

# Student project is plane sailing



**FLYING HIGH:** Toogoolawah State High School students proudly launched the school's newest educational initiative, the Aviation Structured Work Experience program, last week.

PHOTO: TOM THREADINGHAM

By **TOM THREADINGHAM**

THE sky is the limit for Toogoolawah State High.

With the aid of knowledgeable 'airheads', students have soared into the world of aviation hoping to one day see the fruits of their labours gliding high.

Six eager students converged on the Watts Bridge Airfield last Wednesday to officially launch the school's newest educational initiative, the Aviation Structured Work Experience program.

Under the watchful eye of airfield staff and volunteers, the students will get a hands-on insight into the world of aviation and will work on First World War planes.

Toogoolawah State High will push the program higher, with plans to get the students to build their own

plane from scratch.

Project leader Watts Bridge Airfield member Bruce Clarke said Toogoolawah High's work experience program was a great opportunity for students.

"It's hands on, it's flight engineering and it encompasses all engineering to do with engines and aeroplanes," Mr Clarke said.

"It's not just one section and I think it's a good learning envelope."

Toogoolawah High is applying under the Anzac Centenary Local Grants Program to extend the work experience program at the airfield.

The school hopes students will build a working, flying replica of the Red Baron's famous First World War tri-plane in time to celebrate the Anzac

Centenary next year.

Mr Clarke said the idea of involving students had always been on his mind.

"I've seen schools in the USA where they actually take on building an aerorplane and there's even a girls school in the US that have done it," he said.

A grant would help to fund the \$30,000 cost of the kit for the Foker DR1 Tri-plane.

Toogoolawah High student Max Sabti said he had always loved planes and jumped at the chance to learn more.

"I've wanted to be a pilot ever since I was four," Max said.

"I've always loved planes and I'm looking forward to the day when we stand back and look at a completed Red Baron Foker tri-plane and say 'we just made that guys'."