

# Life's twists and turns get even better

By KRISTY GRANT

I HAVE to admit that I was excited, but also a little apprehensive, as I climbed the ladder to take my seat in the Yak 52 fighter plane.

When the pilot started to talk about G-forces and I was being strapped into an unusually large harness my heart was racing and my lunch was not feeling very settled.

I assured myself that I had jumped out of a plane skydiving and had been in a micro-light, this would be a breeze!

Warning signs all over the cockpit made me realise just what I was getting myself into.

As the Yak 52 taxied up the runway of Albury Airport I began mentally preparing myself for my session of aerobatics over Lake Hume.

I could hear the pilot talking with the air traffic control tower and with a top speed of 434kmh, this was going to be the flight of a lifetime.

The Yak can "pull" a G-force of seven, or seven times the force of gravity,

and has the capacity for unlimited aerobatics.

Once we were up in the air my nerves settled a little and as we completed our first barrel roll I had decided I was enjoying myself.

The view over Lake Hume, which is always amazing, took on a totally new perspective upside down.

I was amazed at how smooth the rollovers were and had stopped clenching the seat by that stage.

I had been advised to keep my eyes open and watch as we rolled and flipped our way over the lake.

It was truly exhilarating at 4000ft and upside down over the weir wall.

I was transfixed on the feeling of being so free up there and when the pilot radioed that we were on our way back to the airport I must admit I was ready for more.

● Kristy Grant's flight in the Yak 52 was donated by Australian Jet Adventures based in Ballarat. For more information, phone Christine Segaert on 0417 142 227.



ABOVE: Michael Howard and his son Jacob, 6, from Wagga look to the skies during the air show.

RIGHT: Advance Australia Fair: the Australian flag arrives in flying style.

LEFT: The Navy Seahawk helicopter lands after thrilling the crowd with a flyby.

