

## A day's flying in the Southwest

Richard McDonald and I had talked about a X-Country flight which would take us over new country. So after the obligatory route and fuel planning, we checked the forecast for the area around Collie and Bunbury for Monday, October 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2005. It was favourable with some early morning cloud over the ranges.



Taking off from Ravenswood we set a course for Harvey. Then flew to the West of the Highway at 1500 AGL past Brunswick, where a lot of minerals sand mining continues, and thence to Roelands where we started the climb to Collie.



As we climbed we could see that there was quite a lot of fluff drifting our way. From our perspective, it seemed very thick, but on climbing through a hole of which there were many, we could see that it was basically early morning cloud drifting our way. The air was smooth as silk and calm in contrast to that below at 2000ft where there was a headwind and some turbulence.



A good view of Wellington Dam was on our right side.

The area had obviously had a good winter, since all the creeks backing into the town and surrounds were flooded.

Once we spotted Collie it seemed to take a long time to find the airstrip, the landings were uneventful, and we parked up for a welcome nature break and walk around. The area was disappointing in as much that it looked very deserted and unkempt. The aero club did not look as if it had been used for years.



After the breather, a check over the trikes, and topping up the fuel tanks, we took off and headed for Bunbury. The day was magic and the views superb.



We over flew YBUN at 4500 ft towards Bunbury Beach where we turned North over the Australind Estuary heading for Blair Howe's property and his DC 3 "garden gnome"



After some refreshments with Blair, we headed north once again along the beach at an altitude of around 100ft with the Ocean on our left and Lakes Preston and then Clifton to our right. As we approached Clifton, we turned inland and flew low over an old airstrip in the dunes, over grown but handy to know of in case of an emergency.



Richard on finals at the conclusion of a magical day during which we accomplished four and a half hours of air time.

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