



THE CATALINA FLYING MEMORIAL LTD

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JANUARY 2008 UPDATE

As you all may know the purchase of PBY6A Catalina No. 46665 was all finalised and settled in Portugal last October. The aircraft was transferred to the Australian Register as VH-CAT, and issued with a ferry permit by CASA.

Our engineers, Geoff Hazelton, Mick O'Grady, Ray Molyneux and Julian Dinsdale spent many days in Seia inspecting and preparing the aircraft for its ferry flight to Australia.

The ferry crew, assisted by experts, Edwards Bros of UK and Roger Leeftang of Holland (where they operate their own CATS) conducted a number of local test flights in preparation for the trip to Australia.

Unfortunately, or fortunately as some have said, VH-CAT suffered an engine failure at Seia on the last test circuit before departure.

As Seia is at the foothills of the Sierra Mountains, winter snows have come and it has been difficult if not impossible to work on the aircraft. There is no hangar and work in the open in this climate is a problem until about mid march 2008.

In the meantime, we are trying to purchase a replacement engine – possibly two, as it is just as likely the other engine may suffer the same fate. Both engines have considerable times to run but have been left, unrun and unloved in the open for over six years. The P&W 1830-92 engines and propellers are identical to those used on the DC3 and they are available in various conditions in many countries around the world.

To overhaul our existing engines would cost about \$60,000ea and we can buy ones already overhauled for around \$75,000. On top of this, we need to have the propellers inspected in an approved propshop (another \$7,000ea).

Another proposal we are busily investigating is the purchase of a DC3 from which we could take the engines and propellers – provided they have some time left to suit our requirements. If we could find someone prepared to take the DC3 fuselage this could be a good economical solution. At present we are negotiating with 2 or 3 groups who may come to the party on this!

If anyone can help in any way we would greatly appreciate it. It's only money!



Philip Dulhunty OAM
Director