



Excelsior!

After eight months of training and exams, another two batches of cadets from the Australian Airline Pilot Academy (AAPA), Rex006 and Rex007, have successfully completed the Rex Pilot Cadet Program. February 2, 2011 marked an important milestone for the 18 cadets, their family members and friends, as they gathered to celebrate the wonderful occasion, held in the AAPA Hangar in Wagga Wagga.

Guest of honour for the graduation, State Member of Parliament for Wagga Wagga Mr Daryl Maguire MP, was among a number of special guests that also included Liberal Senator for NSW The Hon. Bill Heffernan, Federal Member for Riverina Michael McCormack MP, Wagga Wagga Deputy Mayor Cr Alan Brown, representatives of Wagga Wagga City Council and ASL as well as various Rex ambassadors.

The ceremony commenced with a speech by AAPA Chairman Jim Davis, followed by an address by Mr Maguire. Following this, proud families and friends watched as each cadet stepped up to receive their certificate, epaulettes and wings, presented to them by AAPA GM Flight Operations and Chief Flying Instructor Geoff Cook.



Special awards were also presented to those cadets who achieved an outstanding performances in a range of different aspects. The Jeppesen Award for Most Improved Performance was awarded to James Frost (Rex006) and Trent Schupp (Rex007).

Richard Low (General Manager, ASL) presented Alexander Theiler (Rex006) and Thomas Wilkinson (Rex007) with the ASL award for achieving the highest assessment results in Theoretical Aspects.

Finally, the Chairman Award, for Highest Overall Assessment, was presented by Mr Maguire to Rhys Mitchell (Rex006) and Matt Palmer (Rex007). This award included full scholarships granted by Rex to the award winners.



Far left, top:

Graduates from Rex007 (L-R): Thomas Wilkinson, Richard Taylor, James Massy-Greene, David Teitzel, Trent Schupp, Hayden Benisch, Mark Hey-Shipton, Matt Palmer and Jeff Hubbard.

Far left: Graduates from Rex006: (Back row L-R): Stefan von Czapiewski, Gavin Ward, Rhys Mitchell, John Newton, Marco Carmo and David Griffiths. (Front row L-R): Alexander Theiler, Karissa Purcell and James Frost.

This page, clockwise from above: Graduate Rhys Mitchell with his family; graduate David Teitzel has his pilot wings put on by his partner; guest-of-honour for cadet graduation Daryl Maguire MP, Member for Wagga Wagga, giving a speech.

The respective course captains (John Newton of Rex006 and David Teitzel of Rex007) delivered speeches on behalf of their respective batches. Bouts of laughter rang around the hangar as the captains recounted the funnier moments of their time at AAPA.

Family members and friends gathered around the

graduates, putting on the epaulettes and pinning on wings, signifying their graduation from the program and the close of the ceremony.

Congratulations to all the graduates. We wish them all the best for the next step in becoming a fully-fledged Rex pilot. 🍷