

Carnarvon's Skies are Abuzz

by Phil Youd

Phil Youd is the owner/editor of the "Gascoyne Classics" and manager of Hot Hits 99.7

Over the past week you've probably heard the buzz in the skies above Carnarvon from some very small aircraft.

They are called Microlights and are a cross between a conventional plane and a Hang Glider and they represent the fastest growing aviation sport in the world.

Two of Carnarvon's business people are going through their paces at the moment.

Brendan, Paul and Geoff from South-West Microlights are in town training Sandy McGinn and Peter Jecks.

Sandy started his training a year ago, and Peter already has his license but has just taken delivery of his new Microlight and is being trained for the new aircraft.

The training is up to the same standard as if you were learning to fly any other light plane, meeting all the legal and safety requirements.

Peter Jecks got the bug about 9 years ago when Brendan Watts from South-West Microlights took him up for a flight.

Brendan says, "The flying here in Carnarvon is second to none."

Brendan has 6,700 flying hours logged and loves seeing the "silly grin" when passengers land after taking their first Microlight flight. I for one wasn't disappointed after my flight. The wind in your face and an uninterrupted view of Carnarvon from 1,500 feet was fabulous!

Sandy says, "I always wanted to fly and this type of flying is far more affordable than others." The

adrenalin rush is better than speedway sidecar racing, which I used to do:

Peter's new Microlight is faster than his previous aircraft and has a longer range, traveling up to 7 hours on one tank of fuel.

He loves taking photos of the Gascoyne region and is going to utilise them in a new book on local seafood recipes. ■



Brendan takes Rosie from Hot Hits 99.7 for a trial flight

Abafish Carnarvon, owned by Peter and Sandy Jecks



Trike pilots enjoyed a guided tour of the Abafish processing plant in Carnarvon by Peter Jecks. This was the perfect way to learn about the catching and processing of the famous blue manna crab. RIGHT: Geoff, Ross, Brendan, Rob, Brett, Paul and Jim also learned that they are pretty special eating straight out of the cooker. (Photos taken previous trip)

The Trip to Carnarvon 2010

No, it never blows much up this way – it's usually calm...



No, it wasn't cold at Murchison – that's not ice on my swag...



Unloading and assembling Peter's brand new SST...



Now, it's time to fly – it seems like it was a long time coming...

