



The Old Fliers' Group

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

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****NEXT MEETING**** **Friday April 28th 2017.**

Last Meeting

We had another good rollup to hear about the maintenance of agricultural aircraft in the late 1960s; and the reckless flying of Kingsford Smith in 1921 before he came to Western Australia.

Gordon Hamilton

Gordon Hamilton, who had previously given a talk on his experiences with Fiji Airways, spoke about his time in the maintenance of ag. aircraft. In 1968 he started work as a LAME with Air Culture at Jandakot.

He explained how he had a tough time coming to terms with a different breed of aircraft, a new breed of management, radically different agricultural pilots and diverse maintenance procedures. His anecdotes about his experiences proved to be most enlightening.



The Cessna 188 AG wagon.



The Wackett Cropmaster.

Charles Kingsford Smith

Your editor spoke about the exploits of Charles Kingsford Smith in the years before he came to Western Australia. After WWI he tried his hand at

barnstorming in the UK, then stunt flying in the USA. Both ventures proved to be unsuccessful so he returned to Australia in early 1921.

In February 1921 he gained employment with Diggers' Aviation in country New South Wales where he became well-known for his reckless flying and uninhibited carousing. On his first day he tipped an Avro 504 over at Oberon and a week later wrecked it at Dubbo after a wing failure during a vigorous aerobatic routine. Later, at Cowra, he tried to impress a young nurse by repeatedly carrying out aerobatics over the hospital, and later still caused a stir when he flew under the bridge at Cowra. Further accidents involving Smithy and other reckless pilots employed by Diggers' Aviation resulted in the company folding in late 1921.

Out of work, Smithy was contemplating his next move when an advertisement in a newspaper invited pilot applicants for the new company set up by Norman Brearley – Western Australian Airways. Smith was later air tested by Brearley and assessed as 'outstanding' – so began a new chapter of his life.

Aviation Enthusiasts Tour of the UK

At the last meeting, Peta Garnaut told us about "The Aviation Enthusiasts UK Tour – 2017". She and her husband, Rod, will escort the tour to classic tourist spots and aviation establishments.

Both have been active members of the Royal Aero Club for thirty years and the tour is exclusive to Helloworld Balcatta (their business). Remember the dates:

September 11th to 26th, 2017.

Peta's talk at the meeting can be viewed at:
<http://oldfliersgroup.org.au>

Have a look at this

Andy Anderson invited us to check out the following web site by his son: <http://airlinepilotguy.com>

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be at the Royal Aero Club, at noon on Friday April 28th 2017. Shelley Yeo will tell us about the life and service of three Western Australian WWI aviators. Also there will be some more on Charles Kingsford Smith – about his time with Western Australian Airways and his move into the trucking business.

Hope to see you there.

Brian Hernan.