

Lancefield plane crash: Two people dead after light plane disaster in Macedon Ranges

A flying instructor and student killed in a light plane crash in the Macedon Ranges, north of Melbourne, were both experienced pilots with hours of flying time between them.

The Brumby 600, which is a single-engine two-seater sports type light plane, took off from Penfield Flight School airfield in Sunbury on Saturday morning.



A light plane has crashed killing two men. *Photo: Paul Jeffers*

Penfield Flight School owner Vince Goulthorpe said the pilot had extensive industry experience with many flying hours.

"The student was a man from Sydney who already had a flying licence," Mr Goulthorpe said.

"He was changing his licence from VH to light aircraft."



Dick Ryan owns the property where the Brumby 600 crashed. *Photo: Paul Jeffers*

Mr Goulthorpe said he did not believe there was anything wrong with the aircraft.

"It is an excellent flying school," he said.

"We haven't had any trouble with the plane, we haven't had any trouble with the pilot."

A witness to the crash thought he was watching an aerial aerobatics display before realising that the aircraft was doomed.

Chris Woodroofe owns a property next to the Lancefield horse stud farm, near the corner of Kyneton-Lancefield and Shannons roads, where the crash happened. He said he saw the plane fly high in the air, like it was preparing for a stunt.

"I thought it was doing aerobatics and it went into a spiral," Mr Woodroofe said.

"I said to my wife Allison: 'Come and have a look at this'. But she said: 'I don't think that's aerobatics, that plane is in trouble'," he said.

Mr Woodroofe said there was a chance the plane's engine failed.

"It was very quiet when it was spiralling, I think, but I can't be certain," he said.

He said the couple saw the plane as low as 50 metres from the ground.

"We heard it hit the ground and there was a kind of 'pop' sound and then black smoke," Mr Woodroofe said.

He said by the time they had run to the crash site three or four neighbours were already trying to help.

"I suppose we were hoping that whoever was in there might have been able to jump out," he said.

"There wasn't much left of it and it was only a little plane," he said. "We are in shock, it is totally surreal.

"You go to an aerodrome and up you go. It is seen as a fun thing, you don't expect not to come home. It is a very sad day," he said.

Extracted from:

<http://www.theage.com.au/victoria/lancefield-plane-crash-two-people-dead-after-light-plane-disaster-in-macedon-ranges-20160409-go2eeg.html>

On 09/04/16 at 18:55:11