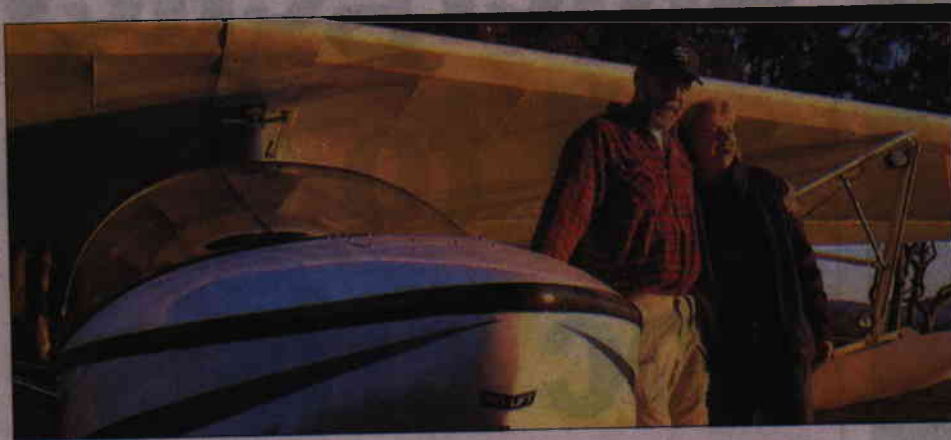


The Cairns Post

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2008 • \$1.10

NEWS

Sky-high adventure retraces captain's Catalina career



Flying visit: Peter Stuart-Smith and his wife Trish with the seaplane they will fly around the country to raise funds for a Catalina flying boat memorial.

THE son of a World War II Catalina captain has included Cairns on the itinerary of his trip to raise money to preserve the memory of the ungainly but much-loved flying boats.

Peter Stuart-Smith and his wife, Trish, plan to circumnavigate Australia in a small seaplane they have built.

Mr Stuart-Smith described the trip as a "combination of adventure, holiday, pilgrimage and, hopefully, a fundraiser for the Catalina Flying Memorial". The memorial

will be based at Rathmines at Lake Macquarie in NSW.

He planned to start the eight-week anti-clockwise journey on June 7, visiting all other significant World War II Catalina bases, including Bowen, Cairns, Thursday Island, Karumba, Groote Eylandt and Darwin.

He is expected in Cairns late in June.

Mr Stuart-Smith said he hoped to produce a documentary and possibly a coffee-table book from the trip, interviewing locals wherever possible.

Any proceeds from the book would go towards the memorial.

"My particular interest in the trip is to experience some of the places my father operated from as Catalina captain during World War II," he said.

Mr Stuart-Smith has issued an invitation to other pilots to join the trip, or part of it, and is also seeking accommodation during his stopovers.

➔ Anyone interested in joining the journey or helping can contact Mr Stuart-Smith on 0419 287 201 or email pstuartsmith@srf.com.au