



BRIEFINGS

Christmas Edition December 2004 Issue 12

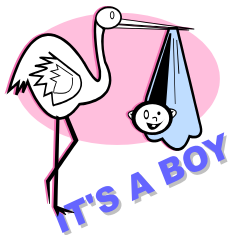


MERRY CHRISTMAS

On behalf of everyone at Kestrel Aviation we would like to wish you a safe and enjoyable Christmas.

With too many highlights this year to fit into a Christmas card, we thought we would instead share our accomplishments in a special edition newsletter. We would like to thank everyone for the patronage over the last 12 months, and for the memories featured in this newsletter.

Kestrel Aviation will make a donation to the Salvation Army this year instead of sending Christmas Cards.



Congratulations to Darren and Leanne Sommers who celebrated the birth of their third child on 1st November at the Mercy Hospital. **Lachlan Jacob** the first boy for the family, is brother to Laura 5, and Sarah 3.

Mother and baby are doing well.



Ray with Lt. Col. Adil Al-Lawati

WINGS DINNER

Kestrel Aviation celebrated the achievements of students both past and present on Saturday 11th September with a dinner held at Mitchelton Winery. Jed Hart entertained all those in attendance as guest speaker, highlighting an aviation career spanning more than 30 years.

Among Kestrel's guests included dignitaries from the Royal Oman Police Force who flew out from the Middle East to see their 4 cadets graduate from Kestrel Aviation. The cadets had been training with Kestrel Aviation for 18 months. The three helicopter and one fixed wing student completed their Commercial Licences, Command Instrument Ratings and ATPL theory. Also graduating was Hassan Al-Emadi and Fahad Al-Otaibi, cadets from Gulf Helicopters in Qatar who completed similar training to that of the Oman students.

Former student Doug Allgood, received Kestrel Aviation's Excellence Award on the night for his achievements at Kestrel both academically and socially. Not only did Doug complete combined PPLA/CPLH training with exceptional results he also frequently organised activities for the integration of new students into the Kestrel environment.

Since completing his training with Kestrel Aviation late last year Doug has been working for a tourist operator based at the 12 Apostles.

Royal Oman Police cadet Omar Al-Duwaiki received Kestrel's Determination Award for the conscientious efforts he made towards his studies. Omar passed his CPL and IREX exams with excellent results, and stayed focused throughout his training.

We would like to wish all of Kestrel's graduates the best of luck as they now embark upon life as commercial pilots.



Doug Allgood receiving his Award from Jed Hart



Omar Al-Duwaiki receiving his Award from Jed Hart



Entertainment was provide by former student Jodie Kefford and Andrew Rego



A GRADUATES STORY LANDLINE SUCCESS

Devoted Briefing readers and Landline fans alike would remember Kestrel student Todd McMahon who shot to international stardom when he earned his Commercial Helicopter Licence on Camera during the April 2004 Flyaway featured on the Landline Program in June this year.



Not long after the program went to air Todd was taken on by a Sydney based helicopter company who had seen him on the Landline feature.

Todd has been progressively building his hours since starting with Heliflite in August. Todd was lucky enough to find full-time employment just a month after completing his training with Kestrel Aviation.

Kestrel Aviation was inundated with enquiries after its 25 minute feature on the ABC program in June this year. The phone rang off the hook for a week, and the email jammed after receiving over 300 enquiries from our website.

The Landline story captured the essence of Kestrel Aviation's bush flying experience and highlighted many talents within the Kestrel Camp.

Thank you to everyone who participated in a Kulnine Flyaway this year. We hope the experience was as rewarding as it was challenging.

Please contact Kestrel on 03 5796 2373 if you would like a DVD copy of the Landline feature. Also contact the office if you are interested in participating in a Kulnine Flyaway in 2005.

CONGRATULATIONS DOUG



Doug Allgood has proven himself to be a success story in the making, and worthy of special mention after many achievements during the nine months he spent training at Kestrel Aviation.

It was Doug's initial dream to fly for the Airforce, however a shoulder injury made this unattainable. Determined to achieve his dream of a flying career Doug worked nights at a supermarket, and for his family business to raise the money to get his licence.

Doug arrived at Kestrel in March 2003 and by November had completed his PPLA and CPLH licences.

In five and a half months Doug had completed his CPLA and CPLH exams with an average exam result of 90%. Doug's determined nature made him a role model to other students in the Kestrel camp struggling with their theory, and he was often found lending them a hand.

Doug was respected by staff and students so Kestrel dedicated a regular update on the website to report Doug's training progress. The regular diary instalments talked of the stress of study, the satisfaction of exam and flying training achievements and the social aspects of Doug's life at the airport.

Keen to kick start his career once he had his licence Doug operated joy flights at many events. He also established contacts at numerous wineries offering scenic flights before gaining full-time employment with Premair Helicopters.

We wish Doug continuing success in the future.



WELCOME ABOARD

Kestrel welcomes Ian Cruickshank and Jonathan (Jono) Hunt. Ian and Jono have commenced their Instructor Ratings at Kestrel Aviation with a view to joining our Flight Line crew on completion of their training. Ian is doing his aeroplane Instructor Rating while Jono will complete his helicopter rating.

Ian holds an ATPL A and has over 10,330 hours experience. Ian previously worked for IPEC flying DC9's and with CASA. While working for CASA Ian was involved in the development of emergency beacon information that appears in the ERSA.

Jono, a former Kestrel student got his CPL H licence in October 2001. Jono has previously worked for Smoothie Helicopters and Mangles Heli Services in Western Australia mustering, and for Ayres Rock Helicopters doing tourism charters at Ayres Rock and Kings Canyon.



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INSTRUMENT RATING CANDIDATES

August and September were busy months for Kestrel Aviation with 2 candidates from Helicopters Hong Kong and Matthew Neilsen, Helicopter Programme Coordinator for Massey University completing Single Engine Command Instrument Ratings. Meg and Eric returned to Hong Kong on completion of their training to resume their flying duties on the S76.

CHANGES COMING.....

Kestrel Aviation is in the process of introducing the GenAv Flight Office, a computer based software package that will centralise and regulate the way Kestrel Aviation operates. The GenAv system will be used by instructors for flight scheduling, student record keeping and maintenance tracking. The program allows administration staff to track student details to ensure currency of medical/licences, and invoicing.

Students will be able to access Kestrel's flight schedule via the internet, giving them the ability to make flight bookings with preference to time, instructor and aircraft.

The computer system will be installed by the end of the year, and should be fully functional some time in early 2005. More information will be provided to students soon.

04/05 FIRE SEASON



The fire season is here again and from all reports, it is shaping up to be a quiet year. In previous year's, Kestrel's BK117 has been operational in NSW from as early as September. This

year it appears that the only helicopter operations in NSW are for flood relief! Kestrel's BK117 is contracted to DSE again, and will head down to Bacchus Marsh in December for the start of the season. Kestrel's C182 is also contracted to CFA for fire spotting, and the Longranger is equipped and ready for fire bucket work if required.

ARRIVAL OF SCHWEIZER 269CB

Kestrel Aviation has recently purchased a 1996 Schweizer 269CB to be used as an alternative machine for Ab Initio training. The machine is also an IFR equipped trainer and will be utilised for Night and Instrument training.

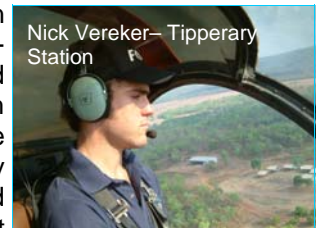
Additionally the 269CB will prove very useful for bigger students who may find the R22 too cramped.

The Hughes will be on line from mid December.

CHECK AND TRAINING IN THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

Ray's notable absence from the office for a week in October found him flying around in the Northern Territory, providing training and checking for Albatross Helicopters at Noonamah and Tipperary Station south of Darwin.

Nick Vereker of Tipperary Station passed his private helicopter licence test in Darwin then carried out his low level approval with some exciting flying around the Station. Also at Tipperary, Rodney Illingworth who recently obtained his private helicopter licence at Kestrel caught up with Ray and completed his low level approval. Nick and Rodney's low level training included chasing wild brumbies, water buffalo, ferrel pigs and sometimes even cattle.



Flying along the Daly River is a must for any helicopter pilot as it boasts an abundance of spectacular wildlife.

Even though the section of river pictured here is over 100 km inland it is home for schools of sharks, stingrays and of course the ever present salt water crocodiles.

Making an interesting interlude from Kestrel's base at Mangalore it is always an extra bonus if the Company is able to spend some time with newly licenced pilots in their own operating environment.

Adam Tessman of Albatross Helicopters also completed his Bell 206 endorsement which he will use for spraying Mimosa scrub, a noxious weed in the Northern Territory.

Well done to all of those who participated in this training round and well done to the two Company's who support further flight training and professional development of their staff and management.

