

“Do you realise, every day this week is an excellent day for flying?” That’s what I said to my friend in the coffee shop when he finally sat down as I tugged and his shirt getting more excited by the moment.

“Really?” he replied. “Are you kidding” I said. “I’ve checked out ACCU Weather site and every day, EVERY DAY is going to be just beautiful.” “Excellent” he said, “I think I’ll fly on Tuesday”. “Great”, I said, “Let me know for sure if you are going up and I’ll meet you up there and fly too!”

So finally after coffee and chats I went home to prepare for late afternoon nibbles with some friends I was having over. We had a lovely afternoon enjoying champagne cocktails, tasty cheese and fruit platter and then of course the chocolate mud birthday cake for the special guest of the afternoon. Late in the afternoon, well, very early evening... all guests decided to leave and it was just my flying buddy Helen and I left to do a final clean up.

“Hey” I said, “What are you doing tomorrow? Do you want to go flying?” To which of course her immediate reply was YES, but that she had to see what work had to be done on Monday. “But Monday is a holiday” I said, “Boxing Day holiday. You aren’t going to work are you?” “Well” she said, “I’ll ring you when I get home and check with Ashley”. So reluctantly I let her go with the promise of a phone call later that evening.

In the meantime, and in my eagerness to plan and work out where we would go, I reviewed the ACCU Weather website again... only to discover only Monday would be the only good day for flying... the rest would be really too hot temperature wise, with scorching temperatures.

Immediately I am on the phone and sending Helen a text. “Text me when you get home, tomorrow is ONLY the best day for a fly this week”.

Finally we got to chat and I twisted her arm... YES... we can fly tomorrow! The rest is history once again.

So Helen arrived 8am this morning and off to Murray Bridge we drive. We had agreed we thought Robe would be a nice place to go to so I had done my appropriate flight planning, done my research on Google Earth and had a good idea what I was in for.



On the way up to Murray Bridge, Helen mentioned she really had to get some work done so I said as it would be about a 3 hour round trip to Robe and return we could do it easily. Well... as things often happen at Murray Bridge, we arrived and got chatting to other aviators either waiting to go for a fly or just back from a fly...



Tuesday, Dec 29	More Details
 Very hot with blazing sunshine. Winds from the SE at 9 km/h.	High: 36 °C Realfeel®: 38 °C
Tuesday Night, Dec 29	More Details
 Mild with a moonlit sky. Winds from the E at 11 km/h.	Low: 19 °C Realfeel®: 18 °C
Wednesday, Dec 30	More Details
 Very hot with blazing sunshine; extreme heat can be dangerous for outdoor activities. Winds from the NE at 11 km/h.	High: 40 °C Realfeel®: 41 °C
Wednesday Night, Dec 30	More Details
 Very warm with a moonlit sky. Winds from the NE at 11 km/h.	Low: 25 °C Realfeel®: 24 °C
Thursday, Dec 31	More Details
 Very hot with brilliant sunshine; extreme heat can be dangerous for outdoor activities. Winds from the W at 14 km/h.	High: 38 °C Realfeel®: 41 °C

Big hugs and kisses all round and once again, time was getting away from us. So we renegotiated and decided we would fly to Meningie and back via Wellington, that way at least we still get to see the sea and what a beautiful day for it. The take off fantastic... the winds in our favour, our ground speed is the same as our air speed – we will make good time.

So we see Meningie airfield in the distance and the township..."Mmm what say I just fly out to the water's edge and maybe, just a little way toward Kingston to enjoy a little bit of the water?" She agreed. Both of us are water signs so the sight of water and flying over it seemed to lull both of us into a time warp. Before we knew it, time was passing quickly and so was the ground underneath us.



"Oh LOOK... Kingston is only 16nm away... shall we go there?" Of course we both agreed. So we flew over the township for a quick look around and then decided to land on runway 20. After landing I pulled out the baby esky (just big enough for a Jabiru) and we had a lovely feast of cold fresh fruit. We had been greeted by a cute (but loud mouthed) dog. And then the owner Dennis came out to say hello. Greetings and pleasantries aside, we tucked into the fruit, were both indisposed for a 'wee' moment, and then back into Jabiru and home we headed.

"Goolwa Traffic, Jabiru 0949 overflying at 3500 tracking to Cape Jervis, Goolwa Traffic." Ah... a fellow Jabiru aviator whom we had spoken with before we left Murray Bridge and who was doing his 2nd navigation lesson.



"Jabiru 0949, Jabiru 3483". Jabiru 0949" he replied. "Hey... how are you going?" I asked. "Really good" he replied. So we did a quick switch to the *numbers* and furthered our chat about how perfect the day was, how the water was just glistening and where else would you want to be on a day like today. Chatting over with, we switched back to 126.7 and continued the radio watch for any other traffic in the area.



Finally we were approaching Murray Bridge airspace. I made the 10nm inbound radio call and began our descent. After such a beautiful, smooth flight, as the day was getting hotter, (by this time it was about noon) the ground temperature was certainly warming up and we were receiving our usual welcome to Murray Bridge circuit - thermals!

So negotiating the buffeting and letting the plane know who was boss, we joined the circuit for runway 20 completing it with a very smooth landing. Wheels on the ground, fuel pump off, flaps up... off to Bravo we taxi. Make the 'all runways vacated' call and taxi back to the hangar to put the plane away.

Once again we had a most awesome and enjoyable flight. It seemed appropriate that I spend my last flight of the year with my first passenger of the year... Helen, who has become a regular flying buddy on our many trips together and with the RPA family.

So Happy New Year to all of you, and here's to many more enjoyable flying hours ahead for 2010, many stories to share and experiences to learn from.

Thanks Helen for the photographs.