



The Old Fliers' Group

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

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

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Report on our last meeting

About seventy people attended our April meeting; it was pleasing to see the number of new members and visitors.

Speaker of the Day

Jan Ende told us of his work with the Royal Flying Doctor Service, initially as an engineer and later as a pilot. He told us of the aircraft that the RFDS had used - with their good and bad points, and the historical progression from the Fox Moth, VH-USJ, (which still flies at Serpentine), the Cessna 180s, the Beechcraft Barons, Dukes and the Queen Air - which was his favourite aircraft.

Jan spent a good deal of time working for the Victorian Branch of the RFDS out of Derby. Being such a small state, the Victorians felt they did not need a Flying Doctor, so they financed the RFDS Kimberly operation, based at Derby.

It was during his time in Derby that he met and married the flight nurse Penny Webb; they often flew together on clinics and emergencies. Back then, the Kimberly was isolated with few of the modern-day comforts. Together they flew during the day and night, in good and bad weather.



Penny Ende on the steps of an RFDS Queen Air.

Jan has many more stories in his flight bag and we are delighted to have him back.

Lest We Forget

Also speaking at the May meeting was Shelley Yeo. She followed up on her previous talk which was titled "Lost West Australian Airmen".



In the follow-up last month, titled "Lest we Forget", she covered the short careers of three young Western Australian men who also lost their lives in aviation incidents during WW1. They were:

Keith William Stronach grew up in Leederville and attended Perth Technical School. He, firstly, joined the AIF, and then the Aviation School where he was killed in a training accident in 1918. He attempted to extend a glide in an RE 8 which was a notoriously difficult aircraft to fly.



The RE 8 aircraft of WW1.

Lieutenant Roy Walter Mouritzen from York was educated at CBC in Perth. He was serving in the Royal Flying Corps at the age of 20 when he was killed in an accident June 1917.

George Viner Wicks was born in Fremantle and trained as an engineer. In February 1917 he was selected by the NSW School of Aviation in the Third Aviation Training School. He was killed in a flying accident in October 1918.

Next Meeting

The next OFG meeting will be at the Royal Aero Club, starting at noon on Friday, 31st May. Our Speaker of the Day will again be Jan Ende with more information on the RFDS in Derby. Also we will hear about station life in the Midwest.

Hope to see you there.

Brian Hernan.