



The Old Fliers Group

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

Coordinator: Brian John, Ph 9883 8001

Bulletin Sheet No 9, January 2005

Last

Meeting

Nearly fifty people attended the November luncheon. The ever-increasing numbers has resulted in the larger part of the Club's dining area being allocated to the meeting. The partitioned area can comfortably seat 100 people, so we should have no problems catering for the anticipated growth in numbers.

Denis Gorton was the November "speaker of the day" and he told us of the trials and tribulations of building an aeroplane based on the popular Piper Cub. Construction of the airframe was relatively simple compared to building the engine. He had more than a few headaches when he cut the back two cylinders off a Volkswagen flat-four, balanced the crankshaft and installed dual ignition. It was quite obvious that Denis gained immense satisfaction and pleasure out of building and flying his beloved aircraft. His enthusiastic talk was appreciated by all who attended.

2004

The impressive increase in the attendance numbers throughout 2004 is undoubtedly due to the interesting subject matter and the high quality of presentation by the speakers. So far, word-of-mouth has been our only means of advertising; however, in the future we intend to spread the news by other means. It is our aim to fill the dining area to capacity at each meeting.

2005

As promised, we have planned ahead and organised the following speakers for the first part of 2005.

January Friday 28th

Ron Minchin, "Towing Gliders to Arnham."

February Friday 25th

Howard Wheatley, "Military and Commercial Flying."

March Friday 25th

Tony Munday, "Canberras and Cameras."

April Friday 29th

Tom Scotland, "Pathfinder Operations."

May Friday 27th

Alec Kerr, "Lancasters in WWII."

January Meeting

News has reached me that Bev Doherty of Albany will attend the January meeting. Bev spent a number of years as a hostess with MMA and is keen to meet as

many ex-MMA staff as possible. So, if you know any MMA staff, hop on the phone and invite them along.

New Aviation Publication

Ron East, who is well-known to a vast number of aviators in Western Australia, has published a book on his experiences in aviation. Titled "A Flying Career", it is highly recommended. The book is available from Ron or at the counter at the Club and at the RAAFA Museum for \$25.00. Copies will be available at the January OFG meeting.

Civil Aviation Historical Society

Old Fliers Group members may not be aware of the existence of the Civil Aviation Historical Society, WA Division. The society has four normal meetings per year, in February, May, July and August – with a Christmas function in December, and one or two other get togethers throughout the year.

At each meeting, after a short spell of formalities, a speaker discusses some historical aspect of Western Australian aviation. For instance, at the special Christmas meeting held in December at the Air Force Association, Alan Buzza gave a comprehensive talk on the restoration of Horrie Miller's Wackett. All who attended were impressed with his talk and the progress made with the Wackett – some parts of the Wackett now appear to be better than brand new!

The normal meetings of the Society are held at Edith Cowan University in Mount Lawley, starting at 5.00pm in the evening and are usually finishing at or about 7.00pm. At the next meeting, on Monday February 7th, the speaker, John Walton, will talk on "Navigation to India on the First Qantas Flight". New members are always welcome and the annual subscription is a princely \$10.00. Why not come along with a friend?

At the next meeting of our Old Flyers Group I will have maps of the ECU campus so that any interested folk can park and navigate on foot the meeting room to hear John Walton speak.

Season Greetings

The organisers on the Old Fliers Group wish you good health and happiness for the New Year.

And remember – if you know any ex-MMA pilots, hosties or ground staff, invite them, (and anyone else), to the next meeting.

Hope to see you on Friday the 28th, at Jandakot.

Brian Hernan