



The Old Fliers' Group

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

Coordinator: Brian John, Ph 9883 8001

Bulletin Sheet No 54, February 2009

January Meeting

The year got off to a good start with about 110 members in attendance. Tony Mitchell was our *Mini-speaker* at the meeting. By way of introduction he covered the background of his North American T28D-5 Trojan. The D-model is a beefed up version of the original A-model, designed as an attack trainer. After service in the USAF, Royal Laotian Air Force and the USAF again in Vietnam, his aircraft was retired and later purchased by an Australian. It passed through several hands prior to Tony purchasing it a few years ago. The engine was re-build on the east coast and with only three hour on the engine, Tony set out to deliver it to its new home in the west. That was in the middle of last year. It was most interesting to hear of the precautions that he took to make the delivery flight enjoyable, safe and successful.

Prior to the meeting, Tony had parked Trojan in front of the restaurant and invited members to "look it over" after the show. Plenty took up his offer. They appeared to be very happy inspecting this "big" aeroplane.

Tony is to be thanked for his illuminating talk and for going to the trouble of displaying his fine aircraft for members.

Speaker of the Day

Our main speaker was Caroline Wynton-Rhodes. Carolyne. She created such interest with her talk last November that we decided to have her back again. You may remember she last spoke of her grandfather who flew for the Luftwaffe in WWI and in WWII.

This time she spoke about her father, Flt Lt George Sheffield, DFC, AFC, RAF. During World War II he initially trained as a flight engineer, flying in Sunderlands mainly over the Bay of Biscay and the North Atlantic. About half way through the war he re-trained as a pilot and then flew with a Canadian squadron on the same type of aircraft, on similar submarine detection missions. It was during one of these flights that he won his DFC.

Again, Carolyne's talk was most absorbing and, once more, there were many members who wanted to chat with her after the meeting finished. Thank you again Carolyne for entertaining us.

Congratulations

John Douglas, who attends most of our meetings, was congratulated on being awarded the OAM. It is a great honour and privilege to receive such an award -- and much deserved in John's case. Well done John.

Tribute

Shirley Adkins reported on her trip to Sydney to farewell Nancy-Bird Walton. Nancy was an amazing lady who contributed much to aviation. She will be long remembered by aviators – male and female.

Learmonth Name-change

Charles Page sent a reported to warn us that the war is not yet over. He believes that the shire president and CEO are on-side, but some business people in the town are still campaigning for the change from Learmonth to Ningaloo Airport. Therefore, it is important to establish a counter-campaign in an effort to retain the current name. Charles believes that it could be beneficial to write to the editor at either or both of the local newspapers. The addresses follow:

Northern Guardian

46 Robinson Street, Carnarvon WA 6701
Phone: (08) 9941 2222 Fax: (08) 9941 1746
Editorial: news@northernguardian.com.au

Exmouth Expression

17 Maidstone Crs, Exmouth WA, 6707
Phone: (08) 9949 1144

Have your say. Do it NOW.

Next Meeting

The February meeting will be held on Friday February 27th. The *Speaker of the Day* will be Stan Schur (our video man) who will talk about flying and farming in Rhodesia.

The *Mini-speaker* will be John "Bomber" Bailey who will talk about a "bomber that got bombed". It promises to be another great meeting where you can enjoy good fellowship and a nice meal.

Hope you can make to the Royal Aero Club at noon on this Friday, February 27th.

Brian Hernan