

BRIEFINGS

Summer Edition December 2005 Issue 14

CASA ISSUE: STUDENT LICENCING

Recent changes to the way the Civil Aviation Safety Authority operates has created many headaches for the aviation training industry. Kestrel Aviation has felt the pinch of new reforms, which are creating many student licencing nightmares. As a delegate for the industry Ray Cronin met with Rob Collins in Brisbane on 8th September to voice the concerns that new reforms are creating.

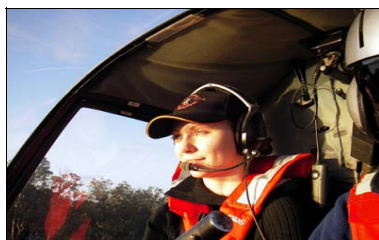
From Kestrel's experience, students are waiting up to 3 months for their student licence to be issued, a licence previously issued by a Chief Flying Instructor. Lengthy delays are resulting in a blow out in training programs as students are often delayed for weeks before they can go solo- a privilege only granted upon issue of a student licence. Courses are artificially being spread over long periods losing the benefits of consolidation.

Prior to the licencing reforms international and domestic students were able to obtain their PPLH in approximately 90 days. Now the student licence may not even be issued within that timeframe causing a loss of market competitiveness internationally.

The industry commends CASA for its stance on screening licence applicants however what improvements to domestic security are achieved by dragging students through such rigorous scrutiny prior to the issue of a student licence? Students are currently completing their dual component anyway and have all the competencies required to fly an aircraft.

Lets hope that common sense prevails in the New Year and those responsible allow the training industry to continue to operate efficiently.

CONGRATULATIONS BILLIE-JO



Congratulations to Billie-Jo Kies who completed her Commercial Helicopter Pilot's licence with Kestrel Aviation on 9th September. As this newsletter goes to print Billie has already started commercial operations and now has over 200 hours working for Barossa Helicopters owned by proud parents Peter and Sandra Kies conducting charter operations.

Billie-Jo commenced her training with Kestrel in May after completing part of her theory with Advanced Flight Theory in Queensland. Billie-Jo's training was intense, finishing her remaining theory exams and flying with Kestrel in just over three months but the hard work was all worth it, seeing the joy on the faces of her family when she returned from her flight test with Ray Cronin. Billie-Jo's parents had surprised her by flying from Adelaide in Barossa Helicopter's R44 to witness part of her flight test and share in her celebrations.

With the formalities over Billie-Jo, her family and Kestrel staff and students celebrated with drinks and dinner at the Mangalore Pub.

On behalf of everyone at Kestrel Aviation we would like to commend Billie-Jo on her achievements and wish her every success with her aviation career.

Merry Christmas



Kestrel wishes its patrons a safe and happy holiday season. This Christmas edition newsletter is issued in lieu of a Christmas card. Kestrel Aviation has made a generous donation to the Salvation Army.



STUART HALL COMPLETES HIS CPL

Congratulations to Stuart Hall who completed his CPLH flight test on 28th October. Stuart started training with Kestrel Aviation in mid-June.



FAREWELL TREVOR

Bon voyage to fixed-wing instructor Trevor Hanmer who is finishing up with Kestrel Aviation in December after a year and a half of service.

Trevor is returning to his homeland of England where he hopes to gain commercial aeroplane employment after converting his licence.

On behalf of everyone at Kestrel we wish Trevor the best of luck for his big adventure.



CONGRATULATION'S BRIAN



Spring was a busy season at Kestrel Aviation with many students completing their training. Brian Clarke was another successful graduate having obtained his commercial aeroplane licence and night rating in late October.

Brian returned to his home in North West Tasmania on completion of his training for a brief holiday before starting the job hunting process.

WHERE ARE THEY NOW..... RUSSELL PROCTOR

Briefing readers may remember Russell Proctor who completed his commercial helicopter licence with Kestrel Aviation earlier this year. Russell, originally from Brisbane, started his training with Kestrel in mid 2004 leaving wife Myrtha at their home in Zurich Switzerland, embarking on an intensive 3 month program in which Russell completed this commercial theory and all seven commercial exams. A year later Russell returned to Kestrel to complete the flying component of his training.

After obtaining his CPLH in June Russell and wife Myrtha moved to Melbourne where Russell started the job hunting process. Within months of moving to Melbourne Russell was offered an employment trial with Albatross Helicopters in Northern Territory.

KESTREL AVIATION EMBARKS ON ITS FIRST TRIP TO ANTARCTICA

Commercial Pilot Paul Fulton and Commercial Pilot/Engineer Ian McFadden headed off on the first of three crossings to Antarctica this summer on board *Svetaeva* on 9th December.

Preparations for the maiden voyage proved to be an epic adventure in its self with operational staff pushed to the limit organising on board hangarage, tie-down mechanisms that would cope with the harsh weather likely to be endured, as well as planning crew logistics, ensuring sufficient fuel supplies, and spare parts for any maintenance issues that may be encountered.

Communications are limited from the ship however we expect our first email once the ship arrives at Macquarie Island after 4-5 days at sea, which will also be available on our website.

Stay tuned to www.kestrrelaviation.com.au to see the photo's from the first voyage when Paul and Ian arrive home in early January.

We wish Paul and Ian a happy and safe white Christmas!

The second voyage departs on 4th January from Bluff in New Zealand with a Kestrel crew of three: Rex Booth, Steve Jones and Ray Buller.



View from the pier: WLI aboard Svetaeva



WLI embarks upon it's first Antarctic adventure



Kate and Annette with FRL

