



The Old Fliers' Group

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

Coordinator: Brian John, Ph 9883 8001

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October Meeting

Once again, over 100 members attended the October meeting and we have asked the staff to set more places for the November – our Christmas meeting.

Qantas A330 Report

We could not have received a more complete report on the happenings in the Airbus A330 that suffered an autopilot malfunction near Exmouth in early October last. Mal Yeo, OFG member and passenger on the Airbus delivered his description of events in a light-hearted manner, but it was obvious to all at the meeting that there were over 300 terrified passengers and cabin staff as the aircraft reacted to spurious commands from the on-board computer.

Mal's visit to the rear of the aircraft to make a purchase from the gift shop could not be more ill-timed. While he waited for service from a cabin attendant he suddenly found himself on the ceiling, then on the floor, then back on the ceiling and finally back on the floor again. Around him there broken ceiling panels, Luggage, broken glass, food, miscellaneous debris – and other passengers, some with serious injuries.

The events that followed were nothing short of amazing. They exposed how ill-prepared we are for such an emergency. While all concerned did their best, it exposed anomalies and oversights in our services and procedures, both in the air and on the ground.

Thanks go to Mal for a most informative and entertaining talk

Speaker of the Day.

The *Speaker of the Day* was Graham Cotterell who reminisced on his long association with aviation. As a child he was fascinated with aeroplanes, but as a young adult he launched into the "big time" with the purchase of an Airspeed Oxford from RNZAF war surplus. Later Graham moved to Western Australia to farm in the Kojonup district. He found new freedom when he purchased a Cessna 172, which he owned for twenty-one years.

Graham found time to visit air shows in many parts of the world and recorded many interesting aircraft types on his travels.

In his retirement Graham heads up the workshop at the Aviation Heritage Museum at Bullcreek. His examples of restored aircraft and equipment are remarkable,

particularly to cut-away Cheetah IX engine which he manufactured in his shed at home.

Red Bull Air Race

For those planning ahead, there may not be a Red Bull Air Race in Perth for eighteen months. The organisers wish to move Perth from the end of their year to the beginning. The reorganisation would put the next event six months away, in the early part of 2009. The State government has evidently balked at injecting multiple millions of dollars so soon after the last one.

Cunderdin Air Show

NOW HEAR THIS. The dates mention in the last bulletin were WRONG. Latest reports indicate that the Cunderdin Air Show will take place over the Easter break, 10th - 13th April 2009. Make adjustments to your diary now.

Learmonth Update

At the last meeting Charles Page gave an up-date on the Learmonth saga. He reported that, as far as he could ascertain, the push for the name-change was from a few businessmen, and not the general population. It would appear that the heat is off – for the time being!

Next Meeting

The November meeting will be the last for this year. The girls in the restaurant have come to the party and will provide Christmas puddings and brandy custard for the event – at no extra charge.

The *Speaker of the Day* at our November meeting will be Caroline Winton-Rhodes who is an ex- British Airways captain, and currently a instructor with WAAC.

Caroline will talk about her experiences and those of her father and grandfather who were fighter pilots. There are a few surprises in that lot as one of them did not fly for the RAF. It could prove to be a most interesting session.

The support speakers will be Brian Walley who will talk on how inmates prepared Christmas dinners in a prisoner of war camp, and Peter Hummerston will talk about the King's Park War Memorial and the meaning of Remembrance Day.

Hope you can make to the Royal Aero Club for lunch at noon on this Friday, November 28th.

Brian Hernan