



NEWSLETTER: July, 2011

matt says

I must admit it is still exciting times within MHR. After the race announced it would be taking a break for a year, I was concerned that I would get bored, have nothing to do...that has turned out to be far from the truth.

While I have enjoyed spending a great deal more time at home than in previous years, I still feel like the year is flying by as I tackle all the great opportunities that keep popping up. Firstly, the time with the family has been great. Mitchell started school this year, so if there were a year to not be travelling around the world, this is it. We have also had the opportunity to do some great family activities, such as flying out to a pub in the Hunter Valley in a helicopter for lunch (Mitchell was my co-pilot, and he told Mum to sit in the back and relax!).

In the past few months we have not flown many displays in the race plane, though I have been quite active on the speakers circuit talking about my life as an Australian pilot, covering Recreational, Military and Professional spheres. We have discovered that the lessons I have learnt along the way not only relate to flying, but life in general, and the talks (along with the videos) have been a hit.

That then led us to a natural direction of expanding in the corporate speaking industry, and the question of "what can we offer that is unique within Australia?". The obvious answer was in the question that was constantly posed to us..."can we go for a fly with Matt in a race plane?". So, at the end of March this year we purchased an Extra 300L, and have spent the last three months getting it ready for work. We have had the inside and outside painted up to match the race plane from 2010. We also had the engine stripped and rebuilt by Riverina Air Motive, the guys in Adelaide who are currently looking after the race engine.

We finally got everything back to Cessnock at the end of June, and are now ready for action with it. We are initially targeting the corporate sector for the complete package of a Key Note talk and a number of flights, though we already have our expansion plans developing on how we can make the flights available to more people without burning me or the aircraft out!

Meanwhile, we have been tinkering away with the Race Plane, still looking at improving it little by little. We recently returned from Temora, where I did a display for the Temora Aviation Museum, though also adjusted some flight control settings and centre of gravity positions to improve the handling. For those in the Temora area, you may have seen me putting the aircraft through some aggressive manoeuvres at altitude while I was testing the changes to make sure they were acceptable. I then flew home from Temora with a ground speed of 290 kts (535 kph)! Reminded me of being in a fighter!!

We have quite a busy next six months coming up too. While we can't yet announce everything we have organised, suffice to say we have about 12 events on the cards by the end of the year for the Race Plane. That, along with the Extra, should keep us quite busy I expect.

We are also optimistic that there will be some progress on the rebirth of the Air Race in the next few months, which will also give us some projects to work on over the remainder of the year and into next year.

Last but definitely not least, our sponsors keep supporting us in a fantastic way.

Massel, our major sponsor, is excited about our direction and were involved in a great video and photo shoot late in April (see the video and photos on our website!).

We have completed an engine change on the race plane and had a new engine rebuilt for the Extra by Riverina Air Motive, race plane engine components have been ceramic coated by High Octane in Sydney, we continue to develop the wireless headsets and helmets we use with EQ1 Wireless, we have filmed many great videos with NFlightcam cameras, Race Art keeps both aircraft looking sharp with the branding, and we have just signed a deal with AeroShell through Shell Australia for product support.

All in all, the future looks bright for MHR, and we hope to be able to see as many Australians as possible over the next number of years.

Next major event is the Wide Bay International Air Show in Bundaberg....see you all there!!

Matt.

hot pic

This edition's *Hotpic* is courtesy of journalist and aviator, Owen Zupp.

NEW BABY – Matt's newly purchased and branded Extra 300L in the MHR corporate hangar at Cessnock, NSW



Images like this one can be found on www.matthallracing.com.

Rugby League star Kurt Gidley takes off with Matt Hall

He's used to tackling 100kg monsters on the rugby league field playing for the Newcastle Knights, NSW Blues and Australia but superstar Kurt Gidley now has an appreciation for the toughness and skill of Matt Hall.

Gidley joined Matt for an aerobatic flight of a lifetime over the Hunter region today, helping MHR launch our newly developed [Corporate Services](#) offering.

Gidley described the experience as incredible and said he felt more comfortable on the football field trying to bring down man mountain opponents.

"It was a great experience, it's the best I've had, it's the most extreme experience I've had," Gidley said.

"The pressure it puts on your body you can't describe it and I've got a huge appreciation for how Matt can still concentrate and fly.

"I'm much more comfortable on a footy field tackling someone like Petero (Civoneceva) than doing that."

More info on the Corporate Services speaking and joy flight side of the business can be found at our website [here](#).



- We are also developing a 'Unique Hunter Valley Getaway Package' too so make sure you head back to the website and click on the 'Services' tab in the coming months.
- We are very close to a number of announcements regarding major events that Matt will be flying and attending before the end of 2011. Hopefully we can let you all know by the end of August!
- As Matt alluded to above, the Team has signed a product supporters deal with AeroShell and are very grateful to be supported by the best products around.

sponsors & supporters

Matt Hall Racing wouldn't be what it is without the generous backing of our *Sponsors and Supporters*

SPONSORS



SUPPORTERS

