



The Old Fliers' Group

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

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September Meeting

Once again, over 100 members attended the last meeting. The food was good, the company great and the talks were excellent.

Mini Speaker

Hilly Rostowsky gave an interesting talk on his 400 knot encounter with a drogue during a target practice exercise in a Sea Hawk jet. A "lucky" cannon shell struck and severed the towline causing the drogue, complete with metal frame and about eighty metres of towline to virtually "stop" in his flight path. In the blink of an eye his aircraft struck the junk, which caused considerable damage to the nose, fuselage and windscreen – and worst of all, the drogue fabric draped itself around the fin and rudder, thus restricting his ability to control the aircraft.

After a few choice expletives, he regained control and after a cautious descent commenced a long, low approach to the nearest aerodrome at a speed that he gauged as correct for the given situation – 350 knots! The landing was successful, except that he blew a set of tyres while braking. The aircraft was a write off, but happily, the pilot walked away.

Hilly's detailed description of the event, which was peppered with humorous ponderings, intrigued his audience.

Speaker of the Day.

Speakers have discussed many types of aircraft in past talks, but none has touched on the de Havilland Mosquito – that is until the last meeting. Syd Goddard changed all that. He started his absorbing talk with the development, construction, armament and performance of the Mosquito, and then spoke of the role that it played in the European theatre in WWII. It was an engrossing introduction to this great aircraft.

He next took the audience into the cockpit as he went through a take-off, climb, cruise, practice stall and landing. He told us that the aircraft was a delight to fly as it had virtually no vices – except that pilots had to anticipate the swing as the tail was raised during the take-off run. His description of a typical mission against Japanese targets near Borneo gave us an understanding of the perils of such a mission.

If the number of questions raised at the end of the session is any indication of the success of the talk, then Syd should be very satisfied.

Red Bull Air Race

By the time you receive this bulletin, the Red Bull Air Race will be almost upon us. After a couple of days of practice, qualifying rounds will be held on Saturday November 1, with the finals being held on the following day, Sunday, November 2.

A visit to Langley Park is worthwhile during practice sessions, the qualifying rounds and the finals. The Perth Esplanade, the South Perth foreshore and Kings Park are all good viewing spots on the practice and race days. Also, some of the riverfront restaurants have catered for aviation enthusiasts.

Cunderdin Air Show

The Cunderdin Air Show will take place on April 9th 2009. Mark the date on your calendar now.

Leonardo

The following was received in the mail recently.

"When once you have tasted flight, you will forever walk the earth with your eyes turned skyward, for there you have been, and there you will always long to return."

Leonardo da Vinci

Book Release

Barry Markham launched his book "Solo to England" at the Club at the beginning of the month. In it, he tells of the joys and frustrations during his flight to England in his Tiger Moth. Copies are available from Barry at westernrealty@iinet.net.au or by phoning 9388 1200. If you plan ahead you may be able to arrange for one to be in your Christmas stocking. It is a good read and would be appreciated by anyone with a feeling for adventure.

Next Meeting

The *Speaker of the Day* for the September meeting will be Graham Cotterell. He will talk about his long association with aviation. The *Mini Speaker* will be Malcolm Yeo who will tell us of his innermost feelings when he rose to the ceiling of the Qantas A330 that suffered a computer malfunction and went into a sudden, steep dive near Learmonth recently.

(Speaking of Learmonth—we need an up-to-date report on the proposed name change of the airport. Is there anyone out there with that information?)

Hope you can make to the Royal Aero Club for lunch at noon on this Friday, October 31st.

Brian Hernan