



The Old Fliers' Group

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

Coordinator: Stephen Rogers – Email: henol@bigpond.net.au

Bulletin No 151 November 2017

****NEXT MEETING****
Friday November 24th 2017.

Last Meeting

John Park, Manager of the Aviation Heritage Museum at Bull Creek, told members about the history and development of the Aviation Heritage Museum.

John was born in California and trained as an electronics engineer. After working for Lockheed Martin on the FA/18 project he came to Western Australia in 1989. Later he returned to the US for just over a year, but he was drawn back to WA where he worked as a volunteer at the museum.

In 2009 he became the manager and now looks after over 200 volunteers at the establishment that hosts over 30,000 visitors per year.



The Spitfire near the Museum entrance.

During the 1960s and 70s the Association collected a wide range of aviation memorabilia including aircraft, aircraft parts, aircraft engines, books, photographs and other artefacts. By 1971 the collection had grown to such a size that the Association began planning a museum to house it. In the same year the Aviation Historical Group was formed from members of the Association and other interested individuals. The group also consisted of private collectors and restorers with a wide range of interests.

Also, in 1971 the Association began developing its Memorial Estate at Bull Creek to provide a large club house and retirement accommodation for its members in their later years. A piece of land near the entrance was set aside on the estate for an aviation museum. This place was chosen so visitors did not have to traverse the estate to visit the proposed Museum. In 1979 the Western Australian government donated \$100,000 to the Association to construct a museum

building and the South Wing was opened in November 1979. It is now rated as one of the top aviation museums in Australia.

Members appreciated John's meticulous presentation and showed their appreciation in the usual way.

Support Speaker

Your editor spoke of a chance meeting that he had with a World War One pilot in 1979. The pilot, Lionel Phillips, at the age of sixteen, in 1916, left home and changed his name to that of a deceased eighteen-year-old whom he had known.

Under the assumed name and age of Ted Sharp he joined the Royal Navy and almost immediately transferred to the Royal Naval Air Service (RNAS) where he underwent pilot training. By 1917, at the real age of seventeen, he had gone solo in a Farman Pusher biplane and was flying patrols along the English coastline in a DH 4.



The RNAS DH4.

After WWI Lionel joined the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve and rose to a senior rank. During WWII he was in charge of retrieving naval aircraft which could effectively be brought back to an operational standard. He was assigned an aircraft and a pilot to carry out his duties. After WWII he set up a business as a printer and publisher. In 1965 he retired and selected Western Australia as his home.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be at the Royal Aero Club, starting at noon on Friday November 24th. Vern Benjamin will talk on "Slowing and Stopping an Aeroplane". Also, it will be our last meeting for the year and we will enjoy the traditional Christmas pudding, plus there will be a free raffle for a flight in a Tiger Moth.

Hope to see you there.

Brian Hernan.