

Rockhampton Aero Club Members Email News September 2004



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Introduction

Welcome to all club members to the first of what is hoped to be a monthly update of the happenings in and around the Rockhampton Aero Club.

By way of this email news it is hoped everyone will become more aware of their club and participate in the events and activities that the club aims to promote.

The end result is that members come along to participate and fly aeroplanes. After all this was and still is, the ultimate aim of this club.

We would be interested to hear of any relevant newsworthy events from club members to be included in future editions of this newsletter. Please email any stories and photos to neil@njr.com.au.

We aim to send this out via email only so if you are aware of any members who have email but didn't get this edition, please ask them to email their details.

AGM

The 51st Annual General Meeting of the club was held on 28th September 2004. There were some minor changes to the committee and the current line-up is on our website at www.rockhamptonaeroclub.org.au

It would be great to see more members at the AGM next year. You get free coffee and cake and the president's report, which although never brief, really does sum up well, the year that has been for the Rockhampton Aero Club.

It was pleasing to hear in this year's report that the club has really turned around financially in the last year and things are only looking up for the next year to come. With some more member participation and contact through this newsletter we hope to make this a bumper year for the club.

Upcoming Events & Reminders

Wings Night

The annual Wings Night is to be held at the Rockhampton Aero Club on Friday 12th November 2004 at 7pm. Tickets are \$30 per head including door prizes, dinner, entertainment and a guest speaker. Tickets numbers are limited once again to 70, so in order not to miss out, get your tickets fast from the Aero Club.

New and student members are very welcome at this night, as any members who have gained their licence, gone solo, reached GFPT or gained any type endorsements or ratings through the club will be presented with a certificate on the night highlighting their achievements. There is normally a long list of recipients on the night.

Working Bee

To get the Club building looking good for the Wings Night, a working bee is being held on Saturday 6th November at 9am. Please try and make it along that morning, even if only for a short time.

Competitions

September's comp was held at the Rockhampton Airport on Sunday 12th September.

The winner on the day was Lyn Dwyer. Full comp results are available on the noticeboard at the club or on the website.

New and student members are always welcome to these comps. You don't have to be a fighter ace or anything like that. Fly a comp with an instructor and you'll be sure to get your 0.2 hours worth !!

The next competition is on at Emu Park on Sunday 17th October. This will be the final competition for the year so try and make it along.

Social Activities / Trips

Temora

The following trip report has been submitted by club member Phil White.

On the 29th August Dave Tempest and I agreed to meet at the Temora Aviation Museum at Temora, NSW. Dave had flown a C172RG to Forbes and Pam and I were on the way home from Victoria with our caravan.

Pam and I planned to spend a couple of nights in Junee and drive the 50km to Temora. The morning broke with a heavy overcast and as we headed north-west the rain showers increased. Dave and Anna had already phoned to say the forecast was not good and that they would be late, as they now had to drive the 160 km from Forbes where they were staying with friends.

Pam and I arrived at the gates to the airfield at 1015 joining a queue of like-minded enthusiasts. The volunteer at the gate greeted us with a short safety briefing and confirmed that the day's activities would go ahead but with the possibility of a reduced flying display.

Dashing between heavier raindrops, Pam and I made it into the administration area and museum. A token entry charge of \$10.00 seemed very reasonable. From that point on the whole day just got better.



The complex consisted of a gift shop, theatrette, maintenance facility and aircraft hanger. Everything had been completed to the highest professional standards. A high level viewing platform in the maintenance hangar enabled you to see the restoration work that was in progress on the CA-27 Sabre and the second A37B Cessna Dragonfly. The theatrette was showing a film of about 20 minutes outlining the history of the airfield and the development of the aviation museum.



Back out into the rain and to see what action was taking place? Aircraft were being rolled out and the commentary had begun outlining the plan for the day. Weather was the main problem as it was not possible to fly the Canberra, Meteor and Vampire.

Landing on the wet runway was not their idea of fun and the value of the aircraft had to be considered. Excitement was the order of the day as the Mark VIII Spitfire was brought out along with the Lockheed Hudson, Cessna A37B Dragonfly, CA-16 Wirraway, Cessna O-1G Birddog and T28D Trojan.

The total flying display and commentary were second to none. Dave and I have both been to a few displays over the years and both agreed that this rated amongst the best we had seen. The commentary "tower" was a small staging directly in front of the crowd barriers and everything was directed at the enthusiastic crowd.



I can't wait to find the opportunity to head back south, hopefully with better weather and see the three aged jets in the air.

Temora Aviation Museum flies on a Saturday and Sunday approx every month. I can thoroughly recommend a great weekend.

For more information check out their website at www.aviationmuseum.com.au

Wilpeena Races

The Wilpeena Races were held on Saturday 11th September. Neil Richardson and family flew out to Wilpeena Park for the day, although the stay was short as there was only so much dust and horse poo that the kids could handle.



George Warner & Lyn Dwyer flew JMO and Dave Tempest flew TVZ, both on charters (although that didn't stop Lyn from getting frocked up). Phil White had his horse entered in a race. Rumour has it that the horse had a win and Phil was a very happy chap.

It is suggested that next year members should arrange a fly out to Wilpeena. It is a good day and is helping a good cause, and the property has an airstrip so what more reasons do we need? And it isn't very far away to fly to.



Rotarians Night

Monday 20th November saw the club cater for and host two of Rockhampton's Rotary Clubs. They organised an aviation related night to view the progress of member David Andrews' RV8 and member Laurie Georgeson's Barracuda. Richard McDonald also had the Mig-15 on display and he has flown at least one booking from the night.

The Aero Club put on a BBQ and manned the bar for what turned out to be a good PR night. It appears everyone had a good time and it was handy to be able to promote the club and make a few \$\$ from the BBQ and Bar at the same time. A raffle was also held for a joy-flight.

Thanks go once again for the tireless efforts of Dave Tempest for arranging the catering and other club members ie. Chris, Eric, Phil and Graham who came along to lend a hand.

It wouldn't be a bad idea to have such a night every now and then for other groups and club members are reminded they do have the use of our facilities. If you ask nicely the BBQ might be cranked up again for the event!

Flying/Student Achievements

Stay tuned next month for details.

Members News

Nick Williams has completed Flight screening in Tamworth. While not successful for the RAAF due to 'too many speeding tickets', he has received a letter from the army inviting him to a final interview in Townsville next month.

Nick Keating has spread his wings to New Zealand to chase true love...apparently.

Nick Reeder hasn't done any of the above.

Thanks to Brendan Rossow for these enlightening comments. Brendan is now to be known as "scoop". Brendan also leaves for Fiji for what he says is his last holiday before he gets "serious". At what, we don't know.