

The Old Fliers Group Royal Aero Club of WA Stephen Rogers Coordinator

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The OFG was the brainchild of Hal Sutton, Brian John and Roy Hamilton. The first meeting was in April 2004. Since then, there have been 144 presenters and 600 recorded videos. These are a treasure trove of historical

importance, but who looks back at them? This was rectified because the first session was a retrospective of 18 memorable presenters. This seemed to go well as the audience voted to have more of these in the future.



/e have now archived for posterity 600 videos from 144 presenters. Sadly, many of these presenters have passed on but their stories remain.

After a break we heard from Doug Brenkley who wrote the book entitled "No 4 SFTS Geraldton"

Doug researched his subject well.

No 4. Service flying Training School RAAF was formed in February 1941 for the intermediate and advanced training of pilots under the Empire Air Training Scheme.

Australia had a desperate need for combat pilots both here and in England.

Geraldton was chosen instead of Southern Cross, considered too turbulent.

Norman Brearley was Commander 1942-1944. Over 1,000 pilots graduated through the school. One hundred Avro Ansons were scrounged from all over Australia for the purpose.

Doug told us numerous anecdotes of aircraft crashes, a sighting of a German reconnaissance plane and the search for the survivors of the sinking of HMAS Sydney.



Student pilot of No. 4 Service Flying Training School boarding his Anson, March 1942

The National Ballooning Championships are scheduled for 28th August to 4th September.

Judge Ruth Wilson accepted our invitation to give a presentation at our August meeting.

Ruth lives in NSW.

Due to Covid restrictions on travel this may not be possible.

There is always a Plan B.

A well-known and respected aviation identity has agreed to give a presentation on the past, present and future of aviation.

Take care and stay safe.

View our talks at:

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

We hope to see you all on 27th of August. Steve Rogers.