



## The Old Fliers' Group

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

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#### Last Meeting

The *Mini Speaker* was Bob Russell who told us of his mission to parachute supplies to a yacht in distress about eighty miles south-east of Esperance. The yacht while on a voyage from Sydney to Fremantle suffered a rigging failure in the Bight. Later, while servicing the motor, the crew accidentally pumped the oil out of the engine. Bob's mission was to drop replacement oil (and other comforts) to the sailors.

It was interesting to hear how a seemingly simple exercise developed into a number of crises that almost left the aircrew in more trouble than the sailors. It was almost a case of "what could go wrong, did go wrong". However, all survived, and they lived happily ever after.

The *Speaker of the Day* was Brian Floyd who spoke on his association with Avro Ansons. He told us of his dream to fly when, as a lad, he saw a formation of Avro Ansons low-flying along the beach near Perth. Soon after, at the age of fifteen, he started work at Maylands Aerodrome servicing RAAF aircraft, which happened to be Avro Ansons. About a year later, when the war finished, he transferred his apprenticeship with MMA and worked on—you guessed it—Avro Ansons and Cheetah IX engines.

Brian's dream to fly became a reality when he started training with the Royal Aero Club, eventually gaining his commercial licence and flying with MMA, and—you guessed it again, on Avro Ansons.

His dream to fly continued for many more years, flying bigger aircraft for overseas airlines. He retired as a 747 captain.

Thanks go to both speakers for their interesting coverage of events that proved to be appealing to the audience.

#### New Zealand Tour

There has been a good deal of interest in the NZ tour, but there is still room for another four faces.

If you or your friends are interested, information can be obtained from Rod Garnaut and Jetset Travel Northlands on phone on 9345 2033 or by email at [travel@jetsetnorthlands.com.au](mailto:travel@jetsetnorthlands.com.au).

Do it now.

#### Memorial Day

In the USA and around the world, Memorial Day is a day of remembrance for those Americans who died serving

their country. A Memorial Day Service was held at the Kings Park War Memorial on Friday May 19<sup>th</sup>. Your editor was among about 250 people attended the moving ceremony, where over seventy wreaths were laid by government representatives, members of Australian Defence Forces and allied countries around the world. In the small group that proudly led the parade was OFG member Jack Fletcher. Jack had fought at Guadalcanal and Iwo Jima with the Third Marines.



*Veterans marching at Kings Park.*

#### Bomber Command Meeting

More than 500 people gathered at the Australian War Memorial in Canberra on June 1st to honour Australian airmen who served in RAF Bomber Command during World War II. More than 10,000 Australians served in Bomber Command and almost 3,500 of them were killed in action in raids over Germany and occupied Europe. No doubt, many OFG members were there in spirit, if not in person.

#### Next Meeting June 27<sup>th</sup>

Our next meeting will be held on Friday June 27<sup>th</sup>. At that meeting, George Gilbert will talk of his long involvement in aviation. His logbook includes Tiger Moth, Avro Anson, Wirraway, Kittyhawk, Spitfire and Mustang. After WWII he continued in aviation, running his own charter company.

The Mini Speaker will be Peter Yates who will talk on flying the Nanchengs – those dark green aircraft with the red star and the big radial engine. Among other things, Peter flies other high performance aircraft for the Fighter Combat group.

Hope to see you at the Royal Aero Club at noon next Friday, June 27<sup>th</sup>.

Brian Hernan