




# AirSport

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# BLUE SKIES AND APPLE PIES



By Scott Palmer

**In July, Bunbury Aero Club organised a fly-away to the Lily Dutch Windmill. Scott Palmer and Gerrit Nienaber joined the convoy in VH-EZT**

My last attempt to visit the PC9 at Albany was met with a wall of thunderstorms south of Bunbury, so I was very glad to have another opportunity to head back. The forecast was for bad weather all week, but on the day we were greeted with clear skies and a perfect weather forecast for the rest of the day, after a little morning fog.

Co-pilot Gerrit and I arrived at icy-cold Jandakot at 7am prepped for an early get-away in VH-EZT. Somehow luck never seems to go our way and - joy of joys - during the walk-around I discovered the landing light was loose. Fixing it caused a short delay, but soon we fuelled up and departed Jandakot to the south east heading out over Boddington Mine and direct to the Lily.

With a clear blue sky, the views were amazing. We had a tailwind to boot and arrived in just under an hour and a half after take off. The air was silky smooth the whole way and before long we found ourselves chatting with one of the BAC Cessnas as we approached the Lily. We overflew to get a good view of the strip then

dropped down to join the others on runway 32. I always find these little unpaved runways exciting. The approach for 32 was slightly uphill but I put EZT down happily and taxied up to the windmill, where a small group had formed to watch everyone else coming in. A few more arrived after us and we parked got out to take pictures of the amazing landscape. Wow what a view! This is definitely somewhere to come back to for a longer stay.

We were then distracted by the smell of apple pie and coffee and so headed inside for morning tea. The owner, Pleun, gave us a fascinating tour of the windmill. I was in Kinderdijk a few years back so I was expecting to see something similar; however, Pleun's windmill was something else - absolutely immaculate inside and out. The workmanship was incredible - this guy really has some skill and patience

Next up we had the briefing for Narrikup and then headed over to check out the Dakota where more amazing workmanship was on show. The Dakota is almost finished and the fit-out looks great. After watching the others depart, Gerrit took over the reins and we departed off runway 27 planning to fly around the ranges then head over the Porongurups then on to



The Dakota fit out looks great!

Narrikup. Again we were met with some striking views; however, the wind had picked up and it was a bit bumpy.

As we approached the Porongurups, we heard the same BAC Cessna on the radio approaching the circuit for Narrikup. To our surprise we then heard that the previous aircraft had had a problem on landing. We assumed they might have burst a tyre or something and so carried on around the Porongurups. We heard another radio call from an aircraft joining the circuit and then on downwind, another radio broadcast provided more info about the previous aircraft which was apparently damaged. We were told everyone was ok. The second aircraft made a go-around and headed back to Bunbury, and so we decided not to land and overflew the airfield first to get familiar with it for the future. What a fantastic looking runway! We had a 30kt headwind on the way back to Bunbury, so it took us 2.3 hours from wheels off at the Lily landing.

We landed at Bunbury, refuelled and went inside to catch up with the other pilots and grab a quick coffee before heading back to Jandakot. From Mandurah onwards the wind started to die down. It was a quiet afternoon at Jandakot so we were given a straight in for O6L, we landed and packed up the plane. What a day – five hours in the air.

I strongly recommend a visit to the Lily if you haven't been.

VH-EZT is owned by University Flying Club and the volunteers go to extraordinary lengths to provide an affordable entry into aviation for many pilots. The club is celebrating its 50th Birthday this month. If other pilots want to get involved in the club, and fly VH-EZT they should check out our website: [www.uniflying.org.au/](http://www.uniflying.org.au/) ➤



The Dakota's deck



The Lily Airfield

## THE LILY AIRFIELD

### STRIP INFORMATION

The airstrip is adjacent to the windmill and you are able to park your plane close to the accommodation.

For our fly-in accommodation visitors, hangar-space and a car may be available, please check. For general airstrip information and strip condition please call mobile 0427 279 206 or land-line 08 9827 9205.

We are 47 NM from Albany and 173 NM from Jandakot Airport (Perth).

Position: 34 deg. 13' 25" South, 118 deg. 12' 57" East.

Strip directions: 14-32 and 09-27.

Windsock: N/W of restaurant, WAC Chart 3463, Comm.

Freq: CTAF 126,7, UHF: channel 33, Elevation 650 AMSL.

Please check strip condition ON 0427 279 206,

Avgas/Mogas: by prior arrangement.

RUNWAY 14 - 32 Grass 660m - 14 slopes 2.5% down, tyre markers.

RUNWAY 09 - 27 Grass 900m - tyre markers, possible sheep, check.

Please check local weather and strip condition on Mobile 0427 279 206 or land-line 08 9827 9205.

