



● Mr Williams and the Strikemaster jet will be offering joyrides and aerobatics from Albury airport this week.

Thrill seekers get to fulfil those *Top Gun* fantasies

By MEGAN CONNELLAN

EVER wanted to fulfil your dreams of being a fighter pilot like the *Top Gun* movie heroes Goose and Maverick?

A British Aerospace Strikemaster jet will be in Albury until Sunday to help people fulfil their fantasies of flying in a fighter jet just like Tom Cruise.

Australian Jet Adventures pilot Darren Williams said the

jet was made in 1972 and used by the New Zealand Air Force to train pilots in ground attack.

"Middle Eastern countries still use the Strikemasters in combat," Mr Williams said.

"We had such a positive response from the airshow here in March with 23 people taking to the skies, that we thought we'd return to offer more joy flights," he said.

"This really is a *Top Gun* adventure style flight where we

suit people up and do loops, rolls, wing overs, dives and G turns."

He said being in the air in the fighter jet was like being on a "rollercoaster on steroids".

Flying at top speed, the jet can make speeds of 800kmh and uses 1100 litres of fuel in an hour.

It costs more than \$100 to just to start the jet but the war-bird is kept in top shape.

Australian Jet Adventures is

based in Ballarat and averages six flights each weekend.

"We took Molly Meldrum for a flight and he loved it," Mr Williams said.

"When you are up on the fighter jet, you really get to see the world in a different perspective, it's great," he said.

People interested in flying high in the fighter jet can contact Mr Williams at The Air Centre in Albury or by calling Christine on 0417 142 227.