

Experienced aviators Robert and Owen Dull died in light plane crash

The bodies of experienced Australian aviators and brothers Robert and Owen Dull have been recovered after their light plane crashed on Sunday.



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Robert Dull, pictured, and his brother Owen died when their plane crashed on Sunday. *Source: Facebook*

Two brothers have been killed after their light plane crashed in rugged bushland on the NSW-Queensland border on Sunday.

Aviators Robert Dull, 68, and Owen Dull, 61, died in a plane Robert had spent many years building as a passion project, family members said.

In a statement, family members said the aircraft was award-winning and had met all regulatory requirements.

“Both men had flown light aircraft for more than 30 years,” the family’s statement said.

“Robert is survived by his wife, three adult sons, their spouses and four grandchildren. Owen is survived by his wife.

“We would like to thank all of those involved in the search and recovery efforts for Robert and Owen in difficult conditions.”

The two experienced pilots had taken off in the single-engine aircraft from Casino Airport about 2pm on Sunday en route to Boonah over the border in Queensland. But they never arrived.

A co-ordinated search followed and the wreckage of the aircraft was located by Westpac Rescue Helicopter this morning in the Koreelah National Park.

NSW police rescue and SES volunteers went to the area on foot, with officers arriving at the crash site about 3pm and confirming the two men had died.

The Wittman Tailwind is constructed with a steel tubing fuselage, wooden wings and fabric covering. Family said it had won a number of awards.

Home builders need to have their kit planes checked by an engineer and complete test flights away from populated areas before they can be flown regularly, Civil Aviation Safety Authority spokesman Peter Gibson told AAP.

“It’s a basic plane. but it is regulated,” Mr Gibson said on Monday.

Any investigation into the crash will be conducted by the Australian Transport Safety Bureau.

It’s likely the bureau will examine if weather conditions or poor visibility played a part in the crash.

Extracted from: <https://www.news.com.au/national/nsw-act/news/experienced-aviators-robert-and-owen-dull-died-in-light-plane-crash/news-story/e6300e2f50d433f39828f1001111dcbd> On 13/01/20 at 19:55:12