



PRESENTATION NIGHT 2008

THE AERO CLUB END OF YEAR FUNCTION AND PRESENTATION NIGHT HELD AT THE CLUB ON 6TH DECEMBER FEATURED LIVE MUSIC AND SINGING, LIGHTING, GREAT FOOD AND COMPANY

Around 50 members & guests attended the function held in the Wade Air No 2 hangar attached to the clubhouse.

This had been especially cleaned out for the purpose the previous weekend, the resident aircraft moved out for the night, the grassed area to the front of the hangar taped off, and the First Choice CU marquee erected "just in case".

As it happened, the weather was just about perfect, so the marquee wasn't needed.

Throughout the night entertainment was provided by Allan Brown and the band - accompanying Leanne Woods on vocals and guitar.



Orange Ultraflight Centre during the past 18 months.

Also on the agenda was the presentation of the Ross McLennan Memorial Award for the Pilot of the Year - awarded to the pilots who achieved the best result in the GA and Ultralight divisions in the club flying competitions throughout the year. This year there was no GA division competition held, so only the Ultralight division was awarded.

Pilot of the year for 2008 is Angus Tobin, who competed in 5 of the 6 rounds, taking first place in four of them! John McKenzie was second, and Allan Brown took third place. Allan also received a special award for the



It was good to welcome some new members, and a number of RAAus pilots and students who've yet to become members!

It would not be possible

to enjoy functions such as this without the generous support of many people who contributed, in so many ways - providing food, time, expertise before, during and after the event, and we thank them all.

During the evening, the raffle for the Auto-graphed Guitar was drawn, and presentations were made to 6 of the 17 people who have gained their pilot Certificate through



most consistent competitor - the only one who competed in all 6 rounds.

Bryan found himself a new part-time job at the lighting console!



Christmas message from John Pullen,
OAC President, 2008

Best wishes for the Festive season

As 2008 closes, it's a good time reflect on all that has been going on over the course of the year.

Annual dinner

Many attended the 2008 annual dinner at the OAC hangar at Orange airport last weekend and by all the feedback received, it was a great success. We had 50 attend for great food, a general catch up with friends and fantastic live music organised by Alan Brown. All this with a lighting display John Williamson would have been proud of!

The hangar venue, as many would be aware, required a substantial 'tidy up' and clean prior to the event. Thanks to everyone who so willingly gave of their time and effort!

Given the positive feedback, your committee will be using the same winning format next year.

Club raffle

This proved to be a resounding success also generating some much needed funds for the club. This was made possible by Alan Brown initially in his involvement with the musical fraternity, Landers and organising the signatures on the major prize, the guitar. Everyone got behind selling their tickets and I would extend a big thank you for your efforts.

Oops events!

Most notable was the 'wheels up' landing by the Aerostar. Nothing a cool \$200k won't fix!!

Recently XPH suffered a mishap at Oberon requiring quite a bit of work to be carried out. Hopefully it will be flying again early in the new year.

Training

Steve Ridgewell has returned from outback Northern Territory to continue his studies to secure his CPL.

There are 5 active junior members at present and they have completed about 2/3 of their initial training. Of these, 3 are likely to start flying in the new year.

The Jabiru J160 4782 has been exceptionally busy with training and private use. 12 pilots have completed their training this year averaging 1 per month. The average utilization has been 1150 hrs pa based on the last 6 months. Well done Ken and Bryan!

Finances

Following a period of intense focus and scrutiny, the

clubs finances are now very sound indeed. We continue to improve our bottom line. There is still more work to do but 2009 should see the completion of a number of initiatives started some 2 years ago.



This was in VH-AHM, a Bonanza A36, part owned by Phil Robertson.

Trip planning '09

There is the seed of a possible idea of a round Australia trip next year but this is in the early days at this stage.

The Great air rally will be back on the agenda around Easter '09 having been off the radar this year. Keep watching on the OAC website, www.orangeaeroclub.com.au for updates and the club calendar for 2009 to be posted shortly.

New aircraft on the airfield

Henry Hook has a new Foxbat and there is a brand new RV7 in Craig Conlan's hangar. Steven James is anticipating his new Cessna 162 scheduled for delivery late in 2009. There will also be an Evector Sport Star when Peter Jones gets his hangar built.

New taxiway lighting has also been completed.

As you can see there has been a lot happening with more planned in 2009. I wish you a happy and prosperous 2009 and safe and enjoyable Christmas and New Year.

Happy flying and all the very best...

John Pullen

President
Orange Aero Club Inc.

New Members

Four new members were approved at the last committee meeting. All of them are Recreational Pilots or Students, and all of them were with us at the Presentation Night, as well as helping out with the preparation!

Craig Cooke is a GA pilot from Mudgee who recently completed his RAAus conversion, and has just started training for his Instructor Rating. His 16 year old son **Anthony**, a student at Mudgee HS, commenced training at Mudgee and has since completed his Pilot Certificate and Pax Endorsement here.



Graham Draffin works in Adult Education with the Community College, and as a Student Pilot, I guess he's still in Adult Ed - only on the receiving end!



Orange's newest Pilot (but not for long) is surveyor **John Omrod**, who completed his flight test on the day of the Presentation Night. Now that is cutting it fine!

A big welcome to all these people, and their wives and families. They and others like them will be running Orange Aero Club in another couple of years

Coming Up...

We hope to have a 2009 program on the website soon, but a couple of events for the diary are

Natfly 2009 - Easter at Narromine

This is the greatest fly-in in the country, with each year around 500 visiting aircraft. All the major distributors will be touting their wares, there'll be workshops and demonstrations of just about everything to do with building & maintaining aircraft.

Orange Aero Club has volunteered to provide and man a tent providing activities and information specifically aimed at kids & young people. We'll need volunteers, all our Junior members, and a tent! If anyone has a marquee style tent they can lend for the weekend please contact the secretary.

The Great Air Rally

This is a fun flying event generally held around southern NSW and northern Victoria. They missed 2008, but it will be on again in 2009 - the 11th year - on 7 & 8 March overnighting at Shepparton, Vic.

Pilot of the Year

As mentioned on page one, Pilot of the Year for 2008 and winner of the Ross McLennan Memorial Trophy was Angus (Gus) Tobin.

Gus flies the Jabiru, and has been doing so since age 14, achieving his first solo flight before school on the morning of his 15th birthday, which is as early as possible!

Due to his commitment to competitive cycling, Gus doesn't fly a lot, but his attention to detail every time he does fly has allowed him to lead the field in four of the five rounds he contested.

He's going to defend his title in 2009, but he'll have to work at it! Several pilots have vowed to take the title away from him!

There should be both GA and Ultralight Divisions contested each year, but in 2007 the RAAus pilots couldn't field a competition, and this year the GA side couldn't.

Next year though, we hope to "standardise" both divisions, running identical sequences on the same day each round. Of course, this will mean some rationalising of the scoring to accommodate different techniques taught by different flying schools, and different aircraft.

We'll be putting some effort into getting this ready for the first round in February 2009.



And The Winner Is...

The Autographed Country Special Guitar was drawn at the Presentation Night, and the winning ticket was Number 1034 held by Gavin Dart from Dubbo. Second prize of a TIF in the Jabiru, donated by Orange Ultralight Centre was won by Con Boucas of Orange with ticket number 1434, and third prize of dinner to the value of \$100 was won by Sam Cook with ticket 374.

There were 942 tickets sold with an expected net profit of around \$1476. Thanks to all who helped with this fund raiser.

