



## The Old Fliers Group

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

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### 2005

The attendance throughout 2005 was impressive to say the least; the minimum attendance was just short of 50 and the maximum 75. The increased numbers throughout the year were undoubtedly due to the diverse and interesting subject matter and the quality of delivery by the speakers. Thanks go to all speakers for their efforts in making our group so successful.

### Last Meeting

Your editor missed the last meeting due to the fact that he was doing his civic duty in a court and jury room. Spies have reported that the meeting was a great success.

The November *Mini Speaker* was Howard Wheatley who spoke about a flight from Perth to Sydney in a brand new turbo-charged Mooney 252. He departed Perth with his son, Courtney, and climbed to 25 000 ft in the hope of picking up an assist from the jetstream. When his groundspeed was less than expected he climbed further to 27 000 ft and got a shock to see a groundspeed of 350 knots. That got him to Sydney in an unofficial record or 6½ hours. Not bad for a single engine light aircraft.

The *Main Speaker* in November was Tony Abbott who showed a high degree of eloquence and the right touch of humour during his talk on flying RAAF Caribous in Vietnam and New Guinea.

Tony has a broad experience in aviation, starting with the Fleet Air Arm and then the RAAF. Later he was engaged in charter flying, aerial photography and corporate flying. Tony's father was one of the first five pilots employed by Major Norman (Later Sir Norman) Brearley when he started Australia's first air service in Perth in 1921. Tony also flew Lang Hancock, both within Australia and overseas, in his corporate jet. Here's hoping we can get him back at a later date to tell some more tales.

Sincere thanks go to our two November speakers for their illuminating and interesting talks.

### Speakers for 2006

We have organised some very interesting speakers for 2006, however we still need more and particularly mini-speakers. If you have a story to tell, either as a mini speaker (10 minutes) or as main speaker (30 to 40 minutes), contact Brian John or Brian Hernan to make appropriate arrangements.

### European Tour

Tony Munday still has a few seats available for his fabulous European tour. If you're looking for a great holiday, starting in May 2006, contact Tony by phone on 9386 3902 or, Email, [lunarian@cygnus.uwa.edu.au](mailto:lunarian@cygnus.uwa.edu.au).

The tour will take you to, among other places, the Airbus factory in Toulouse where you will be able to see the giant A380 being constructed. The photo below comes from Reg Adkins who recently came across the aircraft in Penang. Note the size of the man under the tail!



### Call for Cash

We have come once again to the problem of cash to keep the show on the road. Our only expenses are stamps, envelopes and a miniscule amount of photocopying. (The Royal Aero Club donates a percentage, as do other members.) If you wish to make a donation then please do so, otherwise a sub of \$5.00 should be enough to see us through most of this year.

### Address List

From now on, the most up-to-date address list will be on the table with the nametags at each meeting. If you are not receiving mail, check your details on the address list or otherwise add your name to the "New Addresses" in the red folder.

### This Month, January 2006

The *Speaker of the Day* will be Col Morton who will talk on value of the EFTS system and his time in the RAAF flying Kittyhawks during WWII.

Sounds interesting. Eh?

Hope to see you there.

Brian Hernan