



The Old Fliers' Group

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

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****NEXT MEETING**** **Friday June 29th 2018.**

Last Meeting

Despite the poor weather there was a good roll-up to the May meeting. We heard Gordon Hamilton talk about an 'Unplanned Stay on Christmas Island' due to a tyre failure, and Joshua Portlock on the current trends in the field of 'Drones and Electric Aircraft'.

Unplanned Stay on Christmas Island

In the mid-1980s a number of staff members from the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) flew to Christmas and Cocos Islands on a three-day inspection tour. They travelled in the Department's Turbo Commander, VH-LTN.



The Turbo Commander.

On their first morning at Christmas Island they discovered that a tyre on a main wheel was seriously flat – the rim was on the tarmac. A spare wheel had to be sourced. After communication with the CAA it was decided that a spare wheel and toolkit would be dispatched from Perth, but it did not arrive.

Next it was decided to despatch a spare and toolkit from Melbourne to Singapore; from there it could be delivered to Christmas Island. Sadly, it did not make it, so a spare wheel and toolkit from the South Australian Turbo Commander were dispatched on a RAAF Lockheed P3 Orion. Problem solved at last.

In the meantime the crew had a nice holiday, playing tennis and catching crabs for just over a week in a tropical paradise.

Drones and Electric Aircraft

Joshua Portlock from Electro.Aero at Jandakot gave us a dynamic talk where he explained that we are on the cusp of a revolution where the electric power plant will soon replace

the internal combustion engine in the majority of light aircraft. The first factory-built two-seat electric powered aircraft is now available for purchase and the one owned by Josh's company, Electro.Aero, was on display in front of the club for all to see.

Electro.Aero has launched Australia's first electric aircraft pilot training program, allowing students to train all the way to Recreational Pilot Certificate on an electric aircraft.

The designers, builders and operators of electric powered aircraft are working with the regulators to develop new rules and regulations to revolutionise the entire industry.

Thank you Josh for a stunning talk.



The Powerplant of the Pipertrel Alpha.

The Raffle

At the meeting we held a gold coin raffle for a flight in the Pipistrel Alpha. It was won by Bob Murphy – see photo below.



Josh Portlock and Bob Murphy.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be at the Royal Aero Club, starting at noon on Friday June 29th. Adrian Lambourne will talk on the Dambusters of WWII and Bob Murphy will talk on newspaper deliveries by air drop in the 1950s – and electric aircraft.

Hope to see you there. Brian Hernan.