



The Old Flier's Group

Attached to the Royal Aero Club of WA (Inc).

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Bulletin Sheet No 8, November 2004

Last Meeting

We broke all records when over forty people attended the October lunch gathering. The isolated area that we have been using has proved inadequate and arrangements are under way for future lunches to be held in the main dining area.

Those that attended were thoroughly entertained with John Costly's after-lunch talk on his experiences in the Fleet Air Arm. He covered the topics of training, submarine patrols, operations in North Africa, tough times in Malta, and of course – landings on carriers.

The capacity crowd showed their appreciation with a round of applause for a gripping session that was once again delivered in a very professional manner.

November Meeting

The next lunch meeting of the group will be on Friday, November 26th, 2004. Make the necessary arrangements now so that you can meet with friends and hear from Denis Gorton who will speak on his experience of building and flying his own aircraft.

Feel free to invite a friend or two to any meeting. There is no limit and you don't have to be a member of the Royal Aero Club to participate.

Christmas Break

Due to Christmas and New Year commitments it has been decided that there will be no meeting on the last Friday in December. However, the dates for meetings in the first half of 2005 are set out below for you to mark in your new diary.

January	Friday 28th
February	Friday 25th
March	Friday 25th
April	Friday 29th
May	Friday 27th
June	Friday 24th

Steps have already been taken to "tee up" speakers for 2005 and it looks like being just as interesting as those of 2004.

Ron Minchin has returned from overseas and indicated that he is willing to talk on the 60th Anniversary of the Arnham Landing that took place recently.

75th Anniversary of the RAC

One hundred and thirty people attended the 75th Anniversary Luncheon with a "Back to Maylands Theme" at the Club on Sunday November 7, 2004.

Thanks go to club instructor, Werner Buhlmann, who opened proceedings with a polished low-level aerobatic

display in a Tiger Moth – with smoke. The static display in front of the club included a Texan, Fox Moth, Tiger Moth, Skybolt and Chipmunk.

Those who attended were given a name tag and an additional colour-coded tag to indicate who they flew with or who they worked for while at Maylands and afterwards. Apart from the Royal Aero Club, tags for MMA, Airlines (WA), RAAF, RAF, DCA, AWA, etc were sighted.

It was pleasing to see so many familiar faces still keen to talk aeroplanes. Among those who attended were Joyce Bennison, the daughter of Sir Norman Brearley, and Gwen Atkinson, the daughter of Captain Charlie Snook. Unfortunately, the daughters of Horrie Miller could not attend, due to previous commitments.

At the end of the day there was an audio-visual display that showed the history of aviation in WA and the development of the Club over its 75 years.

Some finished the day with a visit to the "War Bird's" hangar to view the Mustang, Albatross, etc.

Bob Russell has asked that the following poem be published in the Bulletin – so here goes.

Our Australian Flag

Our flag bears the stars that blaze at night
In our Southern skies of blue,
And that little old flag in the corner
That's part of our heritage too.

It's for the English, Welsh, Scots and Irish
Who were sent to the ends of the earth,
The rogues and schemers, the doers and dreamers
Who gave modern Australia birth.

And you who are seeking to change it
You don't seem to understand
It's the flag of our law and our language
Not the flag of a faraway land.

There are plenty of people who'll tell you
That when Europe was plunged into night
That little old flag in the corner
Was their symbol of Freedom and Light.

It doesn't mean we owe allegiance
To a forgotten Imperial dream.
We've the stars to show where we're going
And, the old flag to show where we've been.

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Hope to see you at November meeting.

Brian Hernan