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MEDIA RELEASE

REX CELEBRATES ITS FIRST 10 YEARS

Regional Express (Rex) is celebrating 10 years of operations this August. Rex was born from the ashes of Ansett Airlines and took to the skies on 2 August 2002, from the merger of two of Australia's strongest brands in regional aviation: Hazelton and Kendell.

As part of Rex's 10th anniversary celebrations, Rex will be giving a small gift to all its passengers who travel on 2nd August 2012. In addition, all Rex passengers and well wishers are invited to Rex's birthday celebrations that will take the form of an Open Day held at Rex's Australian Airline Pilot Academy at Wagga Wagga on 8 September 2012. The Open Day promises to be a fun event for the family as a whole series of exciting performances, fun rides and stalls are being planned for the day. Admission is free.

The Open Day will also see the launch of a coffee-table book that tells the Rex story: from the days of Kendell and Hazelton airlines, through the Ansett collapse and its amazing rescue to the 10-year journey of the struggling airline that almost collapsed again but persevered on to be recognised worldwide as the best regional airline in the world.

Rex Executive Chairman Lim Kim Hai, said that Rex and the regional communities owe an everlasting debt of gratitude to all the heroes for their sacrifice, courage and indomitable spirit in rescuing Rex from the Ansett collapse.

Mr Lim also paid tribute to all the stakeholders, "The decade in the aftermath of 9/11 was the most toxic one the aviation world had ever seen with the wars in the Middle East, SARS, the decade-long drought, the pilot shortage, the Global Financial Crisis, runaway fuel prices, volcanic ash from Iceland, the Eurozone crisis, among many others. It was not a good time for an airline to be born."

"Rex would surely not have survived without the amazing loyalty, assistance and partnership of our staff, passengers, regional communities, elected Members and the Federal Government."

"Yet survive we did and we are still standing tall today having been ranked in July 2012 by the authoritative Aviation Week and Space Technology as the 11th best performing airline ahead of most of the global blue-ribbon airlines like Cathay Pacific, British Airways, Lufthansa, Air France-KLM, Southwest and Qantas."

"We are mindful of the cataclysmic period ahead as the world approaches the brink of not only a recession but a depression. However for now, it is a time for thanksgiving and celebrations and we hope that all our well wishers will join us in our celebrations at the Open Day."

Details of the Open Day to be held in Wagga Wagga will soon be published on the web and bookings can also be made online for the very popular scenic aerial rides.

Regional Express (Rex) is Australia's largest independent regional airline operating a fleet of more than 40 Saab 340 aircraft on some 1,300 weekly flights to 35 destinations throughout New South Wales, Victoria, Tasmania, South Australia and Queensland. The Rex Group comprises Regional Express, air freight and charter operator Pel-Air Aviation and Dubbo-based regional airline Air Link, as well as the pilot academy Australian Airline Pilot Academy.

Rex Media Contact: Corporate Communications – +61 402 438 361

