



## The Old Fliers' Group

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

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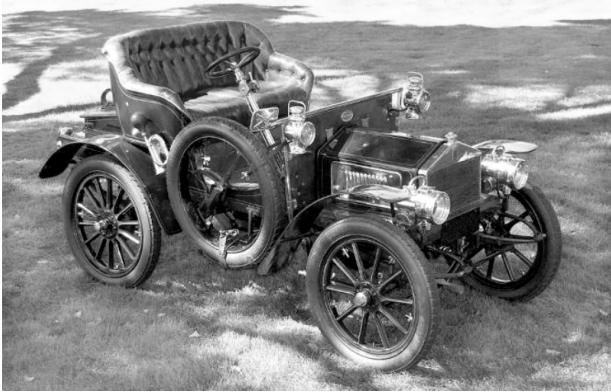
### August Speaker

As *Speaker of the Day*, John Wager presented a most interesting talk on the life of Frederick Henry Royce (1863 – 1933); with Charles S. Rolls founded the famous Rolls Royce Company.

From humble beginnings and little schooling, Royce, at the age of fourteen, was apprenticed to the Great Northern Railway for three years. Unqualified by the age of 17, he secured a job with a toolmaker and then with an electrical company. Next, he set up his own company which produced household electric bells. At the age of 25, in about 1888, he designed and built high quality workshop cranes.

In the early 1900s he purchased a Decauville motor car and worked on improving it. By 1903 he had produced three cars of his own design, all of which displayed a marked improvement on the cars of the day. At all times he insisted on the highest quality.

Separately, Charles Rolls ran a car show room in London where he sold imported motor vehicles. He was most impressed with the Royce design and so the famous partnership was formed in 1904.



*An early model 10 hp Rolls Royce.*

In 1914, after the death of Rolls in an aircraft accident, Royce designed his first aero engine. By 1915 the company started production of the now-famous Eagle engine, a V12 water-cooled engine of 360 hp; and so started the chain of legendary aero engines that included the Hawk, Falcon and Merlin – all of which were named after birds. (The Merlin had no connection to a magician). Throughout his life, Royce was always looking for fresh ideas and improving on existing theories.

Frederick Royce passed away in 1933, but the name and the tradition carried on, producing the finest cars and aero engines in the world.

Sincere thanks go to John Wager for his well-researched presentation.

### Mini Speaker

Your editor delivered a short session on the Battle of Milne Bay which took place on the eastern tip of New Guinea in 1942. Friday, August 31, the day of our last meeting, was the 70th anniversary of the most significant day of the battle – that was the day that the Japanese forces began their retreat. The battle is considered to be the first in the Pacific Campaign in which Allied troops decisively defeated Japanese land forces.

A significant contribution to the overall Milne Bay effort was made by the RAAF flying missions out of the two completed airstrips at Milne Bay and from surrounding strips, before during and after the event.



*A Kittyhawk being handled at Milne Bay in 1942.*

### Narrogin Gliding Club

The Narrogin Gliding Club has organised a special “Old Fliers Group” day on Sunday October 21<sup>st</sup>. There will be a discount for OFG members who wish to take a fly. More details will be available at our next meeting.

### Next Meeting

The next meeting of the OFG will be held on Friday September 28<sup>th</sup> at the Royal Aero Club. Chris Beattie will be the *Speaker of the Day* – his talk will cover a Royal Flying Doctor incident where an aircraft was lost, but the pilot and nurse had a miraculous escape.

The **Mini Speaker** will cover a little-known aspect of the history of the Royal Flying Doctor Service.

As usual, lunch will get under way just before noon at the Royal Aero Club. Hope to see you then.

Brian Hernan