



The Old Fliers' Group

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

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****NEXT MEETING****

Friday September 28th 2018.

Last Meeting

There were over seventy people attended our August meeting hear our speakers.

Speaker of the Day

David Currey, CEO of the Royal Aero Club of Western Australia, delivered a stunning talk on the situation regarding pilot training in the future. He predicted that there will be turbulent times ahead.

Experts in the field of aviation expect that, in the next twenty years, over 700 000 pilots will be needed by the airlines around the world. Similarly, over 650 000 maintenance engineers and 800 000 cabin crew will need to be trained. Over 42 000 commercial aircraft, both wide-body and single aisle, will have to be constructed.

David explained how the goal posts are continually moving. Advances in technology indicate that a hybrid airliner may be developed. It might have four engines, two conventionally powered and two electric. All four may be used for take-off and landing, while only the electrics would be used in cruise.

Also, single pilot operations are being contemplated. There might be only one pilot on the flight deck and another at a ground facility where the performance of the aircraft captain can be monitored – as if by a co-pilot.



A drawing of a hybrid with electric inboards.

Add to all of the above the concept of autonomous flight where the operation is completely serviced from crew at a remote ground station. So – what about drone technology?

General aviation will suffer similar problems with training and the retention of flight instructors and maintenance crews.

Flying Dutchmen

Step back in time to October 1932. Members heard about two Dutchmen who flew from Batavia to travel around Australia. They left Banteong in the Netherlands East Indies to arrive in Wyndham. They then proceeded down the WA coast to Perth and then on to Kalgoorlie – and that's where the trouble started.

In appallingly bad weather they became lost and landed on a dry lake. After assessing their situation, and measuring their remaining fuel, they set out to seek help. When the fuel was almost exhausted they landed on the edge of a second lake. There, with virtually no food or water, they waited in the hope of being rescued.

Fortunately, on the fourth day of their ordeal they were spotted by Charlie Snook, about 150km south east of Kalgoorlie. He dropped much needed food and water to them. His aircraft was too small to carry both Dutchmen so he dropped a note to say that help would soon be on the way. Snook returned to Kalgoorlie and arranged for Jimmy Woods to pick them up in a bigger aircraft.

After a period of recuperation in Kalgoorlie, the Dutchmen continued their journey around Australia and returned to Batavia, according to plan.

It is reported that eight aircraft flew over 30 000 km in the search for the missing men. The search also involved dozens of ground helpers.



The Dutchmen and their aircraft on the lake.

Next Meeting

The next OFG meeting will be at the Royal Aero Club, starting at noon on Friday September 28th. The *Speaker of the Day* will be Richard Ewing who will tell us about some famous British aviation museums. There will also be a presentaton on Amy Johnson's visit to Western Australia in 1930.

Hope to see you there.

Brian Hernan.