



The Old Fliers' Group

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

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July Mini Speaker

Steve Rogers was our July *Mini Speaker*. He began his talk with a historical look at amateur movie film then progressed up to current digital video imagery. At the beginning, in the 1960s and 70s the 8mm movie cameras were popular – a number of us possibly have a few rolls of such films gathering dust. He informed us that it is possible to have old 8mm film converted to a digital format so that it can be viewed on your TV and he offered his services to provide a contact to arrange for the conversion to take place.

Steve then took us into the world of digital video cameras, starting at the early models and up the latest compact ones with high definition HD quality. Over the last few years Steve has developed a flare for capturing and editing video images and had done some very creditable work both in aviation and other general areas.

Members will be aware that Stan Schur takes a video of proceedings at each of our meetings, and has done so on about eighty occasions. He has captured some amazing stories from our speakers about: the history of aviation, wartime experiences, gliding, commercial and recreational flying, etc. – stories and experiences that should not be lost in the mist of time.

Steve Rogers has proposed an extra step in our procedures, suggesting that Stan's videos be edited and processed so that they can be placed on the Internet, on YouTube. If adopted, it will result in an additional and convenient repository for our video records and give members, and others, a chance to view, and review, past meetings at will. It is a great idea and we will start the process in the near future.

Speaker of the Day

The *Speaker of the Day* reminded us that the first Australian to be killed in an aircraft accident was Charles Lindsay Campbell.

Little is known of Campbell's early years, but by his own admission he developed an interest in flying by the age of twenty-one, in 1893. At the age of thirty he was living in Perth, and later in Kalgoorlie, where he continued his exploration of aviation. In 1906 he teamed with a Perth dentist, Arthur Watts, to produce an aircraft design that was presented to the Federal government in 1909.

In 1910 Campbell and his family moved to Queensland where he established the first Queensland Aero Club. He made serious attempts to put aviation before the government and the public alike, proposing an Australian Aviation School for the development of general and military aviation. When the government, in 1911, announced that a school would be set up Campbell departed for England to obtain a licence from the Royal Aero Club. On 4th June 1912 he obtained licence No. 220 at the Bristol Flying School at Salisbury Plain.

After gaining his licence he continued to fly to gain experience. Early on the morning of 3rd August, 1912, one hundred years ago this month, he took off from Brooklands in a 50 horsepower Bristol Monoplane. While over nearby Byfleet at about 600 ft the aircraft stalled and crashed. Campbell was fatally injured. He thus became the first Australian aviation fatality. His wife and two young sons returned to Perth to live with her family.

Somehow, many years ago, a damaged propeller, once owned by Campbell, came to the Club and gathered dust under a bench in the hangar – only a few members were aware of its existence, Reg Adkins being one.

To mark the centenary of his unfortunate accident, nine members of the Campbell family were invited to our July meeting, two of whom were grandsons, and they were given the honour of unveiling the propeller for all to see. Members were asked to donate a gold coin to a fund for a display case for the propeller – \$151.00 was raised. Sincere thanks go to all those who donated.



The Campbell propeller and enlargements of his attached information.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the OFG will be held on Friday August 31st at the Royal Aero Club. John Wager will be the *Speaker of the Day* – his subject will be Frederick Royce founder of the famous Rolls Royce Company. As usual, lunch will get under way at about noon. Hope to see you on Friday.

Brian Hernan