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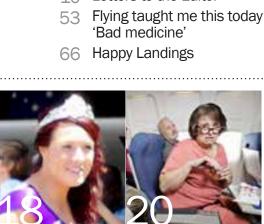
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SPORT PILOT . FOR RECREATIONAL PILOTS

## **President's Report**

### MICHAEL MONCK

## Safe Accessible Enjoyable Aviation

## Those four words summarise what RA-Aus should be.

On November 9, the board and management gathered together to take a look at what RA-Aus has become, to shape the future and define what it should be. During the day it became very apparent that over the past few years we lost our way and let things deteriorate to such a point that many of the perceptions of RA-Aus are negative. It's time to address that.

So over the next few months we will put together a strategic plan to help guide decision making in future and ensure RA-Aus is associated with these four words outlined above.

#### SAFE

It goes without saying. I often wax lyrical in this very column about safety. To me it underpins everything we do. Without safety, flying isn't fun. The safety message needs to come from all avenues, especially the board. We all need to have the character to recognise when something isn't safe and the courage to do something about it. Speak up if you see something unsafe. Don't go flying if your pre-flight inspection uncovers something questionable. It's always up to us.

#### ACCESSIBLE

We are RA-Aus, not an overly complicated government department which requires reams of paperwork and mountains of rules. We need to keep our operations simple. We want to remain the cheap alternative to the complex environment of general aviation and we want everyone to have access to our past time. We will work to make the rules simple to understand and apply and to keep our costs down.

#### ENJOYABLE

If we can nail down the first two points around safety and accessibility then the enjoyment will likely follow. That said, the opposite is also true. We have to tackle safety and accessibility while also keeping in mind that our primary motivation for flying is to have fun and enjoy it. I'd argue that general aviation is safe but it isn't that accessible.

Rules and regulations constantly increase costs. Security at airports is driving pilots mad. And costs are sky rocketing. We have the opportunity to change this and in the process tick all three boxes.

#### AVIATION

It goes without saying that, as I type this and look out the window, I wish I was out flying. Right now the sky is blue and there is only the slightest breeze barely moving the trees. I think we would all agree that on days like this we would rather be doing something related to flying than slaving away in our daily lives.

This applies to all aviators. We seem to forget we aren't about RA-Aus, we are about aviation. It doesn't matter whether we get our kicks from building a simple rag and tube plane, purchasing a ready-to-fly factory option or fly a beautifully restored aircraft from the 1940s, registered by the government. Indeed even if you're flying a fast jet, the simple reality is this – when you push the stick forward the trees get bigger and when you pull it back they get smaller.

Aviation isn't about what we fly or where we do it. It's just about flying. We have people who are passionate about low inertia flying, those who want to go exploring in modern fast aircraft, others who are interested in building something of their own design and those who just want to make sure we maintain our aircraft properly.

The point is this. It's about aviation. And if we remember that, we're halfway there. There's no need to have anything other than a friendly rivalry, because more than that will hurt us all. It's about unity and sharing the common love of all things that fly.

To that end we have identified five main areas to focus on:

- Marketing
- Membership

- Modernisation
- Alliances
- Governance

These areas will allow us to make sure RA-Aus plays a significant role in setting the direction of aviation in Australia.

We want to promote the message we are a safe pastime and encourage new members into the world of aviation. To do this we will work to modernise our systems and help serve our members better by reliably delivering our current range of privileges and benefits and expanding them over time. We will look to work more closely with other stakeholders, ranging from other aviation bodies through to the broader community. And to do this we will build a better system of governance to ensure our members, together with the other people we interact with, always get a good deal.

In the next couple of months we will put out more information in the magazine and via our newsletter to communicate our strategy and inform you about what is happening. In the meantime we are coming into some great flying weather and the Christmas period, so I'd like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and hope you take advantage of this time of the year to do some safe, accessible and enjoyable aviation.

Cheers.



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## **December**

#### **Frogs Hollow**

Christmas Party fly-in. BBQ lunch at the airstrip starting at 12pm. All welcome. Lat 36 46s long 149 48e.

For more information, Bob Phillips (02) 6495 9251 or bobatfrogs@gmail.com.

#### **Great Eastern Fly-In**

The Great Eastern fly-in at Evans Head has become the must-see aviation event on the flying calendar. Pilots, their families and friends, fly in from all over to enjoy a great summer holiday with a difference. This year the GEFI will celebrate 100 years of military aviation in Australia. The Aviation Heritage Museum has new displays, get up close to the F-111 and, for the first time, there will be a 737 flight simulator to try. For more information, http://www.greateasternflyin.com.

## **b** March

#### **Darling Downs Fly-In**

The Clifton Airfield (Bange's) fly-in has become an iconic event in the region and is the premier attraction for all types of aviation in southern Queensland.

Come late pm Saturday 14th for BBQ, drinks.

Fly or drive in, see ERSA. On field camping, bring your swag. Advise for catering.

For more information, contact Trevor Bange 0429 378 370, (07) 4695 8541 or Email: trevorbange@bigpond.com.

## **12** April **Barossa Airshow**

The Airshow / fly-in, now in its 11th year, is a family fun day with rides, amusements, static displays, stalls, food and wine. 10am-5pm.

Includes aerobatic displays and helicopter joy flights. All pilots are welcome to fly in for the day or stay overnight. Anyone not familiar with the 600m strip at Rowland Flat should contact Steve Ahrens for a briefing.

For more information,

http://www.barossaairshow.com.au.

## **28** February

#### **Cranbourn Fly-In Fun Day**

Cranbourn Airfield in Launceston, Tasmania is a small airfield compared to most, but 30 pilots fly from there and the same number of planes, gyro's, etc, are hangared there. This will be the 26th anniversary of the Fly-In Fun Day. All pilots are welcome for a sausage and a chat. A wide variety of displays, vintage cars and bikes, helicopter rides, model planes and helicopters as well as a jumping castle for the kids. Food and drink supplied. For more information, Debra Stewart (03) 6326 2898 before 6pm.



### **8** April Loxton Aero Club fly-in

As well as a great fly-in, the hangar dinner is well known as a great night out. All welcome

For more information, Kerrie Palamountain palark@tpg.com.au or http://loxtonaero. com/dinner.html.

## September

#### Wings over Warwick

Queensland Recreational Aircraft Assn incorporating Warwick Aero Club (www. graa.info) invites pilots and enthusiasts to the 2015 fly-in at Warwick Aerodrome (YWCK). The strip is 1600m all bitumen with no landing fees (www.warwickaerodrome. com). All types of aircraft welcome. Includes a display of model planes. Food and drinks available from 8am to 2pm. For more information, Events Co-ordinator Graham Hawthorne 0427 377 603; President Kelvin Hutchinson 0407 733 836 or Secretary Phil Goyne 0417 761 584.

## LETTERS THE EDITOR

#### **Radio** gaga

Regarding the information regarding radio use ('Aircraft Calling' Sport Pilot October 2014). The story stated it was not appropriate to use the CTAF frequency (126.7) when using an airport not listed on a map.

With at least a dozen other pilots, I fly out of Frogs Hollow airstrip, which is located about 10nm NW of Merimbula, NSW. The strip has been in existence since the 1930s and was the airfield for the Bega/ Merimbula area. We have a very active flying club. Our fly-ins often attract over 35 aircraft. All use 126.7 for inbound and circuit calls.

The article stated we should instead be using the local area frequency (120.75) which, I understand, is Melbourne Centre. After reading the article, I was concerned enough to write to Airservices Australia to ask for advice about radio use at Frogs Hollow. They referred me back to CASA.

My question to Airservices was "should we be making, as CASA seems to dictate, all radio calls using Melbourne Centre?" I cannot imagine myself calling Melbourne Centre with the information that I'm "10 miles north west at 2,000ft inbound Frogs Hollow".

I would value your comments please.

#### **Neville Jollands**

From the Ops Dept - CAAP 166-1(3) refers to the use of Melbourne Centre or area frequency if the strip is not on a WAC. Para 7.3.1 states if operating at an aerodrome not marked on a WAC, pilots should monitor and broadcast intentions on the relevant area frequency.

I have checked my WAC for the area and, because Frogs' Hollow does not appear, would agree that Melbourne Centre (120.75) is what pilots operating in that area would be monitoring.

I take your point regarding the use of multicom 126.7 as used by pilots operating at Frogs Hollow, however a simple solution would be to contact Airservices and have Frogs Hollow added to the WAC for the area, thus ensuring visiting pilots operate on the multicom. Further, you could supply information about Frogs Hollow to Airservices for inclusion in ERSA, where you could advise pilots that the multicom (126.7) would be the correct frequency for operations in the vicinity of Frogs Hollow.

In the interim, most modern radios have the ability to monitor two frequencies and I would recommend pilots operating at Frogs Hollow use the area frequency and monitor 126.7 until the strip appears on the WAC.

From the Editor - Dick Smith has also waded in on this subject. See News page 15

#### **Mechanical thanks**

I've just finished reading my October 2014 edition of Sport Pilot and I`d like to thank Mike Bush for his informative, well presented article ('Why mechanics make mistakes') and of course yourself also, for publishing the article. Well done!

#### Franco (Frank) Arri

### 24 Rego question

I have just received my October 2014 issue of Sport Pilot and would like to respond to a letter in that issue entitled '24 Rego and Rotax question'.

Mark Harris is exactly right. Many aviation parts have a TBO (Time Before Overhaul), but this is not necessarily operational hours (hours flown). It is either operational hours or calendar hours, whichever occurs first. This is also true of many things (even outside aviation) including the tyres on your car, which many people don't realise are calendar life as well as wear limited. In aviation, it also applies to other things besides the engine, of which the most obvious is the propeller.

When buying an aircraft, always check the calendar life as well as the operational hours against the engine serial number. Manv advertisements in Sport Pilot will advertise a 10-year old aeroplane with only a few hundred hours on the engine giving the impression you still have hundreds or even thousands of hours flying time left, while not saying the engine could need overhaul or replacing in less than two years. Therefore the purchase price should reflect both the remaining operational hours AND the remaining calendar hours and this should also be taken into account when calculating the hourly cost of flying, which is not as cheap as it might initially seem!

Table 1 in this document lists operational hours and calendar life for Rotax 912 engines by serial number:- http://www.flyrotax.com/ portaldata/5/dokus/d04787.pdf

#### Philip Orr

#### **Forward Planning**

Suggestions for the Board.

Modernise the board structure as a matter of urgency to be more effective. I see indications of a member backlash if this is not treated as urgent and I have written about this elsewhere.

Form an alliance with all sport aviation branches as a 'Federation of Sport Aviation' and combine NATFLY with other sport aviation fly-ins.

At the moment, sport aviation is fragmented into RA-Aus, gliding, gyros, para and hang gliding, ballooning and even the warbirds.

We all suffer under unnecessary overregulation from CASA and are not achieving all that is needed in reforms. At present CASA deals with us individually and, while we are divided, CASA dictates to us in a way which is slowly strangling us. If we all join together in matters of common concern, 'the boot would be on the other foot and we would have the strength to be able to negotiate on equal terms and, where needed, have the full attention of the government where CASA is overstepping. So my suggestion is for the new board to initiate an approach to each of these organisations looking for common ground and to put forward the suggestion of a Federation of Sport Aviation for dealing with CASA in those matters. I have seen it work well in the past with the Royal Federation of Aero Clubs and don't see why we couldn't repeat this.

The harder CASA screws down on us with unnecessary regulations which we have to comply, so our incentive to fly legally as a sport is reduced. We have lost pilots because of this and many are going back to GA for this reason. All branches of sport aviation are suffering the same way. This is why sport aviation needs to combine.

But even our own internal system can be made more friendly if it is examined and, in many cases, CASA could even be asked to help.

One example that comes to mind is the simplification of test flying of kit built aircraft and making the requirements safer for the pilot. The other is the revision of our unique cumbersome numbering system, which includes other sport aircraft, with our 1920s sized numbers under the wings, which no other aircraft uses nowadays.

We have to make everything much more user friendly and inputs have to be solicited from members and staff for the many things that will help, so a plan can be put together.

Possibly a website for suggestions? The result is to provide more incentive to keep members and for others to join RA-Aus.

#### **Barry Wrenford**

From the CEO - Thanks Barry, your comments come at a very opportune time. The board ran a strategic planning session in November and we are currently canvassing all members via a survey and seeking input on strategically important issues.

The survey can be found at https://www. surveymonkey.com/s/MYL2WD6

#### **Having a crack**

I am writing in respect to the September Issue of Sport Pilot. I would like to thank the Editor for his efforts in bringing as much news and as many interesting stories to us as have appeared in recent times.

I only hope that RA-Aus makes the same leaps

#### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

and bounds that Sport Pilot has in the past few years. As members we should be ticking all the boxes for all the people who make regular contributions.

Having read the first dozen pages once or twice, I feel perhaps we are on the way to success, or a large improvement in things. I find the comments made by the President and the new CEO interesting. The story goes that things are improving and that the current board will not have the same power, or will not be asked to deliver as much.

Keep in mind, at the top level where we do have new blood promising things will improve dramatically, we have heard it before. Some of the board members of old who presided over those times when nothing got done, except plenty of talk, are still on board. Let's hope some see the light and find it in their hearts or brains to give new people with new ideas a crack at it.

I do have confidence in the new CEO. It sounds like he is not afraid to kick butts to ensure there is movement at the station. It sounds like the CEO and President are on the same page. From a technical point of view the Tech and Ops situations seem to be in good hands. Hallelujah.

Also, I would like a status report on where all the outstanding manuals are at this time.

#### Keith G. Baker

**From the CEO** - Thanks for the positive comments Keith. The Operations Manual has just been released (see News page 14) and the Technical Manual is still a little way off, probably mid next year. The Board also approved at its October meeting a detailed document review process. This review process will ensure critical RA-Aus documents are widely consulted on during a dedicated review period to ensure members have ample time to consider and comment on them.

#### Time for a change?

Is it time for a change of direction in the management of the ultralight aircraft scene?

The original idea of the AUF was to have a grass roots organisation which catered for those enthusiasts who just wanted to break the bounds of earth and potter around the sky for the pure fun and fancy of doing so. This didn't mean a lack of safety or fellow feeling for friends, neighbours or the general public. We, in general, have a large yellow streak down our backs for self-preservation and not to do harm to others. Did this mean there were no accidents or incidents? Of course not, there were those who pushed beyond their skill levels and unfortunately paid the price. But in saying that, the mortality rate was very low. Not one person I knew personally died in an ultralight, compared with the motorbike club I was associated with in the 1960s where 12 out of the 18 members were killed and two made paraplegics.

Over the early years, several of our dear members who were true innovators lost their lives during the development of new concepts and setting records, a sad and tragic loss to the movement and their friends and families. The reasons for these tragedies are well documented as a warning for us all.

Over the years, there have been other incidents and accidents, but as a whole the sport is 22 times safer than going fishing, if you are silly enough to believe the statistics presented by CASA. CASA presents a different picture, painted for its own purposes, to achieve its own nefarious ends of control, in a striving for relevance in the so called safety management of aircraft in general.

CASA cannot prevent the General Aviation fraternity from having accidents. They never will, because by definition an accident is just that - an accident - and will happen, sooner or later to everyone who does anything.

The other point to consider is that fools are self-eliminating from the gene pool and that CASA cannot ever prevent that even with all the rules and regulations under the sun. To make all aircraft 100% safe they must be locked in the hangar with no fuel to burn and no tires or batteries to explode.

Do not get me wrong, CASA has an important role to play in public transport safety of the airlines and commuter carriers for the general public, but I must say to CASA - go and do what you are supposed to be good at and leave the ultralight movement alone.

Now all I see is that RA-Aus is becoming a clone, or if you like a 'yes sir, no sir' servant for CASA - inefficient at what it should be doing and sprouting rules and penalties for the members while not able to deal with such minor details such as getting registrations and other paperwork handled in a timely manner and not standing up for the rights of members.

Is there a place for the existing RA-Aus in the overall scheme of things? Maybe they should bow out and become part of CASA, to administer the new breed of high performance Light Sport Aircraft with above 90kts performance.

Most of us who like true ultralights believe RA-Aus has lost the plot as an ultralight movement and would like something better. Will we get it?

#### **Bob Morgan**

**From the CEO** – Bob, we are getting better with our paperwork - the registration delays of a couple of months ago are behind us and aircraft are now registered in seven to 10 days. We are seeing similar success with progressing membership renewals. At our recent AGM I gave a presentation (it's on our website) where I outlined my strategy. A major component is placing our members central to everything we do. At times it's hard to be all things to all people, but I am sure over time we will get the mix right and people such as yourself, as well as those who choose to fly at 100kts, will see ongoing value in supporting RA-Aus. Feel free to drop me a line at any time to discuss it.



## Got something to say?

The state of the organisation is reflected in the Letters to the Editor columns. The more letters – the healthier the organisation. So don't just sit there – get involved. Your contributions are always welcome, even if no one else agrees with your opinion.

The Editor makes every effort to run all letters, even if the queue gets long at certain times of the year.

#### editor@sportpilot.net.au

(By the way – the Editor reserves the right to edit Letters to the Editor to shorten them to fit the space available, to improve the clarity of the letter or to prevent libel. The opinions and views expressed in the Letters to the Editor are those of the individual writer and neither RA-Aus or Sport Pilot magazine endorses or supports the views expressed within them).

## **INSTRUCTORS TOGETHER** By Michael Linke, CEO

A total of almost 100 CFIs and Senior Instructors attended the first ever RA-Aus CFI conference in November.

And from all accounts, the conference in Dubbo was a welcome addition to the RA-Aus calendar and enthusiastically received.

A wide range of topics was covered including:

- Standardisation of training at Pilot Certificate and Instructor levels;
- Leveraging the buying power of the Flight Training Facilities to provide hull insurance for training aircraft, professional indemnity insurance and more;
- Safety Management Systems for FTFs, working together to ensure safe operations;
- Continued development of the RA-Aus Instructor Training Manual;

- Improved relationships and communications;
- Documentary compliance and the importance of good student training records;
- New Technical Manual processes to assist members, including operating engines on condition in FTFs, changes to requirements for aircraft registration markings and a new Maintenance and Repair Approval Process (MARAP) which will aid members to operate aircraft with specific aging issues or redundant equipment, such as no longer available propellers, engines or manufacturer assistance:
- CASR Part 149 implementation to provide further privileges and freedoms for selfadministration by RA-Aus;
  - New occurrence management processes



to be implemented to assist members to report more easily and interact with the administrative parts of the organisation.

Issues from the conference which RA-Aus will be working on in coming months include:

Transparent lines of communication between CFIs and the Ops Department, particularly with regard to accident and incident reports as well as consultation regarding creation of manuals and exams;

And a CFI forum and portal to assist communication.

Further services the organisation can provide to FTFs and CFIs include the modernisation of systems and processes in the office and work to assist FTFs to attract new members, including young people.

Plans are already being laid for another conference, with tremendous enthusiasm for a biennial event, supplemented by regional events on alternative years.

Thanks all the CFIs for making the time to attend. Thanks also to the event organiser, Ops Manager Jill Bailey. Also to our administration staff, Narelle and Jana and the other RA-Aus managers who attended and made presentations, Darren Barnfield, Katie Jenkins and Neil Schaefer.

Thanks also to the other presenters, CFI Richard Tabaka, Lee Ungermann from CASA, Dr Angela Kohler and PE David Eyre.

#### NEWS

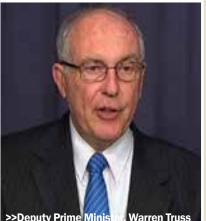
## **RA-Aus on** AICC

RA-Aus President, Michael Monck, has been invited to become a founding member of the Aviation Industry Consultative Council.

The Council's role will be to provide advice directly to the Deputy Prime Minister, Warren Truss, on strategic issues facing aviation in Australia. It is intended to be the peak body representing the industry.

Michael says the formation of the Council is recognition of aviation's importance to the economy. It will allow industry to have a voice and provide advice directly to the Minister.

He says it will also give him an opportunity to liaise with the Minister and other industry participants and help form a united view on strategic and policy issues for the sector. The first meeting of the new council was to be held on November 28.



#### >Deputy Prime

## CASA MOVES AGAINST JABIRU

#### **By Brian Bigg**

In the middle of November, seemingly out of the blue, CASA issued a national Notice of Proposal Rulemaking which set the recreational aviation fraternity on its back legs.

Its news release said, in part;

'CASA is responding to a high, and increasing, rate of engine failures among aircraft powered by engines manufactured by, or under licence to, Jabiru Aircraft Pty Ltd.

'The issues appear to be the result of several failure modes, which require separate investigations. 'CASA has formed the view that its functions under the Civil Aviation Act 1988 require it to mitigate certain risks to passengers, trainee pilots and people on the ground.

'Accordingly, while CASA works with Jabiru to identify the causes of these engine failures and to implement appropriate corrective actions, CASA proposes a set of operating limitations on Jabiru powered aircraft.'

CASA said the limitations on Jabiru aircraft would, among other things;

- 'Only permit operations by day under VFR, unless approved by CASA;
- 'Require that Jabiru powered aircraft are operated in a manner that minimises the risk of a forced landing into populous areas;
- 'Prohibit the carriage of passengers;
- 'Prohibit the use of solo operations by student pilots:
- 'Require that a notice be located in each aircraft that states the above limitations and notes that the occupants fly at their own risk.'

Immediately the news broke, RA-Aus President Michael Monck and CEO, Michael Linke, sought an urgent meeting the CASA and Jabiru. After that meeting, RA-Aus issued the following release. 'RA-Aus met with Jabiru and CASA today (Novem-

ber 14) in relation to the recent proposed actions by CASA that would affect owners and operators of Jabiru aircraft and Jabiru powered aircraft.

'RA-Aus maintains its stance that the available data suggests Jabiru engines are more likely to fail than a comparable 4 stroke Rotax engine but insists our operators should be free to exercise their informed judgement and assess the risks for themselves. We also question whether the CASA proposed remedies are the best action to take given the risks posed.

'RA-Aus feels the meeting was constructive and has outlined a way for Jabiru and CASA to address the risks highlighted by CASA in a manner which will minimise the imposition on aircraft operations. Jabiru and CASA have committed to working together to arrive at a solution.

'In the meantime RA-Aus encourages all affected stakeholders to contact CASA with their views on the proposed restrictions and, if they wish to, engage with other appropriate parties to escalate their concerns.

'The relevant contacts are:

- 'The Minister for Transport, the Hon Warren Truss, W.Truss. MP@aph.gov.au
- 'Your local federal member details can be found at www.aph.gov.au with state and local details available at the relevant government website.
- 'Lee Ungermann of the SASAO office within CASA can be contacted at lee.ungermann@ casa.gov.au.

'Please include admin@raa.asn.au on all correspondence to CASA and members of parliament.'

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## SPORT PILOT CHANGES

#### **NO NEWSAGENTS**

As announced in the November edition, as part of widespread changes planned for RA-Aus' communication strategy in 2015, *Sport Pilot* is not be available for sale in newsagents for three months as part of a trial.

This process has been driven partly by the need to reign in the costs of RA-Aus and the need to remain relevant to the membership as communications needs change rapidly.

For the moment *Sport Pilot* will still be mailed to the letter boxes of all members – it has, by far, the biggest readership of any Australian aviation publication. More than 10,000 pilots read the magazine cover-tocover every month.

#### **NO CALENDAR**

As part of the same changes, there is also no free calendar distributed with the December edition of the magazine this year.

#### **NO JANUARY EDITION**

Please note – As usual there will be no January 2015 edition of *Sport Pilot*. The next edition will be February 2015.

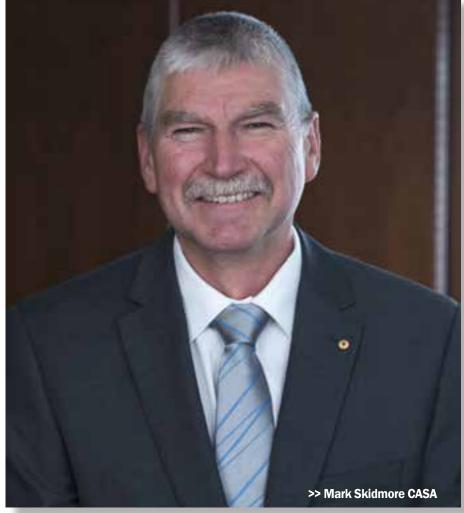
#### **NO PILOT NOTES**

Also as announced in November, now that the RA-Aus website provides a summary of all accidents and incidents, Pilot Notes will no longer be printed in *Sport Pilot*.

The website currently lists accidents, incidents and defects with a brief summary of the outcomes. Not all reports are followed up. However in some cases an outcome of the root causes of the incident is also listed.

These summaries can be found at:

https://www.raa.asn.au/safety/accidentincident-summaries-2014/



## **NEW BOSS FOR CASA**

Mark Skidmore has been appointed as the new Director of Aviation Safety at CASA.

Mark has more than 30 years' experience in both civilian and military aviation.

He has worked as a test pilot, a business development manager and company director.

He was a pilot in the RAAF in the early 1980s. He led RAAF research and development squadrons and was promoted to Australia's Air Commander, holding oversight for Australia's air operations.

He reached the rank of Air Vice Marshal before retiring in 2012.

According to CASA's news release

announcing the new appointment, Mark is committed to working with the aviation industry and the general community to achieve the best possible safety outcomes.

He understands safety is a shared responsibility with the aviation industry and will encourage and support the industry, while ensuring the interests of the travelling public is protected. Mark also owns and flies a Globe GC-1B Swift.

RA-Aus will ask for a meeting with Mark as soon as possible to ensure he is bought up to date and informed about all the issues involving RA-Aus.

### **NEW INSURANCE DEAL**

Some fantastic news for RA-Aus members. Over the past couple of weeks the CEO has been working to improve the insurance coverage provided to members.

"I am very pleased to announce to members that from midnight October 31 RA-Aus financial members were covered by a new member's liability coverage policy," says CEO Michael Linke. "The best part of the new policy is that members now have additional cover beyond simply operating their aircraft, which has been the case up to now.

"The new policy now covers them even if they exit the aircraft and the aircraft rolls away or is caught by the wind and damages property.

"The new policy also covers members for

third party property damage".

Even better is that the additional cover has come at no cost to RA-Aus.

"However, a CPI increase and the rising cost of doing business will require us to explore increasing membership fees by a few dollars in the coming six months," says Michael.

For more information, visit the member's portal on the website.

## **FREQUENCY WARNING By Brian Bigg**

Former CASA Chairman, Dick Smith, has issued a warning to pilots to think carefully before complying with latest CASA radio call advice.

CASA announced in October ('Aircraft calling' Sport Pilot October 2014) that pilots making radio broadcasts at aerodromes not marked on charts should use the area frequency. It said pilots at airfields marked on charts, but which don't have a discrete frequency, should use 1267

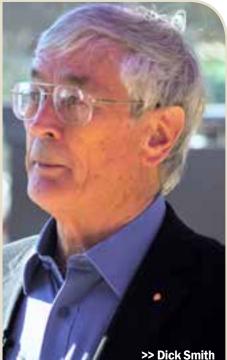
Dick Smith said after the announcement he had been contacted by members of the Regional Airspace and Procedure Advisory Committees (RAPACs) querying the advice.

"While such calls may help in alerted see-andavoid for light aircraft in the vicinity of the unmarked strips, there is a major implication for the safety of airline passengers. The calls are likely to interfere with air traffic control instructions to airline aircraft.

"CASA seems to be obsessed with a non-existent frequency congestion issue but does not understand no country in the world allows small aircraft to give non-directed calls on frequencies used by Air Traffic Controllers to separate airline aircraft. This is for obvious safety reasons."

"There are many times when an immediate call has to be given to an airline aircraft for safety purposes, however if a taxiing aircraft at a small strip is blocking the frequency, this call may not get through to the airliner", says Dick.

"While I agree the chance of an accident is small, the result of an accident could be horrendous. That is clearly why other countries prohibit small aircraft from giving non-directed calls on Air Traffic Control separation frequencies."



### **Board ruling on landing fees** By Michael Linke, CEO

At its recent meeting the RA-Aus Board considered a range of options associated with the issue of landing fees.

As members will be aware, for many years the organisation has acted as a collection agency with regard to landing fees from aircraft operated by RA-Aus members.

Landing fees are a necessary cost associated with using airport facilities and RA-Aus strongly encourages all members to pay them. However the board has decided RA-Aus will no longer act as a collection agency for airports or AVDATA.

We will write directly to airports affected by the change and advise them that, from December 1, 2014 we will no longer forward their invoices to our members.

We will explain that the service is no longer sustainable, it imposes heavy administrative costs on RA-Aus and as such we will no longer provide the service.

RA-Aus believes landing an aircraft at an airport is a contract between the pilot and the airport's own administration. As such, direct communication between the airport and pilot is required. Alternatively, the pilot can register with AVDATA and the airport can arrange payment using this service.

To assist with the transition, we recommend members who use airports which charge a fee register with AVDATA. Over time, RA-Aus will also amend our privacy policy and request approval from members to share their details with AVDATA.

But under no circumstances will RA-Aus share personal member details directly with airports, unless instructed by the member concerned to do so.



#### L1 Training by CEO Michael Linke

Great news for L1 maintainers.

Following a recent meeting with CASA, the long awaited L1 training package is now nearing completion.

CASA has agreed with our approach to deliver a self-guided course, followed by an online assessment. The course is designed to help you understand your responsibilities as aircraft maintainers, how and when maintenance should be completed and how to record the maintenance once completed.

The course is in the form of a study guide and a range of questions, which can be answered by referring to various publications. On completing the self-guided course you will sit an online assessment. That assessment is open-book and will provide you with your results on completion, including feedback on any areas you might need to brush up on.

It is anticipated the launch will take place this month.

We will continue to keep you updated on the development of this training and we encourage all L1s to undertake the training and assessment. Further opportunities for training, including a printed copy of the study guide and assessment using alternate means, are also being developed. Keep an eye on Sport Pilot and the newsletter for more news.

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## **Allows You Build PIC Hours**

#### CHRISTMAS CLOSING TIMES

The RA-Aus Head Office will be closed from lunch time December 24, 2014 to January 5, 2015.

## Merry Christmas

Aviation Australia would like to thank all members for their support of the organisation.

We look forward to your continued support as we map a way forward to an exciting and prosperous future. Our members are central to everything we do. Thank you to our sponsors also for your support.

We value your important contribution and we are making some exciting plans to engage with you in the future.

We can't wait to have you standing side by side with us as we showcase recreational aviation.

To our volunteers, thank you for putting in all the hard hours and taking time out of your lives to help the organisation. Time is a wonderful asset to have and you volunteers have bucketloads to give.

2015 is going to be a bigger and better year, so let's all come together as one big family and make Recreational Aviation Australia the leader in the aviation community.

We wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a safe and happy New Year.



## AIRWORTHINESS NOTICE AIRCRAFT REFUELLING

Darren Barnfield, Technical Manager

A recent accident while refuelling an aircraft with jerry cans has resulted in the person sustaining serious burns to arms, hands and face.

Over the past two years, RA-Aus has received reports of three refuelling flash fires involving weight shift aircraft and one report involving a 3 axis aircraft.

#### **Action Required**

During refuelling with jerry cans, the aircraft and jerry can should be commonly bonded to dissipate static electricity which can accumulate during the refuelling process.

Aircraft must be refuelled well clear of hangars and away from other aircraft. Closed hangars may create a situation where the combination of air and fuel vapours becomes explosive. Ensure a fire extinguisher is available.

Portable electronic devices should be switched off (mobile phones, radios). If a spill occurs, refuelling should be stopped immediately until it is contained.

Members are directed to CAO 20.9 for acceptable refuelling practices.

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#### **NEW OPS MANUAL**

RA-Aus Operations Manual Version 7 is now available. The new manual can be downloaded as a single PDF from the RA-Aus website along with the Syllabus of Flight Training Issue 7 which also can be found there.

In addition the site includes a series of Frequently Asked Questions. There is also a transition document to assist to identify the changes in the new version.

Version 7 has been in the works for some time and the Operations Team would like to thank everyone who provided input and assistance with it.

As part of our ongoing improvement cycle, the Operations Manual will undergo six monthly reviews and updates for minor changes to ensure it remains current. As well, major reviews are planned to happen every three years.

The Operations Manual will be the first RA-Aus manual managed as part of our new document review and management process, which was endorsed by the Board at its October 2014 meeting. This new process ensures wide consultation with members and stakeholders.

Operations Manual https://www.raa.asn.au/ wp-content/uploads/2012/02/Operations-Manual-Issue-7.pdf

FAQ https://www.raa.asn.au/wp-content/uploads/2012/02/FAQ.pdf

Changes https://www.raa.asn.au/wp-content/ uploads/2012/02/Summary-of-changes-Issue-7.pdf Here is the link to the page with everything on it https://www.raa.asn.au/safety/operations-manual/



## **AVALON ADVICE**

The Avalon International Airshow will be held between Feb 27 and March 1, 2015 and RA-Aus will once again be there.

All RA-Aus pilots who do not comply with controlled airspace requirements but who want to fly into Avalon, will need to pre-register with RA-Aus Operations. This is to ensure you receive a briefing from an approved RA-Aus Instructor on appropriate controlled airspace procedures in accordance with the yet-to-be published AIP Supplement for the event.

For all other participants, the event organiser has provided entry and exit requirements on its website.

If you are planning to fly into, or exhibit, at Avalon you should contact opsadmin@raa. asn.au as soon as possible.





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Contact Rod Manning on 0402 958 444 for detailed information



#### by Kevin Wilson, President Grafton Aero Club

The 2014 Jacaranda Muster has been and gone for another year. Thanks to all those who flew in over the weekend.

There were 24 aircraft of 21 different types. The only double ups were Jabirus and Savannahs.

The Winjeel arrived during Saturday morning and began providing warbird flights. The sound of its big 445hp Pratt and Whitney Wasp engine was something to behold.

The all- day BBQ was busy pretty much the entire weekend.

Saturday was hot (36 degrees) and, as the sun sank into the west, our band, the Broadways, set up on the verandah and launched into their repertoire of good old rock and roll music mixed with some classic Irish music. Toes were tapping and everyone sang. It was a great way to enjoy a pre-dinner drink and watch the sunset.

Club members went through organised chaos at its best as food, tables, chairs and all manner of things were organised while the bar was manned and guests greeted for the Saturday night dinner.

The clubhouse dinner was attended by 45 people and all agreed the meal was superb. About 7:30pm there was a sudden invasion of bugs. Prior to that, everything had been fine, so the screen doors had been left open. Big mistake.

Also, just as the main course ended and preparations began for dessert, everything went dark. That began 45 minutes of scrambling around with torches. The whole town had been blacked out and, because there was no moon, it was pitch black. Cars travelling down along the nearby road were the only indication civilisation hadn't disappeared for good. Still, by the time power was restored, we'd managed to get through half the desserts.

Arthur Marcel and Tony King decided to get away at dawn on Sunday so they missed out on breakfast. But a forecast headwind meant it was probably the best time for them to leave. Other overnighters left at a more civilised hour after a good breakfast.

More aircraft arrived during Sunday morning. The Winjeel was flat out conducting joy flights, the BBQ was cranked up again while the Broadways regrouped and entertained everyone all morning.

About 11:30am Grafton's newly crowned Jacaranda Queen and six other princesses arrived for their complimentary flights over the city. All went well- other than a couple of the girls must have celebrated a bit hard the previous night and suffered some air sickness. Hopefully Carl has the C180 clean again by now.

By 3:30pm all the visitors had departed for home and club members began the big clean up. A welcome beer on the verandah finished a superb weekend of flying and fun and we watched as the Winjeel roared overhead on its way home.

Many thanks to all club members who helped throughout the weekend and made our visitors welcome.



>> Mark Awad (Winjeel pilot) and the Junior Jacaranda Queen



#### **FLY-INS**







>> The Jacaranda princesses with their chaperone



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#### READERS' STORIES

# actor

### by Alan Betteridge

For a pilot, having a partner who has a fear of flying is not the best thing in the world.



For those of us who fly, or have flown regularly, the fear of flying is almost unbelievable. Yet for many people it is very real and very debilitating.

When sitting in an aeroplane which is vibrating and has a rough running engine, feeling fear is pretty normal. But when everything is running smoothly and there are no apparent problems, the feeling of fear is not normal.

For a pilot, having a partner who has a fear of flying is not the best thing in the world.

My wife has such a fear. The compromise we came up with when I started flying back in the 1970s was this: she didn't force me not to fly and I didn't force her to come with me. The result?

I have nearly 1,400 hours and she has flown with me for about 45 minutes of that time, but we are both happy with the result.

I had a friend many years ago whose wife had a real phobia about flying, but because he couldn't see what all the fuss was about, he forced her to go flying with him wherever he went.

His result?

From the time he announced they would be flying somewhere, until the time they re-

turned, she was terrified.

And nothing can take the enjoyment out of a flying trip more than having a partner who would have much preferred to stay home – safely on the ground (in her mind at least).

The fear of flying can be one of the most complex of all phobias to cure because it is invariably the combination of a number of other fears such as:

• Claustrophobia (fear of enclosed spaces);

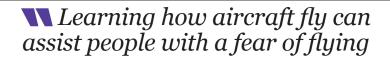
· Acrophobia (fear of heights);

• Agoraphobia (especially the type which has to do with having a panic attack in a place from which they can't escape);

- The fear of not being in control;
- The fear of hijacking or terrorism, and;
- The fear of turbulence.

A previous traumatising experience with air travel or somehow connected to flying can also trigger a fear of flying.

For example, if you already have a dislike for flying, the experience of flying to a meeting only to be told you have been fired might be traumatic enough to subsequently create an association between air travel and bad or unpleasant events.



What has to be remembered is that the fear of flying is a symptom, not a disease and different causes may bring it about in different individuals.

The fear of flying receives more attention than most other phobias because air travel is often difficult for people to avoid and because the fear is widespread, affecting a significant minority of the population.

A fear of flying may prevent a person from going on holidays or visiting family and friends and it can cripple the career of a businessperson by preventing them from travelling on work-related business.

You can have a fear of flying without it actually being a phobia, as such. When it becomes a phobia the level of anxiety becomes so great it can prevent a person from travelling by air or causes great distress to a person when he or she is compelled to travel by air.

The most extreme manifestations can include panic attacks or vomiting at the mere sight or mention of an aircraft or air travel.

Some suggest the media is a major factor behind the fear of flying.

They claim the media sensationalises airline crashes in comparison to the perceived scant attention given to the massive number of isolated automobile crashes.

As the total number of flights in the world rises, so do the number of crashes, even though the overall safety of air travel continues to improve. Statistics show airplanes are far safer than other common forms of transport when it is based on kilometres travelled.

The media, of course will only report on the flights which end in crashes, not the overwhelming number which do not.

The overall impression this creates may be that air travel is becoming increasingly dangerous, which of course is untrue.

In some cases educating people with a fear of flying about the realities of air travel can considerably diminish concern about physical safety.

Learning how aircraft fly and other aspects of aviation can assist people with a fear of flying in overcoming its irrational nature.

Many people have overcome their fear by learning to fly and thus effectively removing their fear of the unknown.

Some people educate themselves; others attend courses to achieve the same result.

It is clear education plays a very important role in overcoming the fear of flying. Understanding what a certain sound is, or that an encounter with turbulence will not destroy the aircraft, is beneficial to easing the fear of the unknown.

Nevertheless, when airborne and experiencing turbulence, the person can be terrified despite having every reason to know logically that the plane is not in any danger.

In such cases therapy, as well as education, is needed.







## WE'RE BACK Seriously!

ing Island is off the north-west tip of Tasmania. This island is famous for its excellent fishing, delicious seafood, amazing vegetables, beef cattle and relaxed country lifestyle. It is also home to Australia's only (or so we believe) Advanced Wing Savannah LSA.

Now, Savannahs are not renowned for their sporty appearance. Short take-offs and landings aside, neither are they so well known for their performance. However, the ADV Savannah is a different story. This plane has almost the same short field performance as the standard model but goes considerably faster (about 10 knots faster). The secret is the thinner, tapered advanced wing.

This particular aircraft belongs to RA-Aus member, Jim Benn and his partner, Sharon, who moved to King Island in 2009. Actually, they started building their King Island hideaway home in 2004, moving there permanently when they retired. Jim runs a home renova-

#### **By Arthur Marcel**

tion business on the island. He also drives a school bus for Tasmania Transport. Before that he used to be a school teacher (a career culminating as Principal), an employee of Education Queensland. His last teaching posting was to Toowoomba where he worked for sixteen years. Before that he taught 10 years in Clifton, where he also learnt to fly, eventually working as an instructor. He has more than 1,000 flying hours, 200 of them as instructor.

According to Jim, in the ADV Savannah, King Island is 10 hours flying (180 litres of fuel) from St George (Queensland), where his son, daughter-in-law and two grandchildren live. Jim jokes that the navigation is easy. He just points the plane north and waits for the land to come into sight after 48nm of ocean. Actually, the pair is very safety conscious. They always wear life jackets, carry an EPIRB and make scheduled radio calls to Melbourne every ten minutes while over the water. Jim and Sharon have made the crossing many times since moving to

#### READERS' STORIES





>> Cape Wickham lighthouse



the picturesque island and Jim says that 10 minute schedules are absolutely necessary. Thirty minutes is just too long to be floating around in freezing water in the event of a ditching.

Why King Island? Firstly, Sharon and Jim had always been keen travellers. They have seen a lot of the world. They had well developed perspectives on what kind of environment would make life interesting for them in retirement. King Island is that kind of place. Secondly, there is a family connection to King Island. Jim's great grandparents (maternal name Skerman) were shipwrecked there in 1866 on their way to a new life in Australia. Amazingly, the 500 plus passengers of the good ship Netherby all survived (not normally the case in those days). So, in a big way, King Island has happy memories for the whole Benn family.

Jim is heavily involved with island life. He is President of King Island Tourism Inc., he is also leading a group opposed to having their island home turned into a gigantic wind farm. He is president of his local church council, he is a member of the local school council, he is a past President of the local Lions Club and a past Secretary of the King Island Aero Club. To say he is busy is an understatement. And he did say he was retired.

Jim and Sharon own a 27ha hobby farm on which Jim has cleared a 350m strip. This is ample for the ADV Savannah, which only needs about 120m for take-off and even less to land. Jim's airstrip is only 3nm from the main airport, so visitors do not need to be aces at short field landings.

There are two holiday cottages on the property, Netherby Downs and Seaview Cottage, both of which overlook the wonderful Southern Ocean. They are managed by Sharon.

Jim and Sharon can provide you with lots of local information. They also maintain a granny flat beside their strip for fly-in visitors.

So here we have a great holiday idea for any *Sport Pilot* readers looking for a holiday on one of the most beautiful islands in the world, a chance to sample all those wonderful King Island cheeses at local prices and to stretch their legs on the island's famous walking trails



>> Sea Elephant river mouth

>> Wickham golf course development

## unday

n a cool Sunday morning in July I

By Kirsten Nixon

#### found myself in a little yellow aeroplane at the end of a grassy strip in a paddock at Jaspers Brush.

I was about to launch into the sky and soar like a bird with just me at the controls. It was my first solo and a defining moment in my life. This is the story about that amazing day and how it came to be.

It all started on a summer's day in 2012 when Greg (hubby) and I decided to turn off the highway onto a dirt road which led to Jaspers Brush Airfield. We'd driven past that road nearly every day for the past 20 years. To our delight we found a flying school. A small fleet of aeroplanes stood in a grassy paddock. The chief, Andrew Campbell, made us very welcome and suggested we go flying. Greg was instantly sold. For me, however, motion sickness, claustrophobia and fear made my flight less enjoyable. Over the next few weeks, Greg gobbled up flying lessons like a starved Pac-Man and I realised that flying was about to become all-consuming in our lives. I decided I would learn to be a calm passenger. I booked another trial instructional flight.

I still gravitated between fear and exhilaration on that flight, but I did manage to take the controls without freezing. I was flying! And by the time we'd touched down, I was hooked. I wanted to fly. And just like that, the madness began.

2012 disappeared in an aviation blur. We flew whenever we could. I still came away from each lesson drenched in sweat, but I was making progress. We both sat and passed our theory exams. Greg went solo in November – a great moment for both of us. When we weren't flying, we were talking, thinking and reading about flying. It was an exhilarating time.

Early 2013 saw me stuck in a Groundhog Day where landings, weather and aircraft just wouldn't come together. Then, to our great excitement, we bought our own aeroplane! She's a mighty steed; a Skyfox Gazelle we called Tweety Bird. Greg and Andrew flew her home from Mornington Peninsula on an adventure which took five hours over some of Australia's most spectacular scenery, from Victorian Alps to NSW coastline.

A few months later, a combination of great flying weather, skilful instruction and getting to know our awesome little aeroplane, saw me push through to solo stage. Solo Sunday started early in a foggy paddock. My instructor, Alex, and I pre-flighted the Gazelle, the fog lifted and away we went.

After several circuits, Alex suggested we make the next one a full stop.

We landed and taxied to the windsock where she asked me if I would like to go round by myself.

My heart skipped a beat and I answered with a yes. I felt a bit nervous but I was ready. Alex passed on final words of instruction and encouragement, reminding me of the difference one less person in the aircraft would make and that I could go around if necessary. She would be at the windsock with the radio. A final check, a smile and a wave and she stepped out.

And, just like that, there we were – me and a little yellow aeroplane in the middle of a paddock at Jaspers Brush on a clear Sunday morning about to launch into the sky and soar like a bird with just me at the controls.

Who would've thought it?

Tweety Bird and I taxied to the end of runway 24 and turned our faces into the wind. I said a quiet prayer and cast my gaze over the instruments and switches. All was in order. A deep breath; a rolling call for circuits; full throttle; right rudder and we were off. Wooooohoooo! She rolled out happily and rather more quickly than usual – we were at 60kts before I knew it. I turned to comment to Alex about this and realised the space next to me was empty.

What a strange feeling - I thought it best not to dwell on it.

We hit 1,000ft before the downwind turn and, as the parallel runway came into view, it was all so familiar. Downwind checks, radio call, turn onto base, establish on final, approach looking good, over the fence and a surprising little bounce on landing. I taxied off the runway to smiles and congratulations.

My first solo circuit was over so quickly. I could scarcely believe I'd done it. Learning to fly has been both the hardest and the most rewarding thing I've ever done. The journey has enriched my life immeasurably. It's taken much persistence and gentle encouragement from my family and instructors.

Our instructors Andy, Alex and Liz have taught us so much, not just about piloting but about the joy and spirit of camaraderie that comes with flying. They're awesome aviators and we have the greatest respect for them. They are totally dedicated to teaching and supporting students to become skilled, responsible and safe pilots.

Greg and I have both gone on to achieve our Pilot Certificates. We're looking forward to many flying adventures ahead.

Greg motivates me to achieve my goals and he encourages me to face my fears. His passion for flying has ignited an aviation fire in me. He's my greatest inspiration. We're having so much fun on this journey together.



## I still gravitated between fear and exhilaration





#### Covers before water lange are herd." Upda Banan of hange finite with the auto covers John 2006.

## **83** Jabiru owners switch to liquid cooling. Problem solved.

When your Jabiru is **liquid cooled**, you don't worry about CHTs. You feel **relaxed** knowing you're operating at safe temperatures, all year round.

"At cruise, CHTs barely go beyand 100°C," explains Kai Lyche of Norway, "They just work!" In fact, liquid cooling is working so well for Kai, it's allowing him to turbocharge his Jabiru 2200,

"It's nice being able to fly home in the summer," says pilot Terry Ryan of rural Victoria, Australia (upgraded Jabiru 3300 engine featured below), "Before liquid cooling, the Jabiru engine had all sorts of heat related problems."

#### Jabiru Super Special:

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Air cooled: 25 hour inspection, dangerous detonation & leaks from overheating.



Liquid Cooled: 120 hour inspection, all heat related issues are resolved. Detonation is eliminated.



#### **FEATURE**

# Remote

**By Rick Frith** 

Rick is a Jabiru 160 owner who has spent the past few years touring the more remote parts of Australia. At the urging of flying colleagues, he has written out a few tips and lessons for others planning to go remote.

n Sport Pilot November 2014 Rick discussed the importance of route planning, particularly to avoid tiger country and to ensure position fixes. This is part two.

Remote is a relative term. I mean flying in designated remote areas described in ERSA GEN FIS 7. These include extremely rugged areas like south west Tasmania and the Kimberley plateau, and isolated areas like the Tanami or Gibson deserts, where people, airstrips and navigation features are few and far between.

Thorough preparation is the key to success; a three week trip may take months of detailed planning. Here are more tips I learned from about a dozen trips over the past few years, taking my Jabiru J160 from Sydney to Horn Island, Kakadu, the Kimberley, Ayres Rock, the Pilbara, the Canning Stock Route, south west Tasmania and most places in between.

#### **OVERNIGHT STOPS**

#### Some of the things to consider are: Mobile coverage, internet access and comms

It is much easier if there is mobile phone or internet coverage where you stop at the end of each day, so you can check weather, NOTAMS and activate or cancel SARTIMES/flight notes.

When planning, you can only check for NOTAMS 10 days in advance, so as you travel, keep an eye on the next few days.

Even remote locations have nonflying days, like drag racing at Charleville and runway repairs at Bamaga.

For bottleneck areas, like Tindal military airspace without a transponder, telephone the contacts in ERSA early in your planning. They can usually tell you months in advance when large military exercises are scheduled.

Next G coverage on the ground can be checked on the Telstra website. Figure 6 shows a map prepared by stitching and calibrating several screen captures from the Telstra site.

In the air at 5,000ft AGL, expect between 20 and 40nm coverage beyond the Telstra map in most places (some remote communities and mine sites have low power microcells which do not reach that far).

Carry a pre-paid phone card for landline calls because many remote places without mobile coverage have public phones via satellite or microwave link. You can get weather by voice on the METBRIEF service (see ERSA PF-B-1), but you need to set up an account before you leave.

Also, writing down the pre-recorded information can be a bit clumsy so practice beforehand.

#### FEATURE 🗾



I carry a blank ARFOR/TAF form to assist in jotting down the details.

You can also call the briefing office by landline or satellite phone and receive weather and NOTAMS and submit flight plans verbally.

Some remote communities have private satellite internet and are usually helpful. Ask about it early in your planning. As a last resort, take off and climb to altitude. You might get an inflight phone signal up that high, while maintaining the option to return to your departure point.

A SARTIME or flight note is essential every day in remote areas. If travelling in company with another aircraft, your companions may provide this service. However, if you are alone, it becomes critical. Even if you prepare the flight notes in advance and leave them with someone responsible, it is necessary to both activate and cancel them.

A SPOT satellite tracker can send three customised, pre-programmed messages, so with a bit of planning and the SPOT tracking service, you can send activation/cancel messages to a trusted person. But you still won't have weather and NOTAMS. Hire a satellite phone for your trip if you are likely to stop anywhere there's no communication.

#### WALK OR TAXI TO TOWN

Many remote communities have no taxi, or it may be expensive due to the distance to town. Always check if the taxi service still operates... the one in Strahan was off the road following an accident and the Coober Pedy and Tenant Creek services both ceased. Use Google Maps to measure the distance - a 2km walk can be welcome exercise after a day in the cockpit and often people at your accommodation will run you back to the airfield in the morning. Some even do airport pick ups. Check the AOPA Airfield Directory and the flying magazine ads.

John Giblin has an excellent website – 'Airstrips near Pub and Food'.

The best places have fuel, accommodation and food all within a short walk, such as Boorol-

oola, William Ck, Halls Ck, Thargomindah, Caiguna and Kalumburu, to name a few.

#### A GOOD NIGHT'S SLEEP

Choose accommodation carefully. You will probably be aiming for an early start to avoid the afternoon turbulence, which means getting an early night. Some pubs and caravan parks can get pretty noisy with parties, generators and late arrivals. Be wary of mining towns on Friday and Saturday nights. Carry earplugs.

#### **REMOTE AIRSTRIPS:**

#### Surface, length and slope

ERSA, the AOPA National Airfield Directory, the Country Airstrip Guide and a phone call to the airport operator will give you some indication of airstrip details. For other places, use Google Earth to estimate orientation (important if prevailing winds are a concern), runway length, width, surface and runway slope and see where the windsock (if any) is located.

To measure slope, use Tools/Ruler to draw a line along the runway, from left to right across the screen. Before you save the line, note the Ground Length and Heading, which is degrees True and must be converted to Magnetic to be consistent with convention. Save the line, then right click on it and choose 'Show Elevation Profile'. You will need the full Google Earth program for this, not the tablet app.

See Figure 7 which shows the tricky slope at Arkaroola if you land a bit long. By drawing a longer line following your departure track, you can also measure the climb out angle required for tricky or mountainous strips.

Always do precautionary passes on a remote strip. First at 500ft to check for obstacles (towers and especially wires), then lower to check for animals, washouts, ruts, sand drifts, tussocks and stones. Look carefully in the scrub on either side where kangaroos may be resting in the shade.

You can check the runway length by timing a pass along the strip and using the formula:

#### Length in metres = Ground Speed in knots x seconds divided by 2.

I used this on a recent trip to confirm the usable length of a partially flooded airstrip. Two passes in opposite directions will give you the effective wind (50% of the difference in ground speeds), a technique handy in desert areas when there is no windsock, dam, smoke, dust or trees to indicate wind direction. Two passes at right angles to the strip will give you the cross wind component. These winds are not at ground level, but in my experience will provide you guidance on what to expect.

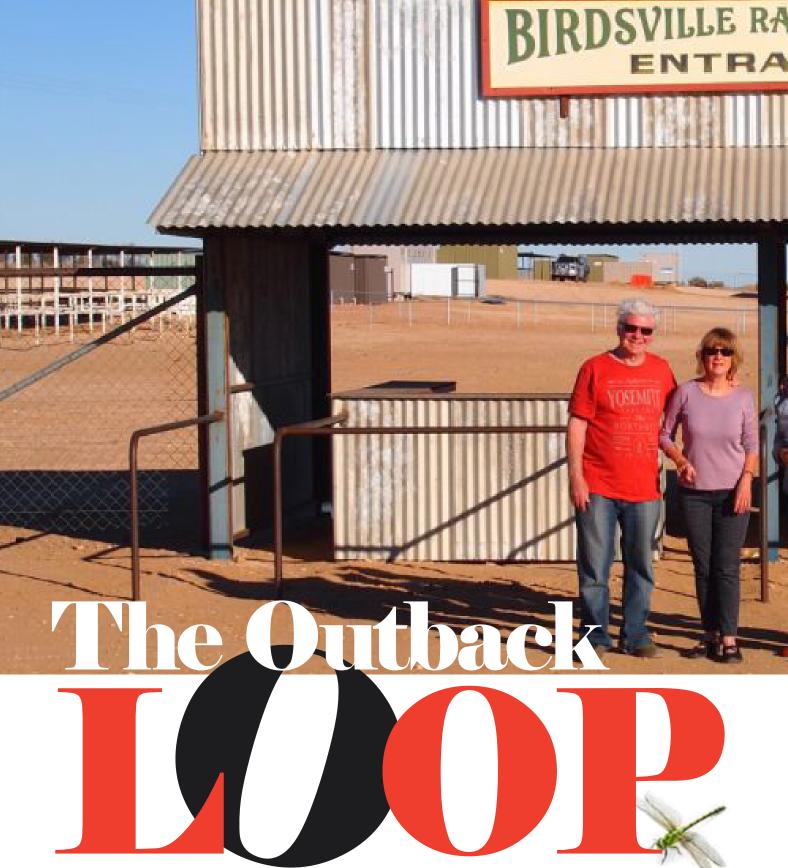
If there is any hint of abnormal drag when your wheels touch, be ready to gun the engine and abort the landing to re-assess the situation. The grass may be a lot longer than expected, the soil softer, or there may be significant sand drifts, any of which may prevent a take off. Lunch at Mount Dare Hotel was recently cancelled and relocated to Kulgera Roadhouse because of long, wet grass I detected only at touchdown.

Many bush strips are very stony. Carry spare tubes or a puncture repair kit (and a jack, if needed) and learn how to repair (glue or file) small damage to your propeller.

NEXT MONTH: Flight Management







By Roger Duance, Merry Canavan, Ron Hoey and Renee Finn



>>From left to right. Roger Duance, Merry Canavan, Renee Finn and Ron Hoey.

Iving recreational aircraft over remote areas of Australia can be challenging and considered risky; but two South Australian couples found that with careful planning, attention to detail and aviation common sense, a trip to Birdsville and beyond turned out to be among the highlights of their recent flying adventures (including Victor 1, Sport Pilot September 2014)

In mid August, a Foxbat A22 and a Savannah VG XL, both Rotax 912 powered, flew from a private strip in South Australia to the outback and back. Weather was a welcoming 20-26 degrees and, apart from a problem with a starter motor, there were no other issues.

#### Planning

A lot of time was spent discussing and organising the route, itinerary, accommodation, maps, GPS, OzRunways, coordinates, fuel availability, radio frequencies, CTAF, AWIS, mobile phone coverage, ASIC, emergency planning, first aid kits, beacons, food, water, spreadsheets for distances between stops and alternative routes.

#### Departure

We departed from RoMe, Roger and Merry's private strip 12nm east of Truro in South Australia and enjoyed tail winds of about 10kts most of the day. A stop at Hawker was less enjoyable because of the very cool and windy conditions, but the track to Marree amazed us by the soil markings, landscape and flora. A pre-arranged fly over the Marree pub alerted Phil to pick us up in his mud covered ute used in the movie 'Tracks'. Phil and Maz are the new owners of the pub and offer great accommodation and meals. We chose the transportables, with ensuite @ \$140 per night.

The pub dining room offers detailed information on Tom Kruse and the Marree to Birdsville mail run during the 1930s as well as good meals. Locals in the front bar provide endless outback stories as long as you want to listen.

### The Outback Loop Cont.

#### Birdsville

The next day we departed Marree after refuelling with Avgas at \$2.90 /L. We chose to follow the Birdsville track for safety reasons. We normally flew at 500ft AGL and were within gliding distance of reasonable landing spots virtually all of the time. We were surprised at the amount of road traffic, utes, 4WDs and caravans, all showing us wind direction with their dust.

We stopped at the rocky strip at Mungerannie for a lunch break, the broad wings of the Savannah providing welcome shade as the day warmed. The road house is within walking distance of the airstrip, but we chose to picnic on the strip.

As we flew towards Birdsville, we deviated to the left side of the main track and flew via the Inner Track (only usable by vehicles when dry) between the Sturt Stony Desert and the Strzelecki Desert. We averaged 88kts with no wind and arrived at Birdsville early afternoon. Birdsville is an ASIC controlled airstrip, immediately across the road from the hotel, with a fence in between.

We remain unconvinced that Birdsville is a

security risk.

We took the Big Red 4WD tour. Big Red is a sand dune 35km west of Birdsville and, at 40m high, is the largest of more than 1,100 parallel dunes which cross the desert. We spoke with many 4WD drivers who had crossed them all.

We met two couples in Birdsville whom we had previously met at Marree. Tales of their rough ride over the Birdsville Track were met with the knowing smiles from we aviators. Their rough ride took them seven and a half hours; our smooth one took 3.3 hours. The Birdsville Hotel is part of the outback loop, a sister hotel to Innamincka. It is \$165 per night with spacious, clean rooms.

As part of our planning, we carried empty jerry cans which we used to refuel with Mogas @ \$1.85/L (Avgas was \$3.15/L) from the petrol station which is over the road from the airport.

Before leaving Birdsville, Merry, who comes from a horse racing family, was able to get a photo of herself holding the 2014 Melbourne Cup, all \$185,000 worth. The cup was there as a part of a country-wide tour before the race.



#### FEATURE |

#### Innaminka

The flight to Innamincka was relatively short (2.1hrs) although we had a 10kt headwind. Sand, sand and more sand over the Strzelecki Desert.

We landed on the Township strip (YIMT) right on the edge of town, rather than the larger YINN, which is further out, but they can easily be confused. YIMT is in excellent condition, but the approach from the south is over a valley which can play tricks on your altitude perception on short final - beware.

We walked the 1km downhill to the hotel because there was no phone coverage and the usual flyover didn't work because Rotax engines are so quiet. The modern hotel offers excellent food and accommodation (\$160 per night) with Mogas available @ \$2.05 (the most expensive Mogas on the trip).

After a leisurely breakfast we were given a ride to the strip, refuelled and flew to the Dig Tree which a scenic 19nm flight following the Cooper Creek, which forms from the flood waters coming down from Queensland. The Dig Tree is the famed site where Burke and Wills were stranded after travelling north for four months. There is a very informative shelter there, an entry fee of \$11 per car/aircraft and good strip within walking distance of the tree.





#### White Cliffs

We flew over the Strzelecki Desert to Cameron Corner which is at the junction of the three states (SA, QLD, NSW) and where there is a good strip. From there we flew over horizon-tohorizon oil exploration tracks and increasingly better countryside, with more stock and wildlife to be seen as we travelled south.

While we waited for transport at the White Cliffs tarmac, an RFDS Pilatus arrived to retrieve an injured motorcyclist who had hit an emu. The nurse waiting with the patient rang Geoff at the White Cliffs Hotel Motel, who hadn't heard us fly over. Transport into town soon arrived. The motel @ \$100 per night provides basic clean accommodation and a friendly front bar. Geoff loaned us a car to go touring the town.

On start up the following morning, the Savannah decided not to play - the starter had failed. So most of the day was spent doing a temporary repair with the very helpful assistance of Barry, a local aviation enthusiast, who gave up a day working his opal mine to make sure we had every tool we needed. Fortunately we had Roger's L2 skills and Ron's experience from building the Savannah, combined with Wayne Johns' advice on the other end of the phone. We had a workable starter by late afternoon but took our anti-get-there-itis pills, because there was some doubt we could safely make the next leg before last light and decided to leave the next morning.

The long steady flight home to RoMe via Menindee was done in one go so we didn't have to shut down the Savannah, just in case. We stayed overnight at RoMe and then the Savannah flew on to Wayne Johns' nearby property for a replacement starter.

## Facts

Fuel was Mogas except from Marree where Avgas was the most expensive for the trip. Mogas surprisingly was relatively cheap at Birdsville, more expensive elsewhere.

Total flying time for the trip was 17 hours and fuel consumption was 17 litres per hour for the Foxbat and 19 litres for the Savannah.

During each leg we reported to one another via the chat channel every 10 minutes or so. We monitored the past and next CTAF frequencies and the area frequency as appropriate, giving us a good picture of what was happening around us.

#### Lessons learned

Prepare and plan in detail. Don't rely 100% on your GPS (we each used one as well as Oz-Runways on the iPads). Although GPS and Oz-Runways functioned perfectly for the whole trip, keep an awareness of where you are on a real map in case of GPS blackouts.

We did not have mobile phone coverage at Marree or Innamincka but we did at White Cliffs when we needed it. We found different phone plans gave different service, even two Telstra plans, where one functioned but the other did not in remote areas. Check this out before the trip.

An outback flying trip can be very rewarding and a fun experience.

## ilot Licence or Certificate? By Carl Nilsson

In my view,one effective licence per individual should suffice. In the August 2014 issue of Sport Pilot there is a story entitled 'Do I even need a Pilot Certificate? in which the president of RA-Aus warns of a possible penalty of up to two years in jail for flying an RA-Aus registered aircraft without a Pilot Certificate - even if the pilot holds an appropriate CASA licence (i.e. RPL or higher).

I do not think this is true. Let me start with a personal incident:

In 1997 I bought an AUF registered Skyfox in Queensland and flew it to Melbourne to convert it to VH registration. CASA was very helpful and, after some work on the aircraft and shuttling between offices, in just four weeks I was able to put VH stickers on the aircraft. The day I got my prized Certificate of Airworthiness, I was asked when was I thinking of flying home to Tasmania? "Probably tomorrow", I replied.

"Have a good flight" was the response. They did not ask, nor did it even cross my mind that I did not have a CASA Pilot's Licence. After all, I had flown two AUF Skyfoxes from Queensland to Melbourne with my Pilot Certificate, so obviously I could fly them adequately.

A month later it was formally reported to CASA that I had flown 'an Australian aircraft' from Melbourne to Hobart 'without a licence'. At the time, I was in the late stages of obtaining my PPL so I got a visit and a very stern letter, warning me in no uncertain terms that if I stepped out of line



again 'a great weight would fall on me!'

This incident brought home to me the anomaly of apparently needing both a licence and a Pilot Certificate to fly the same aeroplane – albeit with different registration stickers.

This situation changed when, in September 2004, an amendment was added to Section 3 of the Aviation Act 1988 in the form of adding line (b) to the definition of Australian aircraft as:

"Australian aircraft' means: (a) aircraft registered in Australia, and (b) aircraft in Australian territory, other than foreign registered aircraft and state aircraft."

Line (b) includes aircraft registered with RA-Aus – because 'registered in Australia' in line (a) may not include aircraft registered with RA-Aus. It changed the legal landscape. The change effectively removed any argument for needing a RA-Aus/AUF Pilot Certificate if the pilot already holds an appropriate CASA Pilot's Licence.

I wrote up this view in 2007 and sent a letter into AOPA which published it in Australian Pilot magazine. Nobody refuted the arguments, although the CEO of RA-Aus at the time wrote that I was wrong and I knew my views did not sit well with either RA-Aus or CASA.

At the time, RA-Aus was pushing its version of a proposed Regulation Part 103 under CASA NPRM0603os. That version would have enshrined the need within the regulations for both a CASA Licence and an RA-Aus Pilot Certificate if a person wanted to fly a recreational aircraft in controlled airspace. I, and others more influential, were opposed to this and CASA decided not to proceed down that path. I guess this was partly instrumental in pushing CASA towards introducing the current RPL. One way or another they were going to solve the problem for pilots who did not wish to join RA-Aus. In my view, the introduction of the RPL has partly been the result of this attitude of RA-Aus. There is a significant number of licenced pilots who only fly for recreation, would like to fly light aircraft (with whatever registration) and who wish to do so using their CASA licence.

#### Acts, CASRs and CAOs

Here is my interpretation of the relevant parts of the Civil Aviation Act 1988, the Civil Aviation Safety Regulations and the Civil Aviation Orders.

The Act gives the law of the land, the Regulations give effect to the Act and CAOs variously give details, explanations and exemptions to CASR. It is a three-tier system with the Act on top. CAOs do not change the law. There are civil penalties for breaching CASR, but not for breaching CAOs as such.

The Act says (Sect. 20AB) that if you want to fly an Australian aeroplane, you need a licence or be authorised under the regulations. Penalty for breach: two years. Note that a RPL or PPL is a licence issued by CASA. A Pilot Certificate is a certificate issued by the RA-Aus. Certificates are not licences under the Act. They do not have the same legal standing. The Regulations (CASR) do say that CASA can delegate its functions (in an appropriate manner) and exempt certain parties from certain regulations. Many years ago CASA delegated the issuing of licences to the Gliding Federation of Australia but found itself with a bunch of unwanted liabilities, so did not follow the same path with the AUF. I understand the AUF and CASA signed a Deed of Agreement by which the AUF (now RA-Aus) issues Pilot Certificates.

When the AUF first came into existence, CASA had the problem of trying to fit all these pesky

little flying machines into its legal framework. They were deemed not to be Australian aircraft under the Act and did not and could not conform to Regulations. So CASA used its power to make exemptions for these 'certain ultralight aeroplanes' from a whole raft of regulations and spelled these out in CAOs. Note that Section 95 of CAOs is headed 'Exemptions from provisions of CASR'. They are not regulations, but the provisions of exemptions from the Regulations and the conditions under which the exemptions can be applied.

In CAO 95.55 (Instrument 2011 viewable at http://www.comlaw.gov.au/Details/ F2011L00617), Subsections 1-3 detail respectively the aircraft to which this section applies, some definitions and a list of the regulations exempted.

Para. 3A.1 from the older 95.55 is now Para.5.1 and states:

"For section 20AB of the Act, a person is authorised to perform a duty essential to the operation of an aeroplane to which this Order applies, without holding a flight crew licence if he or she complies with the conditions set out in subsections 6 and 7."

The essential duty in question is that of being pilot in command of an aircraft. The effect is unchanged from previous versions – you don't need a licence (i.e. a RPL or above) if you comply with subsections 6 and 7. Subsection 6 is headed General Conditions and 6.1 (b) states:

"the aeroplane must not be operated by a person as pilot in command unless the person holds a valid pilot certificate and, subject to the other conditions set out in this Order, operates the aeroplane in accordance with the privileges and limitations of that certificate."

Out of context, that may read as a requirement to hold a Certificate, but within context it says "If you don't have a licence, you need a Certificate". The qualifying phrase requiring compliance with 6.1 (b) is in 5.1, namely "without holding a flight crew licence". If you have a licence, you don't need the exemption of 6.1 (b) in the first place. The conditions are irrelevant. It's plain English. You have already complied with section 20AB of the Act. There is no Regulation in CASR requiring a Pilot Certificate and an exemption does not create one. CAO 95.55 basically says "we won't prosecute you for flying without a licence if you have a Certificate - plus other conditions". From discussions I have had, it was not the intent of the original CAO drafts to compel a pilot who had a licence to also hold a Certificate. These exemptions were brought into being to give some legal standing to the developing flying activity outside conventional civil aviation and to pilots who did not hold licences. To me that makes sense.



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#### OPINION

#### Pilot Licence or Certificate? cont.

It is for this reason that, to the best of my knowledge, CASA has never taken to court any pilot for flying an RA-Aus aircraft without a Certificate if they hold a current and appropriately endorsed licence – and I don't expect they ever will.

It's not against the law, whatever the current wishes or intent of some might be. That's the reason why in 2007 RA-Aus pushed for its version of Part 103 (a Regulation) which would have made it mandatory to hold a Certificate to fly a recreational aircraft regardless if the pilot had a licence. In the face of this, CASA then proceeded towards developing the RPL, which is a licence.

In my view, one effective licence per individual should suffice. The old argument that RA-Aus has different requirements requiring specialised training and therefore its pilots need a special Certificate is not generally valid and, arguably, never has been. Of course, some aircraft do require special instruction. If a current Cessna or Jabiru pilot was to try to fly the Weedhopper (Page 52 Sport Pilot August 2014) without such instruction, he/she would probably have some difficulty. These issues can and should be covered by appropriate endorsements, just as both CASA and RA-Aus currently have endorsements for tailwheel and floatplanes. That's all that's needed. Even aircraft of the same general type (three-axis single-engine taildraggers) like my Skyfox and an RV-4 need special instruction and familiarity training - but not a separate licence.

Finally, one must consider the impact of CA-SA's RPL. Many pilots will chose to obtain one. The RPL will allow flight into CTA. However, there is a catch. To use an RPL, a pilot must have at least a Recreational Aviation Medical Practitioner's Certificate – commonly known as a 'fit to

drive an automobile (aviation)' Certificate.

Once again, the devil is in the detail. This Medical Certificate (aviation) requires your GP to certify that you have not suffered from any of a quite large number of serious issues in the past - for example, no cancer for the past five years. The GP does not have to certify to most of these matters to simply give you a 'fit to drive' certificate under Ausdrive guidelines to maintain your auto driving licence. The latter certification is all that is required for the RA-Aus Pilot Certificate. Whether you are fit or not to drive a car is entirely up to the GP. Thus, some pilots who wish to fly RA-Aus only OCTA will continue to use that lesser certificate from their GP. That's fine. The RPL will not remove the need for Pilot Certificates. The Certificate is also the easiest and least expensive path for an ab initio student to take.

So I believe the best thing RA-Aus (and CASA) could do is to give up the notion that you have to have a Certificate as well as a licence in order to fly a recreational aircraft. This was and is a money issue, not a safety one.

RA-Aus should work with CASA towards keeping it simple. Continue to cover what is necessary regarding the differing characteristics of various aircraft with appropriate endorsements, be they to a Certificate or a licence. I predict RA-Aus membership would, in the longer term, rise as a result and Australian aviation would benefit.

Both the RPL and the RA-Aus Pilot Certificate can and should co-exist.

I worked hard to gain my Certificate in 1997 as an older student at a long-established school north of Melbourne. I do not regard GA instruction for a PPL as superior. In fact, I believe the stick and rudder instruction I received was more thorough than the average GA student receives to GFPT (now RPL) or PPL standard – particu



larly as I learned in a taildragger. I am more than happy with the path I took - first Certificate then licence (to access CTA).

I have no qualms with RA-Aus membership being mandatory in order to register an aircraft with them. That's a different matter.

I think CASA has probably drawn a line in the sand as regards operating in CTA. You will have to have at least their Medical Certificate and, for that reason, they will not allow CTA endorsement to any RA-Aus certificate without at least the fitness-to-drive (aviation) Medical Certificate. The present RA-Aus standard is valuable to the many pilots who only fly OCTA and I hope that this lesser medical requirement is maintained. After all, an car driver falling asleep at the wheel is more likely to harm other people than an OCTA pilot who nods off.

**Note:** I must acknowledge the correspondence with Dafydd Llewellyn (CAR 35 engineer), Spencer Ferrier (aviation lawyer) and the late George Markey I had on this topic, which certainly added to my understanding of these issues.

RA-Aus and Sport Pilot encourage members to get involved at every level, however keep in mind the views expressed in this article are those of the author only. RA-As and CASA have very different interpretations of the issues outlined. Follow the author's advice at your own risk.



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# bandon hope, Il ye who enter here

**By Norm Sanders** 

Simple enough. Or it was until the bureaucrats got busy A ccording to the dictionary, an airplane is 'An aircraft which is kept aloft by the aerodynamic forces of air upon its wings'. Simple enough. Or it was until the bureaucrats got busy.

Now there are numerous sub-categories, each requiring different licences for flying and maintenance.

Consider a hypothetical proud builder completing a machine similar to a Murphy Rebel who has been trying to figure out where it fits in the scheme of things.

Already being a contented member of RA-Aus, he obviously tries here first. No way, Jose. RA-Aus aircraft must be less than 600kg Maximum Take-off Weight. The Rebel weighs in at 750kg.

That extra 150kg makes a big difference. If he could have registered his plane with RA-Aus, he would be able to fly with his RA-Aus licence and do his own maintenance.

### FROM THE RA-AUS:

'Level 1: for owner operators to perform and authenticate maintenance carried out; only on their own aircraft and provided the aircraft is not used for hire-and-reward; i.e. flight training. 'Level 2: for suitable people to conduct maintenance on all aircraft or conduct and/ or authenticate maintenance on aircraft used for flight training and glider towing.

>>Hypothetical Rebel

'RA-Aus Level 2 Maintenance Authority holders accept a high degree of responsibility for the maintenance and serviceability of ultralight aircraft.

They are the equivalent of heavier aviation's LAME's who are required to pass significant written examinations and have at least four years' experience in the aviation industry before becoming qualified. While ultralights may be simpler than most of the aircraft on the CASA register, once airborne there is little difference to the outcome if sloppy maintenance practices are perpetrated.'

RA-Aus is obviously the best all-around option for aircraft which fit the criteria, with one exception: No aerobatics are allowed. It seems that having numbers on the side rather than letters so weakens the airframe that the regulations prohibit all aerobatic maneuvers, including spins.

RA-Aus limits aircraft such as Corby Starlets to placid meanderings. The same Starlet could turn itself inside out under CASA regulations. **>>Continue page 39** 



### Abandon hope, all ye who enter here cont.

#### HOW ABOUT LSA?

The Light Sport Aviation category opened the door to a new type of aircraft, one which can be built simply, safely, cheaply and with minimal supervision from a national airworthiness authority. Manufacturers were granted great freedom to quickly develop and market new designs. Under LSA, pilots can buy and fly a modern, factory built aircraft for a fraction of the price of traditional certified aircraft.

Cessnas, Pipers, et. al. have undergone expensive and extensive certification programs. LSAs have not. Hence the placard: 'Does not conform to standard category airworthiness requirements'. This doesn't mean LSAs' are unsafe. It indicates they haven't undergone a torturous certification regime and that pilots and passengers should be aware of the fact, similar to EXPERIMENTAL GA aircraft. In fact, LSAs' are probably safer than a 30-year-old flying school C150.

An LSA aircraft may operate under either RA-Aus or under CASA. Under CASA, it is treated like a GA aircraft and requires a LAME for most maintenance and a PPL to fly.

### THE REGULATIONS STATE:

'A Light Sport Aircraft is an aircraft, other than a helicopter, that has:

•A maximum take-off weight of 600kg or 650kg for an aircraft intended and configured for operation on water or 560kg for a lighter-than-air aircraft.

- •A maximum stall speed in the landing configuration (Vso) of 45kts CAS.
- Maximum two people, including the pilot.A fixed landing gear. A glider may have

retractable landing gear.' This brings us to the Alice in Wonderland

world of motorgliders. A motorglider registered under the RA-Aus would be prohibited from turning off the engine in flight, which at first glace, might seem to defeat the purpose. Of course, only motorgliders with engines bolted to the front can be RA-Aus. If the engine pops up out of the fuselage, it has to be registered with the Gliding Federation of Australia. The pilot must then have the appropriate licence. Our motorgliders here at Byron Bay have Limbach VW conversion motors. Since they are with the GFA. I need a GFA Section 2 to maintain them. If they were RA-Aus, I would need my Level 2 authorisation to work on them. With CASA rego. God forbid. I would have to be a LAMEs. Actually. LAME's are somewhat bemused by a VW auto engine which rotates in the opposite direction to a Lycoming.

Unfortunately, our increasingly frustrated builder couldn't obtain LSA registration either. This category is limited to factory built aircraft or kit versions of same. There are no factory built Murphy Rebels, so he is out of luck. The MTOW of 750kg was way too high anyway.

Since his aircraft doesn't qualify for RA-Aus or LSA, his only option is to get VH rego with CASA. The path leads to the SAAA, the Sport Aircraft Association of Australia.

#### THE SAAA STATES:

'The SAAA is a group of aviation enthusiasts assisting each other to build, maintain and operate sport aircraft. We educate members to continuously improve safety outcomes.

'This is our mission statement, our aim and our objective.' 'Broadly our core business is the building of amateur built aircraft and the continuous maintenance of such aircraft in accordance with the regulations, advisory material and any other requirements including good aircraft engineering practice.'

In order to obtain the necessary rego and a maintenance release, a builder must have

the aircraft inspected and attend the two day, CASA approved, SAAA Maintenance Procedures Course which:

'Provides training that equips builders with knowledge of the regulations governing maintenance of an amateur built aircraft including Advisory Circulars, Airworthiness Directives, Airworthiness Bulletins, Service Bulletins, sources and application of approved data and other continuing airworthiness requirements. The MPC enhances the skills and knowledge gained during the building phase and ensures the builder can safely maintain the aircraft throughout its life.'

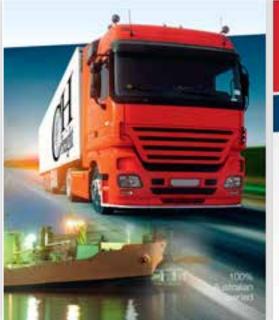
Only the builder is then qualified to do his or her own maintenance. If the plane gets sold to someone else, a LAME must do anything more challenging than inflating a tire unless the new owner has built an identical aircraft.

When the builder has satisfied all the requirements, the aircraft will get 'EXPERIMEN-TAL' registration. This means it cannot be used commercially and must have a prominently displayed placard with words to the effect that anybody who risks their neck in the contraption is a brick short of a full load.

Of course, once our Rebel builder gets his VH rego, his RA-Aus Pilot's Certificate will no longer suffice and he will have to get a CASA Private Pilot Licence at considerable expenditure of time and effort.

I have been hacking my way through this bureaucratic jungle for years and in the process have had to acquire a GA CPL and Instructor rating, a GFA Glider Pilot's Licence and instructor rating, an RA-Aus Pilot's Certificate, three separate log books (and matching BFR requirements) and several different maintenance qualifications. All simply to fly "an aircraft which is kept aloft by the aerodynamic forces of air upon its wings".

Does it really need to be so complicated?



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# PILOT TALK

# The Ops team

# Weighty matters

The issue of weight, including consideration of Maximum Take-Off Weight (MTOW) and weight and balance when planning or operating RA-Aus aircraft is particularly topical at the moment for a number of reasons.

Members will be familiar with MTOW as the maximum weight to which an aircraft can be safely and legally operated. Over the course of the past 30 years of RA-Aus, MTOW has been a constantly evolving and changing reference in most peoples' minds.

Originally, AUF aircraft were limited to 300kgs and single seat operations. Revisions to existing CAOs and additional CAOs provided increases in MTOW and additional privileges,

but let's explore what MTOW really means for an aircraft and where pilots can get the correct information about their aircraft's MTOW.

The current CAO 95.55 (revised September 2014) includes references to the category MTOW now being 600kgs, however this does not automatically mean all aircraft registered with RA-Aus can operate to 600kgs.

An example may assist. The Banana Bender 2000, a fictitious aircraft constructed in the late 1980s or early 1990s has an empty weight of 330kgs, and a MTOW of 520kg. Even though CAO 95.55 states RA-Aus aircraft may be operated to 600kg, the Banana Bender 2000 is therefore limited to a MTOW of 520kgs by the manufacturer.

If a pilot elects to operate the Banana Bender 2000 over the MTOW (easily done if the pilot and passenger are more than 80kgs each and with full fuel of 50 litres which weighs 36kgs), there may not appear to be any immediate repercussions or consequences. The aircraft payload has only been exceeded by about 6kgs. What is the harm in that?

Consider for a moment though, what sort of hidden stress the airframe may have endured over its lifetime. Turbulence due to strong winds or thermal activity, aerobatic or semi-aerobatic manoeuvres by untrained pilots or perhaps student pilots doing multiple heavy landings (or at the very least, firm arrivals). Add to this mix continued operations over MTOW. Finally, add to the scenario additional stress on the pilot and his or her decision-making due to weather closing in, limiting his or her options and requiring excessive manoeuvring to escape. Suddenly, all those years of overweight operations may lead to an airframe failure. This has the potential for serious, and potentially fatal, consequences.

Regulators look at these accidents and sometimes decide an Airworthiness Directive is to be issued to strengthen the aircraft by some means. This is a response directly related to pilot and/or passenger deaths and may not, in fact, have been required if the aircraft had been operated correctly all those years. The AD is required to be completed and imposes a financial burden on owners for an aircraft which has been operated for years beyond its specified requirements.



No-one would deny the Banana Bender 2000 is a strong aircraft, which has provided years of safe and complaint operations, but the scenario above is not unimaginable and is based on real world experience.

The temptation for pilots to overload an aircraft when operating on long navigation flights is strong and has occurred since the Wright brothers first flew. Sport Pilot regularly features stories of pilots filling it up with full fuel, loading up with baggage and setting off for parts never visited before without there ever being a mention of weight and balance.

While the immediate consequence may seem insignificant, a little more runway used, a little more fuel burnt, etc. the reality is the potential for long term damage to an otherwise structurally sound aircraft and additional requirements for maintenance or modification.

There are many aero club or hangar stories of "it's a Cessna 172 mate. If you can close the

doors on the load, the plane will fly".

Tied in with the consideration of MTOW is weight and balance. It is apparent there may be a lack of understanding of the relevance of weight and balance among some pilots. Most RA-Aus aircraft have simple balance considerations, such as ensuring the aircraft is not operated above the MTOW and has no more than a fixed amount in the baggage area. Therefore it cannot be operated outside the weight and balance range. But some aircraft require more careful calculations. Additionally, if members wish to add an RPL to their RA-Aus Pilot Certificate, weight and balance will become a more critical area when operating

aircraft up to 1,500kgs MTOW.

Following on with this weighty consideration and as a final point, Operations is aware of a number of serious accidents this year where aircraft performance was not carefully considered prior to take-off. Aircraft performance varies as a result of MTOW. Environmental factors such as ambient temperature, density altitude, surface conditions, soft field and correct take-off techniques can also make a considerable difference to performance.

This article is intended to make all pilots think about how they safely operate, regardless of whether the aircraft is hired, privately owned or borrowed from a friend. Consult the POH, make sure the information is accurate and don't be tempted to overload the air-

craft. The life you save may not be yours, but someone you know and care about.

#### Footnote

The article regarding Low Level operations (*Sport Pilot* September 2014) appeared to create some confusion. Operations can confirm RA-Aus members can certainly operate to 500ft AGL without a Low Level endorsement, as long as it's not over a closely settled or built up area.

The intent of the article was to point out that if operating that low, an additional 50ft was not going to provide a significant margin of safety and therefore may not represent good decision-making. Specialist training and a genuine need for the operation are considerations all pilots should take into account. After all, in the GA world, pilots are not permitted to operate below 500ft AGL without specialist training. Why would RA-Aus be any different?





# Paper planes

iven the wretched weather we have been copping in Sydney lately, I haven't spent much time in the air. Instead I have been using the time to study for my final theory exam.

So I thought I would share some of the aviation learning materials I have been using as I work toward getting my Pilot's Certificate.

I really hope it does not sound like a commercial and I should point out I am not receiving any financial reward for mentioning any of the companies and/or products here. Put simply, these resources have helped me and hopefully they also can be of benefit to you.

Having read a number of positive reviews, I bought a book by Jim Davis titled '*PPL A Practical Book about Flying Safely*' and what a great read it is. It is as if Jim is sitting right next to you. He combines text with diagrams to explain aviation theory in a way which is very easy to follow. I do not want a PPL or an Instrument Rating, but I want to fly safely and Jim's book explains how to do just that.

Another useful resource has been the RA-Aus Flight Training Manual from Delta Recreational Flying Services in WA. It is available in hard copy, CD Rom or via digital download. I chose the latter and have found it integrates really well with the RA-Aus syllabus. It is a pdf so I have been using it on my tablet which makes it a truly portable resource.

I have been using this with the awesome Dyson-Holland RA-Aus Pilot Certificate Ground Training Manual 102. This comes packed with detailed aviation theory, clear and very detailed illustrations and plenty of practice exams. The best part for me has been the ability to work through the topics at my own pace, at a speed I am comfortable with. I can complete the practice exams and when I'm ready I can sit the actual RA-Aus ones. Another great bonus with this resource is that the practice exams are in the same format as the RA-Aus theory ones. It also comes with a CD which includes updates and the answers to the practice exams.

Luckily, as important as these theory based resources are, there are other ways you can add to your learning to fly journey. I am referring here to the GoFly Aviation DVD series. These are fantastic. There are three DVDs in the series, including the complete RA-Aus Pilot Certificate Course, How to Survive Your First Engine Failure and Navigation Made Easy. How have they helped me? By combining these with the theory (book based) resources, I have been able to add some variety to the journey. As ever, check with your own instructor if there is anything in it presented differently to what you have been told and keep in mind the aircraft in the DVDs may not be the same as you fly. I enjoy watching the DVDs because they are a nice break from the books.

Of course, the greatest resources we have access to as student pilots are our instructor and CFI. The pre/post flight briefings and the lesson itself are all opportunities to ask and



learn. At any stage of my journey if I feel I cannot get something right, I talk to my instructor about it. Remember the old saying "When there is doubt, there is no doubt".

Ask questions and seek advice if at any stage you are unsure of something.

Humans learn best by doing. Make every flying lesson count. It really is awesome when I study a topic and then get into the air and put the theory into practice.

There are literally thousands of resources out there and I have mentioned but a few of them.

As ever, see you in the pilot's lounge for cocktails and debriefing.

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FOR RECREATIONAL PILOTS . SPORT PILOT 43



FEATURE

Ultralight flips

on test flight



>>Ray Morgan reassembling the left wing

#### n July 2001 a new Genesis aircraft based at the Gold Coast Sports Flying Club at Heck Field crashed on its first take-off and was extensively damaged.

nest

The engine was removed from the wreckage and sold. The rest of the wreckage was stored about 300km away and the owner never thought of it as being worth anything.

10 years later, we three retired pilots were looking for a project and decided to inspect the wreckage. We decided it was a project worth considering.

After discussions with the owner, we agreed he would give us the remains. In return one of us would build him a new panel for his new Hanuman aircraft.

When we went to pick up the wreckage, he warned us to be careful of the kangaroos in the area. He forgot to tell us about the wild pigs. Of course, we hit a pig on the way back.

Inspection of the aircraft parts showed that, while the basic cabin frame longerons were broken, the main frame was mostly still intact, as was the port wing. The starboard wing was a write off and the tail, despite being damaged, could be repaired.

Repairs began in late 2011. All coverings were removed and frame stripped.

The original 912 Rotax motor had been removed and sold, so it was replaced with a spare factory re-built 80hp Verner model V133VM which Ray had replaced on his own Genesis. Because the Verner is air/oil cooled, the instrument panel needed to be redone to allow for the different engine instruments, plus a radio and new flying gauges.

New cabin main frame support tubes were fitted and the main frame assembled with the different engine. Tail support tubes, together with new starboard wing tubes, ribs, a fibreglass nose cone and belly pan were purchased from the manufacturer in the US.

Sea freight was costly because of the duty and incidental port and handling costs, which together would have made it just as easy to have ordered them by air.

The plane is a high wing pusher configuration with tricycle undercarriage. Because it is the same type as Ray's, we were able to use a pair of spare wheels and legs for the main undercarriage and we made up the front support leg assembly the same as his.

Control is by dual push/pull cables for all control surfaces. The control column is conventional centre stick, operating a bell crank to the push/pull cables for the ailerons and elevator. Dual foot operated pedals are also fitted for rudders also by push/pull cables.

Cabin is side-by-side seating with an All Up Weight of 544kgs (as per RA-Aus regulations). Factory load type testing of the wings is actually up to 630kgs. At this stage, we have



#### FEATURE







>>Clyde Howard and Ray Jones

only partly enclosed the cabin, but this may change later. It is basically the same as the Genesis Sports configuration.

While the plane was being built, we fitted a wood pusher prop to run the engine so the oil was kept in circulation. This propeller has now been replaced by a recommended three bladed 68in warp drive. Engine revs at full power on the ground with the pitch set is 5,000rpm against a max of 5,500rpm.

All flying surfaces are covered by ceconite, stretched and glued, plus riveted to the frame. The cloth was then given two coats of sealant, one of the coats with aluminium paste for UV protection. It was then painted with two-pack auto paint together with a red nose stripe to break up the white colour.

Also purchased and fitted were three wheel pants which were also painted red. Spray painting was done by Clive Ryan - GCSFC member and onsite caretaker.

The aircraft was re-inspected by an L4 inspector, as requested by the RA-Aus Tech Manager, and paperwork submitted early September 2014.

Registration was completed and the plane was ground run to check handling early on the morning of October 3.

The engine was then given full power and took to the sky for its first real flight.

We now have to fly off the required hours

and tests, but it feels good in the air.

Climb is 850ft/min at 50kts and normal cruise speed is 65-70kts at 4,500rpm. Fuel burn at 4,000rpm is about 11 Lt/hr. Stall speed with one on board is 38kts.

All these figures will need to be corrected as we fly it more. Maximum fuel is 80 litres with 40 litres in each wing tank. Rotation at take-off with one up is about 40kts and landing approach is normally at 60kts, or at least 55kts for a short field landing.

All up, the aircraft has only cost us about \$10K, taking into consideration that Ray had a spare engine which could be used. So it is really been a cheap plane for us, as well as keeping us busy doing something besides flying. The aircraft is basic rag and tube with no welding.

All surfaces are either bolted or riveted together. All bolts were replaced if they showed any sign of stress or corrosion.

Minor modifications included making an access panel to the fibreglass nose cone so we could have full access to the battery, which is mounted in the front nose cone. Our Genesis is now the fourth of its type in Australia.

Now we have another new project. We have been given a old Shuttle to have a go at rebuilding. We got the engine working after it was 12 years in storage. Nothing like an old plane to keep you young.



>>Verner motor and Warp Drive 3 blade prop



>> Left wing finished assembly

# DESIGNOT

### DAVE DANIEL

# Making sure you're stable

#### **ARE YOU UNSTABLE?**

Hopefully your answer is a resounding 'No!' especially if you happen to be in an aeroplane. Positive Stability is a desirable trait for just about every aircraft design and is a certification requirement in many categories including LSAs. In smooth air it allows a plane to fly hands free for a short period, useful if you need to refold a chart or rescue a dropped pencil. In rough air it helps minimise the feeling you are wrestling with a wild animal. Too much stability, though, can also make for an uncomfortable ride because the aircraft will aggressively attempt to align its heading and angle of attack with every gust.

An aeroplane which lacks positive stability is not necessarily impossible to fly, but it will be hard work, requiring constant vigilance to prevent any small divergence from the desired flight path escalating into a complete loss of control. Reduced stability does have its uses: Planes designed for aerobatics sometimes have marginal or even neutral stability and modern fighter aircraft designs achieve their extreme agility by deliberately incorporating negative aerodynamic stability which is then tamed using fly-by-wire and computer controls to mask the lack of stability from the pilot.

#### WHAT IS STABILITY?

Cutting edge technology is all very nice but most of us are in the fly-by-cable rather than fly-by-wire category, so let's get back to basics.

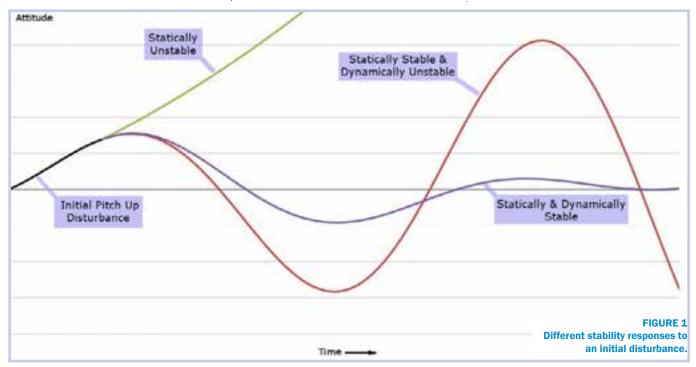
In an aircraft context, stability is divided into two types, static and dynamic. Static stability is a bit of a misnomer. It certainly doesn't involve the aeroplane standing still and is actually the aircraft's immediate response to a disturbance.

If you pull back on the stick, raising the nose slightly and then quickly release the control again, the aircraft will nose back down all by itself. This is positive static stability at work, returning the plane to its trimmed angle of attack.

Dynamic stability, on the other hand, is what happens next, i.e. the plane's response over a longer time period. If the nose up attitude is held for a little longer allowing some airspeed to bleed off, releasing the stick will still result in the same initial nose down motion but, providing the power and trim settings remain the same, the plane will accelerate and attempt to regain its original airspeed. In most aircraft this response will actually result in an overshoot of the trimmed airspeed, causing the plane to pitch up again. If the aircraft has positive dynamic stability, this cycle will then repeat with progressively smaller airspeed divergences until equilibrium is eventually reached back at the trimmed airspeed. Figure 1 illustrates this and the impact different types of pitch stability will have on an aircraft's behaviour following the pull up manoeuvre just described.

In addition to the two types of stability described above, aircraft stability is conventionally separated into the three planes of rotation, longitudinal (pitch), lateral (roll) and directional (yaw). This can sometimes prove confusing for the uninitiated – as rotation in the longitudinal plane occurs around a lateral axis and vice versa. On the bright side, at least directional stability is obvious.

As pilots we tend to take longitudinal stability for granted, adjusting the trim setting tens or even hundreds of times each flight and then happily leaving the plane to obediently maintain our selected angle-of-attack without sparing it so much as a second thought. But consider for a moment just what a remarkable feature the ability to trim to a selected angleof-attack really is. After all, how many other objects when released into the atmosphere at height not only fail to immediately plummet





# As pilots we tend to take longitudinal stability for granted

straight down, but instead shoot off sideways at over ten times their rate of vertical descent? By anyone's standards it is quite unusual.

Compare the above to directional stability, which is a far more intuitive quality - basically amounting to pointing in the direction you are moving. You can put a tail on just about anything and it will be directionally stable - all that's required is that the centre of area be separated from the centre of gravity and the weathervane effect will naturally align the object with the prevailing wind.

Bombs and arrows are two obvious examples. It can be argued directional and longitudinal stability operate on the same principles - it's just that directional stability is inherently trimmed to give a zero angle of attack.

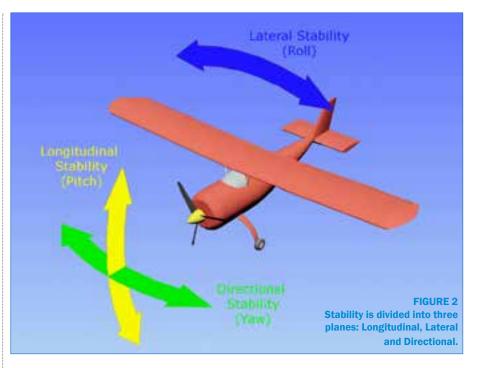
Lateral stability is a very different beast to the other two. For high wing aircraft, the pendulum effect from having the centre of gravity positioned below the wing naturally provides a degree of lateral stability, but for low wing aircraft aerodynamic roll stability is required.

Fortunately gravity lends a hand. Gravity causes a plane which is banked to sideslip allowing wing dihedral to create a righting moment (more on this next month).

#### STRIKING THE RIGHT BALANCE

Most aircraft are highly stable in pitch and fairly stable in yaw, but lateral stability is often much less pronounced. This is primarily due to the interaction between roll and yaw - catchily called 'Lateral-Directional Cross-Axial Coupling' - which forces a designer to make a stability compromises in order to get acceptable handling.

Aircraft with weak directional stability, but good lateral stability, inherently have good 'spi-



ral stability' meaning they are resistant to entering a spiral dive due to pilot inattention.

But this arrangement is prone to produce Dutch Roll (a poorly damped snaking motion where the plane continually trades yaw and roll, causing the nose to follow a path which traces a sideways figure eight).

Excessive roll stability also results in an aircraft which feels cumbersome to manoeuvre, a trait not popular with pilots.

On the other hand a plane with good directional stability but weak lateral stability will feel more agile and be resistant to Dutch Roll, but will possesses mild spiral instability causing the plane to gradually bank and fall into a spiral dive if left unattended.

Striking a balance between the two arrangements is a challenge and designers usually aim towards the latter, minimising-Dutch Roll and relying on the pilot to manage the slight spiral instability (which is usually so slow acting it is dealt with subconsciously).

#### **NEXT MONTH**

I'm going to dig a little deeper and take a look at how a plane is actually designed to deliver the positive stability required, plus why weight and balance is so important.

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Source: http://mat.tepper. cmu.edu/blog/?p=494

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# FLIGHT INSTRUCTOR'S FORM (Source) Facilitated by the aviation guru Professor Avius

# **Quit Stalling**!

The aim of a lesson on stalling is to enable the student to become aware of the

- Feel and behaviour of the aircraft at low airspeed/nose high attitude;
- Symptoms of an impending stall;
- Recovery technique with the minimum loss of height.

**MAJOR AIM** - It should be stressed that an inadvertent stall should never occur. It is a big killer of pilots.

The first time you show a student a stall the goal should be to debunk any preconceived idea they might have that the lesson is a frightening experience.

The most important thing they have to learn is that the point of the stall is the time they should begin the recovery.

But why does a stall occur?

**ANSWER:** 'It is the angle formed between the chord line of an aerofoil and the relative air flow.'

The chord line is like the upper jaw and the relative airflow is the lower jaw –a stall happens when those jaws are opened to an angle of about 16 degrees. This can happen regardless of where the aircraft is in the sky, which direction it is pointing or how fast it is going.

If you close the jaw by just a couple of degrees – no more stall.

What controls this bite of air or angle of attack?

ANSWER: Just one thing: the elevators. Sometimes referred to as 'stick stall position' - no matter what the attitude or airspeed, if you pull back on the stick to this critical angle, you will stall. To recover- just back off on the stick. You don't need to go into a big dive.

#### PRE-FLIGHT

Demonstrate airflow.

Explain and illustrate:

• how airflow around an aerofoil varies with changing angle of attack;

• that lift increases with increasing angle of attack until the critical angle is reached and then decreases as smooth air becomes turbulent;

• that the critical angle, when the co-

efficient of lift is at its maximum, is known as the stalling angle.

Explain that of all factors affecting lift, the pilot can only effectively control airspeed and

angle of attack.

Emphasise that the critical angle may be reached at any airspeed and at any attitude. Explain the movement of the centre of pressure and the relationship between critical angle and stalling speed. Explain that for a given weight, every angle of attack including the critical angle, has its associated indicated airspeed. As the angle of attack cannot be observed (although some home built aircraft do have an angle of attack meter), reference is generally made to the aircraft's indicated airspeed.

#### THE STALLING SPEED

The stalling speed of an aircraft, such as referred to in an Operations Manual or Owner's Handbook, is the indicted airspeed at which the aircraft will stall from straight and level flight with power off.

The stalling speed will vary, depending on:

- a) weight;
- b) power;
- c) flaps;
- d) the manoeuvre being done;

e) ice or damage to wings. Explain what happens if a wing drops at the stall and why – (use of ailerons/autorotation).

Refer to the lesson on Effects of Controls – how there is decreased control effectiveness at decreasing speed.

#### **STALL WARNING**

Brief the student: Point out where the stall warning horn or device is fitted if there is one. It should be pointed out to the student that they will be expected to recognise the approach and onset of a stall with or without the aid of the device.

#### **IN FLIGHT**

Before practicing stalling it is important to carry out the **HASELL** check:

**HEIGHT:** Sufficient to recover by 3,000ft; **AIRFRAME:** not whether flaps are extended or clean:

**SECURITY:** no loose items/ hatches and harness secured;

ENGINE INDICATORS: all in the green; LOCATION: appropriate – open fields. LOOK OUT: a turn through 360 degrees to ensure its all clear around and below from aircraft, cloud and terrain. A turn of at least 90 degrees should be conducted between each stall. Explain to the student what is about to happen: pre-stalling checks/ decrease in power / maintenance of direction and height / high nose position as angle of attack increases / stall / behavior of the aircraft at the stall / loss of height.

**PHASE 1:** Recovery without power is used to demonstrate loss of height. Control column is eased forward to the horizon to unstall the wings. As airspeed increases, ease out of the dive. Emphasise that if a wing drops, rudder is used to prevent yaw into the direction of the lowered wing. The wing is raised with the ailerons only when it is unstalled.

**PHASE 2:** Recovery with power. At the point of stall, the control column is eased forward to horizon and, at the same time, full power is applied. Compare how the use of power results in recovery being made with less height loss, compared with recovery without use of power.

**PHASE 3:** Effect of power and flaps (and undercarriage if appropriate). The emphasis here is on the take-off and landing configuration. This is one of the most

important aspects of the stalling exercise. Recap the three steps to recovery: 1. Full Power. 2. Nose to the horizon. 3. Check yaw with opposite rudder.

Further flight exercises could be used to demonstrate stalls in climbing turns, steep turns and descending gliding turns, especially again in a take-off or landing configuration – with emphasis on noting that stall speed is generally higher – and that the control column is always beyond the stick stall position.

Stalling is one of the most important lessons, especially as the student moves towards circuit training. However, it should not be the flight which kills a students' desire to continue flight training. If the instructor demonstrates with certainty, knowledge and confidence in their own ability, this lesson should be as meaningful and enjoyable as all the others.

#### **REFERENCES:**

35. 🜍

CASA Flight Instructor's Manual 1968 – reprinted 2000. New edition available on the CASA website. Phil Unicomb Flight Safety Australia Magazine September- October 2000 pp 34-



#### omebuilt aircraft have not caught up with available manufacturing and cloud technology.

Metal homebuilt aircraft have seen three definable stages in manufacturing. Firstly, builders would buy a set of plans, hopefully illustrated by a competent draftsman, which would provide both instructions and patterns that made sense. My experience is that building this way requires far more time spent acquiring bits and pieces and interpreting the plans than on actually building. It is also my experience that hand drawn plans inevitably have errors which only become apparent as you build, that is, parts don't necessarily fit. Some conscientious plan suppliers had an update service with various editions and subeditions of the plans, which no doubt helped.

The industry evolved and some of the designers started to supply kits. The kits would often have some manufactured components, for example, the control assembly and wing spar. They would have sheet metal cut and bent more or less to shape and supply all of the nuts, bolts and widgets, saving the builder countless hours.

The next evolution took advantage of the evolving manufacturing technology. Designers moved to using CAD systems which allowed the interpolation of plans, so mistakes could be identified in the design stage and then used the CAD plans to drive numericallycontrolled machines to cut and drill components. This hugely increased the accuracy of the build process and dispensed with the tiresome process of building jigs. The drilled holes allow automatic alignment of components.

#### THIS IS WHERE WE ARE NOW

I have been searching for the \$20,000 homebuilt for years, but even though prices have not risen with the CPI we still seem to be stuck with a price point of closer to \$40,000 for a completed plane and, even then, you have to be careful to make it.

To get to the \$20,000 price point several things have to happen for the ordinary builder, which leads to some sort of definition of what an ordinary builder might be.

The chief criteria of an ordinary builder is someone who wants to build, has a modicum of common sense, is patient, prepared to admit to mistakes, prepared to share and wants to learn.



At this price point, there is not enough spare cash in the budget to pay a commercial margin, so the design has to be open source. Open source projects of all sorts have become increasingly popular, mostly in IT related fields. Linux is probably the best known example. But open source projects rely on a community of supporters.

This is now just getting underway with aviation.

#### **CHECK OUT THIS SITE:**

https://www.indiegogo.com/projects/makerplane-v1-0-open-source-aircraft

It describes an evolving aircraft design which will be available at no cost and is designed to take advantage of computer-controlled manufacturing, the sort of manufacturing rapidly becoming accessible to all of us.

Note that the price point for the completed two-seat aircraft is US\$15,000 complete. Other open source designs are expected to follow this one soon.

An open source project in aviation depends

on cascading communities, something in my experience we have not done well in amateur aviation in Australia. The EAA in the US and its chapter organisation is an example of what can be done. We have our peak body, but we do not have within it the culture to leverage its potential.

I should add that whenever I have needed help, I have always found some kind person more than willing to give up their time and I hope I have sufficiently reciprocated. But this is not what I mean. People are willing but somehow we don't put it together.

We need some way to formalise our enormous skill base and take advantage of the available technology. If you check out the website above, you will find the price is held down through the use of high-tech computercontrolled machines, the sort which exist in most universities and in a lot of manufacturing companies. Some of these machines are available at very low prices, for example, 3D printers and could be afforded by a chapter - if a chapter existed. I like the idea that Australia I would love to see discussion on a formalised chapter organisation within RA-Aus

could have chapters with varying expertise and access to equipment who could coordinate to produce bits and pieces of an open source aircraft and make them available to the wider aviation community. Its pie-in-thesky I know, but I think it says more about our Australian laissez faire culture than the idea itself.

I don't quite know where this takes us, but I would love to see some discussion on a formalised chapter organisation within RA-Aus. I think a project centred around an opensource aircraft would be enormously attractive and could provide a starting point.

I hope to deal with various elements of such a design and its philosophy in coming editions, but by way of example would like to describe a long-term project of mine to develop a glass cockpit for \$600. The basis of this design is the use of tablet computers as the displays. Engine and flight data are acquired using a combination of an Arduino microcontroller platform (an open source project, Google it) and some custom hardware I designed.

I designed the circuit board using Eagle PCB designer, which is free and emailed the design to China to have the printed circuit board manufactured. The major part of the cost was posting the boards back to Australia. The Arduino costs around \$30 and my hardware about the same.

My hardware does basic data conditioning of EGT and CHT and will pass other data, fuel flow, RPM, pressure and the like to the Arduino. The complete Arduino programming environment is open source and as such is free.

Sensors are very cheap, for example, fuel flow sensors are available for less than \$15. It will measure more or less whatever is asked of it. My Arduino program reads the data and pre-processes it before it connects to the tablet via Bluetooth. All of the data acquisition side works but there is a big learning curve in developing the iPad side.

I am developing the display software on an iPad, mostly because I have one to run Oz-Runways. There is a small annual fee to use the enormous Apple software development environment.

It is this area which is currently taking my time, frankly, because I don't know what I am doing and this exemplifies the problem.

I am reasonably confident with digital electronic design, but have only a tenuous grasp

of the more sophisticated programming required for the iPad. There are few of us with a complete suite of skills, hence the need for good working people networks.

There is considerable cost saving in developing for an Android tablet and the Android development environment is open source, but not as well developed as the Apple version and far more variable, which is why so many applications come out first on Apple devices.

So, a complete and comprehensive instrumentation system could consist of two panelmounted tablets, one for engine and aircraft information, and one for navigation.

They could be set up to provide redundancy, each device being capable of running either the navigation or aircraft-system software.

My price point assumes the software is eventually developed for the less-expensive Android devices.

If I can get the system completed I will make it available - open source naturally.

NEXT MONTH: Back to engines





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#### Stories supplied by RA-Aus members which contain lessons for every pilot

# **Bad medicine**

In March I attended the Tyabb Air Show in my Fisher Celebrity biplane. It was a perfect sunny day and the flight from Port Fairy was delightful. I wanted to arrive before 10am when the airfield would be closing for the show and made good time.

However on entering the circuit, my problems began. Firstly, there was a lot of traffic and I felt under pressure to get off the runway quickly. Secondly, there was a strong north wind down runway 35 at circuit height, so I turned base early to allow for a short final. But down lower I found myself too high. Later I learned it had been nearly calm at ground level.

Thirdly, and most importantly, when I was about ten feet from the ground, my brain shut down. It refused to make any more decisions, leaving me to be a passenger waiting for the crash which came (I was told by a person videoing the accident) 24 seconds later.

Another observer told me he had noticed the throttle was left partly open.

The result was inevitable. I ran off the end of a 1,100m runway, through a fence and into a concrete walkway, which removed the landing gear. I stopped in the middle of a busy road.

Luckily no cars hit me and I was not injured, but the plane was very badly damaged.

While there were obviously mistakes leading up to the accident, the situation was always capable of being rectified if I had just gone around for another go.

So why the brain fade? It appears to have been a case of bad medicine.

I had been ill for about one year, but the illness itself did not affect my flying.

What I did discover after the crash by a Neurologist I was referred to, was that the medication given to me for my illness could have had unforseen side effects.

Specifically, he said, there could be an unpredicted conflict between

two of the drugs I had been prescribed.

Also I had undergone a PET scan two days before the crash, which involved drinking a litre of radioactive fluid and this may have also caused unpredicted side effects.

Up to the actual incident, I had no indication of any problems and I suspect the slight arrival stress may have been the trigger for my brain to shut down.

Since the accident I have been through many medical checks and have had no further problems.

The result of all this was the loss of my Pilot's Certificate on medical grounds for six months,

the loss of confidence in my own flying abilities, many visits to doctors as well as nine month's work and many dollars fixing my busted plane.

So it is my sincere hope this story, although rather painful for me to write, will help prevent similar accidents in the future.



Do you have a story about a near miss or an accident which gave you grey hair but taught you something about flying? The RA-Aus Safety team wants to hear about it. Every story printed in *Sport Pilot* will earn its author a range of RA-Aus merchandise. Email editor@sportpilot.net.au and clearly label your email "Flying taught me this today".



# *members' market*

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Half share available in this fantastic aircraft. Very low operating costs. Based at MOORABBIN but would consider other nearby airfields as a base. Also willing to consider rego change to RAA if needed to attract the right buyer.

#### 4186 DRIFTER SB582

Very low hour SB582 TT 723 with blue head Eng -TT231. New wing and aileron skins just fitted. Tail skins in excellent condition.Comes with spare tyres and wheel spats (not fitted).Two Peltor helmets with Intercom. Vhf radio. Located Boonah.\$18500 OBO must sell Email - platinumexcavations@gmail.com for photos. Ph-0413 200 506

#### **4187 THRUSTER T500**



Thruster T500 2 seat aircraft side by side, 582 water cooled dual carby duel ignition, 65hp 2cyl 2 stroke engine. 70ltr fuel tank, carbon fibre 3 blade propeller. All ad's complete and up to date. All flight

instruments radio headsets in good condition. Philip 0407 851 963 \$11,200

#### 4190 1.1KLM AIRSTRIP

243 acres - 4 brm home, Fully air-conditioned. 21 solar panel system 2 x 27000ltr water tanks 4 sheds 5 car carport 4 dams 3 bores 1 windmill and seasonal creek. 1.1klm airstrip with 850mtr cross strip mapped out. 10 minutes to Gatton township. Sell \$750 000.00. Negotiable. Phone 0407851963

#### 4191 LOHLE P5151 MUSTANG KIT

Complete kit registered with RAA, including Suzuki geo 3 cyl engine, Raven redrive. Airframe mostly completed with retracts installed. I have finally admitted to myself that I will never finish this aircraft, and it needs a new home. Located Avalon Victoria.\$25,000 Ph Richard 0427 737 787

#### 4199 JABIRU LSA



Jabiru LSA 1999, Total 4056, Engine 584, level 2 maintained, Mechanical very good 10/10, Body 7/10, All new control rods, Solid lifter engine, Cold start kit, ICOM radio, Transponder mode C. Please ring as I will not respond to text messages. Call Rudi 0438 402 254 \$25,000 (+GST)

#### 4201 JABIRU LSA



Jabiru LSA 55-3643. Factory built November 2011. 2200 Engine and Airframe TT 450 hours. Standard panel. Microair radio with headphones. New brakes and tyres. Great condition, always hangared. Never used for training. One owner. Inspection invited. Located Wynyard, Tasmania. Price \$37,500 ono. Ph: Denis 0429 066 966 or denis.J.bullock@gmail.com

#### 4203 SINGLE PLACE PROJECT



Near complete project. Full analogue instrumentation, radio and headset, 2.7 Litre Corvair engine, 66 inch Bolly prop, Grove undercarriage. All aircraft grade construction, complete building records and photos. Build cost \$27000, asking \$6000 - for recovery cost of motor and new instruments only. Full details phone Roger - 0407 545 579

#### 4207 TIPSY NIPPER - SLINGSBY T66



SNS 123 Selling Tipsy Nipper - This single seat aircraft is a wonderful flying plane , fast, nimble with a 1000 fpm climb rate. Tip tanks for 4 hrs at 90 plus knots. Great fun plane solid and well maintained , low hours 2200 Jabiru. Call Roy on 0404756407 to enquire

#### 4209 URBAN AIR UFM 11 LAMBADA



Motorglider factory made in Kevlar & Glass, Rotax 912 80HP. Fantastic climb ,90Knot cruise. ASI, VSI , EngMgmt , Radio, Transponder , AH, Variometer, Feathering prop. Converts in 5 mins from 11 to 13 meter glider for higher L/D. Electric Flaps. Maintained like new. Call Roy , 0404756407 02 0242943900

#### 4210 WANTED JAB J230 NO ENGINE

Jab J230 no engine Contact: Don Woodward Email: donwoodward@outlook.com Phone: 0410 890 514

#### 4212 CLASSIC SEAREY



New engine 2014 (912 ULS-3) TBO now 15years,2000hrs whichever comes first. Always Hangared, new condition, spares, tools, seaplane kit, full instruments,moving map GPS. A\$90k ono. Long Range Fuel Tank, Ground Power, build supervised by retired TAA engineer. Can do CASA and RAA endorsement. Phone 0414 737 400

#### 4218 AEROCHUTE DUAL 503



#### MEMBERS' MARKET 📕

As new Suit new buyer, everything you need to fly away. Sep/2010 30hrs total time, rego Sep/2015. Extras inc. 63" Bolly Prop, electric start, Lynx intercom with dual radio and Bluetooth, VHF/UHF radio's. Composite water/dust proof professionally built trailer, separate fuel and camping gear compartments, stainless fittings. Info/pics m: 0488 900 857 email: darren@ourinfo.biz \$26000 negotiable

#### 4221 SKYFOX CA22



Skyfox CA22 Factory Built Tail Dragger. 580 Total Hours. 80 HP Rotax 912. Cleanweld wooden prop. Excellent condition, L2 maintained. Complete with EQ1 Wireless Headset System and PLB. Hangared in WA \$33,000.00. Phone Andrew 0400 246 906

#### 4226 503 ROTAX AEROCHUTE



Great con, many extras,tacho,foot webbing& floor front,solo weight,flying suit x2,stone guard, wind sock & pole, air filter and prop cover,rectifier/regulator, wide top plate, fuel sep funnel, microtim altimeter,all manuals, option to buy lynx headsets x2@ 5 hours use. Great entry level buyer will be happy. 14,000ono Negotiable

#### **4227 RANS S4 COYOTE 1**



Original owner/builder, clear coated , Rotax 447,Bolly Optima 3 blade prop, 800fpm climb, ASI, VSI,ALT, tach, hrs, dual CHT, radio, garmin GPS, reliable, docile, easy to fly with 60kt cruise, 3.5hrs range plus reserve. New bungees, disc brakes, regularly serviced, with books, enclosed trailer & tools. SA. \$15500 0418894380. glendavidauto@bigpond.com

#### **4229 EUROPA MONOWHEEL**



EUROPA MONOWHEEL Brand new aircraft. 25 total time. Flies beautifully. 130 kts cruise @ 17 lt/hr. Rotax 912 with Airmaster AP332 propeller. Dynon Skyview panel. XCOM radio. 2K professional paint work. Selling because builder has lost medical. Test flying by RAAUS certified instructor. \$85000 ono Contact Drew Done 0427316524 dj.done@bigpond. net.au

#### **4230 AUSTRALIAN LIGHTWING SPEED**



316hrs.TT. Rotax 912ULS Hughes/Bolly inflight variable pitch prop. All flight and engine gauges, GPS, Mountainscope Nav.System & Xcom radio. 120 litres fuel, 105-115 kts. Hangared at Tumut. \$65,000 must see to realise good value. George will meet you at Tumut with prior appointment on 02 6291 9912. Info from snowman@snowmaking.com.au

#### **4233 AMPHIBIOUS TRIKE**



Fly off water or land with this fun machine. Ramphos Trident 912 80hp. Strutted H15 wing. TT 115hrs. All the gear you need including 2 life jackets, 2 Icaro helmets, 2 headsets. LSA Registered 27th June 2015. \$45,000. Phone

Paul 0439 922 323.

#### 4234 SKY FOX GAZELLE CA25N



Lame maintained, 80HP Rotax powered, Bolly 3 bladed propeller, folding wings, GPS factory fitted, flys well, 1919 hours, all Ads up to date. Hangared at Tyabb, Vic \$33,000 contact Roger 0419 891 431.

#### 4235 **SEAMAX**



Beautifully presented and finished Seamax seaplane. Glass cockpit, Leather seats, widest cabin in its class for comfort.123 hours airframe and engine. Cruises 100 knots. Present owner can endorse for Water Hull, retractable undercarriage, AP. Always hangared, presently at Gympie. Would consider syndicate with 3 to 4 members \$155,000 Phone: 0402 958 444

#### 4236 JABIRU 230D FACTORY BUILT



2009. Airframe 1452hrs & Engine 1118hrs. Engine rebuilt 1084hrs by Jabiru. Was GA now RAA reg. Jabiru option 5 night VFR dash, strobes, landing lights, leather seats, 2 coms. Repainted Leisure Build, refitted Jabiru. Immaculate, everything up to date, always hangared. \$78,000ono Contact Cameron 0437388453 or email cscheuber@ gmail.com

#### 4239 SAVANNAH S



Savannah S, 2011 build, 2 pak paint, 140L fuel, Xcom VHF, 327 mode c, AH, Vert compass, Mods: front axle, 600kg wing mods, tinted roof, RB doors, Condor tyres, new battery. Ex cond, always hangared, \$63,000 at Caboolture 0418 883 116.

#### 4240 SAVANNAH XL 600KG MTOW



Savannah XL 2011 19-7675. (Exp Oct 2015) TT 86Hrs. 912 Rotax 100Hp, 2000 TBO. STOL. 80 Kts. cruise. Conventional instruments, GARMIN Aera 500 GPS, VHF & UHF. L/R tanks. Nav/Hazard Lights. Always hangered, cockpit cover. MTOW 600Kg. No accident damage. Excellent condition. At YNTM deliverable. \$65,000 Bruce. glion@iinet.net.au, Mob 0427 917 541.

#### 4243 JABIRU J230D



Jabiru J230D Reg 24-7492, Factory built end 2010, 160 hours, MGL Extreme EFIS, Garmin 495 GPS, Microair Radio & Transponder, Grey leather seats, Set of Covers (Brand new, never used) Always Hangared from new. One owner, never hired, no training, NULL accidents. Ben 0459 320 386

#### **4244 WANTED AIRFRAME**

I have a Lycoming 0235 and am looking for an airframe to place it in. Don 0417 696 461 donwood-ward@outlook.com

#### 4245 SKY FOX CA22



Rotax engine, rego 550-684 good condition, trailer included. Ring Jim (02) 4421 3980 \$28,500.00

#### 4247 ROTAX 503

Hi fellow members - I have two Rotax 503 engines for sale complete with electric starters ,Reduction gearboxes,and exhausts -- as near as i can tell they have done around 30 hours in my hovercraft ph Brian 0414 360 300 engines are in SA

#### **MEMBERS' MARKET**

#### 4248 EAGLE X-TS 150



Factory built, 2 place carbon, electric flaps, trim / pedal adjustments, microvision digital display, Bendix king coms, 125HP fuel injected engine, 25Lph, 100L range, 1000 km , 120kts,1000 ft/min, fighter style joystick controls, very responsive thou forgiving a real pilots aircraft an absolute joy and pleasure to fly. Contact: libertyandassociates@gmail.com

#### 4251 ROTAX 100 HP 912ULS ENGINE



Rotax 100 HP 912ULS engine for sale. (TB01500 hours). A good reliable engine running extremely well. Fuel consumption average around the 13 LPH. good compression. Has been maintained by a GA Maintenance firm. All work is up to date, logbooks Available. \$6,400.00 negotiable. Rob 0427 500 255

#### 4253 JABIRU J170C



Factory built April 2011. 35hrs since factory engine overhaul in June. Serviced every 25hrs by L2 since new. Option 1 panel, Microair radio and transponder, EPIRB, window vents, Punkin Sport cover, spats not shown. Excellent condition inside and out. Can assist with delivery anywhere. \$67,000.00 ONO. Contact Mick 0408654588. Michael.Brannan01@gmail.com

#### 4255 JABIRU J230D

Jabiru J230D Factory built 2012 \$80,000 Airframe TT 805 Engine TT 805 always LAME L2 maintained. No accidents and great condition inside and out. Option 1 panel, TXPDR, ICOM A210 radio, provision for GPS. A smooth flying plane, mainly used for cross country flying. Contact David 0402 830 146



#### 4256 ZENAIR 701 STOL



Excellent condition. No expense has been spared. Total time 630 hours. 80 ltr fuel, 12.1 ltr per hour, 75 knot cruise. Rotax 912. Take off 60ft (single) 115ft (Dual). Tundra tires, electric trim, flaps, landing light, strobe lights Intercom, all metal, Hangered at Lakeside (Whitsundays) Only \$38,000 phone 0417 646075

#### 4257 MORGAN SIERRA



Morgan sierra transponder flight comp duel radio AH auto pilot long range fuel tanks ground adjustable Bolly prop. 6 cylinder Jabiru all up dates Cruse 120 -130 kns approx. 21 ltr/hour Climb rate 1100-1200/ min 6 hours endurance reluctant sale Kevin Harrison 0417 808 772

#### **4258 WANTED - SLEPCEV STORCH**

OR personal references, please, for or against buying a Storch from Nestor Slepcev in Serbia. I would appreciate a phone call to Sandy on 0427-45-3333 or email sandy.racklyeft@gmail.com.

#### 4259 REVO 912 MINT CONDITION



The very best trike money can buy, custom designed and manufactured by Larry Mednick, every conceivable extra. Replacement cost over \$90,000. Wife keen to do more motor homing around Australia so price reduced to \$75,000, also custom designed tandem fully

enclosed trailer 7 metre internal length \$18,000. Email: gary@eldering.net.au Mob: 0411 550 280

#### 4260 FOXBAT A22 LS



Excellent condition, L2 maintained. 100hp Rotax, Warp Drive Prop. Complete with Dynon Skyview panel including transponder, Analogue ASI and Altimeter, tundra tyres and spats, long range tanks, centre joystick, strobes, cabin heat, EQ1 Wireless Headset System and PLB. Hangered in York, WA. \$99,500. Andrew Cotterell Phone 0400 246 906 or Email:andrew@thecotterells.com

#### 4263 SUPAPUP MKII



SupaPup MkII, Always hangared, nil damage, 165Hrs, a well sorted and nice flying plane. 503DCDI, 50I fuel, powerfin carbon ground adjust prop, includes a well built registered trailer, has wheel spats that aren't pictured, \$15000ono Ph. Scott 0429361795 Duckmaloi NSW, Here's a video https://www.youtube. com/watch?v=Zb5OuyUbrlc

#### 4266 RV3 KIT

RV3 Fast Build Kit complete ,wings factory built,tail feathers done, At gympie,\$22000 ono. EA81 Turbo Subaru engine with a spare block. Rob 0417833648 or rob27954@hotmail.com

#### 4269 X-AIR STANDARD



X-Air standard 582 blue head rotax 96 hrs frame, 208 hrs motor.Sweetapple prop, Icom radio,Garim gpsmap 196,EGT,CHT,regular instruments .comes with oil injection kit to be fitted,spats,rings plus assorted bits.Located Casino NSW. Phone Bryan 0414 722 740. Great first plane \$18,990negotiable

#### **4270 INCOME & LIFESTYLE PROPERTY**



Have your plane at your backdoor on this 185 acre income producing riverside cattle property featuring a beautiful restored Queenslander home with a very large shed and hanger situated near Kilcoy, one hours drive to Brisbane Airport. \$675.000 contact owner Phone 0402 133 742.

#### 4271 XT 912 TUNDRA



Beautiful 912 Tundra 2011 excellent condition 107hrs. Always been hangared streak3 wing microair 760 radio two helmets with Lynx intercom and headsets full Punkin Head covers and stone guard and ballistic chute fitted.All manuals and log books Raa

registered. Genuine reason for selling inspection invited, will deliver \$47500. Ph 0428456728

#### MEMBERS' MARKET 📕

#### 4272 BRUMBY 610

2013 Model - LSA - Reg 24-8129 - 60.5 HRS - One owner from new - Sensenich 3 Blade Prop - VHF Receiver - Garmin GPS - immaculate condition - Metal construction - 110 kts from 100hp Rotax - Phone 0428 286 296 110,000 or agreed price

#### 4274 JABIRU SK2200



Winner best Jabiru Natfly 2013 Great reliable plane now for sale. 110 knot cruise @ 14L/hr. 140 hrs since 1000 hr TBO Brent Thompson 44/60 prop fitted with Jabiru 42/60 spare. Icom A200 radio, Peltor headsets, aircraft cover, Garmin 96 GPS always hangared, no accidents. \$35,000 ono. Peter 0429 694 459

#### 4276 WANT YOUR OWN AIRSTRIP?



Nice 4BR house with large hangar and airstrip on 100 acres in the Cowra district with town and tank water and good established gardens and orchard. Reluctant sale due to divorce and sold the aircraft. \$680,000, private sale. 0411 155 855.

#### 4277 912 A ENGINE # 4380746



Engine can be picked up at Callala Bay or I might be able to deliver It. Contact me on 0412 013 061

#### 4278 582 ROTAX

582 Rotax engine due for re-build plus fully reconditioned starter motor, 2 x carbys, gear box, aircleaner, exhaust system. \$1500 call Peter 0469 675 852

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#### 4279 BRUMBY 914 TURBO



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#### 4281 JABIRU 6 CYL ENGINE

3yrs old, never started.Used only to fit cowls. Hyd lifter engine with 40 amp alternater installed,thru bolt nuts changed. Complete with installation kit, welded muffler, ram air ducts & 2" prop ext. Enquiries contact Steve Mob 0407218203

#### 4283 FLY-IN BED & BREAKFAST



Victoria's Premier Fly-In Bed & Breakfast with complimentary loan car Check out www.buckleyinternationalbnb.com.au

#### 4285 ROTAX 912S - 100HP ENGINE



Rotax 912S - 100HP Serviced regularly & in good condition and with 2000 hrs on it - ( which in my books is well under half way through it's useful lifespan ) - ( retired Marine engineer & serial aircraft builder speaking here ) Rick 0416 041 007

#### **4286 AIRBORNE TRIKE XT 912**



2007 XT912 Trike with the CRUZE wing - all in excellent condition 190 Hrs Total Time Always hangared Comes with ALL the standard gear 2 helmets & headsets, radio + move around dolly. Only used for FUN Ph Rick 0416 041 007 \$37500 near Taree NSW

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#### **PRODUCTS**

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Gift certificates are valid for a period of 12 months from the date of issue.

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#### Action Camera

Garmin's VIRB Elite camera offers a 3.5cm colour display which makes setup and playback simple and ensures pilots capture the in-flight angle they desire. It can provide up to three hours of true HD (1080p) video on one charge. Digital stabilisation and lens distortion correction ensures video footage is clear and vibrant.

VIRB Elite can also capture high quality still photos even while the video camera is recording. The VIRB Elite incorporates all of these features along with built-in GPS, WiFi and ANT+ connectivity for remote control functionality with a variety of other Garmin products. With this data you can embed track and flight data to display your GPS location, right on the video. Included in the bundle is a Prop Filter, which reduces the blur created by a propeller as well as a stereo headset cable for capturing and synching cockpit audio with your HD video. A mix of mounting (with the addition of a suction mount) solutions will enable pilots to easily capture footage from a variety of places.

Price From \$605 AU Web www.ozpilot.com.au

### **Powerline Detector**

**Price** 

Web

N/A

Safe Flight has launched its new dual frequency Powerline Detection System. The system is based on a state of the art Digital Signal Processor receiver that detects both 50Hz (International) and 60Hz (US).

The DPDS is a lightweight (less than .5kg) and passive system which increases pilot reaction time to the hazard of powered electric transmission lines by providing a warning when approaching an energized powerline. The system provides both visual and audio warnings.

www.safeflight.com





#### **Racing Simulator**

Seriously, if your pilot partner really does have everything, including money to burn, here is the perfect fantasy Christmas gift.

The Motion Pro 2 Racing Simulator is mostly for serious car nuts (see the price below). It features an ultra-powerful steering force feedback motor, professional-grade steering wheel and pressure-sensitive pedals allowing the driver to feel every detail of the vehicle's behaviour. Optional manual gear-changing configurations and various dedicated steering wheels all feature quick-disconnect systems for easy customisation.

When you get sick of tearing around the world's race tracks, the simulator can transform in just two minutes (with the optional Combat Flight Pack), allowing you to fly aircraft from any airport in the world. Fly commercial airliners, fighter jets, private planes and more over realistic scenery based on high-resolution satellite imagery.

The Motion Pro II comes standard with a screen system of full 1080p resolution and a 60-degree field of view. Upgrade to the panoramic triple-screen setup, which delivers 6,220,800 pixels and a 180-degree field of view and you have to turn your head to see the corners.

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# **Third generation**

MAPYLANDING

A-Aus has welcomed another young pilot into its ranks.

Tristan Sigley, of the Gold Coast, went solo on his 15th birthday recently, the third generation of the family to be involved in recreational flying.

Tristan is the grandson of AUF / RA-Aus pioneer, Barrie Sigley, and the son of Heck Field Instructor and former RA-Aus board member, Nick.

Tristan was the very first RA-Aus Junior Pilot Member and legally started flight training when he was ten years old.

"After years of flying it was nice to finally have the wait over and go solo. The sense of freedom was like nothing I've ever felt before and something I will never forget," says Tristan.

He says wants to follow a career in aviation and is looking forward to taking his grandfather as his first passenger once he gets the endorsement.

Tristan says he is thankful for the support his family and instructors have provided and has a special thanks to his theory instructor, William Ginn.

You can watch Tristan's first solo on YouTube https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aLWTZV3JG

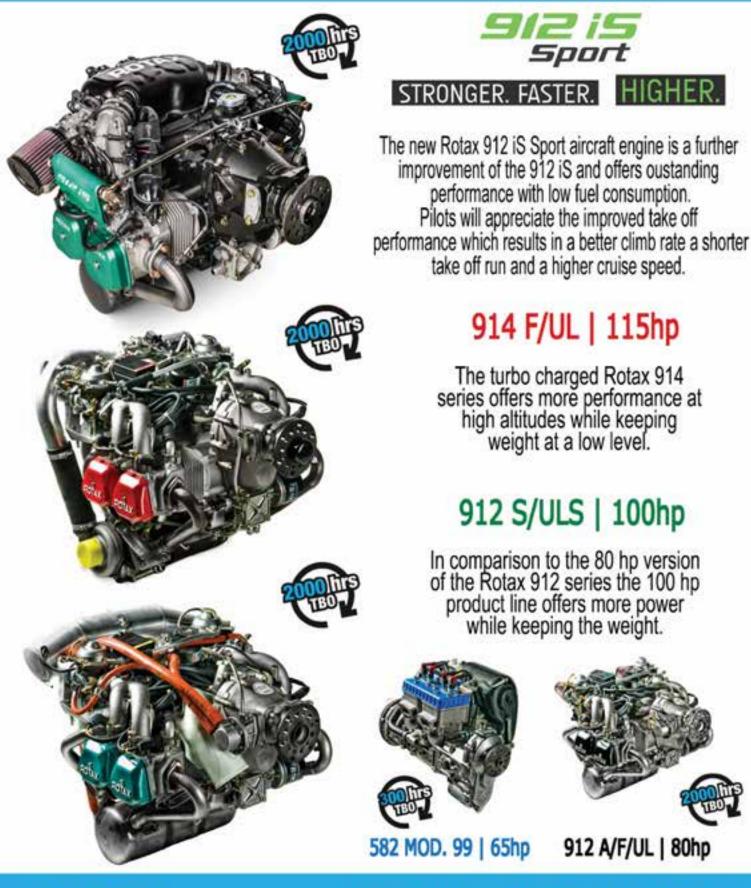
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