



## COWRA'S SECOND HOME?

PEOPLE MIGHT BE FORGIVEN FOR THINKING THAT COWRA AERO CLUB HAD RE-LOCATED TO ORANGE, WITH THE SECOND VISIT IN 3 WEEKS.

This second occasion, on Sunday 6th May was part of a club "progressive feeding", which saw them breakfasting at home base, ducking over to Forbes for morning tea then on to Parkes for lunch.

After doing battle with fog and low cloud during the earlier part of the day, it was clear skies for the penultimate leg to Orange for afternoon tea, before returning home to Cowra.

John Pullen, Peter Reid and David Powell joined the group at Cowra and flew the

rest of the trip to Orange in John's Archer VH-JRP.

There were about a dozen Cowra people spread over 4 aeroplanes - the C210, Jenny's Jab, the new High Wing Brumby and another. A good way to meet the neighbours, enjoy some flying and over-indulge a bit in the food department!

Thanks to David Powell who organised the Orange part of the trip and the afternoon tea.

### ***MHAC - The Max Hazelton Aero Centre***

*In case you're wondering, The MHAC which will incorporate the new Orange Aero Club facility, is still progressing steadily, albeit slower than any of us would have liked.*

*There's an awful lot of work goes into a project like this before the first sod gets turned, but we're now pretty much at the stage of having met all the requirements to allow a construction certificate to be issued.*

*We are hopeful that concrete will be poured and steelwork erected during the next couple of months.*

*The club will be looking for volunteers at critical times to carry out labouring work, so please be prepared to assist.*

## COLD WEATHER NO DETERRENT

WITH THE FINISHING OF DAY-LIGHT SAVINGS IN NSW, THE FRIDAY EVENING BBQS ARE PRETTY MUCH TOTALLY IN THE DARK.

This was the case with the evening BBQ on 11th May. The planes were flying till just before last light, when it was time to light the BBQ and enjoy the social part of the function.

Although the evening cooled off quickly after a near perfect flying day (most of May has been really good!), it was fairly comfortable in the OFT hangar with the doors closed.



Good to see quite a few ladies there, including one of the original "Flightless Birds", who'll need to be re-named soon!



Cake & coffee in the lounge to round off the evening.

# NEW AERO CLUB MEMBERS

## THE OAC COMMITTEE AND MEMBERS WOULD LIKE TO EXTEND A BIG WELCOME TO ALL THOSE WHO'VE JOINED IN RECENT MONTHS...

The latest recruit admitted at the May meeting is **Dean Brus**. Dean operates Orange Helicopters from his base at the airport, flying the blue Robinson R44 VH-HXB. He does general charter work, joy flights and weddings, in conjunction with Orange Limousines. Dean (right) is our first Helicopter member, though not the first rotary wing member...



Also approved at the April Meeting was **Peter Reid**, who's been a regular attendee at functions for a while. Peter's an associate member who's often warmed the right hand seat in John Pullen's Archer, and whatever he flew before John bought VH-JRP. We understand Peter has a rural background, and is pretty handy with a Bobcat and truck! Could be useful!

### COMING EVENTS

#### JUNE

5th - O.A.C. Committee Meeting (conducted 1st Tuesday of each month) - Parkview Hotel, Orange - 6.30pm for 7pm - members welcome.

10th - Pilot of the Year Competition - facilitated by Orange Flight Training (RA) and Thomas Aviation (GA) - qualified and student members encouraged to participate - information flyer circulated prior - timings subject to season and weather - Club BBQ (gold coin donation) for those involved in the competition and those that wish to socialise - BYOG - available subject to numbers and weather.

**BBQ DUTY ROSTER, COMMITTEE MEMBERS: BOB NASH, KEN PIDCOCK.**

30th & 1st July - Fly-in & air show at Gunnedah. Flyer to be distributed soon.

#### JULY

3rd - O.A.C. Committee Meeting (conducted 1st Tuesday of each month) - Parkview Hotel, Orange - 6.30pm for 7pm - members welcome.

8th - Pilot of the Year Competition - facilitated by Orange Flight Training (RA) and Thomas Aviation (GA) - qualified and student members encouraged to participate - information flyer circulated prior - timings subject to season and weather - Club BBQ (gold coin donation) for those involved in the competition and those that wish to socialise - BYOG - available subject to numbers and weather.

**BBQ DUTY ROSTER, COMMITTEE MEMBERS: TROY THOMAS, JOHN MCKENZIE.**



That honour goes to **Jeremy Craig**, who operates the Gyro which lives in Orange Flight Training's hangar. Jeremy (left) works for Newcrest on the Cadia East construction, so he's only able to fly in the block of days he's off shift. He reckons this is always when the weather's crook, but May has been pretty good to him!

Another new member, or members actually, approved at the April meeting, are **Steve Turner** and his son **Andrew**, both in an advanced stage of training with Thomas Aviation.



Steve has completed his GFPT and is well on the way to his PPL, and Andrew completed his first solo just last week. .

Steve operates Western Batteries in William Street, but many of the more "mature" members will recognise the radio voice of the Radio 2GZ presenter, before they went FM. Steve still fills in on 2GZ FM from time to time. The photo shows Andrew and Steve in front of their immaculate C172 SP.

## KINROSS-WOLAROI SCHOOL STUDENTS

Last month we featured Jack Yeomans, a KWS student. KWS students are a big part of OFT's student pilot body, and here's an intro to some more of them.



**Luke Eberle** took a giant step towards his pilot Certificate mid May when he completed his first solo flight. Luke is a Year 11 boarder hailing from Stockinbingal, near C o o t a m u n d r a .

Congratulations Luke!

**Vaughn Higgins**, a boarder from Griffith, also completed his first solo during May, and is well on his way to his Pilot Certificate. Vaughn is no stranger to aircraft, as his dad runs an Aerial Ag business and also operates an Airvan, so we'd bet he'll end up with a CPL sometime. Congratulations Vaughn.



**Hamish Jamieson** comes from Narrabri and has been splitting his training between OFT and a school at Narrabri. It shouldn't be too long before Hamish also goes it alone.

Another new starter with OFT is **Ryan Buchmaier**, whose family currently live in Hong Kong. Ryan commenced training in the GA system, but has elected to continue in the RAAus system.

Congratulations also to **Zac Grindrod-Burge** our most recent graduate, completing his Pilot Certificate during May. Zac comes from Warren.



**Tom Harbison** is a day student who's been learning for about a year now. Tom has a pretty busy sporting and academic schedule, but is well along the way to completing his Pilot Certificate, having completed his first solo earlier this year.

One of our newest student pilots, also a day student is 14 year old **Angus McIntosh**, Angus will have to pace himself as he won't be able to go solo till age 15, early next year. He's only had a couple of lessons so far, but shows great promise.

For completeness, KWS student **Mike Langham** finished his PC early last year, having commenced training at 14 years. Mike flies every month.



## NEW OAC FLIERS

We reckon the ratio of female to male fliers is about 1 in 20. **Nichole Puxty** is one lady who's helping to at least maintain the ratio here at OFT. She seems to have a pretty busy life balancing kids, work, school and family business, and now flying training! Nichole is working towards her first solo flight.

**Adam Wiseman** is very close to finishing his Pilot Certificate, and he's chosen to learn in Allan Brown's Jabiru 230 - the only one so far. Adam lives and works in Dubbo, so he's fairly dedicated to travel to Orange for his lessons.

**Tim Hayden** hails from a property out Hay direction, but is currently working in the Cadia Valley mines. He commenced training in Wagga Wagga some time ago, but has now commenced with Orange Flight training.

**Pere Morgan** is a 14 year old who commenced training recently. He lives in Sydney, but his dad grew up in Orange, so he'll train weekends and school holidays.

**Rick Wylie** and **Michelle Binskin** talked to us a couple of years ago, and have now commenced training. They have a farm in Orange, but spend their working hours in Sydney and Canberra

**Jason Brazel** started learning years ago with Orange Aviation, and has now resumed training with OAC. Jason has a history in Information Technology (that all-encompassing term) and will be setting up business in Joe Carmen's hangar/office area.

## NEW OFT INSTRUCTORS

Orange Flight training has two new instructors on board. The school is in the excellent position of having access to four instructors and three aircraft, so can nearly always meet the requirements of students and qualified pilots.

**John McKenzie** (below) isn't really new, as he completed his instructor rating late last year, and has completed about 60 hours of *ab initio* instructing.

The RAAus rules require that instructors must complete a minimum of 50 hours, and recommend 3 students to the CFI for their first solo, before being elevated to Senior Instructor.

Currently John has one student there - two more to go!



Our other new man is Angus (Gus) Tobin, pictured below pursuing his other dream of professional cycling. Gus is currently riding with a team in Belgium for the European season.

He completed his Instructor Rating just before leaving for Belgium in March, and also gained his CPL in the same week.

We look forward to having Gus commence instructing when he returns in Spring.



**Shortly, members will receive their OAC Membership Renewal and Invoice for Annual Subscription.**

**The committee urges everyone to renew promptly.**

**If you're reading this and aren't already a member, please consider joining as Full (Pilot), Associate or Junior (U18) member. Ask at either flying school for an application, or email the club secretary**

# LATE BREAKING NEWS...

## A FLYING VISIT BY THE MINISTER FOR REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT, SIMON CREAN, BROUGHT GREAT NEWS FOR THE ORANGE REGION

The visit, on short notice, was to announce that Council's application for funding for the expansion of Orange Airport was successful to the tune of \$5 million.

This will complement the contributions by Orange City Council, Cadia Valley Operations and the NSW State Government, providing a total of \$14 million for the proposed works.

The expansion will provide for the extension of the main runway to nearly 2.3 km, increasing the apron area, strengthening and widening the main taxiways and expansion of the terminal building.

It also provides for access roads and provision of services to existing and future hangars.

The runway extension will involve the relocation of some rural roads and property acquisitions, preparatory work for which has been going on for some time as part of the preparation for the submission.



Minister Crean was welcomed by Mayor John Davis, and introduced to Councillors and staff and CVO manager Tony McPaul and staff, and most importantly, to Orange Aero Club Members!

Never one to stand back, OAC President Phil Robertson presented Mr Crean with a club cap as a memento of his visit. The cap was front & centre during the welcome and following announcement, and Mr Crean referred to the "honorary aero club membership" bestowed upon him.

On cue, the Alliance F70 jet chartered to Cadia, landed and taxied up to the terminal to load mining staff for the trip to Telfer in WA.

Mr Crean's visit was part of a round of visits with a similar purpose - announcing Federal community grants to Wagga Wagga, Dubbo and Bathurst as well as Orange. He travelled in style, in the RAAF VIP jet.

Whilst the funding had nothing to do directly with the club's current project, The Max Hazelton Aero Centre, ultimately the club will reap benefits from the development, scheduled to commence late this year.

The event was also important in garnering support for the club's project from Cadia Valley Operations.

### ***PILOT OF THE YEAR - 2012***

***The next round of Orange Aero Club's Pilot of the Year Comp is on this Sunday, 10th June.***

***Club members have received a reminder from the Secretary, and OFT pilots & students have been sent the details.***

***Even if you're not flying, join in the lunchtime BBQ.***