



The Old Fliers' Group

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

Coordinator: Brian John – Phone 9582 5233

Bulletin No 88, March 2012

February Meeting

The February meeting got off to a good start with nearly 100 members in attendance.

Speaker of the Day

The *Speaker of the Day* at the meeting was Derek Hauton. Derek's career in the RAF started in electronics and navigation.

Later Derek moved to the position of VVIP Flight Coordinator where, among other things, he planned and coordinated executive flights that included the Queen and Prince Phillip, Margaret Thatcher and other dignitaries and politicians. He virtually became a "one man band" who was responsible for every aspect of the travel arrangements for VIPs. His work started with a flight schedule, an aircraft type, the evaluation of ground facilities at departure and destination aerodromes, airways clearances and advanced flight planning.

Security was a top priority issue at all times, both on the ground and in the air. He closely examined the route to and from all airports in the schedule, the security at departure and arrival lounges and a security check on all personnel and baggage, except for that of the Queen and the Prime Minister; for them emergency blood supplies were carried. Arrival times at destinations were most important – to the minute. Taxi time was calculated at 1000 ft per minute to arrive at the "red carpet" at the exact time – with appropriate flags flying.

The VC-10 was main type of aircraft used in the latter part of Derek's time in the job. The VC-10 was fitted with the latest navigational equipment and anti-missile devices.

The requirements of the VIP position resulted Derek travelling to many and varied destinations – numerous cities in Africa, Russia, USA, Canada, Australia and on many occasions he was invited to official and social functions, etc.



The VIP VC-10 in Perth.

The photo of the VC-10 was taken at Perth International Airport during a Thatcher visit in 1988. It is possible to just discern the anti-missile device attached to the lower fuselage – the small bump under the engine intakes.

Special thanks got to Derek for a most illuminating presentation.

Beech 18

Our *Mini Speaker* was Tony Mitchell who told us of his new acquisition – a Beechcraft Model 18HS Volpar. He gave a brief history of his aircraft, built in 1964 – it was initially owned by the Mayor of Chicago. One of the last 60 off the production line, his aircraft has a tricycle undercarriage. Tony also gave an insight to its performance and handling. It was parked in front of the club and Tony invited members to view it at the conclusion of the meeting. It is a delightful iconic aircraft, in excellent condition. Tony will undoubtedly get many hours of enjoyment from his new addition.



Tony's Beechcraft Model 18HS.

AOPA Safety Seminar

A number of OFG members attended the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA) safety seminar at the club on Saturday 3rd March. A range of speakers from AOPA, CASA, the Tower and the Club gave informative talks on aspects of aviation safety. All who attended came away with a revised appreciation of making aviation safer.

Next Meeting

John Chesbrough will be the *Speaker of the Day* at the March meeting. He will tell us about his exploits in his single engine Moonie 201, with his wife; firstly, crossing the North Atlantic and then flying from Europe to Australia. No GPS in those days. It is a remarkable story of determination.

Lunch will get under way at noon on Friday March 30th – hope to see you there.

Brian Hernan