



The Old Fliers' Group

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

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****NEXT MEETING****
Friday May 25th 2018.

Last Meeting

Villers Bretonneau – 100 years

After the capitulation of Russia in early March 1918, the Germans concentrated their efforts on the Western Front, and in early April they launched an all-out attack near Villers-Bretonneux in France.

The Germans were close to success until a counter-attack by the 9th Australian Infantry Brigade. Their success during April 24th and 25th 1918 – one hundred years ago – was under the command of Lieutenant General (later Sir) John Monash. It was the first time that Australian forces were commanded by an Australian. It was a notable victory.



A school in Villers-Bretonneux.

The Red Baron – 100 years

April 21st, 2018, marked 100 years since the Red Baron was shot down and killed during WWI. Ever since, there has been an on-going discussion on who fired the fatal shot. After a thorough investigation by Charles Bean, the Australian War Memorial records state that the shot was fired from the ground by an Australian gunner, Sergeant Cedric Popkin.



The Red Baron in flight.

Red Baron Seaplanes

A few weeks ago I visited to the Barrack Street jetty complex to witness the operation of the Grumman float plane being used for joyrides on the Swan River. It

is flown by ex-club instructor, Werner Buhlmann. I was impressed by the professional manner in which he conducted the operation – particularly in the 'tight' space between piers and boats. If you have time it is certainly worth a visit.

I Want an Aeroplane

At the last meeting Richard Ewing (in the green shirt on the left) gave an in-depth talk on the construction of his Sonex aircraft, mainly on his back patio. After a number of years in the construction stage he is now coping with a few months of official paperwork (Pshewww).

Richard made his choice of aircraft in 2012 and started serious work on it in October of that year. He kept a comprehensive diary of progress, and also a good photographic record of all stages. Those photographs formed the basis of his presentation at the last meeting.

Even though the aircraft came in kit form there were many components that needed to be fabricated, and of course this led to a few 'problems', like making a part as a mirror image of that required, or the cracking of an windcreeen during fitting. The aircraft is powered by ever-reliable VW engine fitted with dual ignition.



Richard shows his Sonex to members.

Richard had the Sonex parked on the tarmac in front of the club and after his talk a large number of members gave it the 'close-up'. All were impressed.

Thank you Richard for a great presentation – and keep toiling on that paperwork.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be at the Royal Aero Club, starting at noon on Friday May 25th. Josh Portlock, as *Speaker of the Day*, will talk on Drones and Electric Powered Aircraft and Gordon Hamilton will talk about an Unplanned Holiday on Christmas Island.

Hope to see you there.

Brian Hernan.