



The Old Fliers' Group

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

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NEXT MEETING

Friday March 28th

It was pleasing to see that the February meeting attracted about 95 members, visitors and guests.

Speaker of the Day

The *Speaker of the Day* was John Hall who concluded his talk on Rolls Royce. Taking off from where he left off last month, John spoke about the Rolls Royce *Kestrel* engine that was the start of a new breed. Some were surprised to hear that the engine was after being installed in the latest British fighters given to the Germans who used it to power the Heinkel He70 in 1936!

John made mention of the people who contributed to the success of Rolls Royce over the years, including W.O. Bentley, Frank Whittle, Tilly Shilling, Earnest Hives, Stanley Hooker, and more.

The development of jet engines was covered, from the earliest experiments and up to the RB-211, which resulted in the bankruptcy of Rolls Royce due to the complexity, development and testing programme associated with it. It also jeopardised the L-1011 TriStar programme at Lockheed in the USA.



The RB-211 on the Lockheed L-1011 Tristar.

Because of its strategic importance, Rolls Royce was nationalised by Edward Heath's Conservative government and, in an effort to get back on its feet, Rolls Royce brought back some of its retired "old hands" to work on a successful recovery.

John's in-depth knowledge of Rolls Royce engines (and cars) became obvious to members throughout his talk. He concluded by offering to take any interested member for a ride in a Rolls Royce sedan.

OFG Pens



John thought it would be a good idea for members to have a reminder of the Old Fliers Group, so he had a batch of pens made, as per above. Each member was given one at the meeting. If you didn't receive one see John or me at the next meeting and will make sure you do.

Centenary of Military Aviation

While Senator Pearce was in London in 1911 it became obvious that Australia should establish a military air service. On his return he set the wheels in motion for a site to be selected at Point Cook near Werribee in Victoria. It took until March 1914 for the first flight to take place. That flight was celebrated with the Centenary Air Show on March 1 and 2. It was evidently a great success. We are told that Point Cook is the oldest continually operation military airfield in the world.

110 Years On

Your editor continued the story of the Wright brothers, post-Kitty Hawk in 1903. In the summer months of 1904 and 1905 they "learned to fly" by making progressive modifications to each Flyer version, and by developing their flying skills. By the end of 1905 they were flying "S" turns, figures-of-8, circuits of Huffman Prairie, and two flights of over half an hour. Other aviators of the day were still battling to fly a straight line "hop".

Annual Subscription

Members can pay the annual subscription of \$10.00 for the year 2014 at the next meeting, or any future meeting should you wish. Alternatively, you can mail a cheque to Brian Hernan, 1 / 4 Kings Park Ave, Crawley, 6009. Cheques must be made out to "Royal Aero Club".

Next Meeting

The next OFG meeting on March 28th will feature Trevor Jones, CFI and Chief Pilot of the Club. He will talk about his recent overseas delivery flights of light aircraft to WA.

A parking fee exemption has been arranged for the meeting time slot 10.30 to 2.30 Friday, so hope to see you at the Royal Aero Club for lunch, just before noon.

Brian Hernan