



The Old Fliers' Group

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

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NEXT MEETING

Friday July 25th

Mini Speaker

Our June meeting got under way with Vern Benjamin relating a story which covered the introduction of the Boeing B707C to South African Airways. Vern was in the team that worked on the early weight and balance area of the operation. He and another member of the team visited Qantas in Sydney to observe their operation of a similar type of Boeing – this was Vern's first look at Australia, and Sydney and Perth.



A Qantas B707C at Perth Airport.



An early South African Airways B707C.

Vern covered the tragic loss of one of the early SAA Boeings, SZ-EUW, at Windhoek in Namibia in 1968.

Barely visible in white overalls is an engineer on the ladder on the port side of the Qantas B707 (top image). It could well have been those of our *speaker of the day*, Hilton Wilson; he was with Qantas in Perth at that time.

Speaker of the Day

Hilton has been involved in aviation since the mid-1950s and has been "loss adjuster" for the best part of the last thirty years. Prior to the OFG meeting most of us had little to no idea of the work carried out by a loss adjuster. Hilton was able to enlighten us.

In that role, and as required, Hilton visits an aircraft accident site, assesses and records the damage, arranges recovery from the crash site, reports to the insurance company, arranges and monitors repairs, liaises with the insured party, the police, lawyers and the Aircraft Transport Safety Board (ATSB). He may become involved in third party claims and assist where possible.

After the very informative introduction covering the above, Hilton showed a series of slides that reminded us that aviation, as well as being demanding, can also be unforgiving. There were a number of photographs of *wheels up* landings and it reminded us that:

There those who have done it.

There are those who are going to do it.

There are those who are going to do it again!

The range of accidents covered all aspects of aviation, including: taxiing into objects, prop strikes and engine failures, etc. In the last year Hilton has been involved in over fifty claims.



A forced landing after an engine failure.

The underlying message from both speaker's was one of safety. After the discussion on such a wide range of incidents and accidents, most current and retired pilots in the audience might have thought, "Gee, that could have been me". Eric Fisher delivered a sincere message of thanks to both of our speakers. Thanks to all.

Next Meeting

The next OFG meeting on July 25th will feature Alan Powell and Harry O'Neil who will cover the development and operation of the three-engine, Australian designed and built, de Havilland Drover.

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