



AIRCRAFT PROFILE

VH-BOB

CA-18 Mustang Mk 21

Australia

Commonwealth Mustang A68-104. Wheels-up in 2008, flying again from Point Cook since January 2023.

TYPE	Commonwealth CA-18 Mustang Mk 21
CONSTRUCTOR'S NO.	1429
RAAF SERIAL	A68-104
BUILT	September 1947, Fishermans Bend
CIVIL REGISTRATION	VH-BOB, 26 February 1976
BASE	Point Cook, Victoria
STATUS	Flying again since 26 January 2023

History

A68-104, constructor's number 1429, was built by the Commonwealth Aircraft Corporation at Fishermans Bend in September 1947 and accepted by the RAAF on 18 November. It flew from East Sale between 1950 and 1955, logged 551 hours, and was stored at Tocumwal.

In 1960 it was sold for scrap and sat at Bankstown and Mascot. In 1962 it was with Sepal and Adastral at Mascot, still in open storage. In April 1964 Dr Tony Fisher bought it, made it airworthy, and flew it for a few years in RAAF markings with the call-sign NA-68. Bob Eastgate bought it in October 1970. It sat at Jerilderie for three years while a weekend crew brought it up to ferry standard. Jack MacDonald flew it to Essendon on 10 March 1973 for a rebuild that put a second seat where the fuselage tank had been.

It went on the civil register as VH-BOB on 26 February 1976 and first flew in those marks the same day, painted as A68-104. From 1994 it operated on an air operator's certificate from Point Cook, taking passengers, with volunteer engineers at RAAF Williams doing the maintenance.

On 5 April 2008 it landed wheels-up on the grass at Point Cook. Nobody was hurt, but the rebuild took fifteen years. Bob Eastgate died on 1 July 2020, still the owner. The Mustang flew again at Essendon on 26 January 2023, with Peter Clements, in RAAF markings. It was active in 2026 and is flown from Point Cook by Mustang Joy Flights.

