

PILOT RICKY CLARK

Ricky is fairly new to flying, having obtained his ticket at Georgetown with Eugene Reid in January 2005. He's clocked up almost 280 hours in a bit over two years and already owned three aircraft. He learned to fly in a Jabiru, and got his tailwheel endorsement in a T500 Thruster.

Ricky has been around adrenalin fuelled sport all his life. He started out racing GoKarts, where he became Tasmanian Champion in 1986, went onto motorcycle racing where he raced Broadford, Winton, Mt Gambier, and Philip Island where he won a heap of trophies in the Post Classic Class. He then went onto boat racing winning a championship in the 800cc Class and thought what's next?

"If you've got racing in blood, then you've just got to do it, it's the challenge, and that's what flying is like." said Ricky. "I got introduced to flying from a customer of mine, Dr. Hicks, who used to fly out of Par Avion, he flew me around a bit, so that got me interested in flying. A bit later I then decided, I'm gonna learn - and I did - no introductory flights, just got stuck into it and learnt in three months." Ricky added.

"I've owned three planes, had two engine failures on long ferry trips, fortunately the training kicks in as it does and I've got down safely." "My Skyfox brought me and a mate all the way from Dysart in far Northwest Queensland and just off

the Flinders Island airport the engine quit."

"I chose for my third plane the Skyfox because of cost but mainly because I could fold the wings back, which made it easy to trailer and a taildragger for the short fields." Ricky said.

Ricky enjoys flying for pleasure, those shorter two or three hour trips, he finds the



Ricky with his Skyfox at the Lagoon Bay flyin

atv's, waterpumps, if it's got a small motor I'll attack it." said Ricky. "I'm fortunate in that I already have my grade one ticket so I can do maintenance on my aircraft in the RAA category. I'm going to get my grade two which will mean I will be able to maintain flying school aircraft in the RAA category." added Ricky.

"Lots of my friends have got their hands up to go for a fly, and if it's a nice day - why not." smiled Ricky.



Skyfox is an excellent commuter, ideal for getting around the Tasmanian countryside, catching up to other RAA mates or joining in on the Aero Club social fly-ins.



The hangar is the trailer, folding wings are the go, so is the Airfield 3.2kms from home.

Ricky is self employed as a mechanic specializing in small engine repairs. He has operated his own business for the past eleven years. Before that he worked with Volkswagon and Jaguar. "I think I started out mucking around with lawn mower engines when I was 12, and never really stopped." laughed Ricky. "That's the problem being a mechanic you've always got one ear pricked, listening to the sound of the engine, making sure it's purring!"

"I work on outboard motors, chainsaws, lawnmowers, a lot of farmers



Two other machines Ricky owned A: T500 Thruster he bought in Goulburn. B: Kitfox purchased in Yeppoon engine failed at Bundaberg on the ferry brought home on a trailer.

