



## The Old Fliers' Group

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

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#### **\*\*NEXT MEETING\*\*** **Friday July 29<sup>th</sup>**

#### **Last Meeting**

About ninety members attended our last meeting to hear Gordon Hamilton tell us of his early experiences as a 'travelling engineer' with Fiji Airways. We also had Ian Miller tell us of his visit to the opening of the Carnarvon Space and Technology Museum at Carnarvon on Saturday May 28<sup>th</sup>.

#### **Travelling Engineer**

Two years after completing his apprenticeship with MMA in Western Australia, Gordon Hamilton took up a position with Fiji Airways as a 'travelling engineer'. At that time, Fiji Airways operated four-engine de Havilland Heron aircraft and provided a service to a number of islands in the Pacific which involved long flights over water. He was expected to travel with the aircraft as part of the crew, serving refreshments while airborne, while at intermediate stops he supervised the refuelling and carried out normal inspection and service on the aircraft.



*The de Havilland Heron.*

On joining the company Gordon underwent a brief training course that involved aircraft evacuation, life raft operation and first aid. On completion, he gained the right to wear a white shirt with purple epaulets with two gold bars (the equivalent of a senior flight engineer in most international airlines!)

Gordon told the story about a female passenger who mistook him for a minister of religion and implored him to pray with her, both at stop-overs and in the air so as to ensure a safe flight.

#### **Carnarvon Space Museum**

Ian Miller gave a most interesting account of his recent visit to Carnarvon to attend the opening of the new Carnarvon Space and Technology Museum. Eugene Cernan, *The Last Man on the Moon*, was there to promote the event.



As a primary tracking station, Carnarvon played an important role in the moon landing programme. A number of people, both local and from overseas, who were involved in the project made a special effort to attend the event.

On more than one occasion, Cernan spoke about the mission and the problems which confronted the crew. He also promoted a documentary film titled

'The Last Man on the Moon'.



*Members of the support team.*

#### **Next Meeting**

The next OFG meeting will be at the Royal Aero Club, at noon on Friday July 29<sup>th</sup>. The main speaker will be your editor who will talk about aerial surveys in Western Australia. Gordon Hamilton will return as support speaker to finish off the story about Fiji Airways.

Brian Hernan.