



The Old Fliers' Group

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

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NEXT MEETING Friday May 30th

Last Meeting

There was an excellent attendance at the April meeting which was postponed by one week due to Anzac Day which fell on our scheduled meeting day.

There were about ninety members in attendance and after the normal formalities; general business, apologies and the introduction of visitors, a series of photographs of the Gallipoli campaign were shown. They depicted the life and hardships of the troops between 25 April 1915 and 9 January 1916.



Australian troops on the move.

Speaker of the Day

The speaker of the day was Richard Ewing who took us through the intricate steps of building an aeroplane. His talk was titled "I Want an Aeroplane".

Richard had to ask himself a number of questions before he started his project in earnest:

1. Do I buy one or build one?
2. Do I have the time to build one?
3. Which one do I build?
4. Do I buy the plans and build from scratch?
5. Do I buy some kit parts and build the rest?
6. What is it going to cost?
7. What type of engine is required?
8. Etc ...

After determining answers to the above questions – and many more – Richard decided to purchase a Sonex aircraft in kit form with as many pre-manufactured parts as possible. Before making his final decision he travelled to Oshkosh in USA to talk to the Sonex company. The Sonex factory is in Oshkosh, quite close to Wittman Regional Airport where the notable air show is held each year.

With the right decision made and the order placed, Richard waited for the boxes to arrive with a myriad of components and a wad of paperwork. Then began the job of unpacking, checking and storing the hundreds of parts, in a sensible manner. He then commenced the "fun" job of building an aeroplane. So far, Richard has built the tailplane and two wings – the next move is to construct the fuselage.



A completed Sonex on display at Oshkosh.

The audience learned that to build an aeroplane on your back patio you must be organised and capable of moving ahead without errors. A drill-hole in the wrong place can lead to huge problems. So far Richard has got everything right – and we all wish him well in the remainder of the project.

It is hard to imagine what it would be like to fly in the aeroplane that you built.

History

Sixty years ago, on May 14th 1954 Qantas commenced operations across the Pacific on the "Kangaroo Route". The first trip was made in a new Lockheed Constellation – the journey took 30 hours. Haven't things changed?

Next Meeting

The next OFG meeting on May 30th will feature Wayne Parsons with "A History of Flight Simulation". Wayne will cover the devices before the "Link Trainer" to the modern simulators with all mod-cons.

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