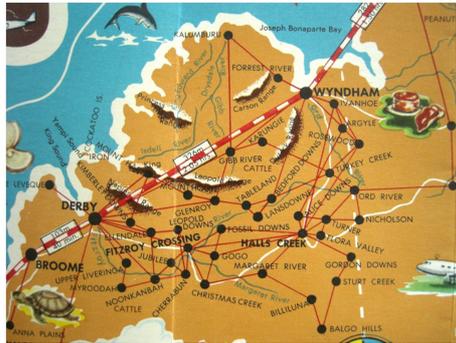




MMA Route Map 1961



Kimberley "milk Runs"

The Old Fliers Group

Royal Aero Club of WA

Stephen Rogers Coordinator.

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This month we moved back to the lounge at the Royal Aero Club. Now renovated and looking good. A new 'Apron Cafe' to cater to us. We expected 88 but that turned out to be about 100 guests. Brian and Erica Hernan were invited to attend. A Club C152 has been named "Brian Hernan" in his honour. Our first presenter was Trish Bevan, an ex-MMA Hostess. Now in her 80s, Trish gave a great talk centred on her life flying in DC-3s at 8,000'. There were plenty of amusing moments which, I'm guessing, weren't amusing at the time. Severe turbulence, drunk passengers and missed meals. MMA aircraft also transported very ill patients to Perth. The "hostie" was also expected to care for them too.

After a break we had a presentation by Dr Peter Gall. Peter has a interest in the life and times of famed aviator, Bert Hinkler.

Bert grew up in Bundaberg and from an early age was attracted to flight. He observed the graceful flight of Ibis. He built his own glider. In 1912 American pilot "Wizard" Stone came to Bundaberg. Bert was able to fix his Metz Bleriot and was offered the job of mechanic. Bert then made his way to the U.K. and pestered Tom Sopwith for a job.

When WW1 broke out he volunteered.

His war service, aviation feats after WW1, records and flight to Perth was detailed by Peter. Sadly, for Bert, it ended on a remote, snowy mountain in Italy and a hero's funeral.

Next month will be the last OFG luncheon this year. As yet, no one has volunteered to take over the role of coordinator. The future of the OFG as we know it is uncertain.

Stephen Rogers