



## The Old Fliers' Group

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

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### Last Meeting

Last meeting started with a series of photos of a Kittyhawk that force landed in the Egyptian desert during WWII. The aircraft was found by a Polish oil exploration team earlier this year.

It was found that the aircraft was piloted by Flt. Sgt. Dennis Copping who went missing on June 28, 1942. It would seem that while ferrying the aircraft from one base to another he became lost and was forced to land in a remote part of the North African desert called Al Wadi al Jadid. After coming to a stop, the pilot evidently exited the aircraft, closed the canopy and disappeared into the sands of history. He apparently survived that landing but not the effects of the desert.

The aircraft remained undiscovered for seven decades – until discovered by the survey team.



*The Kittyhawk in the desert.*

### Speaker of the Day

The *Speaker of the Day* was Ken Pittman who told us of his visit to New Zealand's South Island and to the air show at Omaka in May last year.

Ken opened with a number of photos of the damaged buildings in Christchurch. It was sad to see so many old buildings beyond repair. The clean up had started and there was debris and rubble everywhere.

Next he showed a series of photographs of a "tin wing" Avro Anson undergoing restoration at Mansfield. It was close to completion and looked "better than brand new".

Then came the presentation on the Omaka Air Show. The range of aircraft was outstanding. The following is a list of what he saw. From WWI: Sopwith Pup, Camel and Triplehound, Bristol F.2B Fighter and German Albatros. From WWII: Spitfire, Miles Messenger, Yak52, Me-108, Stuka, FW-190, P51 Mustang, Corsair, Catalina, Kittyhawk – and the list goes on.



*The Avro Anson at Mansfield.*



*The German Albatros at Omaka.*

Attendance at the May meeting was just over the 100 mark and on completion all showed their appreciation of Ken's excellent presentation.

### Pearce Air Show

It would appear that over twenty members attended the Pearce Air Show. A few flew in from Perth Airport in a matter of minutes, while some who went by road took many hours to enter and leave the aerodrome. However, all agree that it was well worth the effort.

### Next Meeting

The next OFG meeting will be held on Friday June 29<sup>th</sup> at the Royal Aero Club. Come along and hear Reg Adkins talk about the *Retrieval of Woodsie's Anson* from a farm paddock. Richard Macfarlane will be the *Speaker of the Day*. He will talk about flying the "Morning Glory" in Queensland.

As usual, lunch will get under way at about noon on Friday June 29<sup>th</sup> – hope to see you there.

Brian Hernan