

Our son Ashley's graduation meant more to our family than him just completing 12 years of school. For us, it was also symbolic of Ashley completing 3½ years treatment for Acute Lymphoblastic Leukaemia.

Because of this, we wanted his Graduation to be exciting, wonderful and memorable.

From my very first call to Hylton Ward at Nautilus Aviation, I knew I had chosen the very best company to work with. Hylton was caring, supportive and cooperative and did everything he could to help me make this happen.

In our quest, there were countless times we were told this had never been done in Townsville before and it just wasn't possible. Did this stop us...no!

After months of preparation, strategic planning and fine tuning, with incredible attention to safety and caution taken into account, Ashley's graduation was certainly a dream come true.

The day began with countless photos of Ashley with the Nautilus Aviation helicopter (which had been meticulously shined and prepared!)

Our family waited anxiously at the venue as we watched the other students arrive. This whole plan had been kept top secret with only a handful of people knowing what was about to happen.

Soon there was the distant sound of a helicopter and then just a glimpse as Hylton teased everyone on the ground.

"Wouldn't that be the best rocking up in a helicopter!!! Yeh, but it couldn't happen" were the whispers from the crowd.

The helicopter was quickly forgotten as Hylton flew off into the distance again. Shortly there was the distinct sound of a helicopter as it ceremoniously hovered up the creek and came into sight.

"Oh my God, someone is actually rocking up to Grad in a helicopter!"

The crowd went wild and there were cheers and loud applause as Hylton strategically and safely landed the helicopter in the exact spot that had the most impact. The additional Nautilus Aviation pilot on the ground safely escorted Ashley and his partner away from the helicopter.

There are tears rolling down my face as I'm writing this. Ashley's Graduation was the most amazing, incredible experiences and we will cherish the memories for the rest of our lives. Together with Nautilus Aviation, we made Ashley's dream come true.

*Leigh Caldwell*

