



Alastair King – Class of 1999

From the age of four, when he realised his father flew for a career, Alastair began the journey to follow in his father's footsteps in the hope of one day also becoming a pilot.

In Senior School, Alastair selected subjects that would provide him the prerequisites to gain acceptance into Swinburne University's Bachelor of Technology Aviation. He began flying lessons from the age of 14 and obtained his restricted private license at 16 – yes, it's true that ironically you can fly a plane without an instructor before you can drive a car by yourself!

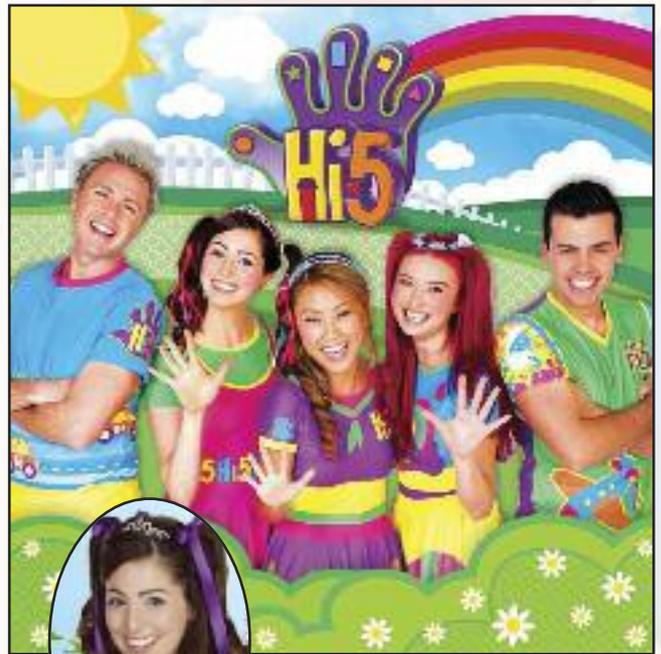
After completing Year 12 at Overnewton, Alastair was accepted into Swinburne. Two years into his three-year degree, Alastair was selected for a Cadetship with Qantas. The cadetship was a six-month accelerated program comprising a huge workload that combined the rigours of study with flying. The course included aerobatics, multi-crew operations and airline subjects.

While the cadetship was challenging, Alastair's real challenge was waiting three-months for the 'call' that would signal the commencement of his employment with Qantas. Alastair received the call on a Friday afternoon and was in Sydney first thing the following Monday to begin his job as co-pilot on the Boeing 747... a dream come true!

14 years later and Alastair has been in the cockpit of a Boeing 737 for the past nine years as a first officer.

Enjoying what he describes as one of the most incredible jobs going around, Alastair is incredibly excited about what the future holds.

Alastair attributes his success to the support of his family and friends and also to a solid education for without all these factors he believes he would not be where he is today.



Mary Lascaris – Class of 2008

On graduating in 2008, Mary was confused as to her goals and direction. She knew she loved performing arts but, after countless auditions and rejection letters, she put her dreams of the stage on hold and decided to pursue teaching.

While Mary enjoyed teaching, she could not shake the feeling that she was meant to perform and, determined to reach her dream, gained experience any way she could – from hosting children's parties to high school discos.

Mary left university and completed a course in Music Theatre at Centre Stage Performing Arts, which then led to the break she'd been hoping for; to perform at Universal Studios in Japan. After a year at Universal Studios, Mary returned to Australia with a renewed desire to work with children, hosting children's parties while continuing her teaching course.