

Ford in ground attack

By Emma O'Sullivan

GROUND attack fighter jets took to the Ballarat skies at the weekend to treat a group of lucky Ford employees to joy rides.

On Saturday Ford rewarded 10 high-achieving employees from around Australia with an overnight stay in the city and 25-minute flights in Ballarat Australian Jet Adventures' New Zealand fighter jets.

Christine Segaert of Australian Jet Adventures described the joy rides as a once in a lifetime experience.

"They (the pilots) did aerobatics and air combat manoeuvres, similar to what you'd see in the movie *Top Gun*," she said.

"There's only a few places in the world you can do it, because there's not many places in the world where it's legal to fly fighter jets."

The jets flew over Ballarat and Lake Burrumbeet.



MISSION FORD: Tony Melloy from Metro Ford in Brisbane, left, is a happy flier as he touches down with pilot Darren Williams of Australian Jet Adventures at Ballarat Airport. Picture: **Jeremy Bannister** **Ballarat Courier 03/08/04**