

## Biography

Rikard Benton Heslehurst

PhD, CPEng, FIEAust, FRAeS, FSAMPE, SMAIAA  
ACSS, SAE, EAA, Spitfire Assoc.



Rik Heslehurst is a former aeronautical engineering officer in the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF). During his 16 years military service Rik was in-charge of the RAAF Material and Process Engineering Section and earlier an airworthiness engineer on the F/A-18 Hornet aircraft. Currently Rik is a Senior Lecturer in the School of Engineering and Information Technology of the University College, UNSW at the Australian Defence Force Academy (UNSW@ADFA). At UNSW@ADFA Rik lectures in aircraft design, airframe design and analysis, structural joining methods, damage analysis and repair design, and composite structural design. His research interests follow similar lines. Rik is currently the Senior Engineer for Abaris Training - Reno NV, he consults for the Australian Defence Force, Civil Aviation Safety Authority, Raytheon Missile Systems, NASA, USAF, Boeing Airplane Company, Bombardier Aerospace, Australian Space Safety Office, SRAM-Zipp Wheels and SP Systems-UK. He has conducted engineering short courses for NASA Kennedy, Marshall and Goddard Space Flight Centres, Lockheed-Martin Skunk Works, USAF Academy, Royal Australian Navy, USAF Wright Patterson Laboratories, Pratt & Whitney CT, USAF Warner Robins Air Logistics Centre, Colombian Air Force, Boeing Australia, Raytheon-Australia, Bombardier Aerospace, Honeywell Systems, Sandia National Laboratories, General Dynamics, Pratt and Whitney, Gulfstream Aerospace, SRAM-Zipp Wheels and Republic of Singapore Air Force. Rik has a Bachelor of Engineering (Aeronautical) degree, with Honours, and a Master of Engineering degree, both from the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology, and he also has a PhD from the UNSW. Rik is the current chair of the Australian Chapter of SAMPE and chair of the Canberra Branch of the Australian Composite Structures Society. He has also been involved with the Canberra Branch of the Royal Aeronautical Society and the Canberra Division of Engineers Australia. In his spare time Rik plays and has coached touch football at local and representative levels.

Rik is a Chartered Professional Engineer, a Fellow of the Institute of Engineers, Australia; a Fellow of the Royal Aeronautical Society; an elected SAMPE Fellow; and a Senior Member of the American Institute Aeronautics and Astronautics. He is also a member of SAE, ACSS, EAA, Composites Australia and the Spitfire Association.

Rik and his wife Fiona have been very happily married since 1982. They have three children, Ryan (27), Cameron (24) and Elyse (21).

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