



AIRCRAFT PROFILE

VH-XLV

Cessna 208 Supervan 900

Wilton, NSW

1985 Caravan, twice wrecked in Alaska, rebuilt at Bankstown as a 900 hp Supervan. Still a jump ship in 2026.

TYPE	Cessna 208 Caravan, Supervan 900
SERIAL	20800053
BUILT	1985, as N9438F
CONVERSION	Honeywell TPE331-12JR, 900 hp, four-blade prop
OPERATOR	Mobile Carpet Cleaning Factory
STATUS	Still flying, 2026

History

20800053 was built in 1985 with a 650 hp PT6A and registered N9438F to Hermens / MarkAir Express. On 19 December 1987 it failed to stay airborne at Bethel, Alaska — ice, a tailwind and a loading that was out of limits — and the nosewheel collapsed in the snow. It was repaired.

On 3 September 1991, at Dillingham, the engine failed after the oil dipstick was fitted incorrectly on the pre-flight. The pilot put it down in the tundra and it nosed over. Repaired again, it passed to Styles Aviation in 1992 and, in 2001, to Aire Express as a jump ship. It was later seen derelict and without an engine in Florida and New Jersey.

The US registration was cancelled on 9 September 2010 and the airframe was exported to Australia as VH-XLV. CJ Aerospace at Bankstown fitted the Texas Turbines Supervan 900 conversion, exchanging the PT6 for a 900 hp Honeywell TPE331-12JR and a four-blade propeller.

It has stayed with Mobile Carpet Cleaning Factory, flying as a Sydney Skydivers jump ship. Through 2026 it was still working short parachute sorties from Moruya, and from Wilton.