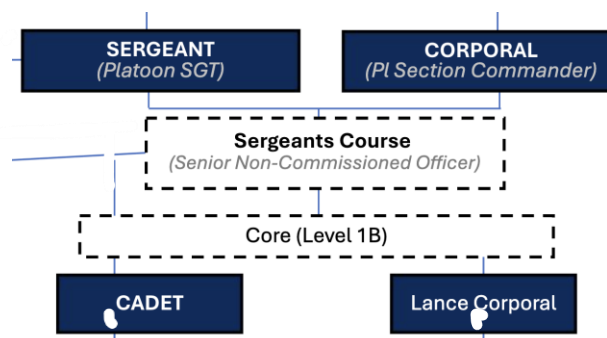
#### Appointment:

- Platoon Sergeant and are promoted to the rank of **SGT**.
- Platoon Section Commander and promoted to the rank of **CPL**.

#### Course Activities Include:

- **Lesson Delivery:** Cadets learn how to plan, prepare, and deliver lessons on AAC subjects to a set standard.
- **Drill Instruction:** Practical training in giving drill commands, correcting movements, and instructing a squad.
- **Field Leadership Exercises:** Leadership and section management tasks conducted during bivouac activities.
- **Team Building Challenges:** Problem-solving and initiative activities that assess group leadership and communication.
- **Cadet Administration Tasks:** Exposure to routine duties such as roll marking, duty reports, and equipment management.
- **Mentorship Scenarios:** Opportunities to practice mentoring junior cadets in training and welfare contexts.

**Figure 4**



## CADET UNDER OFFICER (CUO) PROMOTION COURSE

The **CUO Promotion Course** represents the highest levels of leadership development within the MLCSACU. This course is designed for experienced senior cadets who have already demonstrated strong leadership, initiative, and instructional capability in previous roles.

Promotion to CUO or WO is **not automatic**—it is **merit-based**, determined through performance on course, demonstrated conduct within the unit, and the availability of positions.

### Prerequisites:

- Must have successfully completed the **Recruit, JNCO** and **SGT Courses**
- Minimum Rank: **CPL**

### Appointment:

- Senior Under Officer/Company Commander/Platoon Commander and promoted to the rank of **CUO**.
- Regimental Sergeant Major and promoted to the rank of **WO1**.
- Company Sergeant Major and promoted to the rank of **WO2**.

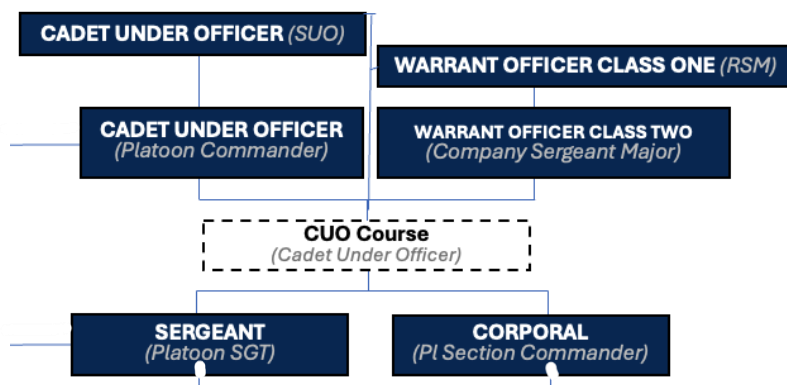
### Cadet Under Officer (CUO) positions

CUOs take on strategic leadership roles, often supporting the Officer Commanding or overseeing training at a company or unit level.

### Warrant Officer (WO) positions

WOs specialise in drill, discipline, standards, and training coordination. WOs are typically responsible for maintaining unit standards, supporting the CUO and staff, and ensuring the effective delivery of training.

**Figure 5**



## ELECTIVE COURSES:

Elective courses offer cadets the opportunity to explore specialist skills outside the core promotion pathway. These may include:

- Medics - First Aid
- Signals and Communications
- Training and Operations
- Public Relations
- Unit Band

### Why Do an Elective Course?

- **Broaden Skills and Interests:** Electives allow cadets to explore areas they're passionate about or want to improve in.
- **Add Value to the Unit:** Skills learned in elective courses often enhance unit capabilities (e.g., first aiders, radio operators, training and operational support).
- **Support Promotion and Performance:** While not always required for promotion, completing electives shows initiative and commitment—qualities valued when considering cadets for leadership roles.
- **Personal Growth:** Electives often involve hands-on, scenario-based learning that builds problem-solving, adaptability, and teamwork in practical settings.

### Elective Courses:

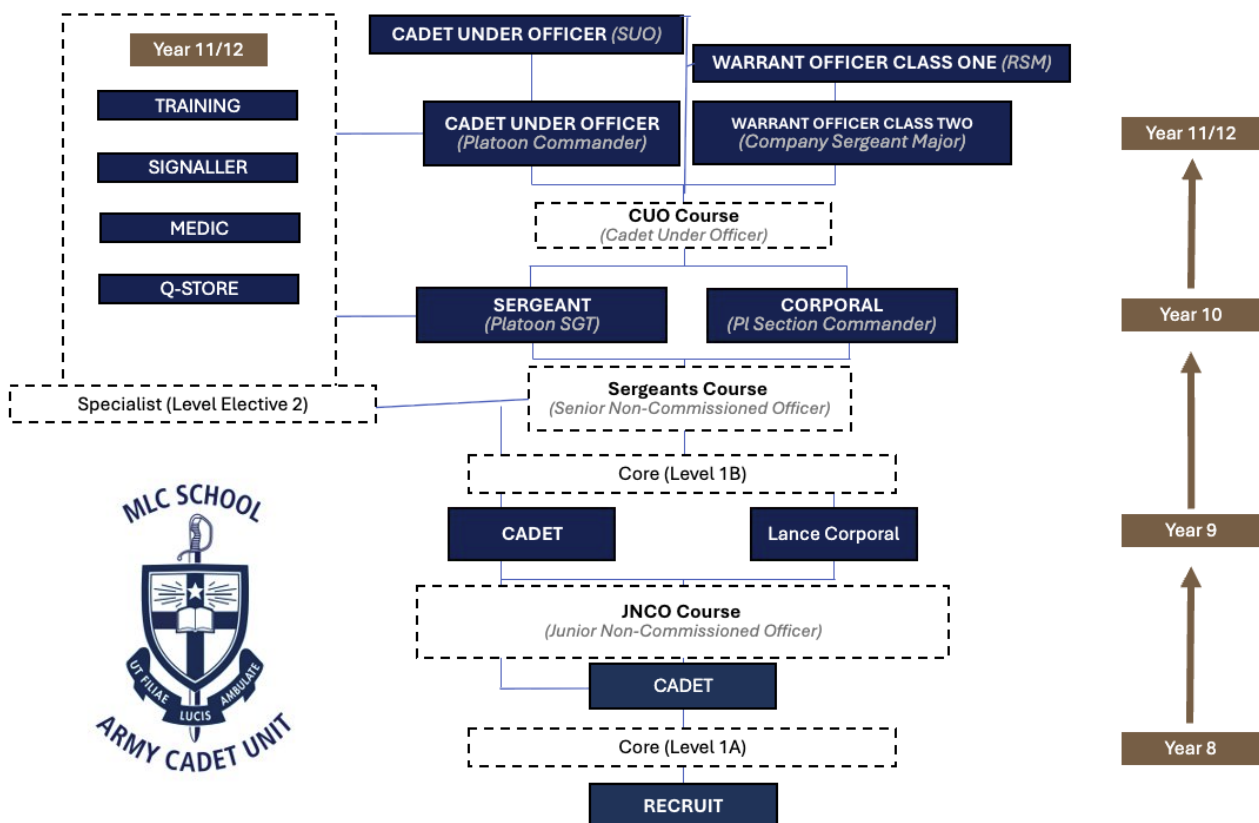
#### Prerequisite:

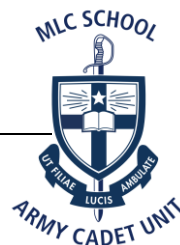
- Must have successfully completed two years of training in the program.

#### Appointment:

- Medic/Signaller/Q-Store/Training Cell/PR and remain with the rank of **CDT** unless a promotion course has previously been completed.

**Figure 6**





## FACT SHEET – MLC SCHOOL CADET PROGRAM FAQs

### Q: What are the costs?

**A:** There is an upfront registration cost of **\$375** payable via the payment page linked in the registration letter. The remaining program fees will be charged directly to school accounts in installments across the year, as follows:

- Term 4 2026: **\$375**
- Term 1 2027: **\$375**
- Term 2 2027: **\$375**

The standard levy is inclusive, covering the annual camp, weekly home training, as well as the required clothing and equipment. An additional fee of **\$385** will apply in 2027 for Year 10 and Year 11 cadets who elect to participate in the Sergeants/CUO Promotions Camp. There have been no fee increases from the 2025-26 cycle.

### Q: Are there a limited number of places available for cadets?

**A:** The MLCSACU is a rapidly growing and inclusive program, and we are committed to ensuring this opportunity is accessible to all students who wish to participate. However, we are limited to the size of our platoons and to ensure a position is available, please register as soon as a decision is made. Once our limit is reached, a waiting list will be created based on registration time.

### Q: My daughter is currently in Years 9 – 11 and did not commence cadets in Year 8 but is interested in joining now. What opportunities are available to her?

**A:** Students who are interested in joining the unit but did not commence in Year 8 will be invited to meet with the Officer Commanding, Xavier Maling, to discuss suitable pathways within the program and how they may best engage and contribute. A range of opportunities will be available to these students, and they will not be disadvantaged in comparison to their peers. Additional training opportunities will be provided throughout the year to ensure they are well prepared for the annual camp.

### Q: Is the MLC School Army Cadet Unit still involved with the Newington College Army Cadet Unit?

**A:** MLC School and Newington College currently collaborate to deliver a combined Promotions Course Camp for SGT/CUO participants in Term 3. As cadets progress through the leadership pathway, they also have access to a range of co-educational opportunities, both in partnership with Newington College and through engagement with other cadet units and National Activities.

### Q: When and where do home training sessions take place?

**A:** Home training sessions are conducted on-site at MLC School, with cadets also using the aquatic centre and surrounding parklands. Home training occurs every Friday from 3:25pm to 4:30pm. Cadets enrolled in Promotion Courses will remain at school until 5:15pm on alternative weeks. Further details will be provided to these cadets closer to the commencement of their course.



**Q: Where is the Annual Camp (AFX)?**

**A:** In 2026, the AFX was conducted in partnership with Newington College at their Outdoor Education campus in Eungai Creek. To further support program outcomes and minimise travel time for cadets, MLC School is currently exploring a range of alternative locations, with the aim of establishing a new AFX for 2027. The AFX will continue to be held in either Term 1 or Term 2. Further details will be provided to students and parents in Term 3, 2026.

**Q: My daughter is currently enrolled in the SGT or CUO Course and will not be promoted until the end of Term 3. Will this affect her registration for the 2026-2027 cycle?**

**A:** No, cadets who are currently enrolled in either the SGT or CUO Course should proceed with registration for the 2026-2027 cycle. They will attend the Promotions Camp in September 2026 and, subject to successful completion, will be formally promoted at the conclusion of Term 3.

## FACT SHEET – ATAR ADJUSTMENTS

Being part of Cadets is more than just a co-curricular activity – it is a recognised pathway to strengthening your university and scholarship applications.

### ATAR Adjustments

UNSW currently awards adjustment factors for students who achieve the rank of Cadet Under Officer (CUO). Apply directly through the [EAPL Scheme](#).

While this is a direct benefit, the value of Cadets extends far beyond adjustment factors. It provides a significant advantage when applying for early entry schemes and scholarships, where universities look for more than just strong Year 11 results.

### Early Entry Schemes

At Macquarie University, for example, the Leaders and Achievers program is based 50% on your Year 11 academic results and 50% on your involvement in activities that demonstrate leadership, teamwork and community contribution. Participation in Cadets fits perfectly here, as it highlights both your leadership potential and your commitment to service.

Similarly, the **University of Notre Dame** requires students to demonstrate their involvement in activities that reflect initiative, leadership and service as part of their application. Once again, Cadets provides ideal evidence to meet these requirements and strengthen your chances of success.

### Scholarships

Scholarship applications also place high value on well-rounded students who can show leadership, teamwork, resilience and community involvement. Your experiences and responsibilities in Cadets give you genuine examples of these qualities. Being able to reflect on and write about your Cadets journey will significantly enhance your scholarship applications and set you apart from other candidates.