Aero club pilots regional meeting

By LAURA DAVIES

FLYING SUCCESS: Conference convenor Geoff Breust (second from left) was thrilled with the success of Saturday's aviation conference, which included speakers Teraya Miller from CASA, Phil Vabre (centre) from Airservices Australia, Rex flight operations manager Chris Hine, and Wagga City Aero Club president John Smith.

AVIATION enthusiasts from across the region descended on Wagga on Saturday for a conference covering all things flight-related.

The Wagga City Aero Club hosted the conference at the Australian Airline Pilot Academy in response to recent changes in the aviation field.

About 60 attendees from as far afield as Canberra, Forbes, Tumut, Tumbarumba and Narrandera, as well as Wagga and Junee, were in town for the event.

Conference convenor Geoff Breust said while there had been some education before procedural changes were made in June, the day was a chance for people to find out more.

"We talked particularly about new procedures for aircraft using regional airports," Mr Breust said.

Speakers from Airservices Australia and the Civil Aviation Safety Authority were on hand for the conference, while attendees also had the chance to hear about council's plans for the airport precinct.

"We had a briefing from Wagga City Council about their airport master plan and the work they've got planned out there over the next 12 months or so," Mr Breust said.

"It was a very good day.

"We held it in the new pilot academy and everyone had a tour of that as well and remarked it was a great facility."

A conference of this type has not been held in Wagga before, but Mr Breust said the aero club had felt the time was right to get together with people from across the industry.

"The aero club thought, given these recent changes, it was a good opportunity to have this conference," he said.

KEY SPEAKERS: Roger Valkenburg from Airservices Australia and Grant Johnson from Wagga City Council shared information with attendees at the aviation conference.