



# Foxbat Australia

Newsletter – February 2012

## In this issue

- Tyabb Airshow
- NATFLY 2012
- Foxbat with disabled controls
- Mythbusters – Belite Aircraft
- Australia Day fly-in, Tasmania

## Tyabb Airshow

Put this date in your diary – Sunday 4 March 2012 – the date of the next bi-annual Tyabb Airshow. Tyabb Airfield (or Mornington Peninsula Airport as some people are preferring to call it) is about an hour's drive south of Melbourne, close to Hastings and Westernport Bay.



This year is particularly special as it celebrates 50 years of aviation at Tyabb. Flying displays will include many 'warbirds' like the priceless P40F Kittyhawk and aerobatics displays by Red Bull Ace Matt Hall and Tony Blair, one of Australia's top aerobatics pilots in his Rebel unlimited 'stunt' aircraft.

It's a real family day out with plenty to look at in the hangars on the ground as well as watching the displays in the sky.

The Foxbat Australia Hangar Number 11 – which we share with Cubcrafters Australia – will be open throughout the day and you are invited to come and look at the aircraft on display – some of which may even be for sale!

Gates open at 09.00 and the day finishes at 17.00. For full information about the day, including how to get there enter this link in your browser: <http://tyabbairshow.com.au>

## NATFLY 2012



Still on the subject of airshows & fly-ins, another important date in the Sport Pilot's calendar is the huge 'Natfly' Recreational Aviation Australia Easter fly-in at

Temora, NSW from 6-8 April inclusive. This year, the theme is 'The sky is no limit' with a focus on very light CAO 95.10 category aircraft – the flying 'roots' of the recreational and ultralight movement. As usual there will be a diverse range of forums to attend, including amongst many others a session for non-pilot partners. From past experience and reports, this session is highly recommended if you are not a pilot but nevertheless fly regularly in a light aircraft.

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*For more information on our aircraft or a flight demonstration, please contact:*  
WA – Gordon Marshall: 0419 942 645 (Sky Sports Flying School)  
TAS – Peter Reed: 0427 113 207 (Skyflite ULA)  
SA – Rob Hatswell: 0428 527 200 (Gawler Microlights)  
Other – Peter Harlow: 0413 900 892 (Foxbat Australia)



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In addition, the Temora Aviation Museum will be open to visitors – well worth it as all the aircraft are kept in flying condition. There will be aerobatic displays on Friday and Saturday lunchtimes for those who like their flying adrenalin-fuelled.

Foxbat Australia will have aircraft on display and available for test flights on Friday and Saturday – come and find us and book your test flight slot – I cannot give you the site number(s) yet as they have not been issued. Remember, though, many people leave the show early on Sunday morning to return to loved ones for the rest of the Easter Holiday – so earmark the Friday or Saturday if you want to browse the long lines of fly-in aircraft and the commercial displays.

## **Foxbat with disabled controls**

In July last year, we delivered to Moruya Air, at Moruya Airport, NSW, the first Foxbat in Australia with controls modified for disabled pilots. Since then, it has completed over 300 hours training. Says Sheldon Jones, instructor at Moruya Air: “It is fantastic!! We have done over 50 hours with disabled folks through the Wheelies with Wings program. A few of the students are now going on to complete their training to solo stage. The rudder modification is perfect for everyone who has tried it.”



*The photo shows the gathering at a recent Disabled Pilots fly-in at Griffith.*

“The three ab-initio students I had for the ‘Wheelies’ course included one who suffered a broken neck and had only partial use of one arm (his right). He also could not use his legs. He was able to fly the aircraft very well by the end of the course. He is also coming to a follow-up course where I am confident I can get him to solo. The other participants also made great comments about using the Foxbat.”

Sheldon sums up: “The aircraft performance is amazing, with plenty of power and a good high speed cruise, but also fantastic low speed stability and controllability. Overall I am very pleased with the plane, and have told lots of people about it, and am happy to recommend it to anyone.”

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## Mythbusters and Belite Aircraft



For those of you interested in single seat, very light aircraft – in particular the Belite Aircraft 254 – we all enjoyed a real treat on SBS TV on the evening of Monday 13 February – the episode is called ‘The Duct Tape Plane’. The myth (or not) is based on a report that a hunter out in the wilds of Alaska, or some other US wilderness state with bears, returned to find the fabric sides and tail of his plane torn to shreds – presumably by the aforementioned bears. He allegedly repaired his aircraft with duct tape and flew it home.

Mythbusters tried out the story using a Belite single seat aircraft. It was a great show and we weren't disappointed! Check your local times for a repeat if you missed it

## Australia Day fly-in, Tasmania



VIEW FROM ABOVE: Phil Evans, of Pipers River, pilots a Foxbat aircraft to a grass airstrip at the Vale near Sheffield as part of the campaign to raise cash for the Royal Flying Doctors Service yesterday. Pictures: CHRIS KIDD

### Flight for funds just plane sailing

HELEN KEMPTON

FORMER RAAF jet fighter pilot Owen

retained its State Government contract to provide air-to-emergency medical transport for Ambulance Tasmania.

Four Foxbats were among aircraft flying in to the grass airstrip at Vale, near Sheffield in Tasmania to help raise funds for the Royal Flying Doctor Service. Visitors were taken for joy flights to raise funds – including many young people and couple of volunteer firefighters. Photo is from the Hobart Mercury newspaper.

One Tasmania Foxbat owner – John Robertson – is collecting details for people who may want to join a ‘Foxbat Club’ in Tasmania. Please call me, Peter, on 0413 900 892 if you want more information.

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