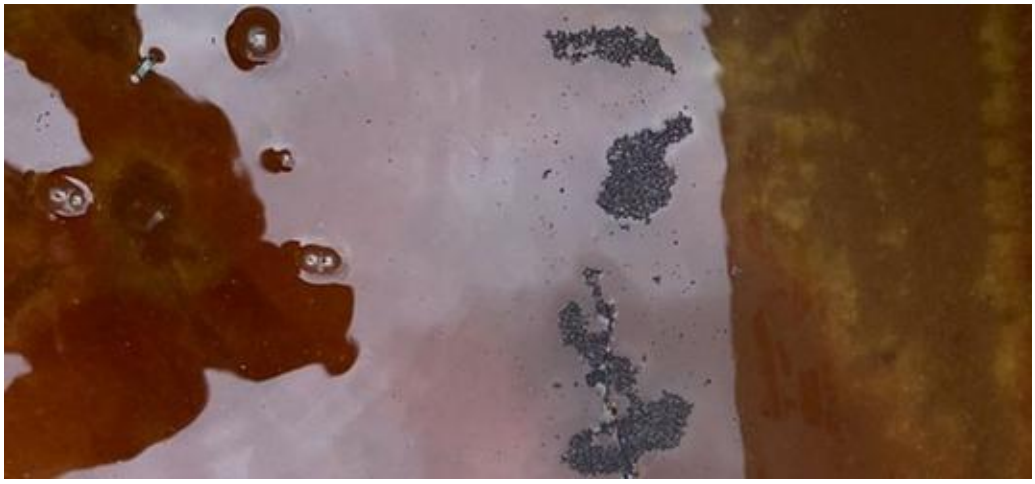
Unleaded fuel and quiet planes long overdue over Point Cook

Poems and photos by Joseph "Joe" Schembri, compiled in Joe's words by Elizabeth O'Brien, The LEAD Group, including in to Volcano Art Prize entries, from emails and phonecalls with Joe between July and October 2026

Joe Schembri: In the photo (below) you can see black particles from aircraft flying low overhead Point Cook, Victoria, residential area, as the local pilot training school uses the Australian Commonwealth Air Force's Fly Neighbourly Policy / "Good Neighbourly Policy" as a front or an illusion that would hide the truth.



2026 Volcano Art Prize (VAP) Entry. Click on the image to hear the song while you read the song lyrics in the poem below. Artist: Joe Schembri. Title: **Tin Can with Wings.** Lead-Safety Message: For 30 years my neighbours withheld that their aircraft used leaded fuel (AvGas). In the photo, black particles are floating in a concrete pit. The small particles are attracted to each other and join together as shown. These particles came from the exhaust from piston-engine aircraft (PEAs) of the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology (RMIT) Aviation Academy at Point Cook Airfield, flying circuits over my property. Description of Work: photo and poem by Joe Schembri with song of the poem composed, arranged and performed by Agentic AI as Orchestrated by Lucas Schembri.

Tin Can with Wings

Poem by Joe Schembri

Tin can with wings
Yes wings.
Flying in the sky.
Tin can has a sound.
The sound that is raw.
The sound is loud.
This tin can with wings
Pretending to be a bird
Be a bird flying in the sky.
The bird flying in the sky

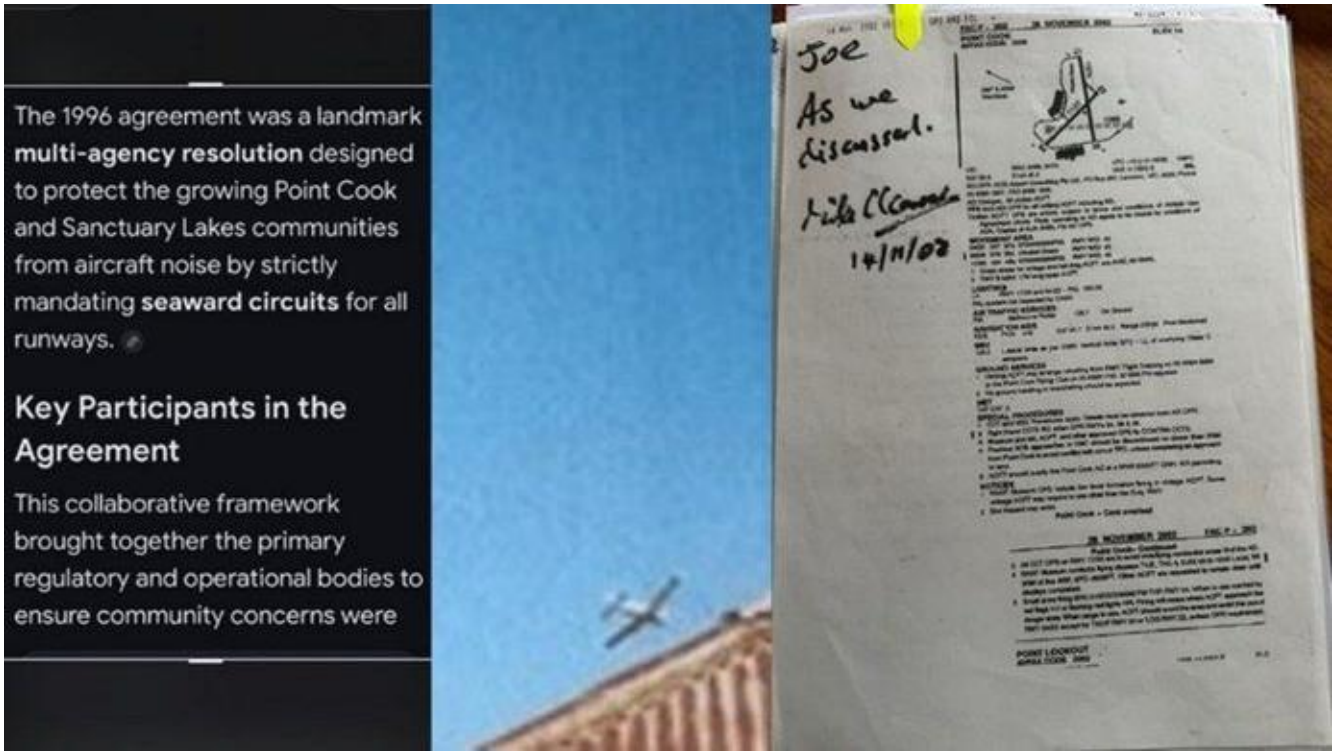
Flying in the sky.
The birds are honest
Honest birds sounds
Sounds different nothing to hide
Nothing to hide under its wings.
Bird sounds are not raw,
Bird sounds are not loud.
Bird sounds are gentle
Gentle all the time.
Straight away you can tell the difference between the tin can with wings and a bird flying in the sky.
Flying in the sky.
The flying tin can with wings has been hidden a secret in the sky.
Thirty years hidden their secrets from the sky.
Wild birds are honest
Honest nothing to hide.
The birds leave their mark.
Leave their mark
By giving back
Yes giving back to the place they have been.
Giving back on their journey,
But on the other hand.
On the other hand
The flying tin can high in the sky.
High in the sky.
Your secret has been uncovered
Uncovered hidden in the sky.
Thirty years of Deception
Thirty years of telling a lie.
Thirty years of Good Neighbourly policy.
Good Neighbourly policy just a lie.
Yes a Lie!
Lie!
Thirty years our leader telling us lies!
Thirty years of seaward circuits
Seaward circuits that failed to be delivered
Thirty years of dark particles
Dark particles raining down from the sky.
Raining down on our Children.
Raining down.
Our leaders knew
Yes our leaders knew.

Our leaders knew of the facts
The facts that dark particles harm our Children
Harm our Children
Harm our Children while they play.
Our leaders knew
Yes our leaders knew.
But it was so easy
To look the other way.
Our leaders eyes were fixed
Eyes were fixed
Our leaders eyes were fixed to the tin can in the sky.
Our leaders couldn't see the Children!
Children!
Our leaders eyes were fixed to the sky.
The tin can with wings flying in the sky.
Children were playing
Playing while dark particles
Dark particles rained from the sky.
Our leaders knew
Our leaders failed
Our leaders lied
So the tin can with wings can fly in the sky .
Tin can flying in the sky.
Our leaders eyes were fixed to the tin can with wings
In the sky.
Our leaders failed us
Failed us many times over.
Thirty years of lies.
Failing to protect our children
Failed to stop the dark particles
Dark particles raining on our Children
Good Neighbourly policy
What a lie
Lies
Yes lies
That keep the tin can flying in the sky
Yes lies in the sky
Lies in the sky
My family and others families at Point Cook
Was told lies and they covered over with words.
The Good Neighbourly policy
Is only a shopfront for their lies

Our leaders failed us,
They knew and said nothing
To warn us of the harm
Of lead contamination
Because they allowed aircraft
To fly over children.

https://volcanoartprize.com/portfolio-item/tin-can-with-wings/ [LID 29890]

PicturepRoducts prize winner



2026 Volcano Art Prize (VAP) Entry. Click on the image to hear the song while you read the song lyrics in the poem below. Artist: Joe Schembri. Title: **Game they Play.** Lead-Safety Message: In 2002, I received a fax from Canberra that clearly indicates pilots from RMIT Aviation Academy at Point Cook Airfield were instructed to fly away from the residential homes. When I sent it to the operational manager of the airfield, within 30 minutes the aircraft that were flying circuits over my property, decided to bombard me with aircraft flying over my home - flying north, south, east or west as if I was in a war zone. Until recently I didn't know their piston-engine aircraft (PEAs) all use leaded AvGas. Description of Work: photos and poem by Joe Schembri with song of the poem composed, arranged and performed by Agentic AI as Orchestrated by Lucas Schembri.

Game they Play

Poem by Joe Schembri

The illusion of many hides the truth.

Through words and scripts they set the move.
Victims are chosen before it begins.
A silent border where nobody wins.
Like a chess game without any rules.
Power moves made behind closed rooms
Authorities hold the upper hand covering up
The change with careful plans.
And why should truth be pushed away?
Why does illusion lead the day?

It's the game they play
High stakes every day
Creating fires creating fear
Then acting like they weren't here
Hiding the truth behind the stage
Turning the silence in to a cage
It's the game they play
And the truth gets lost away.

Script writers lead with their pens in hand
Lines are drawn across the land,
Like sheep they follow, heads held low
Nobody asks what they all know.
They release the dogs to round up strays,
Calling order in different ways
The culture and the boys club stays
Still alive in real time today.
Like the Trojan horse, they roll it in
Systems of cover and power within.
Many choose to look away
Because the bully still walks today
The walls stay high, the door gets closed.
Truth gets buried never exposed.

It's the game they play
The illusion remains
High stakes moving piece by piece
While the noise never brings release
But hiding truth won't make it fade
Every script these marks they've made
It's the game they play
But truth still finds its way.

https://volcanoartprize.com/portfolio-item/game-they-play/ [LID 29952]

Game they Play

Poem by Joe Schembri

The illusion of many hides the truth.
Through words and scripts they set the move.
Victims are chosen before it begins.
A silent border where nobody wins.
Like a chess game without any rules.
Power moves made behind closed rooms
Authorities hold the upper hand covering up
The change with careful plans.
And why should truth be pushed away?
Why does illusion lead the day?
It's the game they play





2026 Volcano Art Prize (VAP) Entry. Click on the image to hear the song while you read the song lyrics in the poem below. Artist: Joe Schembri. Title: **Pilots and Our Leaders**. Lead-Safety Message: Piston-engine aircraft (PEAs) of the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology (RMIT) Aviation Academy were supposed to fly seaward from Point Cook Airfield, but instead they fly over residents, making noise and dropping lead emissions on children, reducing their learning abilities. When RMIT was training Chinese pilots in a circuit, aircraft flew over our home every minute. Description of Work: Point Cook TV screenshots from "Airfield Anger" news article, Wyndham TV, 5th Nov 2018 showing Joe Schembri and map graphic, from https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=191993791717795 ; collaged with photo (of leaded AvGas PEA over Joe's home) and poem by Joe Schembri with song of the poem composed, arranged and performed by Agentic AI as Orchestrated by Lucas Schembri.

Pilots and Our Leaders

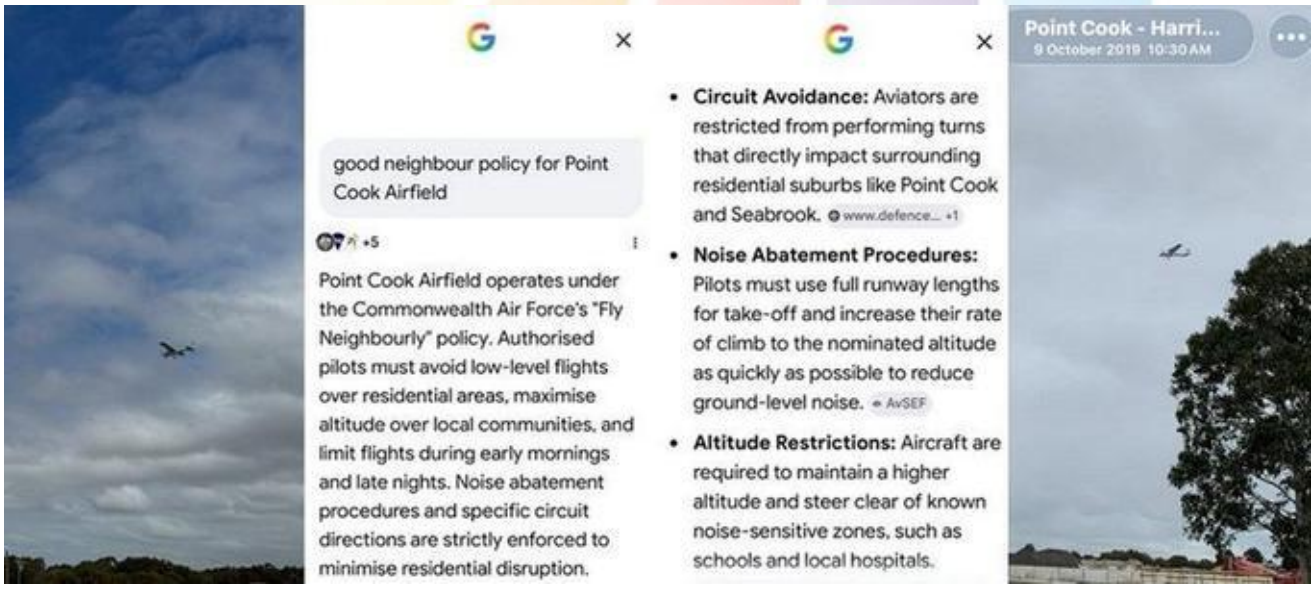
Poem by Joe Schembri

Pilots and our leaders think
Children don't matter anymore,
While planes fly in the sky
Children.
Yes Children don't matter anymore
While planes flyin' in the sky.

Yes,
Children don't matter anymore.
Planes try to fly like birds in the sky,
But they're only metallic.
Yes - metallic.
A tin can with wings.
Their sounds are raw and bloody loud.
As they fly in the sky.
Leaving a tail of metallic grey
Yes grey particles falling from the sky.
Children don't matter anymore,
While planes fly in the sky.
Yes!
Yes today, Children don't matter anymore
While planes fly in the sky.
Be real.
Yes today. Children don't matter anymore.
We are told that pilots and our leaders do care about Children.
That is a lie.
They lie to keep the tin can with wings flying in the sky.
Our leaders don't care about Children
Pilots don't care about Children.
Why!
Yes why?
There is so much space.
Why planes fly over Children?
There is so much space.
Why fly over Children?
There are other places to fly.
Our leaders failed us.
Our leaders don't care about our Children.
Pilots failed us.
Pilots don't care about our Children.
Good Neighbourly policy is a lie.
Good Neighbourly policy is just another one of their lies.
Our leaders and pilots look the other way
They want the tin can with wings to fly in the sky .
Children don't matter anymore.
While planes fly in the sky.
The raw and deafening sound of the tin can with wings.
Covering up the sound of the Children playing.
Children playing.

Children don't matter anymore.
While our leaders and pilots look the other way.
Look the other way.
They can't see the Children.
They can't see the Children.
They are high on that grey sty
They are high.
They can't see the Children.
The grey stuff
Dropping from the sky.
Children don't matter anymore while planes fly in the sky.
The tin can with wings is flying in the sky.
It doesn't make sense.
Yes it doesn't make sense.
They can fly away from Children.
They can fly away.
Yes.
Fly away from Children it's simple.
Stay away from Children.
Just listen pilots and our leaders.
It's simple
Stay away from Children.
Listen! Children are our future.
Yes! Our Future.
Children do matter all the time.
So stay away from our Children
Tin can with wings, fly away.
Fly away.
Our Children do matter all the time.
Children do matter all the time.
All of the time. All of the time.

https://volcanoartprize.com/portfolio-item/pilots-and-our-leaders/ [LID 29953]



2026 Volcano Art Prize (VAP) Entry. Click on the image to hear the song while you read the song lyrics in the poem below. Artist: Joe Schembri. Title: **Metallic Bird Go Away**. Lead-Safety Message: Although the noise pollution is obvious, it took me 30 years to find out that the piston-engine aircraft (PEAs) of the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology (RMIT) Aviation Academy were and still are contaminating my family and the whole Point Cook community with lead. If RMIT could switch their fleet to PEAs certified for non-leaded AvGas or better still, to quiet and non-fossil-fuelled electric planes, then together we can build a better future for all. Description of Work: photos (of leaded AvGas PEAs over Point Cook farming community) collaged with <good neighbour policy> Google AI Assistant search results; and poem by Joe Schembri with song of the poem composed, arranged and performed by Agentic AI as Orchestrated by Lucas Schembri.

Metallic Bird Go Away

Poem by Joe Schembri

Metallic bird go away
Metallic bird go away.
Fly another way
You have kept secrets for thirty years.
Yes we know!

Metallic bird go away
Metallic bird fly another way.
Stop flying over our Children
Stop flying over them
Your secret is out in the open sky.
Yes we know of your lies
Good Neighbourly policy
What a joke.
Good Neighbourly policy

Lies for thirty years.

Metallic bird go away.
Metallic bird fly another way
Stay away from our Children.
For thirty years leaders and pilots are high on darkness from the sky.
Onto the Children darkness falls
Darkness falls on the Children.
While leader and pilots are high on darkness from the sky.

Metallic bird fly away
Metallic bird fly another way
Leave the Children to play.
Leave the Children to play.
We know the truth.
Darkness is falling from the sky.
Stay away from the Children.
Children are playing today.

Stop darkness falling from the sky

Metallic bird fly another way
Leave! Yes! Just leave!
Leave the Children to play.
Leave the Children to play.

https://volcanoartprize.com/portfolio-item/metallic-bird-go-away/ [LID 29954]

Joe Schembri: I've lived since 1982 and raised three sons quite close to Point Cook Air Base where RMIT do pilot & engineer training courses. The government is supposed to protect us, especially children.

My youngest son had vision problems. A specialist had to create a special set of contact lenses to give his eyes some curvature. My 36 year-old youngest son is seeing a specialist today (9th July 2026) for his eyes.

I have 8 grandchildren. To each grandchild as they reach a certain age, I give them a spirit level, a compass and a measuring tape so they can be balanced in the moment, knowing where they are and how far it is to get to where they want to go.

Planes fly at 200 foot altitude over our property but they're supposed not to fly lower than 1000 foot over us. In all the years I've lived here since moving here in 1982, why didn't the Point Cook RAAF Air Base inform us that AvGas that's being released over our area contains lead? I had some soil tests done.

JS: I emailed RMIT's Chancellor about leaded AvGas about a year ago and got a request from his lawyer that I stop emailing him

To give you understanding that when RAAF flight training ceased at Point Cook Airfield in the 1990's, civil aviation replaced them. Without any consultation, secrecy was used to

control residents plus they created the narrative to mislead the residents. AirServices with the stakeholders at Point Cook Airfield addressed the increasing civil aviation at Point Cook by addressing the noise factor of Point Cook by implementing seaward circuits on all runways.

This Seaward Circuits agreement was “implemented” in 1996. But RMIT failed to implement it.

Also for 30 years they withheld that their aircraft used leaded fuel (AvGas).

When I emailed them, and questioned about the contamination and asked if they have ever warned the residents, they did not respond.

In 2002, I received a fax from Canberra that clearly indicates there was instructions. A circle flying was not to go north of the airfield away from the residential homes.

When I sent it to the operational manager of the airfield, within 30 minutes the aircraft that were flying circuits over my property, decided to bombard me with aircraft flying over my home - flying north, south, east or west as if I was in a war zone. This is the type of arrogance, that the community have to put up with.

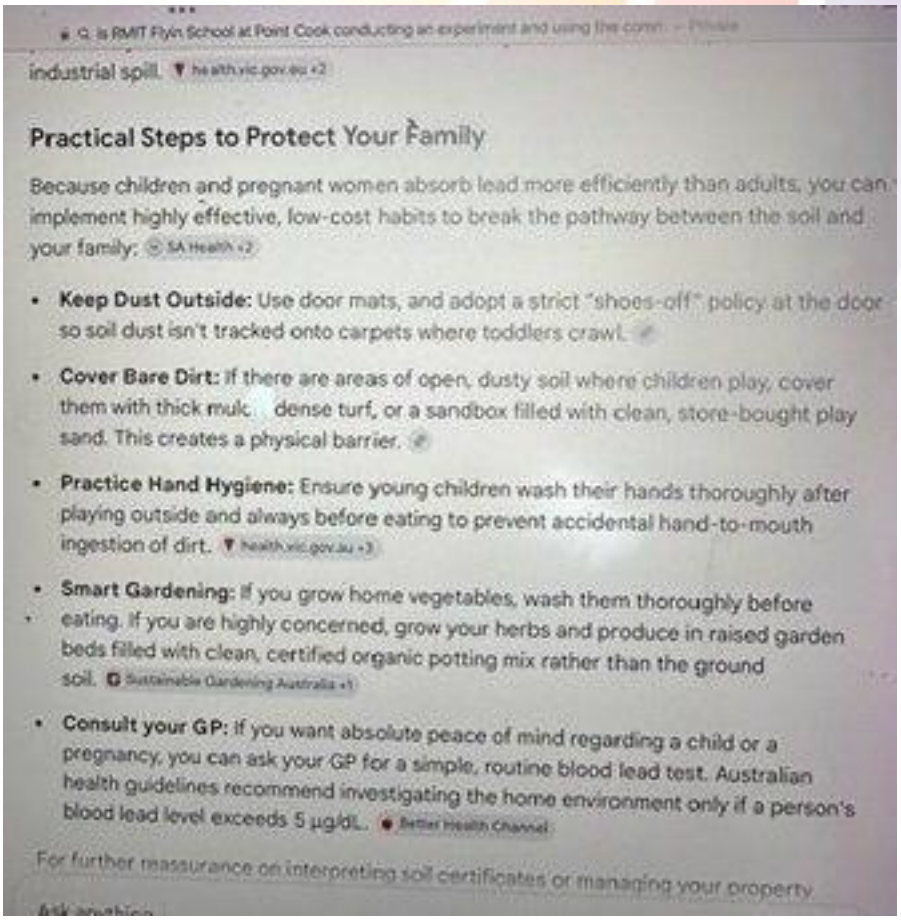
There was an agreement in 1996, but it was kept a secret till 2000 when I asked for it via a Freedom of Information (FOI) application. But the system that Authorities use to create firewall one after another to protect themselves.

In 1999, a RAAF aircraft took off from Point Cook Airfield late evening, my home was vibrating and the noise was very loud. I went outside then I saw aircraft wheels just above the tops of my trees. At that moment I could not breathe, I was gasping for air then I swallowed my tongue, and I was about to die. I had to dig my fingernails into my tongue to hook it out when I recovered and was able to talk. I called the airbase. No one was there, but I left a message. In the morning I received a call from the operational manager of Point Cook and he was only concerned about if I saw the number of the aircraft, and did nothing.

Months later I requested a copy of the message and was only told that they couldn’t find it.

When I requested the incident report. I received an incident report that failed to indicate that I swallowed my tongue but rather I tasted aviation fuel on my tongue.

It shows the Boy’s Club at work. It took me 30 years to find out that RMIT was contaminating my family and the Community in Point Cook.



The Google AI Assistant list (at left) of Practical Steps to Protect Your Family from Lead should include:

- **Prevent Lead Air Pollution:** If you live near a General Aircraft (GA) or Piston Engine Aircraft (PEA) airport, contact your local State and Federal Members of Parliament to demand that they ensure governments stop these aircraft from flying over residential areas in the short term, and from using leaded AvGas in the mid-term (as the US has set about doing) and in the long term, that all PEAs be replaced by renewable-energy-fueled electric planes.



The photo below is of an AvGas-fueled aircraft flying over my home. When RMIT was training Chinese pilots in a circuit, aircraft flew over our home every minute. Good Neighbourly Agreements at Point Cook is only a shopfront: when we look inside we find empty promises. The Aircraft in the photo is flying low. It has taken off from the Point Cook Airfield, the boundary of the airfield is located 1.2 kilometers south of its position. The pilot would have known of the Good Neighbourly Agreement but failed to consider families that he is contaminating. The operational manager of the airfield would have given instructions. But for 30 years RMIT has continued to NOT implement seaward circuits as the 1996 agreement clearly indicated. Also RMIT failed to warn residents of the lead contamination.

Thank you for your time and patience, together we can build a better future for all.
Joseph Schembri