

through the lens

Master of the skies



Australian Jet Adventures has operated its British Aerospace Strikemaster out of Ballarat Airport for the past three years. Starting at \$1395 for a flight, it's not cheap entertainment, but it certainly gets the heart pumping and the adrenalin flowing, as photographer JEREMY BANNISTER discovered when he went along for a ride with pilot Darren De Roia.



Boys and their toys: Pilot Darren De Roia is living the dreams of many young boys — flying a British Aerospace jet for a living. 130204xp65



On a roll: Darren De Roia barrel rolls wing over wing above the outskirts of Ballarat. 130204xp6c



On its way: The Strikemaster's landing gear retracts into its underbelly seconds after takeoff at Ballarat Airport. 130204xp6a



Pumped: Passenger Keith Anderson, from Sunbury, walks across the tarmac to take his place on board the Strikemaster. 130204xp6a



Warning: Safety is paramount when working with machines as big and as powerful as this. 130204xp6e



What a view: Very few Ballarat residents get to see their city from this angle. For pilot Darren De Roia, it's all in a day's work. 130204xp7c



Cop this: A surge of jet-fuelled fumes fires out the back of the Strikemaster. 130204xp7d