

The Flying Tigers

Newsletter

February 2009

Published: from time-to-time
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Activities Manager:	Kiwi
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First of all I must apologise for the long gap between newsletters. I left for the UK in June last year to spend two months there while our new house build was finished. I returned some seven months later and, at the time of writing, it still is not finished! – But that's another story.

Flying Tigers Meeting February 2009 at 11.00am *report*

There was considerable discussion about the way forward for the club. Now that the hangar loans have been completely paid, the club needs to plan for the future. Several suggestions have been made concerning the best way to extend the current club room. These range from a fully enclosed glass extension to shade sails in front of the existing veranda. Some costs have been assessed, The shade cloth option, in three sections, would cost \$8,500 supplied and installed. This would add 70% more shade to the existing veranda but would not be waterproof.. If it was decided to fully enclose a new extension, then the cost of air conditioning alone would be at least \$8.000 for installation plus considerable running costs. Most members felt this unnecessary. The possibility of doubling the existing veranda with a concrete floor and a fully insulated and waterproof roof was discussed and favoured by some members. Eventually Grummo proposed a motion that the club should bank any excess funds until enough money had been saved to concrete the club hangar floor, thus completing this project. The motion was carried. Club funds currently stand at \$7,000 approx.

The next meeting in March has been deferred because many club members will be attending the Avalon airshow.

Evans Head Fly-in

The Flying Tigers were awarded a trophy for the club with most members in attendance. What a pity that the inclement weather resulted in a drive in instead of a fly in –still it is always good to receive recognition

Be up-to-date with this blogspot

Keep up to date with RAAUS rep John McKeown's blog. Why not surf in for a look?

www.ragandtubeaviator.blogspot.com

The Farnborough Air Show August 2008

I have attended this event many times in the past but Col had never had this experience. We had bought tickets for the International Air Tattoo, two weeks earlier but this had been washed away due to bad weather so we were really looking forward to this one. This show takes place over the course of a week and is primarily for the aircraft industry. At the weekend the general public attends and it is a heaving mass of people. We managed to get tickets for the trade days - don't ask how!

We arrived early and Colin felt very out of place as he was about the only male not wearing a suit. The morning was spent walking around the halls and displays. This is a permanent site with large halls and chalets where companies entertain their clients and try to persuade them to part with money by lubricating them with champagne. We walked around all the static displays of aircraft and by lunch time were looking forward to the afternoon's flying. The Australian Air Van was part of the static display and had a good position right on the front of the display line. We talked them round to letting us into their compound for the flying and had the best seat in the house.

The first aircraft away was the Airbus 380. The pilot stood it on its tail and did a very steep climb out followed by an almost knife edge turn – very impressive. As was the slow fly by with nose up and gear down. She looked as if she should fall out of the sky. Damned clever these computers. Previous to watching this bird fly, I was not sure whether I wanted to fly in one as a passenger but now I am convinced that she is a remarkable machine. The wing shape from the rear is so pretty.

I was very excited about seeing the Vulcan fly. This late 1950s design V bomber had been returned to airworthy condition mainly by public subscription. Even people I know who are not into the aviation scene had donated to this appeal. She looked magnificent in her camouflage paint scheme as she taxied out ready for take off. As the Rolls Royce Olympus engines throttled up and the ground began to shake, it took me back to my early teens when I first saw a Vulcan at RAF Tangmere. This one was painted with anti-radiation paint and looked like it was made of white porcelain. I remembered that distinctive roar of the engines and the shaking of the ground under my feet.

The Vulcan rose gently into the air showing that wonderful delta wing shape. She flew a fairly sedate flight because those engines had to be nursed gently. In the old days the throttle would have moved from full bore to idle in a few seconds as she was thrown into steep climbs and wing-overs making low level lazy eights. However, just to see this fantastic plane back in the air was a privilege.

There were several other noteworthy flights including a twin engine transport which was very agile and a Sea Hawk, an early carrier borne jet which performed well. If you get the chance to go to Farnborough take it. Always an interesting day out for the aviation enthusiast. I love watching commercial aircraft flown to their limits as well as the latest fast jets such as the Eurofighter.

Sandra Johnson

Your membership renewal is overdue!

If you haven't paid your annual subscription, now is the time. It is a very small price to pay for membership of this great club. Plus you get insulted and mickey taking free of charge!

Sunday 17 May. Gatton Air Park Breakfast Fly-In

Come early and join us for breakfast.. It is only a short flight from Boonah. All welcome.

Saturday 28 February CASA maintenance course.

On Saturday there is a CASA day with a free lunch. On the Sunday a fly-in with a static display. For more details contact Roger Porter email This course will be held at Boonah between 10.00am and 3.00pm. Lunch and refreshments will be provided. The course is free to members; just the usual cost of food, Non members will need to pay a fee of \$15

Club House Maintenance

The club house and facilities are due for painting. This will be done as soon as the weather cools down. Any suggestions welcome for colour schemes. However, if you want spots and stripes you will have to paint it yourself. The carpet tiles will be replaced with ceramic tiles which are more serviceable

See Boonah in real time

Two web-cams are being set up by the flying school. These will also be linked to a weather station. We are informed that this facility will be on line within the next two weeks. Check the website of Airport Queensland.

Thought for the day

A fundamental characteristic of human behaviour is that we are all prone to making errors for a variety of reasons, no matter how experienced we are. Standard Operating Procedures and the use of checklists are designed to avoid error or minimise their effect; they can also save you considerable embarrassment and possibly cost

Contributions to the newsletter and website

I have been newsletter editor for over three years now. During this time I have not received any articles for publication. It would be really appreciated if you send something if you have any interesting aviation experiences. If you don't like writing, you could phone me, I'll make notes and turn it into an article. (0407761619)

Also photos would be appreciated to give variety to the website. Colin tries to add new stuff to keep it interesting. You will note that Mike Sykes now smiles out from the front page because he sent photos. Gold stars to him and Kiwi who have submitted pics. If you want your handsome face displayed, send a photo or three to Col.

Thank you Gary

You may have noticed that the clubhouse has a more up-to-date television set due to the generosity of Gary Deloas.

Club House cleanliness.

Kiwi does a fantastic job in keeping the club's facilities spic and span. We should not take the efforts of generous club members like him for granted. We all need to help to keep the club house clean and tidy – even if you don't do it at home! If we don't all pull our weight, these willing members will run out of steam and give up. Who would do all the work then?

And a final thought

Our treasurer reports that the cost for water and services has increased by 37% since the council merger. Obviously economies of scale are proving very effective!!