



The Old Fliers' Group

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

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NEXT MEETING Friday February 27th

Last Meeting

Most people who drive past the RFDS base at Jandakot cannot help but notice the bare plinth that once supported the replica of Robin Miller's Mooney, VH-REM.

Since being dislodged during a storm in 2013 the damaged aircraft has been in storage. However, moves are well under way to have it restored and re-mounted on the plinth. Two people involved in the task are Nick Harvey from the RFDS and Brian Farr from the Aviation Heritage Museum at Bullcreek.



Nick Harvey, the 'Sugar Bird Lady' and Brian Farr.

At the January meeting Brian Farr addressed us with an up-to-date report on the restoration of VH-REM. The RFDS has provided material and the museum volunteers are carrying out the repairs. The Royal Aero Club has donated a horizontal stabiliser to replace the damaged one. The 'Sugar Bird Lady' will be back on the plinth in about six months.



Bernie and Mal Oliver, part of the restoration team.

Speaker of the Day

The January *Speaker of the Day* was, again, Patricia Moran. This time she spoke about her time with the RFDS in Wyndham during the mid-1970s.

Patricia's delivery was once again both interesting and informative – there were also touches of humour in the right places. She told us of the role of the RFDS in providing emergency and primary health care to those living in remote areas in the Kimberley district.

Most clinic days were quite straight forward, but emergencies might result in complicated procedures with pilot, doctor and nurse working long hours and travelling long distances.



A patient being prepared for transfer to hospital.

When tropical cyclone Wilma approached in March 1975 Patricia, with RFDS pilot Les Sandy, packed their essential equipment and flew south to beat the storm. She said the only thing they left behind was the 'kitchen sink'. Of course it was a sensible move to ensure the availability of a serviceable aircraft and medical crew in the aftermath of the cyclone.

Annual Subscription

You can pay the annual subscription of \$10.00 for 2015 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 Friday February 27th will feature John Wager who will tell us about Sir Harry Ricardo who was one of the foremost researchers and designers in the early years of the development of the internal combustion engine. A string of his experimental engines placed England at the top of the engine industry.

A parking fee exemption has been arranged for the meeting time slot 10.30 to 2.30 Friday 27th, so hope to see you at the Royal Aero Club just before noon for lunch. Come early for a chat if you desire.

Brian Hernan