

Who are the women involved in STEM?

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Who I find inspirational

While at Space Camp in the USA, I met the inspirational Sue Finley. Sue began her career as a 'human computer' in the 1950s where she calculated rocket launch trajectories by hand. Sue has been involved in every unmanned mission from Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) and is still working today.

Professional

Top-level responsibilities

Ensuring the airworthiness of an aircraft or an aviation-related system. Issues and challenges associated with aviation can have serious consequences, so attention to detail is crucial.

Day-to-day work and skills

As an engineer in the Royal Australian Navy, I have developed a range of skillsets across several different roles. I have conducted safety audits of military aviation squadrons and managed aviation facilities aboard a Navy vessel – sometimes operating at sea for up to three months at a time. I am currently working with emerging technologies.

Personal

Current location and community

Canberra, ACT

My interests and hobbies

Hiking and the outdoors, reading and finding activities I can share with my dog (a gorgeous Miniature Schnauzer named Evie).

I am passionate about

I like learning new skills and taking opportunities when they arise. My next new skill will be forging my very own stainless steel kitchen knives!

What I would say to 16-year-old me

Never be afraid of failing and don't care what others might think of you. Everything is a learning opportunity and you never know where it may lead and who you might meet.



Lieutenant Kate Cox

Aviation Engineer / Lieutenant

Royal Australian Navy

I commenced flight training at the age of 15, when I was able to earn money to pay for lessons. Aviation always intrigued me and gaining a few hours assisted in fueling that fire!

Through cold calling, I was successful in organising work experience at GKN Aerospace based in Bristol and had a chance to join a tour of the Airbus assembly facility in Toulouse, France.

One of my most rewarding jobs has been to work aboard the Royal Australian Navy ship HMAS Adelaide managing the aviation facilities. It opened my eyes to a whole new world!

Space Camp in the USA was a wonderful opportunity where I met an original 'human calculator'. It inspired me to set a personal goal of participating in a commercial space flight in 2030.

I am currently working with Unmanned Aviation Systems (UAS) for the Royal Australian Navy, a revolutionary technology that has its own challenges but is proving to be a major capability enhancement for our Navy.