



## The Old Fliers' Group

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

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**\*\*NEXT MEETING\*\***  
**Friday February 24<sup>th</sup> 2017.**

#### Last Meeting

We finished an excellent year with eighty-five members in attendance, all of whom enjoyed the speakers and the lunch. On this occasion we followed up with a piece of birthday cake; thanks to the restaurant manager's son who had a special birthday.

#### First Speaker

Your editor related a short story on an accident that occurred at Brearley's Esplanade aerodrome in early 1922. Brearley said the damage was minor and not worth reporting to the aviation authorities, also it was not reported in either the *West Australian* or the *Daily News*.



*The photo in the Call newspaper.*

A photo of the damaged aircraft was, however, featured on the front page of the *Call* newspaper. The pilot was Charles Kingsford Smith.

#### Speaker of the Day

The *Speaker of the Day* for our final meeting for 2017 was Frank Cocks. He gave an interesting and informative talk on the exploits of Jimmy Woods. Jimmy was born in Scotland in 1893 and moved to New Zealand, where he learnt to fly. During WWI he logged 420 hours then joined Norman Brearley's WA Airways in 1924 and transferred to MMA in 1936.

Later, Jimmy set up Wood's Airways and operated the "shortest scheduled airline service in the world". He gradually became a thorn in the side of officialdom as he made 13,000 crossings to and from Rottneest Island in his Avro Ansons. The

service ceased in 1962 when the Ansons were declared un-airworthy.



*Two of Woods Airways Avro Ansons.*

Frank had personal contact with Jimmy and his wife, Molly, and he played a large part in the recovery of one of Jimmy's Avro Ansons for display at the RAAFA Museum. Frank was also involved in the naming of the terminal at Rottneest aerodrome – *The Jimmy Woods Terminal*.



Frank's unique talk was appreciated by all who attended the meeting.

#### Annual Subscription

The annual subscription remains the same as last year at \$20.00. You can pay 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 meeting will be at the Royal Aero Club, at noon on Friday February 24<sup>th</sup> 2017. Robin McMillan will tell us of his time as co-pilot for Jimmy on the Rottneest run.

We are in the process of arranging a support speaker who should prove to be most interesting.

Hope to see you there.

Brian Hernan.