



**Commonwealth
of Australia**

Gazette

No. S123, Saturday, 21 June 2008

Published by the Commonwealth of Australia

SPECIAL



**Government House
CANBERRA ACT 2600
21 June 2008**

MIDWINTER'S DAY 2008 HONOURS LIST

The Governor-General is pleased to announce the following award:

AUSTRALIAN ANTARCTIC MEDAL

Mr Matthew Wayne Filipowski

Huntingfield Tasmania 7055

For outstanding service in support of Australian Antarctic expeditions.

By His Excellency's Command

Malcolm Hazell

Official Secretary to
the Governor-General

THE AUSTRALIAN ANTARCTIC MEDAL

(21 June 2008)

Mr Matthew Wayne Filipowski

Huntingfield Tasmania 7055

For outstanding service in support of Australian Antarctic expeditions

Occupation In Antarctica:

Construction Supervisor – Wilkins Runway

Service in Antarctica:

Summer 2001/02 – Diesel Mechanic

Summer 2003/04 – Construction Supervisor

Summer 2005/06 – Construction Supervisor

Summer 2006/07 – Construction Supervisor

Summer 2007/08 – Construction Supervisor

Mr Filipowski has made an outstanding contribution to Australia's efforts in Antarctica, most notably as Construction Supervisor of Wilkins Runway in the Australian Antarctic Territory

The landing of the first intercontinental jet aircraft at Wilkins Runway on 10 December 2007 and the arrival of the first official passengers on 10 January 2008 were historic milestones in Australia's Antarctic endeavours -- the last two continents on earth to be linked by an air passenger service were finally united.

The construction of a suitable ice runway in Antarctica has been an integral component of the new air service and the modernisation of Australia's Antarctic program. Mr Filipowski was responsible for all aspects of the works program during the construction of Wilkins Runway during the summers of 2003/04, 2005/06, 2006/07 and 2007/08.

Through persistence, innovation and uncompromising standards, Mr Filipowski has delivered an outstanding new capability for Australia's Antarctic program. He has developed a vast knowledge of Antarctic operations and his leadership in the field has been of the highest order. Not only has he managed all of the usual issues associated with an isolated field camp in Antarctica, he has actively shared his technical knowledge and mentored a series of construction teams over a period of several years.

Mr Filipowski demonstrates the highest level of personal work ethic, and despite numerous setbacks due to weather and equipment failure, maintained a positive outlook and encouraged others to remain focused in often difficult circumstances.

His thoroughness and ability to adapt to special requirements, culminated in December 2007 with the Civil Aviation Safety Authority certifying the runway to the highest standard. Mr Filipowski has demonstrated an impressive measure of accuracy and skill and he engendered a culture of high standards in all aspects of the runway construction and operation. He shouldered a huge amount of responsibility with professionalism and dedication, and his commitment and personal contribution to the establishment of the air service to Antarctica has been outstanding.

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