

# TWELFTH AGM SEES NEW COMMITTEE FACES

## ORANGE AERO CLUB'S 12TH AGM WAS HELD AT THE HOTEL ORANGE ON TUESDAY 18TH AUGUST

The meeting was attended by 24 members & guests, and most stayed on for dinner after the formalities had been completed.

If there was a prize for the longest distance travelled, it would have gone to Graham (Jack) Carroll, who flew down from Brisbane for the event. He might just possibly have had other business in the area!

Retiring President John Pullen provided the meeting with his report of the activities of the club during the year past, and retiring Treasurer Ron Pullen gave an overview of the financial state of the club, noting that available funds had doubled from \$6000 to \$12000.

The election of members of the Committee of Management was conducted by John Ellis, and resulted in the following members being elected:

President - Ken Pidcock

Vice President - Phil Robertson

Secretary - Bob Nash

Treasurer - Bryan Clements

Asst Treasurer - Ron Pullen

Public Officer - Bob Nash

Members - Mike Seccombe, Allan Brown, Bruce Whiley, John Pullen, John Omrod and Lawrie Breen.

In addition, Stuart Porges and Ken Hazelton are *ex officio* members as D.A.M.E.s.



*Chatting after dinner in the function room at Hotel Orange*

It is especially pleasing to see several new faces on the committee, and the incoming President welcomed Mike, Bruce, John Omrod and Lawrie.

As there were no notices of motion received, no decisions could be taken in General Business, but several questions were asked in relation to club house proposals. John Pullen has been most involved with negotiations in this regard, and was able to bring the meeting up to date with developments and proposals to date.

Dinner at the conclusion of the meeting was a welcome event, and everyone seemed to be happy with the venue - it was even suggested that this could be repeated for some future General Meetings.

An added bonus was that the drinks waiter didn't manage to dump a tray of beers on the table!

Minutes of the meeting are available by contacting the secretary.

***The retiring treasurer challenged all members to recruit two additional members this year!***

## MESSAGE FROM YOUR NEW PRESIDENT - KEN PIDCOCK

Firstly, let me thank all those who were able to attend the 12th AGM, and for entrusting me with the position of President for the ensuing 12 months.

Being president of any club or organisation is a big responsibility in good times, and our club is not experiencing good times at the moment. I see my role as a member of a team charged with the responsibility of continuing the recovery, and to do that we will need the support of every member of the club. More, we need to recruit additional people, and we need to instil in them the vision of what the club can aspire to, and the drive to achieve that together.

OAC has been going since 1988, and those of you who've been here most of that time will recognise that the club was at its strongest when we had a large, active group of junior members. With the junior members came the support of parents.

Its no secret that I have been an advocate of junior members, and I remain firmly convinced that our very future lies in promoting and encouraging juniors with an interest in flying. We have just five financial junior members at the moment - all flying or learning, but as a club we do very little to support and encourage them.

To do this, we need regular gatherings where juniors can intermingle with other pilots, experience flight in different planes, lend a hand in cleaning planes, cooking BBQs and assisting with all club activities, just as those 15 or 20 juniors did previously.

Sponsor a kid - your kid, a neighbour's, niece or nephew - even if you can't fly them yourself.

Enough beating the drum!

Our first committee meeting will be on Tuesday 8th September, in the Airport Terminal Meeting room at 6.30 pm. All members welcome. Dates and location of future meetings will be decided by the committee then.

We're fortunate that John Pullen has indicated he'd like to continue in his role of coordinator of the new clubhouse, as we need to keep the ball rolling here.

To this end, I would ask everyone to think about possible sources of funding for the clubhouse - state or federal government, corporate funding or any other source you can think of. We have an offer of professional lobbyists who will draw up the applications for us, but first we need to identify possible sources.

## MEET THE NEW COMMITTEE MEMBERS



**John Omrod**

John joined the club late last year after learning to fly in OUC's Jabiru.

He's works as a surveyor to fund his flying habit. Come to think of it, his surveying skills might come in pretty useful in our building project!



**Mike Seccombe**

Mike is another Jabiru pilot - a graduate of OUC. He also is part owner of a couple of GA aircraft, C206s? working in the Top End.

**Bruce Whiley**

Bruce is well known to pilots as the L.A.M.E. at Orange, owning and operating

Bruce also joined after learning to fly in the Jabiru, and he'll be our neighbour in the new location east of the terminal car park.



**Lawrie Breen**

Lawrie is another Jabiru Pilot, currently working on his cross country endorsement. He has to share flight time with 15 yo son Jack, who's getting close to solo standard. Lawrence has the Canon dealership in Orange - Inland Technology.





## THE NEW KID ON THE BLOCK AT ORANGE AIRPORT IS SKY HIGH HELICOPTERS

Sky High is a division of Bankstown Helicopters, who've been operating for many years, so they're certainly not "new kids" in that respect.

While the business has had a presence with an R44 for the last month or so, with pilot Alex conducting charter & joy flights, they've ramped the operation up this week by commencing training in an R22, under the guidance of Grade 1 Instructor Neil.

I understand the plan is to have one of two G1 Instructors here basically full time, alternating weekly.



The business is operating from the same premises as Orange Ultraflight Centre in Mick Robbo's hangar and attached demountables.

GA Training is due to start very soon. Troy is just doing the painting & decorating in his bit of the Flight Training Centre!



So you think the Jabiru's cramped? Check out this pic of Pat Ryan folded neatly into the back seat of a Shadow!



## OUC SPREADS ITS WINGS OVER BATHURST AND MUDGEES

With the training of instructors from these two locations, and the availability of training aircraft, operations are getting under way at both spots.

Bathurst is a Satellite School of OUC, operating as Central West Flying from the upstairs rooms at Bathurst Aero Club.

CW Flying is a partnership between Stuart Park, a GA Instructor recently "let go" by Smart Air, and Chris Stott, who is about half way through his instructor training.



Because Stuart has now become qualified as a Senior Instructor under RAAus, he is able to operate without direct supervision of the CFI of Orange. Ultimately, they will operate independently.

Stuart has the use of Chris's J160 for training, and is assisted on a part time basis by Chris Grady, another Senior Instructor.

Bathurst Aero Club is very supportive of the school, seeing it as a way to increase membership, and get some of their older members flying again.

Over Mudgee way, Craig Cooke is operating AirWest Flight Training, using his immaculate J170 aircraft. (A J170 is basically a 160 with longer wings.)

At this stage, Craig is still required to operate under direct supervision of a CFI, until he get 50 hours of instructing experience. This means that OUC travels to Mudgee for a day every other week, and Craig comes to Orange periodically.

Once the magic number is reached, Air West Flight Training will be able to operate as a Satellite, much the same as Bathurst is now.

In spite of the fact that both these schools will ultimately be OUC's competition, there seems to be plenty of potential students to go round...

*Welcome to (almost) new members Meredith Schwilk and Alex Cousins. Meredith is with the strength (flies RAAus) and Alex holds a PPL.*

*Congratulations to Sam Cook, who recently took his first solo flight - the first of our current young guys to do so.*