

# RED BULL PERTH W.A. Mark Nichols



Coming in over the fence at Langley Park

I decided to give the frequent flyer points a bit of a workout and took off to Western Australia to see the climax of the international World Series Red Bull Air Race. Like the other 300, 000 spectators, lining the shores of the Swan River, I was astounded by the speed and manoeuvrability of the high performance racers.



The location is stunning, Langley Park running along the shore of the river with the city's buildings reaching up made for a most dramatic spectacle. I must admit I enjoyed much more watching the aircraft take off and land because after a while the pylon manoeuvres became all the same.



In a show stopping moment one of the first competitors took off, as soon as he was airborne he turned onto his wing, poured the smoke on and continued down the runway in this configuration before rocketing skyward to turn it on for the spectators on the South Bank.

**"Just awesome to watch"**

## BE PREPARED TO

My Hotel was one block back from Langley Park with a balcony room that overlooked the field and the temporary hangars, so the position was perfect. Perth, was not prepared for the influx of people, it was difficult getting to and from the airport, it was road chaos with freeways choked with traffic, however it was the first time they had held the event and no doubt will make improvements for the next two years staging the race. The quickest and easiest way to get about was to walk, but be prepared if you want to see everything, you are going to clock up the kilometers.



Caught up with Graeme Martin, his family gave him the Fathers Day, Christmas, Birthday all rolled into one present, an airline ticket for the Air Race



Friday afternoon Painting in the piano keys

The Red Bull Race itself goes together like clockwork it is a well tried formula. They could have done with more information for the public about the practice day and big screens and loudspeakers at Langley Park as well as Southbank would have added to the appreciation of the event. But the real audience is the 20 million viewers worldwide in over eighty countries who see it on more than seventy television networks. Apart from the racing we were also treated to an air show with formation flying, high speed jets, a helicopter handling display and a static display arena where several local companies got to show off their gear.

Hungarian, Peter Besenyei, won the Perth race with an impressive combination of speed and precision but he came second in the 2006 World Title series losing by three points to American Kirby Chambliss.