

# Ugly Airtruk steals air show

*From FRANK CRANSTON, Defence and Aviation Correspondent, in Paris*

They call him the Aussie Sky Farmer.

Neil McDonald is quietly stealing the 34th Paris Airshow with a display of agricultural flying not witnessed at the show before.

Neil is already a legend for having flown his ugly Transavia Airtruk all the way from Sydney, taking 18 days.

French air-traffic controllers have ensured that the airtruk display is in prime time, immediately after such aircraft as France's own Mirage 2000 and the Anglo-French Jaguar.

Flying about two feet above the main runway at the Bourget Neil has cleared the grassed areas on either side with chemical spray. On each occasion he is the centre of aeronautical interest.

The Airtruk, made at Seven Hills, NSW, is already in use in Asia, Spain and Yugoslavia as well as Australia.

South and North American sales may be made if US Federal Aviation Administration gives certification later this year.

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No decision has yet been made on whether operations of the A300 Airbus aircraft will be allowed during curfew hours, the Minister for Transport, Mr Hunt said yesterday.

He said that although the aircraft was one of the quietest available he was conscious of the noise sensitivity of communities near airports. The Airbus will be introduced by TAA next month.

**Priority for new Airbus, show told. — Page 16.**