



The Old Fliers' Group

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

Coordinator: Brian John, Ph 9883 8001

Bulletin No 76, February 2011

January Meeting

It was a great meeting despite the failure of almost every electronic device in use. The problems varied from minor, serious. First to fail was the lapel microphone, so we resorted to hand-held variety. Next the wireless network dropped out and we lost our pictures. That was followed by a software problem and finally the electrical power supply to the whole aerodrome went down. Evidently a worker on a mechanical digger severed the main underground power cable.

Phil Reiss

In between the hiccoughs we were entertained by two excellent speakers. The first was an address by Phil Reiss, President of the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA). It was an enlightening talk that took us through the aims and objectives of AOPA and it gave us an insight into their negotiations with Airservices Australia and ASTRA (Australian Strategic Air Traffic Management Council).

Recently, AOPA hosted an industry summit aimed at the "Revitalisation of General Aviation". The plight of battling flying schools and aero clubs was discussed as a united aviation policy was presented to the aviation bureaucrats. One can only hope that the people at the top were listening.

Sincere thanks go to Phil for his interesting delivery which raised our awareness of the good work being done by his organisation.

John Wager (Part 1)

John Wager took us through the amazing life of Sir Stanley Hooker. At the start of WWII Hooker was employed at Rolls Royce where he expanded the theory on centrifugal compression and doubled the power output of the RR Merlin engine. His design of the two-stage supercharger, with intercooler, played an important part in battle for air supremacy in 1941. Merlins powered the Hurricane, Spitfire, Mosquito and the Lancaster.

Hooker's knowledge of fluid mechanics brought him into contact Sir Frank Whittle. Their association led to accelerated progress in the development of the jet engine.

After WWII, Hooker was deeply involved in the development of the Rolls Royce *Nene* engine, at that time it was the most powerful jet engine in the world.

POOF... and that's when the lights went out; the projector shut down, and the air conditioning ceased to work.

A unanimous decision was immediately made to call our speaker back to the next meeting to continue his story.

Fundraiser

Michelle, who runs our restaurant, and provides us with good food, has entered the Air Safari 2011, which is a fundraising event to aid the Breast Cancer Care WA (formerly the Breast Cancer Foundation of WA). At the conclusion of the meeting Michelle rattled the can at the door and our membership raised \$385 for the cause.

Michelle sends a **BIG THANK YOU** to all members.

Ron Tutt

It is with sadness that we report the passing of Ron. As well as being a long-time aviator, Ron was deeply involved in the voluntary organisation that runs "Movies by Burswood" The group operates an open air theatre over four of the summer months of December, January, February and March.

Prior to our last meeting Ron donated twelve tickets to the OFG – They were distributed as follows:

- Stan Schur, our video man and a film buff.
- Michell, to assist in her fundraiser, and
- The remainder were "quizzed" to members.

Royal Federation of Aero Clubs

The Federation is again conducting its annual scholarship. If you know anyone who is thinking of taking up flying please make them aware of the scholarship. Entrants must fly a Trial Instruction Flight at the club for evaluation. There are four chances of winning \$7700 worth of flying.

Call for Cash

It's not too late to pay the annual subscription of \$10.00. You can do so at the next meeting, or alternatively, you can mail a cheque to Brian Hernan, 1 / 4 Kings Park Ave, Crawley, 6009. Cheques must be made out to "Royal Aero Club".

February Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Friday 25 February. John Wager will carry on from where he left off with Part 2 of "Not Much of an Engineer" about Sir Stanley Hooker. Following that Reg Adkins will tell the story of "Air Beef" where MMA air-lifted beef from Glenroy station in the Kimberley to Wyndham.

Hope to see you there.

Brian Hernan