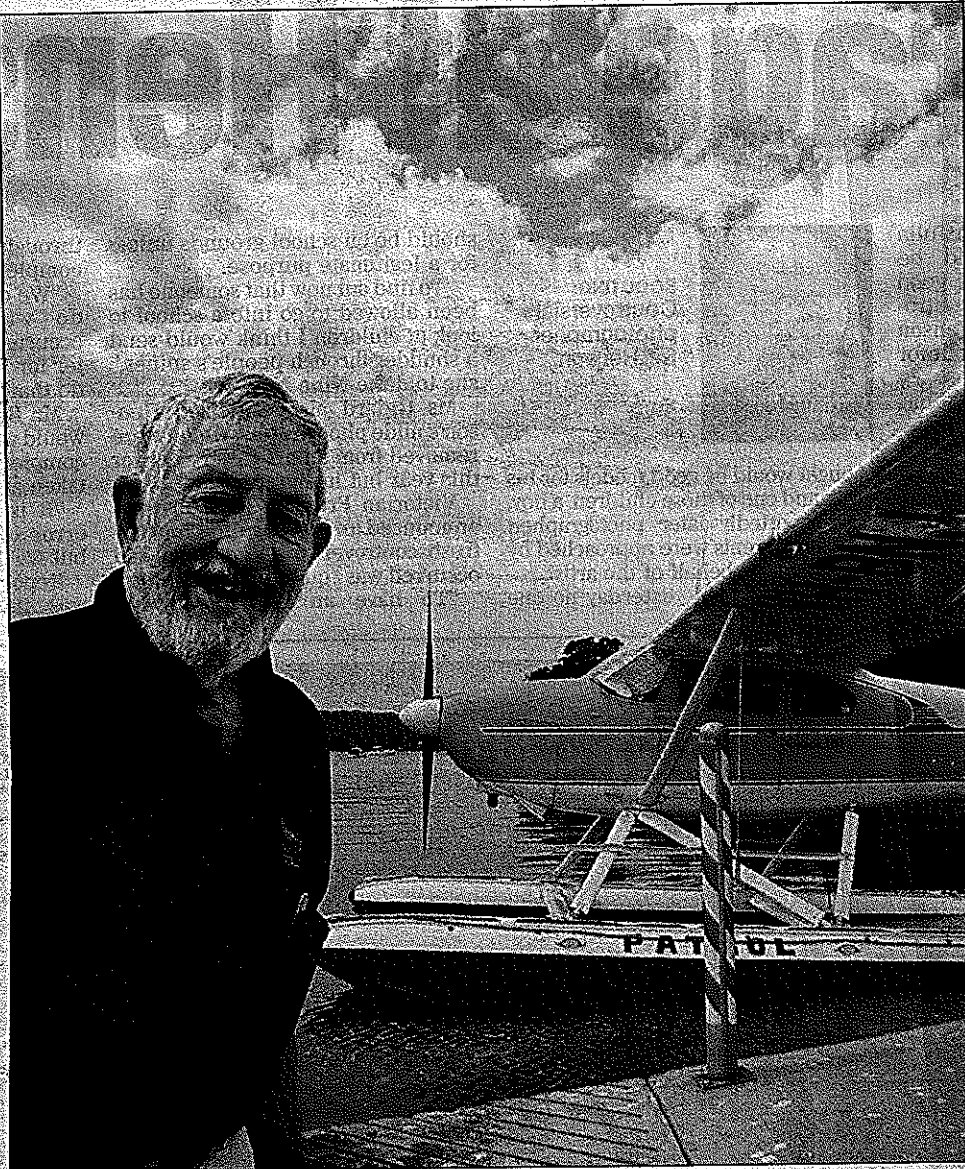


HERALD NEWS



FLY: Philip Dulhunty with his Cessna 180 at Rathmines.

— Picture by Ryan Osland

POOR weather hampered some events but didn't dampen spirits at the Rathmines Catalina Festival on Saturday.

More than 5000 people packed the banks of Rathmines for the annual festival's second year.

Run by the Catalina Flying Club, it aims to raise funds to bring a working Catalina to Australia. Money will go towards buying new engines for the club's new plane, which blew an engine six months ago.

Catalina dream not rained-in

Philip Dulhunty, of the Catalina Flying Memorial, said funds raised would be less than expected because of rain and wind.

The group hopes to attract a corporate partner to

supplement their funds.

"The festival went very well otherwise, considering the circumstances," he said.

Due to the weather, only two of the eight seaplanes scheduled to fly made it into the air.

Despite his best attempts, Peter Stuart-Smith, who has just finished a trip around Australia in a home-built seaplane with wife Trish, had to abandon his take-off.

Rathmines RAAF base trained 200 Catalina air crews during World War II.