Balloon experience like



READY FOR LIFT-OFF: Hot jets of flame blasted into the balloon to fill it with hot air.



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07 5462 4522 55 North St. Gatton www.barhamchiro.com.au SLOWLY floating high up above the world to glide through the morning sunrise is an experience exclusive to only one thing: the giant hot air balloon.

With my alarm set for an ungodly hour, this would be a trip I would soon experience fir-

Arising before the sun, the cool crisp morning air was a refreshing change compared to the late hot summer mornings which usually greet me.

Walking towards the launch zone where I would soon be lifted 2000ft above the earth, suspended by a mere pocket of hot air, I was admittedly nervous.

However, in the early morning light, a team effort from all involved in the trip quickly saw the balloon unpacked and stretched out in its full 30m length across the ground.

Two fans blew the cool morning air into the balloon and quickly saw the flat sheet of fabric expand, similar to that of a water balloon on the end of a backyard tap, to slowly take shape.

With the balloon safely secured to the basket, the pilot turned on what I had been eagerly looking forward to, the bur-

Shooting jet-like flames into the balloon, the scorching burners were the final ingredient into the hot air balloon mix, with the balloon lifting itself into the upright position.

Sitting there in all its colourful glory, the deceptively huge balloon was ready to take me and five others on the trip of a life-

Now ready, everyone clam-



Reaching heights of 2000ft there were amazing views of the Ipswich, Somerset and Lockyer



After being filled with hot air, the balloon slowly turned

bered into the wicker basket with a few final bursts of flame added to give the balloon the final lifting power required to take us up.

With the early morning light softly touching the exterior of the balloon, looking up to see the red, yellow and blue circle patterns covering a vast empty space was an amazing sight to my still bleary eyes.

Nervous as to what to expect, I grabbed the basket as the balloon was prepared to be set loose from its anchor on the

To my surprise, the balloon rose steadily without any feeling of movement, with objects on the

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magic



The early morning sun shone through the clouds to give an amazing view from the balloon



An array of colourful views could be seen from the comfort of the

ground growing ever smaller.

As we reached the peak of our

climb at about 2000ft, beams

from the morning sun shot

through the clouds and over the

ground to provide an incredible

view of which is hard to fathom

for those who shy away from

With an amazing bird's eye

view of the Ipswich-Somerset re-

gion and out towards the fertile

Lockyer Valley, we floated slowly

over the earth while the pilot

gave an insightful commentary

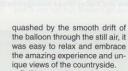
on the history of the region and

on specific landmarks not nor-

With earlier nerves now

mally seen from the ground.

such an experience.



Even with an exciting rough landing, any nerves or doubts on the trip were easily overcome by what was truly an amazing experience and one which I would not hesitate to do all over again.

Hot air balloon ride courtesy



FLOATING HOME: Descending to land, the balloon's shadow spilled out onto the ground.

Drifting over the patchwork designs of the land, the hour-long trip seemed to fly by, sadly drawing to a close as we slowly descended back towards the

of Floating Images, Ipswich.

