

Orange Aero Club



Newsletter - January/February 2000

Website: www.orangeaeroclub.netwit.net.au Email: orangeaeroclub@netwit.net.au



The sight of many different planes gathered together is becoming more common at Orange

President's Message



I'm sure there's a lot of truth in the old wives' tale that time goes faster as we get older!

Here it is the middle of February 2000 and it seems only yesterday we were planning for time off over Christmas.

NSW Interclub Competition

We have a busy year scheduled for our club, with the first large activity being the interclub competition on 4 March. This is an excellent opportunity for us to promote ourselves, and our city of Orange in a positive way. Your committee has been working very hard to ensure that we're the best host that we can be, however we do need a lot of help for this day. There are ground jobs to be done, air & ground judging to be completed, lots of people to be watered and fed and displays to be erected and manned. Please keep this date free, to ensure that not only are you able to compete, but able to offer your

services for the day to assist wherever you're needed. Elsewhere in this newsletter you will find details of the program for the weekend. We have a special dinner planned at Nashdale Hall on the Saturday evening, and I encourage you to come along and bring your spouse or partner as well.

Changes to the Constitution

On Sunday 6 Feb we held a special meeting to add two clauses into our constitution to enable us to take advantage of tax concessions. With the proxy votes in hand and the number of members present we were able to achieve the 75% vote required to change the constitution.

Continued on Page 3 ...

Big Boys' Toys

Cessna 206. VH-JIA

When Laurie was looking round for a suitable aircraft, the initial list of 23 was reduced after 18 months to just one - the Cessna 206. Then he had to find the right one!

JIA was located in USA and crated back to Australia, sustaining some \$30,000 damage on the way. She

has proved to be a reliable, stable and comfortable plane, providing safe travel for Laurie, wife Helen and family & friends throughout Australia.

The C206 was one of the 205/206/207 series which began production in 1962. The six seat, fixed gear high wing single was seen by Cessna as a sort of "flying station waggon" - affordable utility aircraft with a comfortable finish and capable of operation on wheels, skis or floats. The 206 saw many variations within the marque, and when production ceased in 1985 there had been 7,556 aircraft built.

JIA can happily carry six adults and 64 kg of gear on a trip with fuel for 5 hours and will cruise at 132 knots on 16 gal/hr. It has a fully IFR panel with dual Nav/Com radios and UHF radio. Laurie runs a Garmin 55 GPS as a backup or for those locations without any aids.

The C206 is a good short-field performer, reaching 50 ft obstacle clearance in 850 metres on a "standard" day at 3000 ft AMSL, and can handle rough bush airstrips without problems.



Laurie Chapman



Laurie has been a "local" lad all his life, having grown up on the family farm at Barry. He gained a heap of qualifications in the farming and engineering fields, but it wasn't till 1983 that he learned to fly - the decision brought on by the need to travel between Orange & Guyra after the family farm was sold, and fuelled by a long standing interest in aviation.

In the ensuing 10 years, Laurie enhanced the basic PPL by adding a retractable and constant speed endorsement, tailwheel endorsement, Night Rating, Command Instrument Rating and an Ultralight Pilot Certificate.

Most of Laurie's 1200 odd flying hours have been notched up in his Cessna 206, VH-JIA, but it also includes time in Piper Warrior, Archer, C150, C172 and C182, Piper Arrow and C210.

Not content with just flying, Laurie studied & obtained qualifications in many areas of aircraft maintenance, which helped him rebuild Warrior VH-TMM from a "heap

of bits", and allows him to carry out much of the maintenance work on the C206.

Laurie's membership of Rotary International and aviation interest naturally led him to join the IFFR - International Fellowship of Flying Rotarians - and the fly-ins with this group have covered all parts of Australia, and include a trip from Calgary in Canada to Anchorage Alaska!

Laurie operates a water supply design and construction business in Orange - Clinton Industries - and is also involved with his son in Concrete Seamless Tanks in Orange.

We could devote a whole newsletter to Laurie's exploits, but it's probably better to talk with him and get the stories first hand.

President's Message (continued from page 1)



One of the regular Friday Nighters - Wade's C172RG

Friday Night Socials

Our Friday evenings at the club are being reasonably well attended, and each time we have an enjoyable social evening together, with good food and beverages, and some serious flying. I encourage you all to make some time to come to the club on Friday nights from about 6.30, and enjoy the fellowship of other members. Associate members and student members are also very welcome, and there is no doubt that you will get a ride in one of 4 or 5 aircraft that are flexing their muscles at the time.

Hangars

There is also a concerted effort by your club to fund and build hangars at Orange airport. We have 17 persons interested in hangars, and from a meeting of all interested parties a proposal has been drawn up and submitted to Council with the request that they allocate ground in a suitable location, and facilitate their construction.

Helicopters

We also have planned a rotor weekend, which we hope will become a yearly event. At this stage we aren't certain of the date, as Dick Smith and a few others are involved in a ballooning project, which is taking up their time early this year. We will, however have 6 to 10 helicopters here on the weekend of 26th March as a preview for them, and for us to further plan the special rotor weekend. There will be more information on this as soon as it is to hand.

Joint Activities with Other Clubs

Your club has also initiated a movement to involve all of our neighbouring clubs in regular joint activities. To date we have received 6 replies from our neighbours, all very positive of our ideas for joint ventures, so we will give you more information when we have it.



NPWS Helicopter on an exercise in Orange last year.

ARK

There are many plans for our club aircraft VH-ARK this year. As you would have read, we are trialling a new lower hire rate to encourage more usage of our aircraft. It is also planned to paint the aircraft and do some tidying up inside. We plan to do this ourselves, so will need your skills and assistance in this project also.

It was fortunate that we were able to provide our aircraft for use at Bathurst during their recent difficulty, and although ARK isn't as pretty as some of their aircraft, it worked admirably.

Bob Nash

AOPA Young Falcons Program

Orange Aero Club will shortly be implementing this program which provides a structured opportunity for school age students to find out about flying, either as a career or recreation, by taking part in supervised club activities specifically designed for them.

A key element is the pairing of each student with a "mentor" from pilot ranks of club members. Mentors should have the time and interest to foster a student through the program, which would take 2 or 3 months. Anyone interested in assisting please contact Ken Pidcock - 6365 4270 or 0414 701387, and we'll meet to work out the details. Please note that it's not so much for our junior members, (though they're encouraged to be part of it) but for students who've probably never given flying a thought.

Tailwheel Training



Rob Glenn

The weekend of tailwheel training on 19 & 20 February was highly successful, with Instructor Rob Glenn endorsing Ross McLennan, and furthering the training of Bob Nash, Phil Bryon and Ken Pidcock.

The Citabria aircraft was very generously donated to the club for the weekend by Wade Mahlo, and this allowed us the opportunity of doing the endorsement on the aircraft we're mostly going to be using, and also allowed the club to turn a tidy profit from the activity.

I am personally finding the Citabria a challenge to land in the 3 point attitude, and extremely difficult to wheel on, but I live in hope that the

skills will emerge soon.

Congratulations Ross. You're now ready to join the exalted group of Wandrin' Wilga ground loopers!



Wade Mahlo's Citabria VH-CIW

Editorial Comment

There's no doubt that the informal Friday evening BBQ, with it's associated fly around and drink or two afterwards has been increasing in popularity. To my mind last Friday, 18 February, was a turning point for Orange Aero Club.

Last Friday evening there were 7 or 8 aircraft coming & going, and as well as the regulars, a couple of new members, several visitors, three potential new junior members...the list goes on! Everyone enjoying themselves, everyone that wanted to, got to have a fly, we used the entire weekend's supply of steaks and had to get more for Saturday.

To my mind, THIS is what aeroclub membership is all about!

Calendar of Club Events

The following calendar includes Bathurst Aero Club events. There will possibly be some additional items and some changes which will be advised in the eNews bulletins.

Friday 25 Feb	Informal flying & BBQ night. Ladies Night - Wives, partners, mums etc.
Wednesday 1 Mar	Committee Meeting- Ross's office 1930 hrs. All welcome
Friday 3 Mar	Informal flying & BBQ night. All welcome. Some competitors will arrive?
Weekend 4/5 Mar	NSW Interclub Flying Comp - Round 1, hosted by Orange Aero Club. Competition on Saturday and clean up on Sunday. Presentation Dinner at Nashdale Saturday night.
Friday 10 Mar	Informal flying & BBQ night. All welcome
Saturday 11 Mar	Bathurst Aero Club Night Flying & Social
Friday 17 Mar	Informal flying & BBQ night. All welcome
Friday 24 Mar	Informal flying & BBQ night. All welcome
W/E 25/26 Mar	Visiting helicopters - Advance group for Rotor Weekend TBA
Friday 31 Mar	Informal flying & BBQ night. Daylight saving over, so revised format?
Friday 7 Apr	Informal flying & BBQ night. All welcome
Sunday 9 Apr	Competition & social day
Friday 14 Apr	Informal flying & BBQ night. All welcome
Sunday 16 Apr	Bathurst Aero Club Navigation Competition
Hol 21-25 Apr	Easter - Mangalore Fly-in; Narromine Fly-in

Flying Comp Reports

SPOT LANDING PRACTISE DAY Sunday 30th January 2000

A good deal of fun was had on the day with a variety of aircraft and their owners turning out. Charles and the WILGA, John with the CHIPMUNK, Charlie and the TIGER MOTH, Ken & Stuart with the JABIRU, Wade and his RG 172 CUTLASS, AND DEAR OLD ARK.

Only ARK flew the practise spot landings with Phil Bryon , Bob Nash and Ross McLennan. It still proves to be one of the most challenging aspects of competition flying . Whilst sounding deceptively simple, it requires precise speed and attitude control inputs as we can tell you.

TIP Control speed early and no more than 65 over the fence. Suggest less than 40 degrees of flap also, but you should experiment to obtain the best configuration. Do not dive for the spot, as a bounce will incur negative points. Better to land well, and miss the spot.

FULL COMPETITION DAY Sunday 6th February 2000

A testing day with a full blown cross wind later in the afternoon. Ross McLennan was the observer, having set the routine to the N.S.W. format.

Commencing with a BLIND 1000FT CIRCUIT, then an INSTRUMENT CLIMB TO 3000FT leading to a FORCED LANDING without a spot (just to be kind!) Then a SPOT LANDING.

Overall the standard was high with only 3 points between the last three competitors.

1st BOB NASH; 2nd CHARLES THOMPSON; 3rd JOHN GORDON; 4th PHIL BRYON; 5th ROBERT ALFORD; 6th PETER GREY.

OBSERVATIONS

No competitor on recollection nailed the spot. Very close on most counts but worth practising at any opportunity e.g. when you come into land after a cross country, pick a spot & try for it.

Read the judging rules and have an out if you are not going to make the spot. As above, go for a good landing instead.

Make the 270 degree turn a rate 1 turn or less depending on the wind. Most competitors made it a relatively tight turn and ended up near Cadia Mine or Mt. Canobolas.

All checks to be said out loud. The judge may be looking out the window and if your hand movement or mutterings are not seen or understood then you will not get the mark. (I repeat Rob Glen in this instance after Forbes last year.)

Happy Flying , Ross.



One of the MIGs which spent a few days at Orange taking adventurers for rides.

The company operating the MIGs was looking to relocate from Bankstown, and Orange was high on the priority list.

Does anyone know of the likely outcome?

Welcome to New Members!

A big welcome to these new members who've joined up since the last newsletter. Clockwise from top left are Dennis Haaren, ex RAAF maintenance; Ross Runge who holds a PPL; Jim Savage, James Sullivan and Vincent Gough, all student members who are in year 8 at James Sheahan. We welcome also Michael Horth, Schoolteacher, who wasn't there when the camera was out, and members John Pritchard and Bruce Clements, who've rejoined.



Dennis and Michael have both started taking lessons in the Jabiru, while the three juniors will have to cool their heels for a while, along with our other Juniors Shay and John, and be content as passengers!

Help!

Does anyone know where we can get a room air conditioner to replace the one which died before this summer? It would need to be suitable for a single phase 240 volt 15 amp electricity supply, and preferably fit in the hole in the northern wall. Oh, and preferably free!