



Rex009 & Rex010 Graduate

On 1 May 2012, the Australian Airline Pilot Academy (AAPA) was proud to see another two classes, Rex009 and Rex010, graduate from the Rex cadet pilot program.

The guest of honour at the graduation was Member for Farrer Sussan Ley, herself a commercial pilot for the past 20 years. It was particularly heartening for her to see 19 young adults fulfil their dreams of being commercial pilots. Together with Member for Chifley Ed Husic, Ms Ley recently initiated a Friends of Aviation group within the Federal Parliament to give a higher profile to aviation matters, including regional aviation.

In her speech Ms Ley said, "Rex's response to such a shortage of both pilots and training has been to introduce this innovative cadet program and they are to be congratulated. I am especially excited that the training happens here in regional Australia."

Further addressing the cadets, she added, "Flying is so much more than just a career. It's a discipline that reaches into every area of your life; it allows you to grow as a person and it gives you skills in areas that you would not have dreamt of previously. I can honestly say that flying has made me a better person."

The Chairman's Award is presented to the cadet who has performed best overall in the course. Casey Howard received this award for Rex009. Casey's achievement was particularly special because his father is Rex Captain Michael Howard and this is the first time a Rex pilot's son has graduated from the program. It was indeed a proud moment for both Captain Howard and Rex.

"I was very privileged to attend the graduation and see Casey officially receive his wings," Captain Howard said. "An unexpected thrill was to see Casey receive the Chairman's Award, which, in my eyes, was 'the pursuit of happiness' for Casey becoming a reality.

"All those present were a credit to themselves, their families and the cadet training program. I fully support the cadet scheme in giving young folk a vehicle to reach for the sky."

The Chairman's Award for Rex010 was proudly received by Chris Brislin, while Jacob Brenan and Sebastian Tannock were the recipients of the Jeppesen Award for Most Improved Performance for Rex009 and Rex010, respectively.

Congratulations to all graduates, the future of aviation. We wish you the very best in your next step with Rex. [O]

Clockwise from top left: Graduating class of Rex010; Rex009 cadet Megan Fricke's family member proudly attaches her epaulet; graduating class of Rex009; guest of honour Sussan Ley presents the Chairman's Award to Casey Howard.