



The Old Fliers' Group

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

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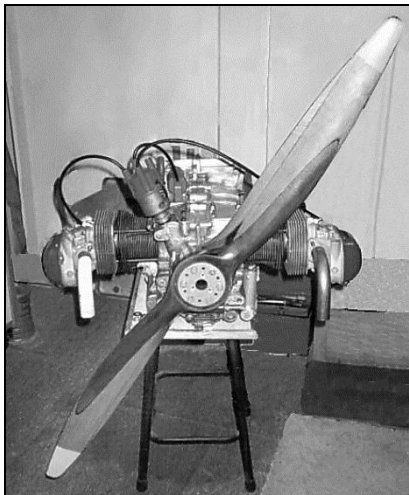
August Meeting

Both of our speakers at the August meeting showed the breadth and depth of human ingenuity. Both embarked on projects that required both skill and patience to produce a product that was a credit to each of them.

Mini Speaker

The Mini Speaker was Dennis Gorton who told us how he took a run-down engine out of a hippie's VW Combie van, cut it in half and made it into a two-cylinder horizontally opposed engine.

It was only by hack-sawing, cutting, grinding, welding, plugging and polishing that he achieved his aim. The engine now sits at the front of his home-built aircraft and produces thirty-seven "small" horsepower. Those small horses allow him to get into the air and enjoy the fruits of his labour.



The completed half VW engine.

Speaker of the Day

Kevin Bailey was the August *Speaker of the Day*. He told us how he purchased a 1936 model Stinson SR-8C from the Eastern States and restored it to perfection over a four-year period. The aircraft was stripped back to the last nut and bolt at the outset. All metal parts were blasted clean and inspected for imperfections. Faults were either repaired or new parts were fabricated. All woodwork was inspected and replaced as necessary. The wings and fuselage were stripped, inspected, serviced and then were re-covered with new Dacron fabric – all of which had to be hand-stitched to ribs and spars.

Since there were no manuals available, Kevin carefully photographed each item as he dismantled it so that it could be correctly re-assembled. Those photos formed the basis of the PowerPoint show that he used in his talk.

In many cases the photos showed the poor state of the original components and the progressive restoration as the aircraft was brought back to life – possibly better than brand new!

Kevin estimated that he spent over 4000 hours on the restoration, and that does not include the time spent by a dozen or so friends who apply their special skills and craftsmanship to bring the Stinson to its present state.

Kevin parked the Stinson in front of the club so that members could examine it after the meeting. All who took the time to inspect it were impressed.

In the early 1970s the Stinson was owned by Perth businessman Don O'Sullivan and was flown by Ron Tutt. Both men attended the meeting and were pleased to see the aircraft in its present condition, and to meet old friends. Both will be attending future meetings.



The restored Stinson Reliant.

September Meeting

The *Speaker of the Day* at the next meeting will be Richard Ewing who will be talking about taking parachutists aloft to practice their art. The *Mini Speaker* will be Reg Adkins who will tell us about MMA's part in the Air Beef scheme, where beef carcasses were flown from Glenroy Station to the Wyndham meat works.

The September meeting will be held at the Royal Aero Club on Friday 24th September at noon for lunch and to hear our interesting speakers. Hope to see you there.

Brian Hernan