



Ryan Campbell received critical injuries in the Tiger Moth plane crash yesterday. Gold Coast

## **World record heights to fatal plane crash, the stories of Ryan Campbell and Gary Turnbull**

Lexie Cartwright, Gold Coast Bulletin  
December 29, 2015 12:00am

TWO lives were changed forever by a single plane crash at Pimpama yesterday, here are their stories.

### **Famous young pilot Ryan Campbell**

HE once held the world record for being the youngest pilot to fly solo around the world.

Now Ryan Campbell, 21, is in hospital with serious injuries after the Tiger Moth he was piloting yesterday crashed at Pimpama, killing 58-year-old Gary Turnbull of Couotts Crossing, near Grafton.



Ryan Campbell pictured at aged 17.

The Merimbula pilot, who has been working for Tiger Moth Joy Rides for less than a month as operations manager, made headlines in mid-2013 when he won the world record as the youngest pilot to fly solo around the world and was also the first teenager to complete the feat.

He did it in 70 days, making 34 stops in 15 countries and spending 200 hours in the air in his plane Spirit of the Sapphire Coast.



A Tiger Moth crashed at Pimpama killing one man and injuring another. Picture: Richard Gosling

He moved to the Gold Coast a month ago to take up the job with Tiger Moth Joy Rides, barely having the chance to settle in before tragedy struck.

Starting out small, working at a supermarket when he was 14, Mr Campbell spent all his earnings on flying lessons and gained his licence by the time he was 17, two years later breaking the world record.



Pilot Ryan Campbell (left) in the Tiger Moth. Picture: Facebook

Mr Campbell worked with adventurer Dick Smith and Ken Evers of Bendigo in the lead-up to his global expedition after gaining media attention for attempting to break a world record.

Having built a profile for himself, Mr Campbell now spends his spare time talking to teens on school tours as a motivational speaker and raises money to help other youngsters become involved in aviation.

His love of flying came off the back of a family trip to Vanuatu when he was six.

It was his first time in a plane.

Mr Campbell's mum, Lindsay Campbell, has been quoted as saying he didn't stop smiling for days.

A love for flying has been passed down through the generations, with Mr Campbell's grandfather forming a passion for aviation after he was lucky enough to fly with Charles Kingsford-Smith, who became world-famous in 1928 when he made the first trans-Pacific flight from the United States to Australia.



Pilot Ryan Campbell with Prince William.

Mr Campbell's uncle Andy is a commercial pilot while father Lindsay also learnt to fly when his son took a liking to it.

His older brother Adam now has a commercial licence and middle brother Chris also picked up the skill.

Kenneth Evers, who flew around the world in 2010, nominated Mr Campbell for the Pride of Australia Young Leader Medal last year.

He has also met the Duke of Cambridge, Prince William, after he broke the world record.

Mr Campbell's world record was beaten by 19-year-old Matt Guthmiller in 2014. He is just 10 days younger than Mr Campbell.

## **Tragic plane crash killed NSW father Gary Turnbull**

THE victim of yesterday's plane crash tragedy has been described as a "very good guy" whose loss will be sorely missed.

Gary Turnbull was a long-time local of Coutts Crossing near the NSW town of Grafton.

Mr Turnbull's death has shocked the small community.



Gary Turnbull.

“It’s terrible news,” one local said. “We’ve known him for ages and he’s a lovely bloke.

“We see him and his family around town all the time.

“He worked for the railways, then retired and went back to work driving trains.”

The father-of-two’s social media accounts show an adventurous man who loved the outdoors and his family.



A woman, believed to be Mr Turnbull’s daughter, is comforted at the scene. Picture: David Clark

His Facebook page shows pictures of him paragliding over the ocean at Minnie Waters in northern NSW last year.

“Hi ‘birdman’! Do you ever come down?” one friend posted.

Clarence Valley Mayor and Coutts Crossing local Richie Williamson said it would be a devastating loss for the small town.



Gary Turnbull in a photo from his Facebook profile.

“I offer my absolute condolences to the family at this very sad time,” he said.

“I’d say the township of Coutts will be grieving his loss.

“He’s been a resident here for a long time.



Gary Turnbull.

“He was a very good guy — one of the fellas — didn’t mind a beer at the pub.

“It’s very sad news indeed.”

Mr Turnbull’s family have been too distraught to speak and it is believed his youngest daughter is planning an early return from a holiday to Europe.



The wreckage of the Tiger Moth which crashed at Pimpama. Picture: Richard Gosling

Extracted from:

<http://www.goldcoastbulletin.com.au/news/gold-coast/world-record-heights-to-fatal-plane-crash-the-stories-of-ryan-campbell-and-gary-turnbull/news-story/61c54ac3dd29215866552f6c14ffe8dd>

On 29/08/16 at 11:49:12