



The Old Fliers Group

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

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Word has it that our luncheon meetings are fun. They are a chance to catch up with friends over lunch and to hear two interesting presenters. Our first speaker was John Ridley who was a Manager of Line Maintenance for Hong Kong based HAICO.

On October 18th, 1983, a Boeing 747-230E Freighter operated by Lufthansa had an aborted take-off and veered off the runway (rather than end up in the ocean, for this was notorious Kai Tak airport.)

John detailed how this aircraft was salvaged and the resources they used to get it back to flying. The process took three months and cost \$50M. A new freighter would be about \$110M.



John praised the Hong Kong ethos of overcoming obstacles and wondered whether Australians have something to learn.

Brian Mollan became bitten by the aviation bug early when as a seven-year-old he was invited into the cockpit of a Dakota off the west African coast.

In 1959 he joined the Royal Marine Commandoes in the U.K. but applied to transfer to the Fleet Air Arm to learn to fly helicopters.

The Tiger Moth (“Box-kite with an engine strapped to the front”) and DH Chipmunk were early trainers followed by a succession of helicopters.

Brian brought humour to a serious subject as he detailed things that could and did go wrong.

We plan to have Brian back to follow up with the story of his civilian flying when he emigrated to Australia.



We will be celebrating the 100th birthday of the RAAF during our March meeting.

Closer to this date I will be emailing details.

If you aren't receiving Old Fliers Group emails, then I invite you to email me at the above address.

Racwa committee member, Vaughan Emery has generously donated a flight in his Cirrus SR20 to be offered as a door prize.

I thank Vaughan.



The above talks can be watched at:

<https://www.youtube.com/c/OldFliersGroup/videos>

Keep smiling

Steve Rogers.