



The Old Fliers' Group

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

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The July meeting was moved forward by a week to accommodate members who were travelling to the USA, primarily to attend AirVenture 2011 at Oshkosh.

Those who managed to get away were:

Stan Schur, Steve Rogers, John Harris, Ron Griffin, Richard Ewing, Delia Parker, Harry and Pat O'Neil, and your truly.

A great time was had by all and you will hear stories from some the above in due course.

Last Meeting

The Mini Speaker at the last meeting was Brian Floyd who told of his ash cloud experiences while flying 747s for Cathay Pacific.

The Speaker of the Day was Stuart Rawlinson who told of his life in aviation. After joining the Fleet Air Arm Stuart started flying on 68 Course at Pearce on Macchi MB326H aircraft. On graduation moved to helicopters. In 1970 and 1971 he flew in Vietnam on UH-1H Huey machines. By the time he reached 26 years of age he was flying the large Wessex helicopters for the R.A.N.



Macchi MB326H Trainers at Pearce.



UH-1H Huey Iroquois helicopter in Vietnam.

In 1974 Stuart left the Navy for work in Singapore and Indonesia, where he stayed for five years. After a number of other overseas postings he returned to Australia in 1983 to work for Bristows. In the years that followed he flew in Cambodia, Burma, Vietnam, PNG, Nigeria and the Solomon Islands, mainly flying large helicopters. He said that the days in the Solomon Islands were the best ever.



The Eurocopter EC155 with glass cockpit

Stuart liked the Eurocopter, a long-range medium-lift passenger transport helicopter developed for civil aviation use. It is a twin-engine aircraft and can carry up to 13 passengers along with one or two crew, depending on customer configuration. The helicopter is used for passenger transport, offshore support, VIP corporate transport and casualty transport duties. Stuart was involved in all of these aspects of flying.

Special thanks go to Stuart for his most interesting talk. Thanks also go to Brian Floyd and Malcolm Yeo who organised the speakers for the meeting.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be back to normal – it will be on the last Friday of this month. So mark Friday August 26th in your diary now and try to make it to the Royal Aero Club for lunch at about noon.

At the meeting you will be able to see photos and videos of the action at Oshkosh. Steve Rogers will give a roundup of his aviation tour to and I will try to show the extent of the Oshkosh experience.

Hope to see you there.

Brian Hernan