



## The Old Fliers' Group

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

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### Bulletin Sheet No 32, February 2007

#### January Meeting

The delayed January meeting, held on February 2, attracted ninety members. Proceedings got under way with two poems by Fred Robins, which were greatly appreciated by all present.

**Video Display.** After a few formalities were cleared, a series of video clips were shown. The first two were of a Piper Cub landing on a gravel bar the size of a 'postage stamp' in a mountain stream in Canada. Another clip showed a pilot 'banging out' of a Harrier, and another showed a helicopter landing that turned into a horrifying accident. The final video was a graphic reconstruction of a Galaxy 5A that undershot a landing and crashed. Problems on the flight deck started with an engine failure and finished when the pilot misidentified the failed engine and flew into the ground.

**Speaker of the Day.** The speaker of the day was Tony Abbott who spoken mainly of his time as a corporate pilot flying out of Perth. Tony's flying began at the Royal Aero Club at Maylands where he gained his private pilot licence. He joined the Fleet Air Arm in 1959 and transferred to the RAAF in 1960 where he flew Lincolns, Neptunes and Caribous before instructing at Pearce. On leaving the RAAF Tony set an executive charter business in Perth which saw him flying sophisticated corporate jets for a number of clients – mainly for Lang Hancock.

Lang owned many aircraft in his lifetime, but Tony became involved when he purchased a Turbo Commander. This was quickly followed by a Lear 24 and from then on it was a procession of bigger and faster jets, each growing in their sophistication. Aircraft that Tony talked about included the Lear 24 and 55, the Dassault Falcon 10, 20 and 50, the HS 125, Boeing B727 and the Challenger 600 series.

Tony related many light-hearted incidents, mainly with Lang as passenger or co-pilot. On occasions, a three-week overseas trip would take a dozen countries and about 30 different aerodromes.

Special thanks go to Tony for an excellent presentation that finished with the reading of a humorous "Letter to Home". It proved to be too long to include in the bulletin.

#### The New European Tour

Tony Munday has been working on the itinerary for the proposed tour. The tour comes highly recommended by last year's participants and has attracted a good deal of

interest from members and friends. The tour will be somewhat similar to last year's, but with some subtle and interesting variations.

The itinerary is now available and can be obtained from Tony, in person, at the next meeting or by phone on 9386 3902 or by email at [lunarian@cygnus.uwa.edu.au](mailto:lunarian@cygnus.uwa.edu.au).

If you are thinking of a European holiday in June and early July that could take you to Italy, France, England and Ireland, in good company, then this is the one.

#### Cat News

Another Catalina is on its way to Australia. Mark Pilkington of the Moorabbin Air Museum in Victoria has purchased a PBV-5A which he intends to restore to display standard at the Moorabbin museum in the near future.

#### February Meeting

The February meeting will be held at the Royal Aero Club at noon on Friday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>. The Main Speaker will be Ian Howell who is a volunteer guide at the RAAFA Aviation Museum at Bullcreek and a keen aviation historian.

Ian has prepared a paper on the role of the Catalina in World War II that will cover historical aspects of that aircraft and its unique involvement in certain passages of the war. He will also bring us up to date on the changes at the Bullcreek museum to accommodate the recently-arrived Catalina that will soon be on display.

The Mini Speaker for the February meeting will be Mal Yeo who will talk on the West Subiaco airfield. It attracted a great deal of publicity in the early 1930s when Herman Ittershagen constructed the airfield, set up the Subiaco Flying Club and held a number of aerial pageants that drew large crowds. Ittershagen was also responsible for the development and construction of the Brooklands motor race track that surrounded the airfield.

Come along to the Royal Aero Club at noon on Friday February 23 to hear our speakers and have a nice lunch for the modest sum of just \$12.00.

Hope to see you there.

Brian Hernan

PS If anyone wants a copy of the "Letter to Home", let me know at the next meeting.