

WARNING: If you own a telephone or a computer you must read the following article

Beware of 'snake oil' salesmen/scammers

The u-beaut scammers from across the waters/ocean have been at it again. A number of Narromine residents have received phone calls over the holiday period from people supposedly representing Microsoft support advising that there is something wrong with the home computer. They can be very convincing even providing a local (Victorian) phone number. The name can be Nick, Robert or similar Anglo name but the accent does not equate. Dead giveaway!

It really does beg the question why would Microsoft contact a person, particularly by phone, in, say downtown Narromine, from billions of other users worldwide to notify them of a problem with the computer. They simply do not conduct business in this way. And how would they know there was something wrong anyway! If you received a call from an unknown source be polite but tell them you are not interested.

Flat Chat News editor too had a phone call at home but soon the caller was in a bit of a flap when I said, 'I don't know which computer you mean as I have 27.' The little chap got very excited and said he had to talk to his supervisor and would phone back. Robert, the supervisor called back in due time. A mildly amusing conversation ensued. We discovered that the caller knew my middle name and had the licence number of our computer. We asked for their phone number so that we could phone back. The phone number had a Victorian prefix which can lull some people into thinking it is a genuine call. These numbers are simply redirected to call centres across the ocean and in the middle of Asia somewhere.

Flat Chat News has run a number of articles warning people that these kinds of calls are nothing but a scam.

You can access the scamwatch website at www.scamwatch.gov.au which provides information on how to recognise and help prevent scams.

You can also obtain the little black book of scams from Mark Coulton's office in Dubbo by phoning (02)6882 0999.

Remember: These people are not there to help you but to simply take your money.

We received this email this morning. It is another attempt to hack into computer systems.

Dear User flatchat@flatchatnews.com.au
Your e-mail account needs to be improved with our new F-Secure (r) HTK4S anti-virus/anti-spam 2011-version.

Provide required information's below or your account will be temporarily excluded from our services.

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Please note that your password is encrypted with 1024-bit RSA keys for increased security.
Technical Support

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Looks legit doesn't it!
Do not provide anyone with your password or credit card details. If you want to buy something over the internet use PayPal.

Letter To The Editor



Eric Hayden, Founder of the Wright Flyer Replica project, co-builder and maintenance release officer, writes to the Editor.

Yet another year has passed and we see the 'Spirit of Flight', Wright Flyer replica is still sitting in a state of disarray.

When is the Wright Bros Aircraft (WBA) committee going to face reality and place this amazing piece of Narromine aviation history under the management of the Narromine Aviation Museum?

The Wright Flyer was built with love, along with dollar for dollar research money, knowledge, skill, dedication and community help. If the Wright Flyer could speak now, I'm sure it would just say 'Help!'

My father, Keith Hayden, and I were always proud to show the "Spirit" to visitors and explain how it was built. Now with the modifications we don't wish to be involved with it as it is because it is no longer the aircraft we built, remembering that I was the one who signed the maintenance release which allowed it to fly in 2005 and kept it airworthy until the

Avalon Airshow, after which politics started.

On January 4, 2011 Kim Bradbrook from the Shuttleworth Trust in England, one of the largest collections of flying vintage aircraft in the world, visited us in Narromine seeking knowledge of Wright Flyers, he also visited Bill Whitney engineer for the replica (also engineer for the Vickers Vimmy, Southern Cross and Avro Avion replicas). They have a copy of Bill Whitney's blueprints, and are currently building a flyer under the guidance of Bill Whitney and myself.

They have purchased a Coventry Climax engine from New Zealand, and are progressing well.

Money is no object with their build, there is a vast team of qualified people working on it, and, doing as Bill and I advise.

The Narromine Wright Bros Aircraft committee is running out of time fast! The original team and myself put Narromine in the lead worldwide with Wright aircraft. It would be a shame to throw that lead away.

Please, WBA, just gracefully place the entity in trust with Narromine Shire Council, and let the Narromine Aviation

Museum handle management, thus, the Wright Flyer will regain the support of the Hayden/Whitney team, and the Flyer's plea for "Help" will be answered.

Background comment:
The Wright flyer replica first flew in 2005 and again in 2006. it has accumulated a number of hours of flying time and it has appeared in a Japanese advertising campaign for carbon fibre.

The flyer has certainly proved to the world that it can fly.

Perhaps it is time now (12 years hence) that the flyer is restored to its original condition and displayed in an appropriate space for all to enjoy.

The Wright Brothers committee has had over 10 years to get it flying again and has failed.

Discussion and debate need to take place to come up with the most appropriate plan for the flyer for the benefit of the whole of the Narromine Shire. Ed.

Flat Chat News invites comment from all sides of the argument. Write to PO Box 407 or email flatchat@flatchatnews.com.au

The next Flat Chat News will be published on Wednesday 8 February and the deadline is 1 February
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