



## The Old Fliers Group

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We welcomed ninety guests for our first luncheon meeting for 2022.

Some of the WA Women Pilots Association members joined us.

Our first speaker was John Ridley, there to talk about legendary pilot, Jimmy Woods.

Captain Woods, as a young John called him, flew an Anson between Perth and Rottneest.

John was aboard to wind up and then down, the landing gear. The flight was very short.

Jimmy Woods was born in Scotland and emigrated to New Zealand where he learnt to fly. Then back to the UK in 1918, joining the RAF. Jimmy then emigrated to Western Australia where he found work flying in the Northwest. Alas, the 1946 crash of a Lockheed Electra near Broome saw a career change and that is when he started Woods Airways using two Avro Ansons. In time these were deemed unairworthy and two were donated to farmers to the delight of their children. Jimmy passed away in 1975. He left such a mark that we still speak of him today.



Betty Foster has published a book of her photographs from when she was an MMA Flight Attendant. Betty has a vivid memory of flying in the MMA DC3s above the Pilbara and Kimberley landscape. Knowing of her interest in photography, her pilots would often point out interesting features and fly closer for that special shot. Mount Whaleback was such a feature, remarkable for causing the DC3 compass to wildly swing as they passed. Overnight stops in Derby, Port Hedland, Meekatharra, and Wyndham saw crew accommodated in conditions that wouldn't be acceptable today. Visits to outlying stations were welcomed by the station women particularly as theirs was a lonely existence.

Betty's book "A Bird's eye view of Western Australia and the Northern Territory 60 years ago" was available to buy.



*Anecdotes and Photos  
from the 'Book  
'A Bird's Eye View'  
in 1961*

*By an MMA Air Hostess  
on a DC3*



All Aerial Photos taken with a 'Werra' Slide Camera with a Carl Zeiss Lens 2.8 using Kodachrome 1 from the clear back window of a DC3

Next month we will meet at RAAFA Bullcreek.

Thank you.

Stephen Rogers