



# SPINNER

Aero Club of Southern Tasmania Newsletter

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**FLY AERO CLUB  
THIS WEEKEND**

**JANUARY 2007**

## HECTIC at HELiRES

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### DIARY NOTES

- Weekend of March 10th and 11th TLACS returns to popular Fonthill. Book your accommodation early, competition to get underway 08.30. Buffet Dinner and prizes awarded on the Saturday night. Everyone welcome to compete, regardless of skill level. FONTHILL Weekend March 10th and 11th.
- Sunday April 15th Cambridge Open Day. Static Aircraft and Aviation displays required. Volunteers needed, ideas for new static displays welcomed. Help appreciated call Don Prairie 0438 346 623

**HAPPY  
NEW YEAR**

A busy Summer season for Cambridge based Helicopter Resources with the early start to the fire season has them on fulltime 24 hour standby. "We provide a lot of surveillance and control from the air, water bombing and work further distances out from Hobart than the Bell 212. The fire service guys love it working from the airborne platform - they can talk to everyone, see what's happening all over the place. The Bell 212 is based here but that is more concerned with the urban interface," said Leigh. (see Feb 06 Spinner Page 1 for more) "But of course if it gets too smokey you're stuffed anyway," said Leigh.

"We currently have three helicopters operating from the Davis base in Antarctica providing site or logistical support. They've been there since about the middle of October and will return at the end of the season in April. They take all the spares for the helicopters needed to get through six months of servicing and normal operations. They're pretty reliable, they're good aircraft" added Leigh. Five personnel are engaged in the operation with one Pilot per machine and two Engineers.

"At the moment we are re-supplying the Chinese station which is down the coast a little bit. There's a week's work moving personnel and supplies from the Ship to the Chinese base," said Leigh.

"Flying in Antarctica, the weather's the big issue, it's a huge big white continent, so as a Pilot you have white out problems - the lack of contrast to see the ground is the biggest issue down there. Strictly VFR, you just fly when the weather is good, and you've got 24 hours of daylight so you can fly all through the night, which is the best time to fly," said Leigh.

The Antarctic air link came a step closer with the acquisition of an Airbus A319. Wilkins, the Blue Ice 4km runway, the largest runway in Australia, is nearing completion. The A319 is scheduled to make it's delivery flight to Australia this month with it's trial flights to the Ice Runway sometime in February. The Airlink will help secure Australia's position as a world leader in Antarctic capabilities and research.



Leigh Hornsby, Manager Helicopter Resources Tasmania with Tasmania Fire Service Squirrel.



Photographs Courtesy Australian Government Antarctic Division, M. Filipowski and Skytraders

Top: Skytraders C212 "Ginger" & Helicopter Resources Squirrel. Inset: Airbus A319. Above: Surveying and laser grading the Blue Ice runway. The new runway cutting the 10 hour trip to just 4 hours by air.