



L: Bob Schwarz about to go flying R: Ron Flakowski on office Manager duty.

Bob has been flying for one year with the Aero Club and he describes it as the highlight of his life learning to fly. It has been his aim almost all his life. "I joined the Airforce when I was 18 as a medic, and I flew a lot in the Airforce doing medivacs out of Vietnam, so I did plenty of flying as a passenger." said Bob. "If it wasn't for

## MEET BOB SCHWARZ

the perseverance of this Aero Club, I wouldn't have got as far as I have. You know halfway through, ya get to a stage where you think you're never going to get to the end of this, and I can't do this, but the Club has been most supportive and incredible towards my training." Bob said

The defining moment that made Bob decide to fly was a year ago when he was driving past and saw the sign Open Day Cambridge Airport. "It was a wet miserable day, and there was David Franklin standing there like a shaggy wet dog and I asked him what happens here and he said we train people, so I asked, how old do you have to be? And David said to me you're never too old fly. He booked me for a TIF and I've enjoyed every moment of it ever since." Bob said

In his younger days Bob did a lot of passenger flying, he recalls going to Vietnam in a C130 Hercules picking up 56 casualties for a 14 hour plus flight back to Sydney, it was the biggest evacuation the RAAF had ever done, very busy, very sick people. He also did a lot of retrievals and helped evacuate Darwin. As Bob became older he went into administration and became higher ranked, but the days of flying had



Late 1960's Newspaper clipping, Bob and RAAF Caribou sent to Port Macquarie to pick up an injured farmer with internal bleeding.

gone, Bob is completing his solo hours with his GFPT training in the C172's.

"The bit I really enjoy about flying at the moment is the daily inspection, familiarizing myself with the Aeroplane and becoming friends with it in other words. Then of course taking off is just incredible, once I do my first circuit then I settle down and enjoy them after that.... It is just a marvelous feeling. Flying is only for my personal enjoyment, I like to fly every week if I can. Having not studied for years I found the theory a bit of a chore at first, had to get the brain mobile again!" laughed Bob.



Bob, transferring patient to the ambulance.



Bob says it is never too late to learn to fly, think young and keep your sense of humour.

## PLANE SPOTTING



**A** water cannon welcome to Hobart Airport for VH-VHD Skytraders Airbus A319. This coming summer will see the commencement of the Antarctic air link between Hobart and Wilkins runway 70 kms SE of Casey Station. The Airlink will provide the single biggest boost to the Australian Antarctic programme since it's inception in the late 1940's.

The A319 has a range of 6,500 nautical miles providing the ability to fly Hobart to Antarctica return without refueling. An estimated 10 to 20 flights per season will be conducted once the system is fully operational. The inter-continental air service will be complemented by the ski equipped C212s, within Antarctica.



A water canon welcome to VH-VHD. B: Extra fuel carrying capacity in the cargo hold means a round trip home



Bob had always wanted to come back to Tasmania after he hitch hiked over here during his medical training days. A Queensland, who five years ago, simply packed the car and came here to live, and loves his new home.

"Thinking young, thinking fit and keeping a sense of humour is a big plus as well. I am going to see this through, I've joined the SKI club, spend the kids inheritance!" Bob laughed.