



The Old Fliers Group

Royal Aero Club of WA
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The National Ballooning Championships at Northam had been cancelled due to the difficulty of contestants coming in from interstate. Judge Ruth Wilson had promised to give a talk to the OFG, but this was not going to happen as Ruth lives in NSW.

One of our members had heard noted aviation commentator, Geoffrey Thomas gave a talk to a group and suggested we approach him. This we did and Geoffrey was happy to oblige. He thought that his talk "F35 and the future of aviation" would be a suitable subject.



Geoffrey is aviation writer at the West Australian, aviation commentator on Channel Seven and owns AirLineRatings.

His summation of why the RAAF made a good choice when it came to buying

the Lockheed Martin F-35 Lightning II was full of information.

The second part of his talk was titled "the Future of air travel"



Perhaps it could have been entitled "Does air travel have a future?"

Air freight is keeping planes flying.

The growth of aviation in the past 25 years was decimated with Covid.

40% of the World's trade by value is carried by air.

90% of this used to go in the bellies of passenger planes.

We need planes flying.

Airbus have predicted that it won't be until 2025 before air travel returns to pre-2020 levels.

We hope to have Geoffrey return in the future to share his stories.

Stay safe.

Go to this link to view our videos.

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

We hope to see you all on 24th of September.
Steve Rogers.