

MUDGEE'S WINGS, WHEELS & WINE 2009



Photo- WWW Website

THIS POPULAR ANNUAL EVENT IS ON AGAIN ON SATURDAY 18TH APRIL AT MUDGEE AIRPORT, AND ORANGE AERO CLUB WILL BE THERE.

This event is hosted by Mudgee Aero Club, and promises "Something for Everyone".

The name of the event says it in a nutshell - it combines both static and flying displays of all types of aircraft, vintage and modern motor vehicles, and of course the area abounds with vineyards and wineries which will all have a presence on the day, and are only a short tour around for those who want to stay for the weekend.

The best way to find out the details is to visit the website at www.wingswheelsandwine.com.au where you can check out the program and activities, and see pics from

previous years.

We hope to have as many people as possible support one of the best events of its type in the country. Its location on the airfield make it an ideal fly-in destination. For most aircraft its around half an hour from Orange - much better than a two hour drive! Pilots, don't fly over with an empty seat! Make sure you fill the plane - you won't need a lot of fuel, so take people instead.

Bob Nash is looking at taking a bus over for those who can't wangle a seat on a plane, but this depends on the demand. Please let us know of your interest.

First Club Day

Sunday 22nd February will be the first of our monthly Club Days for 2009, and it's planned to combine a social day with the first round of the Pilot of the Year Competition.

We will have a GA Instructor to do some BFRs, as well as the comp judging for GA competitors, The recreational division will be running at the same time.

We're still working on the sequences for the comp, and it will hopefully be identical for both divisions.

Please email with your intention to be in it!

EASTER PILOT'S PARADISE

As is usually the case over Easter, there's flying events, comps, fly-ins and displays all over the country - taking advantage of a four day break in what is arguably the best time of the year for flying.

Orange Aero Club has volunteered to assist in a small way at the RAAus's NATFLY at Narromine - the biggest GA Annual event on the calendar - and its just up the road from Orange!

Our role will be quite small - we're providing a tent and helping man it on the Saturday for the running of a program designed to get kids interested in various aspects of flying - much along the lines of our own Junior Training Program, only very much condensed. We do have a tent lined up, but if anyone has a better one for the purpose, say a 4m x 4m marquee with sides, we'd love to hear from you.

Anyone who can spare some time on Friday, Saturday or Sunday, marshalling, helping set up for workshops etc, please contact the RAAus staff at their tent on the day.

Re-make for XPH

You may have seen the old club aircraft XPH in Orange Aero Engineering's workshop recently. It looks a bit sad after impacting a heap of tyres with the tailplane, on approach to a farm strip late last year.

The tailplane was damaged, and the rear section of the fuselage was slightly bent, requiring the removal of some skins to fix.



As well, the wheel fairings were damaged, but fortunately the prop didn't suffer a ground strike, although it did mow some grass!

Repairs are under way and it will

hopefully be back in the air by Easter

Rumours Abound, But...

You've probably heard rumours of the commencement of a new flight training facility in Orange, now that Orange Aviation is no longer active, and not looking likely to be.

At this stage they are just that - rumours - but of course they may well come to fruition, and in time we might be able to establish an alliance such as we had with Orange Aviation in better days.

In the meantime, the club is determined to arrange regular visits by an instructor, partly to conduct club flying comps, and partly to provide BFRs, revision, familiarisation flights etc. The first of these is Sunday 22 February, (see the box on Page 1) then every second month on club day.

To make this a viable exercise for the instructor, we need to support the service - or it will disappear!

Victor Gleeson will be starting a helicopter charter business at Orange soon, and helicopter training shortly thereafter, using R44 and R22 respectively... or is this just another rumour?

There's a bit of a misconception about the change to 406 MHz beacons which took place on 1 February. Your old 121.5 MHz beacon will still work - it's just that the satellite system will no longer receive and process its signals. In fact, your brand new 406 MHz beacon will also transmit on 121.5 MHz, used for "homeing" by SAR aircraft. Using a 121.5MHz beacon, you will effectively be relying on overflying aircraft to pick up and pass the message on to the authorities. This will further delay the initiation of any search & rescue efforts.

The Sad Passing of Nancy-Bird Walton, AO, OBE

RA-Aus members were deeply saddened to hear of the passing of aviator Nancy-Bird Walton on Tuesday, January 13, 2009.

Her first flying lesson — at the age of seventeen — was conducted by Charles Kingsford-Smith. Nancy became the first female commercial pilot in the English speaking world. She was employed by the Far West (NSW) Children's Home to fly a mobile baby clinic, and became known as the "Angel of the Outback".

Nancy-Bird (as she liked to be known) also worked as Commandant of the Women's Air Training Corps during the Second World War and later founded the Australian Women Pilots' Association. Last year, Qantas named its first Airbus A380 super jumbo in her honour. Nancy-Bird Walton was a true Australian aviation legend.

We extend our sincere condolences to her family.



RA-Aus Website

Vale Tom Moon

I am deeply shocked and saddened by the tragic accident that claimed the life of my dear friend Tom Moon.

Tom was a member of the Museum's Governing Committee and has been integral to our development, growth and success. Tom was part of the Museum and the Museum part of him, and it will always be a better place for having had his involvement. He has been by my side since the founding of the Museum and will be forever sadly missed.

Tom was a dear friend, a wonderful person, a brilliant pilot and a great Australian. On behalf of my wife Margo, and all of us at the Museum, our hearts go out to Tom's wife Roxarne and our thoughts and prayers are with her and the rest of the family.



David Lowy
President and Founder
Temora Aviation Museum

Temora Aviation Museum Website

Yet Another Rumour!

This one involves the possible commencement of a charter service from Coolangatta (or is it Brisbane?) to Melbourne via Orange. The interested party is SkyAirWorld, and they intend operating an Embraer ERJ-145 48 seat jet aircraft on the route.

The company must be fairly serious - they've visited Orange at least twice in the last 6 months.

Further, there's also been talk of operating the same aircraft on the Sydney-Orange route in competition to Rex!

While many commuters might cheer at the thought of some healthy? competition, one wonders if the 60,000 pax a year is sufficient to support two airlines..



Members' News Bits

Julian Lacey leaves Orange for a while - he's enrolled at UNE Armidale doing Geological Science, so his flying will probably be restricted to uni holidays. Good Luck Julian.

Bob Nash should be looking a little more relaxed, now that he's sold his interest in Cirrus Communications. He has no plans at the moment, but it's a fair bet that he won't be idle for long!



Gavin Priestley, in his role as elected councillor with Orange City Council, has been appointed to the Orange Airport Community Committee, which had its inaugural meeting last week. It will be good to have an active and current pilot as a Council rep on the committee. Other members who also wear Aero Club hats are Bob, Wade, President John, Secretary Ken, and Jeremy.

Training News

There must be other members doing some training - Let us know through your Newsletter!

Since returning to Orange from the NT, **Steve Ridgewell** has been instructing with Orange Ultraflight Centre, and doing some CPL exams at Bankstown. He leaves next week to complete his CPL with Schofields Aero Club, get a twin endorsement and a Command Instrument Rating before he starts seriously chasing up a flying job. Good luck with the training Steve, and with the future career.



As an example of the trials of VFR flying, Steve booked the Jab to fly to Bankstown for two exams on the same day. He got as far as Glenbrook, and couldn't find any breaks in the cloud cover to allow him to descend below CTA for the final 15 miles or so to Bankstown. He reluctantly flew back to Bathurst and sat on the ground, waiting for word that the cloud in the Sydney basin had broken up. It didn't!

Back to Orange to pick up the car, having missed the first exam by this time. Two hours later, driving through Glenbrook, the cloud had dispersed and good VMC existed!



Craig Cooke has commenced his RAAus Instructor Rating through Orange Ultraflight Centre, with the ultimate aim of setting up a facility in Mudgee.

Like most of us, Craig has found that learning to fly from the right hand seat can be a bit of a challenge. "It's like starting to learn all over again!"

Our Junior Members' Training Program has been in recess over the holiday period, but will re-commence shortly. There's only one topic left to cover - Navigation and Meteorology. After that, juniors will be expected to continue their flying experience by participating in Club days and the informal Friday evening gatherings. Junior members will be contacted directly about the next program day.

There have been five juniors involved so far - the two guys mentioned below, and James Vaughan, Michael Langham and Kent Hayman. Hopefully they'll continue their experience and remain valuable aero club members, as have many before them.



Sam Cook, (left) one of the Juniors, has commenced formal flying training in the Jabiru, and has already reached the stage of flying circuits, doing take offs and landings. His excellent progress is partly due to having spent a fair bit of time flying informally as part of the junior program. Also ready to start

when the weather lets up is **Jack Breen**, (right) another Junior member who's getting close to 15. Jack has also been flying very well and should progress steadily. Congratulations to both these youngsters on commencing a potential career move.

