

AT JUST 19-YEARS AND 237 DAYS OLD WHEN HE LANDED, RYAN EASILY BROKE THE WORLD RECORD SET BY 21-YEAR-OLD AMERICAN JACK WIEGAND ON 29 JUNE – THE DAY THE AUSSIE SET OFF



Ryan Campbell ends an epic, record-breaking flight around the world.

ROULETTES HONOUR TEEN WORLD RECORD BREAKER

Australian 19-year-old Ryan Campbell successfully completed a record-breaking solo around-the-world flight in September, smashing the world record for the youngest pilot to circumnavigate the globe.

Flying a single engine Cirrus SR22, The Spirit of the Sapphire Coast, Ryan landed at Illawarra Regional Airport near Wollongong on 7 September, 70-days after he departed the same airfield on an odyssey that took in 34 stops in 15 countries and covered more than 24,000 nautical miles.

After almost single-handedly raising the funds to complete the journey, which was not without incident as he battled wild weather, fuel and permit limitations and a forced diversion from a planned stop in Egypt because of political unrest, the teenager completed the journey as planned in 10 weeks.

At just 19-years and 237 days old when he landed, Ryan easily broke the world record set by 21-year-old American Jack Wiegand on 29 June – the day the Aussie set off.

A jubilant but exhausted Ryan Campbell said the journey itself and the reception he received from thousands of well-wishers – including the RAAF's Roulettes – upon landing in the Illawarra was overwhelming.

"Words can't describe how I feel right now," he said. "What began as a wild, crazy dream has today evolved into a reality following two years of hard work. "Lessons in business, planning and fundraising were among many new skills I had to learn to get this project 'off the ground', let alone actually flying around the world. "I am sure this record will be broken one day but I will always be the first ever teenager to successfully fly solo around the world and I am immensely proud of that." Roulettes team member Flight Lieutenant Shaun Rajzbaum said the Roulettes were awed by the young man's achievement and, after meeting him, were very impressed by his maturity as a person and, obviously, as a fellow aviator.

"What Ryan achieved this year would be a massive achievement for any pilot, let alone for a young man who hasn't even turned 20 yet," Flight Lieutenant Rajzbaum said.

"The immensity of that journey just from a planning perspective is a project that would daunt most pilots. "We as a team of aviators absolutely respect what Ryan achieved and warmly applaud him for it."

The RAAF Roulettes form up to escort Ryan Campbell home.



Ryan Campbell faces the media.