ACMA invaded!
Friends made, lives changed...

For 5 days in July students and staff at ACMA had the privilege of being involved in the lives of 28 young people. Students worked hard for several weeks to prepare for the 25 guys and 3 girls who came from as far away as Queensland and Perth to the annual residential ACMA camp entitled “Mission imPossible on wings and prayers”, based at ACMA’s Coldstream Airport facility.

What is ACMA Camp?
It’s an opportunity to learn about aviation, have fun and play games, go on aviation related excursions (this year to Point Cook Air Force Museum, and maintenance shops at Moorabbin airport), and to fly over the beautiful Yarra Valley.

It’s a week where staff, students and friends of ACMA work together to encourage these young people to see what God can do in our lives. They heard challenging testimonies from staff and students alike.

- John (General Manager) and Marcus (Chief Flying Instructor) shared about the work of JAARS and MAF and the impact of aviation in a world of need.
- Andy (Flying Instructor) told how God took him from not believing there was a God and never wanting to move from the city, to a growing faith and awareness that God was calling him to work with MAF. Poignantly at the end of that week, Andy, his wife Myf, and baby Theo were scheduled to leave Melbourne for the long drive to Arnhem Land to begin their service with MAF.
- Sarah (wife of flight student Steve) encouraged campers to consider the importance of prayer in their lives.
- Tim (Chief Engineer) shared how God had called him to work with MAF in Tanzania as a maintenance engineer, even though he thought he had no skills that God could use in mission.
- Francis (engineering student from PNG) shared his testimony around the bonfire – a story of tragedy and opportunity. The tears in the eyes of many were not caused by the smoke from the fire alone!

In the meantime, despite the demands of the camp, life at ACMA went on. Steve (flight) completed his PPL flight test, Tim did checks on three of our planes and an inspection on a new Airvan for MAF, and despite wet weather, Bruce (CEO), Andy, and Marcus, managed to do most of the Trial Instructional Flights booked by the campers.

Camp ended on Friday with ACMA students and staff praying one-to-one with each of the campers. As parents arrived and some campers got ready to head for the airport, young people who had arrived as strangers on Monday said

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I don’t have a lot of heroes in my life. But one of my heroes died recently. His name was Eric Brabham.

Eric was a man of vision. He dreamed big dreams, and he knew something about the “bigness” of God. Eric believed that no place and no person should be out of reach of the love of God.

That’s why Eric was interested in aircraft and mission. One of the reasons ACMA exists today is because Eric dreamed an “impossible” dream – to establish a mission aviation training facility in Australia where men and women could learn to fly and maintain God’s aeroplanes in the remotest places so that everyone could experience the touch of Jesus.

I first heard about Eric’s dream in 1971. 24 years later, it became a reality. But Eric didn’t just dream. He, together with his wife Margaret, also acted. ACMA is what it is today because of Eric’s vision, and because of the financial investment of Eric and Margaret.

In our 17 years, ACMA has graduated 180 students from 21 different countries. And you’ll find them serving all over the world – in Aboriginal communities in Arnhem Land, at a number of the Royal Flying Doctor bases in Australia, in PNG, Papua, Alaska, Cambodia, Kenya, Afghanistan and some countries better left unidentified. Three of our own Instructors at ACMA are themselves graduates.

40 years ago, Eric Brabham planted a seed. He watered it and looked after it, and the harvest continues.

All of us at ACMA are deeply grateful for this hero who God brought into our lives.

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fond farewells as friends. They also went away more aware of how God is using aviation, encouraged in their walk with God, and some with a clearer idea of God’s direction in their future.  
• Several were challenged not just to be pilots but felt called to fly with mission organisations.  
• One young man expressed his intention to enrol next year in the Engineering Course.  
• Another camper heard the gospel explained for the first time and went away to think seriously about how to respond.

As one student put it, ‘There’s no doubt that God has been working in amazing ways in the lives of these young people this week.’

We praise God for this opportunity to meet them all and share in what God is doing in their lives.
Interviews with New ACMA Flight Students

Francis Wayambo
ACMA Engineering Student

Q. Where did you grow up?
A. I grew up in Ukarumpa, Papua New Guinea.

Q. What adventures did you enjoy in PNG?
A. I enjoyed being in the jungle and cutting firewood and chasing possums.

Q. What are your interests?
A. I like rugby and soccer. I like to fix mechanical things.

Q. How many in your family?
A. I am the oldest in my family and have 2 sisters and 3 adopted brothers.

Q. What is in the future for you?
A. I want to finish my studies as an aircraft mechanical engineer and get an apprenticeship in Australian aviation.

Q. What is your favorite food?
A. Chicken and chips.

Q. What is the hardest thing that you have done?
A. Leaving my family to study in Australia.

Q. What is some good advice that you live by?
A. Don’t give up on your dreams and commit your way to the Lord.

Scott Woning

Family: Wife Alison and 3 children, Honey aged 4 and twins Will and Malachi aged 1.

Where are you from? I am a local boy who has lived in Mt Evelyn and Wandin North.

What were you doing before you came to ACMA? I am a part-time Flight Student as well as a Youth Pastor and a glazier.

What are your goals? I will continue studying part time at ACMA over the next 3 years to attain my CPL and then we hope to serve as mission aviation pilots in Northern Australia.

Brett Ryan

Family: Wife Joanna and son Benjamin

Where are you from? Sydney.

What were you doing before you came to ACMA? Teaching. I am trained as a secondary technology and applied science teacher, however most recently I was doing casual teaching so covered many subjects for both primary and high school.

What are your goals? At this stage my goal is to complete the flight components of the course in the next few months. We are willing to serve in a missionary context, so are considering what other training is appropriate.

Don Watson

Family: Wife Nicole, sons Jack (5) and Sam (3).

Where are you from? Pittsworth which is south west of Toowoomba, Queensland.

What were you doing before you came to ACMA? I was an AME for Boeing Defence Australia, I spent 4 years working on F111s and 2 years working on Blackhawks.

What are your goals? God has called us to join MAF as a pilot.
1. That of the 26 MAF staff with pilot or engineering qualifications in Arnhem Land, 19 – or 73% – are ACMA Graduates, including the Chief Pilot, Chief Engineer, and Operations Manager.

2. Students have come to ACMA from 21 different countries.

3. Since our commencement in 1995, 180 people have trained as mission pilots and engineers and graduated from ACMA.

**ACMA Affiliated Organisations**

ACMA
Australian Centre for Mission Aviation

For more information on:

- How you can be a partner with us in the Mission Aviation Course.
- How you can support Mission Aviation Training through bequests.
- How you can support Mission Aviation Trainees.

Contact Jennifer Barton
P: (03) 9739 0612
E: jennifer@acma.vic.edu.au

- How you can train for Mission Aviation...

Contact Delyse Searle
P: (03) 9739 0612
E: delyse@acma.vic.edu.au

**Praise Points**

Praise the Lord with us for:

- Continued excitement in the ACMA community in seeing God at work.

**Prayer Points**

Please pray for:

- For timely approval and issue of visas for Hans and Elke Kummer from Helimission in Switzerland. For development of the helicopter maintenance course scheduled to commence in 2012.
- For submissions to government authorities for government funding for engineering training.
- For 12 new Engineering students to commence in 2012. There is a critical need for Engineers in the field.

**ACMA Affiliated Organisations**

Building tomorrow’s leaders today