# **BRISBANE VALLEY FLYER**

March - 2018



Watts Bridge Memorial Airfield, Cressbrook-Caboonbah Road, Toogoolawah, Q'ld 4313.





Message of thanks from the President

At out last club meeting both Priscilla (treasurer) and Peter (secretary) resigned to take on new roles within the WBMA board.

Both club members have played a vital and necessary role in the successful running of our club over the past years in office

On behalf of all the members and myself I wish them all the best in their new roles within the WBMA board

These positions are crucial to the running of our club, fortunately Ian Ratcliffe has offered to step in as treasurer until the next election along with his brother Peter who has volunteered to taking on the role as secretary

These positions are only temporary and will become available for re-election at the annual general meeting

Again I wish to thank Peter Biddle, Priscilla Smith, Ian and Peter Ratcliffe for their support

Regards Sandy

#### From the Vice President BVSAC

Hi all I would like to thank Priscilla Smith and Peter Biddle for their service over the last few years. They have both taken up positions on the Watts board and have to resign their positions on our board. These positions have been taken up by Ian Ratcliffe and myself

We have a couple of new aircraft that have been built by members about to take to serious skyborne activities. Built by Ian and David and myself, we have just finished a Zenith Zodiac CH650 and a Zenith CH 750 STOL. Both aircraft are powered by Corvair motors, the CH 650 has 100 HP and CH 750 has modified Corvair which has the pistons and barrels replaced with VW 92 Mn which brings motor up to 118 HP. Both motors are 6 cylinder air cooled horizontal apposed Both plains are under-going their 25 Hour testing and when finished you will see us around the skies.



Zenith CH 750 STOL





Peter Ratcliffe

#### What's New With RLOC?

By Rob Knight

Nothing is new with RLOK, it just needs saying again. RLOC stands for 'Runway Loss of Control', and relates specifically to aeroplanes that have departed the runway uncommanded, usually at high speed, and left their mark on adjacent features and landscape. Whilst sometimes dangerous (potentially fatal), such incidents are most usually completely avoidable.

RLOCs have no relevance to the nearness of the runway boundaries or adjacent obstacles. When the



It even happens to big boys

pilot elects to land or take-off at a location, they accept that there is sufficient length and lateral room to carry out their manoeuvre. If the pilot subsequently fails, it is on their head. It's laughable to hear blame being attributed to the airfield owner for erecting boundary fences too close to the runway.

Put simply, in a RLOC incident, the aircraft has not only failed to remain on (or close to the centre line) which is part of everyone's basic training, but failed to even remain within the designated runway boundaries. If a pilot-in-

command suffers an RLOC, the only mitigating circumstance can be that the incident occurred as a result of an unforeseeable environmental or mechanical issue. The absence of either of these two exceptions dictates that any RLOC is a pilot-in-command failure. While RLOC is usually a landing issue, it is not unknown to occur on take-off. This can be attributed, at least in part, to the majority of aeroplanes being tractor designs which have the forward thrust assisting directional stability when power is applied. Pusher configured aeroplanes may not have this attribute.

To better understand the underlying potential in any one of us to experience this mishap, let's examine the human potential. There's a key failing in our all-to-human upbringings, regardless of culture or nationality. A pre-conditioned danger-based priority assessment of the three axes – pitch, roll, and yaw develops in all of us and it can very easily lead to our undoing. A child, learning to stand, becomes very quickly convinced that leaning too far forward or backwards (pitch) resulted in a painful smack on the nose and possible injury to face or head. Likewise, leaning too far sideways (roll) creates an overbalance and an identical painful injury to the ear. Pain, or the threat of it, is a fundamentally powerful tool in learning and the potential dangers and thus fears of pitch and roll become firmly cemented in a child's mind. However, spinning around and around (yaw) is not only perfectly safe, but great fun. This appreciation of axis movement and the relative dangers and priorities relates to life on the earth's surface and has no value in a cockpit sitting behind a yoke. It is insidious, and pilots retaining this impression will forever have difficulty flying aircraft with skill and accuracy. Unless this is trained out of human pilots, they instinctively fail to recognise yaw for what it actually is – the most important of the three aircraft axis movements. Consequently, they will fight to keep the wings level, and endeavour to hold off accurately after the landing flare, but not immediately notice that the aircraft nose has yawed far from where it really needs it to be. This is obviously serious because the longer before yaw is noticed, the later it has to be that remediable control inputs are instigated by the pilot, the greater will be the control inputs required, and the longer before any change in aircraft direction can be stopped let alone corrected. Right

decisions and right actions have a very finite life span. Delay either and there will no longer be a decision or action to make.

The list of causes of a loss of runway directional control is long. Its contents vary from the obvious ones pilot incompetence or inattention, or uneven pilot braking, lateral runway slope, or crosswind, to a flat main wheel tyre (or even a variation in tyre pressure), uneven fuel weights in wing and/or tip tanks, or variations in runway surface texture or variations in surface hardness from main wheel to main wheel. The list is long but the message is short and clear —whatever the reason causing the aeroplane to wants to change direction, it's the pilot's job to stop that aircraft from leaving its correct position astride that centre line.

So exactly what causes that tendency for the nose to yaw away from the correct direction of motion? The answer is simple – a force that doesn't pass through the centre of gravity. Such a force could be the result asymmetric drag on the main wheels, weathercocking in a crosswind, or pilot

inappropriate rudder use.

We are now touching on the essential reason that tail-wheel aeroplanes are considered more difficult to fly than nose-wheel equipped ones. When the nose of a nose-wheel aeroplane is yawed so it is no longer pointing in the same direction that it is travelling, the centre of gravity ahead of the main wheels tends to assist in returning the nose to the direction of motion. This means that it is directionally stable. On the other



An Airtourer suffering from RLOC

hand, in the tail-wheel case, with the centre of gravity behind the undercarriage, the more the nose yaws from the direction of motion, the greater is the yawing force. This is unstable. The difference between the two lies in that the tail-wheel pilot must be pro-active in keeping straight and preventing yaw from taking over. In a nose-wheel aeroplane, a pilot can too easily get away with being only re-active and this leads so easily to complacency.

So how does a pilot prevent a RLOC situation? The answer is so simple that it is ridiculous – The pilot must be the aeroplane's master. NEVER let the aeroplane wander away from where YOU (the pilot) want it to be. This is only going to happen if YOU make a conscious effort to absolutely ensure the aeroplane's main-wheels remains astride the runway centreline. This does not means that the machine will make a dead-straight bee-line along the runway, this is almost impossible, but rather that any lateral movement taking the centre of the aeroplane away from the centre line, will be met by a counter control movement that returns the aircraft to its position astride the centre-line. When training students, this is not an ideal exercise to take over control unless there is no alternative. Rather it is a great opportunity to demand a go-around if the lateral displacement of the aeroplane's ground path becomes excessive. Remember, though, it's a once only call. If the student doesn't immediately comply, then the instructor must taker control and do it for them. This is NOT a negotiable exercise and a cool, measured, AND immediate response will do more for the student's training and-piloting skills than repeated demands that the student disregards.

In summary, keep straight. If there's no centre-line as happens with grass runways, then make your own. It's just as valid as a painted white line but it is in your mind instead of being in front of your eyes. Remember – unless you have a mechanical or environmental issue that could not be foreseen – any RLOC really is YOUR problem.

### Fuel Pump Issues on a Rotax 912

The take-off was like the hundreds before it. The weather was warm and clear, with just a light northerly on the aircraft's nose. We were both sitting in lazy contemplation as we turned right hand crosswind and continued the climb in the general direction of home base. Then, at about 800 feet QNH, the motor missed a couple or three beats. By the time we had thrown off our lethargy and caught up with the aircraft the 912 had returned to smooth running. Neither of us were really sure of what we had just experienced, and, after checking the temps and pressures were all in their green ranges, continued the turn to climb in gliding distance of the airfield. We tried to reproduce the missed beats, changing airspeeds and watching the temps but no further hairs were raised. Thus began what became nearly 4 months of cerebral and research work to solve the issue.

Back home a quick logbook check confirmed that we had around 4 hours before the next 50 hour

scheduled maintenance and inspection was due, we decided to bring relevant parts of the 50 hour forward. The aircraft was hangered until we could organize the time to look deeper into the cause. Thus, and in due course, the cowlings came off so the plugs could be examined for hints/signs of the issue's cause. While the ROTAX Maintenance Manual provides an instruction to replace the spark plugs at 200 hour intervals, in this aircraft the plugs had been changed more frequently than this minimum. Two removed



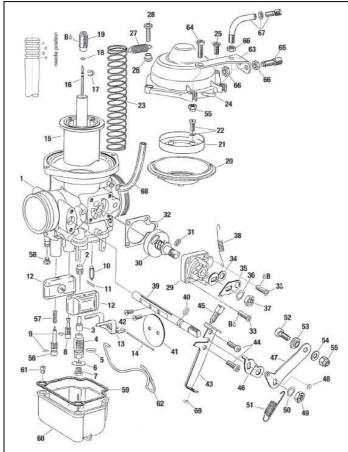
Now – where to start?

plugs showed signs of a slightly rich mixture but the remaining six were all good in terms of colour and carbon deposits. Although the engine issue symptoms didn't fit too well with an ignition issue, we replaced all the plugs with a brand new set, all double checked for gap. We also pulled both the carburettor bowls and discovered a glob of what appeared to be water with fibres in it. Very small, it would have been drawn through a main jet should it have been picked up.

A thorough ground run was sweet with no re-occurrence of missing engine noise so we took it for a flight. A couple of circuits and a local and it never missed a beat. After heaps of self-congratulation and a smug celebratory cup of tea, we put the girl to bed with her blankets on and closed the hangar doors.

About a fortnight later the seasonal winds dropped sufficiently for me to take a new chap to the area for some local experience around our home field. Fully certified and current, we shared a local flight to revise stalls and re-affirm his setting up the aircraft in various approach configurations before returning to home base for some circuit work. All went well then, once again, out of the blue, the engine ran rough. It was at the same time and place in the circuit, at about 750 ft. QNH on the crosswind, but this time I noticed that as soon as I reduced power form full throttle, the engine returned immediately to smooth running and, with full throttle returned, so did full power and the revs returned to around 5260, the usual approximate RPM for full throttle. With the wind being so kind, we could continue circuits and remain within an easy glide distance of the field at any stage so I elected to continue with a couple more circuits. The next two were uneventful and then on the last, the rough running returned. With my colleague's hair supporting his headset, I made a full-stop and

returned to the hangar from where I called the man who did the aircraft logbook and advised him that our previous celebration was premature. I called Bert Floods and spoke to Gary. He was extremely helpful and confirmed our suspicion that it was not likely an ignition issue and that we should check the carburettors, the fuel pumps, and the fuel lines. The cowlings came off again and we pulled the new plugs anyway in case they had some information on the issue. The whole eight of them seemed quite OK all things considered and there were no visible signs that one had failed or indicative of a potential cause of rough running. We then visually checked the ignition harness as a routine measure because we believed, and it had been confirmed by an auto-electrician, that an intermittent failure was highly unlikely without radio interference and the radio had been functioning perfectly. We checked every line throughout its length: every filter and every clamp.



Whilst the carburettor principles of operation are simple, it has a multitude of small parts, each one essential to the carburettor function

We checked the engine for anything that might lend itself to an intermittent engine issue but drew a complete blank. Another extensive ground run was uneventful, as was the full throttle run after we tied the tail to a post. Everything we could think of was functioning absolutely normally. Several, people had suggested that carburettor ice might be behind our mystery problem. I didn't agree because it was very unlikely to occur at the same time and place in the circuit, and then only intermittently. Also, the carburettor throats and throttle valve assemblies were too hot for deposition and all the text books available agreed. We looked closely at the age of the fuel and confirmed that all our fuel had been purchased from reputable, high-turnover dealers (mainly BP). Nevertheless, and running out of ideas, we refuelled the nearly empty-of-fuel aircraft with really fresh stuff. Two circuits were uneventful before we had to leave for other commitments. The pilot looking for local experience was still looking so we arranged to meet to continue his circuit familiarization. Again, conditions were excellent for the exercise and we managed three circuits before, in the climb on the crosswind leg, we had another event - the same as all the previous ones. In the clement conditions, where I could always glide back to the field, I did six more circuits. On two more of these circuits I experienced brief and sudden periods of rough running and power loss, with immediate restoration of noise after cycling the throttle. I didn't need to move the throttle much; maybe a quarter of its travel range, but its effect was always instantaneous. I also found that using the electric back-up pump was irrelevant – the issue occurred with the electric pump on and off. My

colleague was quite unimpressed with my tenacity and pulled his hat down over his eyes in resignation as I continued to fly around in the circuit.

The man who did the logbook decided to take both carburettors home to his workshop and strip them completely. We figured that it must be something affecting the mixture on one of the carbs, something that should be identifiable if we stripped and looked. So we removed the carburettors and re-fitted all the anti-dust mechanisms available and left the girl in intensive care missing a couple of vital organs.

Three weeks later the carburettors had been completely stripped and rebuilt, a time-consuming and fiddly process. No items of note were found. However, we had to be sure and so every gallery, orifice, and available fuel-contacted location had been cleaned and blown dry before the two assemblies had been re-assembled. We again removed the cowl before losing skin and blood refitting the carbs - the area we had to work in seemed to have shrunk after we removed them. We both rechecked the carburettor and fuel line refitting before we re-covered the nose. Another tied down test run whilst exercising the wheels turned up no issues so we re-tested the aircraft with a couple of circuits. We were still in the woods - the engine coughed, missed, and lost power at about 800 feet QNH on crosswind on the second one.



The still common pump, that has no vent.

The pump with our the issue has a third

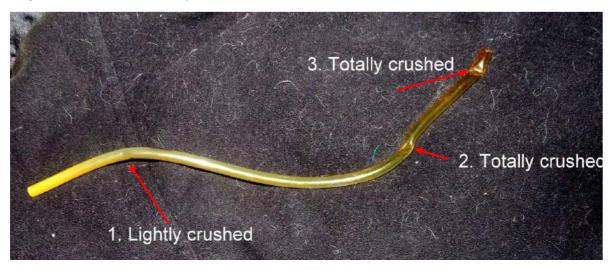
Hose-line attachment underneath its body

and no external venting system

This was proving quite some mystery and the man who does the logbook decided to call on the expertise of Floods again. He listed our efforts to Gary Flood. Gary mulled it over and then asked what mechanical fuel pump was installed on the engine. When given that it was the later model fuel pump, the one with a fitted venting system, Gary suggested that we might look more closely at the mechanical fuel pump vent and its associated vent line. If the vent was blocked it could, conceivably, provide symptoms similar to those that we were experiencing. A blocked vent could, subject to temperature and RPM (and airspeed), be our causal culprit. He also added that, if the installed vent line

was vinyl plastic, wise men would replace it with a harder-walled length of rubber fuel hose, and that, ideally, the route for the tail of the vent line should extend to the vicinity of the firewall. Off came the cowls. They were becoming easier to remove and replace, both with the practice we were getting and the wear on the attachment fittings with use. The fuel pump did indeed have a vent line and it was of semi-translucent vinyl plastic. We had looked at this line and, with no belief that it might be conducive to our issue, not paid direct attention to its entire length. The tail of the line had been cable-tied to the heat-sink material surrounding the hot water line to the radiator. It all looked very secure and appeared totally appropriate. However, when we cut the cable ties and removed the vent line, in places invisible previously, the line had been crushed so completely and effectively that it had been welded closed by the surrounding heat. To make matters worse, there were two cable tie attachments and both had closed and sealed the vent tube. At last we had something we could apply directly to the situation. Some might say that we should have picked up on the vent line in our engine bay inspections but, as we had not directly linked it to the situation, not been looking where we couldn't see and the vent line in toto was not visible.

We immediately replaced the line with a brand new, thick walled, low pressure (automotive) length of 6 mm rubber fuel hose manufactured by Gates and purchased from Repco. As soon as we could, we did yet another ground run with, yet again the same perfect results. Another flight was the only way to check it. So, with good fuel on board, we lined up, and the man who does the logbook opened the throttle. Power was good (as always at this stage of flight) and the take-off was uneventful. That is, until around 800 feet QNH when nothing happened – the engine ran perfectly. Elated we did several more circuits before heading off on an extended local flight. After 1.8 hours of perfect running, we put the girl back to bed and put her dust blankets on her. After locking the hangar doors she went to sleep.



A section of the removed mechanical fuel pump vent line. Now, vinyl fuel hose is not recommended as, especially when heated as it is in an engine bay, it is easily crushed and can find its walls welded together and effectively sealing/blocking the hose line It was suggested to us that all vinyl fuel line used for venting the pump should be replaced with good quality thick walled, rubberized line.

Then, just 3 days later, the man who does the logbook took her out for another local flight. It was a great day, and he planned a trip to the coast. But, suddenly, in level flight this time, the engine, again, missed a couple of heartbeats. He turned for home whilst turning on the electric back-up fuel pump. Almost immediately the engine power was restored: heart-beats returned to smooth and at a lesser pace. In spite of the good visibility we were not yet out of the woods.

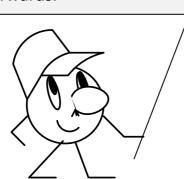
After discussion he decided to replace the current mechanical fuel pump with a brand new one. The installed one had done 200 hours and was four years old so it only had a year of life remaining. At the same time, he decided to replace ALL the fuel hoses in accordance with the ROTAX 5 yearly requirement.

With the new hoses to hand, we returned to the airfield and spent a day replacing the hoses in the engine bay. Fate was having a good laugh at our expense as the temperatures in the hangar rose towards 45°C. Nevertheless, we stayed on until the only hoses left to replace were in the cockpit. The man who does the logbook did the last of the hose replacement mid-week but the hot weather would have made a test-flight uncomfortable. The following Saturday he test-flew the aircraft and this time, as we fervently hoped, the engine never missed a beat. At last – the issues were solved.

In summary and after discussion, we believe that there were two issues we had to resolve for a 100% success, and this combination was a major factor and difficulty in solving the mystery. We think the mechanical fuel pump had a problem with a leaking non-return valve for several months. Not having a fitted fuel pressure gauge, we couldn't ascertain the fuel pressure provided by either pump but, as long as the maximum output at full throttle provided sufficient fuel to keep the carburettor bowls filled correctly we never suspected anything. However, the blocked vent line reduced the pump efficiency at full throttle to an extent where an interruption to the fuel supply resulted in rough running. Cycling the throttle changed the fuel demand and the blocked vent issue reduced in effect and the engine ran normally again. However, the blocked vent loaded the mechanical pump internally and caused the non-return valve to wear quickly provide the complex set of circumstances that provided a window for ongoing, short term engine failures. We have now been advised of another aircraft in our vicinity having exactly the same symptoms for exactly the same reason.

#### **Another OPEN CLASS**

Rob Knight has agreed to run another open class after the May BVSAC Meeting. So sharpen your pencils, get out your questions, and come to the May meeting. It will be at the BVSAC Clubrooms at 10 am on May 5<sup>th</sup>. Sandy, the Club President, is organising a BBQ lunch afterwards.

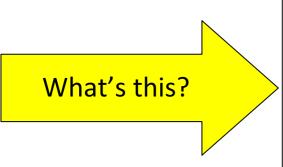


When you are dissatisfied and would like to go back to your youth, think of Algebra.

#### **FLY-INS Looming**

11 March	Clifton BBQ, Fly-in	Lone Eagle's Annual Fly-In International Women in Aviation week.
21-22 April	Caboolture	TAVAS Great War Flying Display
01 April	Gympie Brekkie Fly-in	Gympie Aero Club
14 April	Murgon Brekkie, Fly-In	Burnett Flyers
27-April	Rockhampton	Cessna 200 Series Fly-In

#### **Mystery Aircraft (March Issue)**





### **Mystery Aircraft (Last Issue)**



No takers this month for the Chester-Miles Leopard, a 4 seat (pilot and 3 pax) twin commuter jet that first flew in the UK in 1988. Two were built and flew but the type was grounded and passed to museums in 2009 at the death of lan Chester-Miles, the CEO and Chief designer of the Chester-Miles Company.

# "Lord, keep Your arm around my shoulder and Your hand over my mouth!"

#### Keeping up with the Play

(Test yourself - how good are you, really?)

- 1. An aeroplane is climbing at its maximum rate. On what does the actual rate of climb depend?
  - A. Holding the nose above the horizon.
  - B. Flying at the IAS for minimum angle of attack.
  - C. Minimum drag.
  - D. Surplus power.
- 2. An aeroplane flying at low level has a strong wind blowing from its starboard side. In turning downwind....... (select the most correct statement)
  - A. IAS will tend to fall because of the changing crosswind.
  - B. The changing crosswind will cause a rise in TAS.
  - C. Drift will cause an apparent slip to the left.
  - D. Slip will cause an apparent skid to the right.
- 3. To double the airspeed of an aeroplane in level flight how much additional power would be necessary?
  - A. 50%.
  - B. 100%.
  - C. 200%.
  - D. 400%.
- 4. Considering an aeroplane in a steady climb:
  - A. Lift is less than weight.
  - B. Power applied = Drag.
  - C. Aircraft weight is reduced because some of the weight is acting rearwards.
  - D. Lift is greater than weight.
- 5. In a wing-drop stall.... (Select the most correct statement)
  - A. Roll should be stopped with aileron or further effects of opposite rudder.
  - B. The dropping wing has less lift and more drag than the rising wing.
  - C. The angle of attack on the up-going wing increases with the roll.
  - D. A and C are both correct.

**VNSWER**S: 1. D, 2. C, 3. D, 4. A, 5. B

If you have any problems with these questions, call me(in the evening) and let's discuss it! Editor.

# BRISBANE VALLEY SPORT AVIATION CLUB Inc

#### **MINUTES OF THE February 2018 GENERAL MEETING**

MEETING LOCATION: Watts Bridge Memorial Airfield – BVSAC Clubrooms

MEETING DATE: 3February 2018

MEETING OPENED: 1010hrs
MEMBERS PRESENT: 15

APOLOGIES: Richard Faint, Glenda Faint

VISITORS: Nil

**NEW MEMBERS: NIL** 

#### **MINUTES:**

• October meeting of the BVSAC Inc.

Proposed: Peter Biddle seconded by John Innes. Acceptance motion carried.

#### **BUSINESS ARISING:**

• Nil

#### **PRESIDENT'S REPORT:**

- Sandy Walker spoke about the visit to Caboolture SAAA, and Caboolture will continue to invite BVSAC to further meetings
- Bill Oates -Expressed reservations about Non members attending our meetings unless being Invited, it is ok to attend for social part of meeting.
- Ian Ratcliffe asked about the need to ensure other groups do not try to take over our club and the hanger.

#### **SECRETARY'S REPORT:**

- CGC will be at Watts 5-7 May BVSAC to do catering.
- Secretary has resigned and Peter Ratcliffe is to take over position for rest of year.

#### **TREASURER'S REPORT:**

The President read the Treasurers report for November - December 2017.

- BVSAC ING account \$7612.89
- BVSAC NAB account \$4380.84
- Money is available for works that are need for the priority list.
- Treasurer has resigned as a possible conflict with WBMA BOM.
- Position was filled by Ian Ratcliffe

- Peter Biddle passed motion that Peter Ratcliffe for Secretary and Ian Ratcliffe for Treasurer.
- Second Mike Smith
- Motion passed

#### WATTS BRIDGE REPORT: Peter Freeman.

- Public Notification stage of new leases
- Soil testing of SS1 this month
- Main runway further seeding needed
- SS1 Harvest in April Volunteers needed

#### **GENERAL BUSINESS:**

- Priscilla Motion majority of Committee must have been members for 5 years
   rest of committee must have been members for 1 year
- Second Peter Ratcliffe
- Motion passed
- Motion Priscilla amend to ensure BVSAC assets are protected
- Seconded Bill Oates
- Motion passed
- Peter Ratcliffe tabled a copy of the propsed WBMA Risk Register any changes
   please respond by 12 Feb
- Sandy talked about the next poker run and he will check with Richard with what we need to do.

#### List of works needed

- Get plumber to check hot water system
- Tank Stand and new tank \$1100 to \$1200
- Sandy to get Quote for Air Con for club house
- Sheet new Ext
- Quote for new Fridge

NEXT MEETING: The next meeting will be on Saturday <u>3 March but has to be moved to 10 March in</u> the BVSAC Clubroom at Watts Bridge.

MEETING CLOSED: There being no further business, the meeting was declared closed at1130 hrs.

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#### Aircraft Offered for Reluctant Sale





My Colby-503, a single-seat, one-off aircraft, based on the highly successful American Pioneer Flightstar. Currently flying most weekends, it has around 200 hours airframe total time and under 30 hours on a rebuilt Rotax 503 power plant. STOL, this aircraft cruises at anything between 45 and 60 knots, depending on the power setting and can comfortably exceed its VNE in a climb. It holds 40 litres in a belly tank and a further 10 behind the seat. A 95-10 aircraft, its rego is 10-1918, valid until July 30 2018. A sale would include a purpose-built trailer (uncovered and unregistered), a spare 503 engine (disassembled), and a ground handling tow bar. There are some other assorted spare parts such as a strut, control surface tubing, fuel

I currently use a hand-held radio mounted in the cockpit with a head set and PTT fitted on the side-mounted stick.

I am putting my aeroplane up for sale only on the advice of my health professional.

### \$5,800.00

So, if you fancy owning and flying a totally unique aircraft, the ONLY one of its type in the world, contact Rob Knight, on 0400 89 3632, or email me at <a href="mailto:kni.rob@bigpond.com">kni.rob@bigpond.com</a>.

pump, spark plugs etc.

