



The N.S.W. Sport Aircraft Club Newsletter

OCTOBER - NOVEMBER 2010

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Above: Peter Hodgens with his Lancair IV is awarded Grand Champion by the SAAA (for the 3rd time) at Cowra recently. **Below left:** Cliff van Praag with wife and daughter at his 70th birthday party. **Right:** An F111 doing the spectacular 'dump and burn' at the recent Williamtown Airshow.



Contact your Newsletter Editor at
david.rittie@optusnet.com.au

Visit our website:- www.wedderburnairstrip.com.au

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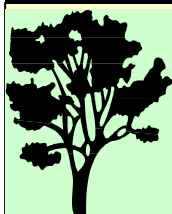
* * **UPCOMING FLYING AND SOCIAL EVENTS** * *

If you want to stage an event, or invite the Club to join you on a flying jaunt please talk to me. You will earn additional Championship points.

Bret Cavanagh

UPCOMING EVENTS. Put 'em in your diary

CASA Safety Seminar	Saturday 23 rd October, 2pm Contact: Ross Lawson on 4862 1418, or at rflawson@hotmail.com	Mittagong Airfield
Gloucester Annual Fly-in.	Saturday, 30 th October (and Sunday) Contact: David Rittie	Gloucester
Farcombe Hall Fly-in	Saturday, 30th October for afternoon tea Contact Rick or Wendy on 0416 041 007	Rick Harper's private strip (1.5 miles NW of Old Bar)
Social Workday.	Sunday, 31st October. Sign in at 9am. Free lunch Contact: Peter Lightbown	Wedderburn
Special General Meeting	Sunday, 31 st October, 1:30pm (approx), immediately after the workday lunch to discuss the way ahead with regard to the new Model Constitution.	
Open Day	Sunday 14 th November, 9am to 4pm Contact: Geoff May on 8795 0007 if you wish to volunteer for duty.	Wedderburn
Annual Christmas Party and Awards Presentation.		
	Saturday evening, 4 th December Cost is \$35 per head. Bookings close on Saturday 27th November. Contact: Robert Greig 0418 271 188, Kim Gatherer 0408 423 022	Wedderburn Clubhouse
General Meeting	Sunday, 5 th December, 2pm Contact: Margaret Nightingale	Wedderburn Clubhouse
Fly-in/Drive-in Brunch	Sunday 6th February, 10am to 1pm Contact: Margaret Adams 9567 6522	Wedderburn

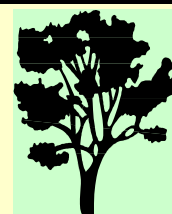


Need some exotic plants, or want some peaches or other stone fruit? You can choose from a wide selection near the airfield, just around the corner at #7 Blackburn Road.

HARLAND'S Fruit, Nursery and Landscaping

Phone 4634 1234 or 0402 086 032, or drop by and see Charles or Clayton.

The Harlands also do hangar concrete slabs, at very reasonable prices



From your Editor

Welcome to the October/November 2010 issue of your Newsletter.

This issue contains details of the August Fly-in/Drive-in Brunch, some great photos of the Williamstown Air Show and articles from the regular contributors.

Dave Thomas has taken on the role of Club Safety Officer, and has contrib-



uted a safety article on **Page 5**.

The debate about the new Model

Constitution has sparked some "Letters to the Editor" which are on **Page 10**.

Thanks to all those who contributed some articles of interest and some great pictures for this issue.

We hope you find your Newsletter informative and enjoyable.

David Rittie

You can contact your Newsletter Editor at david.rittie@optusnet.com.au

Words from the President

Hi there.

We have (sadly) lost two more members of our SAC family. They are foundation member, Bruce Walsh and the very lovely Jacqueline Montague. This continues the quite horrible series of members lost from our SAC family over the last year or so.

Lease Renewal

For the last two months there has been no progress in our quest to renew our lease. Our solicitors are in constant contact with the Department of Lands, and they will report any progress regarding this matter.

Safety Officer

Our very senior member, Dave Thomas, has agreed to take on the job of Safety Officer. He intends to contribute regular articles for the Newsletter, and take on any other aviation safety matters that we may encounter.

Caretaker

Our new caretaker, "Kanga" Rouen Andrews has settled back in to the job after returning from hospital with a broken arm. His wife, Dawn, did an admirable job filling in for him while he was away. Thanks to all those who helped during his absence.

New Constitution

The Office of Fair Trading has issued a new set of rules which will now be named the "Model Constitution". After some of us attended seminars on the matter we are now in a position to decide what (if anything) we need to do to review our club rules. This will

be discussed at the Special General Meeting to be held immediately after the workday lunch on 31st October.

Fuel Bowser

The new fuel bowser arrived in late August and will soon be commissioned by Rob Mangan and the guys from Skyfuels. Rob has been assisted with the installation by Noel Carmody, John Bennett, Richard Thompson, Steve Cohen, Michael Sladeck, and most importantly, Tim Causer, who is overseeing the whole project.

Initially, the new bowser will operate under the current "honour system" for recording the fuel that you use, but John Duncan is hopeful that, at some time in the future, we can use some form of electronic recording system.

Open Day

Geoff May has volunteered to organise the Open Day, which is scheduled for Sunday 14th November. If you wish to volunteer to help you can call Geoff on 8795 0007. Please assist if asked.

Greg and Anne Goulding will not be able to host the traditional Pre-Open Day party in their hangar on the Saturday evening, as they will be away for a family wedding. We are looking to organise a party at an alternate location.

Grass Strip

Some of our members will be working on the strip of grass on the western side of the main runway over the



next few weeks. Please keep a watch out for machinery and personnel at that location when using the main runway.

Hangar space for other members

There is a growing need for hangar space to park all club members' aircraft. If you have space available, or are looking for hangar space please let Margaret Nightingale know by calling her on 0425 380 966.

Gates left open

Our Secretary, in her section on the next page, has asked us to keep our gates locked (for obvious reasons) and to adhere to some rules of etiquette about parking cars on taxiways. I fully endorse her remarks. Please comply with her request.

That's all for now.

Please fly safely.

David Rittie

From the Secretary's Desk

Hi there everyone.

Well, the year is rapidly drawing to a close. Our Christmas Party and presentation day is just around the corner on Saturday 4th December and our December General Meeting will be held on Sunday 5th December in the clubhouse at 2.00pm. The agenda for that meeting will be available on the Newsflash and the website 14 days before the date of that meeting.

The committee will be working on some important matters in the next few months. These include:

- The opening of the new fuel bowser.
- The Airfield Management Plan including a bushfire survival plan.
- Consultation regarding the new constitution as set out by the Office of Fair Trading.
- Open Day.

If you have any ideas that may help the committee with these tasks please let me know by phone on 0425 380 966, by mail at PO Box 450, Campbelltown, 2560 or by email at fireweed@netspace.net.au.

Airfield Etiquette

There are just a couple of concerns expressed to the committee from members that all of us need to keep in mind around the airfield for the convenience and safety of others.

PLEASE shut and lock the gates! There have been several reports about the southern gates being left open and unlocked. There are many bikes and 4 wheel drives illegally using the southern road, and leaving the

gates unlocked and open for even 5 minutes could allow them access to the airfield. This then presents a safety and security issue for the caretaker and members.

PLEASE shut and lock the gates immediately behind you!

PLEASE also park your car beside or inside hangars. If parking on the apron of a hangar is absolutely necessary then please park parallel and as close to the hangar as possible. Aircraft have the right of way on the taxiways and if your car is parked in the way then your fellow member trying to get his/her aircraft on to the runway will understandably get pretty hot under the collar.

Thank you for your co-operation in these matters. Thanks also to all those who work tirelessly in the background to keep the club ticking along.

I hope to see you all at the Christmas Party organised by Robert Greig and Kim Gatherer and then at the General Meeting the next day.

Cheers,

Margaret Nightingale



Hangar for Sale

Brand new hangar W1A is for sale.
18W x 15D x 5.5 ceiling
Sliding door height is 4.45 meters
Includes a 25sq mezzanine.

Price is \$125,000 ono.

Call Ami Gale on 0414 568 609.

Hangar for Sale

Almost new Hanger J9 is for sale.
13.5W x 9D

Price is \$65,000

Contact Bernie on 0414 375 795 for details.



Social Workday Activities

Hi Everyone,

I was busy teaching during the last workday and so was unable to be there. From all accounts the day was a huge success with the removal of lots of scrap metal and a skip full of general garbage.

Thank you all for participating and making the day such a success. I feel that I should reserve particular

thanks to my son John who stood in for me on the day, and to Robert Greig who organized the scrap metal removal.



On a completely different note, it was fantastic to see Randall Krebs back at the airfield over the October long weekend.

Cheers

Peter Lightbown

← **John Lightbown**



A Message from your Safety Officer

For those of you who use GPS as an aid to Navigation, it may be well to remember an article recently released by CASA re the use of GPS parallel offset tracking for VFR operations.

VFR OFFSETS.

To mitigate any possible increase in collision risk potential to VFR aircraft using GPS for navigation, the following actions are suggested for such operations in Class G airspace:

Pilots should use known way-points to determine tracks, and broadcast position information in relation to those way-points to provide meaningful alerted 'see and avoid' positions to any possibly conflicting traffic.

When operating clear of Class C and Class D Airspace, pilots flying VFR using GPS as the navigation source should use a right offset track of 1.0NM.



Prior to entering Class C or Class D airspace, this offset must be removed. Such offsets must not be used in proximity to Class C or Class D or restricted airspace because their use could infringe aircraft segregation from that airspace.

IFR ACTION.

The current separation standards, safety height calculations and tracking requirements for IFR aircraft are based on the requirement that the pilot will attempt to maintain track as closely as possible.

The requirement for IFR aircraft to remain on track remains in place. Pilots must comply with the track keeping requirements stated in AIP ENR 1.1 Section 17, that is, they must maintain track as closely as possible.

tion 17, that is, they must maintain track as closely as possible.

Dave Thomas.



Bret Cavanagh's
Piper Tomahawk
VH - KAJ

is (reluctantly) for sale

Low hours

Contact Bret on 0407 344 795

Bird Talk

Hi Everyone,

What a sad few weeks we, as a Club, have had. We said our farewell to two of our esteemed members on Monday 6th September and Wednesday 15th September.

It was a sudden and unexpected passing on the 29th August of our truly dedicated member Jacquie Montague and nearly 30 SAC members attended her most moving funeral. David will be printing his testimonial, to Jacquie, in this Newsletter. We will miss our friend Jacquie so much and to Doug and his family our loving thoughts are with you at this sad time.



Our foundation member Bruce Walsh passed away peacefully on 10th September after a short illness. Further on in this Newsletter I have written a few words about Bruce.

FLY-IN/DRIVE-IN BRUNCH SUNDAY 8TH AUGUST

What a great turn out we had for our Brunch, a total of 74 attended to enjoy our Brunch fare and my "Thanks" to Robert Seisun for being the main chef with tremendous help from Helen and Ve-



Robert Seisun

ronica who were in the kitchen working so hard to keep up with the orders – you all did very well. We were pleased to welcome 13 of the CEMCC Bike Club members (the leader Gordon Mitchell is a friend of our member Keith Lyons) to come and join us for Brunch and to have a good look around our Airfield. Gordon and his friends have been out to our Open Days and I am sure they will be attending again this year. We also had 9 other visitors who came along with members so this certainly helped to make our numbers high. "Thanks" to all my ladies and our junior helpers (good to have Grace with us again) who assisted in making this day so successful and to all who came along please

remember to attend again, to enjoy another Brunch, in the New Year on Sunday 6th February 2011.

SOCIAL WORK DAY SATURDAY 28TH AUGUST

Yes, we had another very productive Work Day with 55 members and 10 visitors sitting down to enjoy a delicious lunch of BBQ chicken, 3 types of cold meat, selection of salads followed by a delicious Apple Cake that Veronica had made to add to the array of our cakes. Veronica I'm sure will be pleased that her cake was just so popular and we will certainly ask for a repeat of it.

Amongst our visitors for lunch were 7 members of the WRFS who had come along to join us and to give a demonstration of our fire fighting equipment later on to the Committee and members. We enjoyed having them with us for a few hours. I "thank" John Lightbown. for doing a great job as substitute for Peter as Work Day co-ordinator for the day, and I know he was very happy with what was achieved by all the workers.

A special "Thank" you to Amy, who came along for the first time to help in the preparation of the luncheon with Lorraine, Veronica, Inez, Dot and yours truly plus our junior helpers Lilli and Abbey. You were all terrific and "Thanks" again – I could not do it without your help.

Bird Talk (cont.)

The 1st Prize of the Raffle for the day, if you remember, we had been given as a donation to raffle a product called “Bi-Tron” (Save-Fuel Maintenance) of enough oil & fuel for 2 cars. The lucky winner of this prize was Rob Chenery. 2nd Prize of a Coles/Myer Group Gift card worth \$50.00 was won by Richard Wiltshire. Congratulations to both winners and we hope you enjoy your prizes. “Thank” you to all who contributed to the raffle and also for coming along to work on our work days – it is very important that you all attend.

It is good to have our new Caretakers settling in so well, Dawn and Rouen are really enjoying being with us and now that Rouen is out of Hospital he is there to help Dawn a little more each day. Hope you have a speedy recovery Rouen and I look forward to seeing and speaking with you both soon.

SOCIAL WORK DAY SUNDAY 31ST OCTOBER, 2010 – FREE LUNCH

Here we are almost to our last WORK DAY of the year and the last before our OPEN DAY on Sunday 14th November. We will need all hands on deck to complete the many jobs that will be listed for you all. I’m sure Peter will have a much longer list for the 31st as we have to make everywhere around the Airfield look spic and span in readiness for our visitors.

The Social Committee’s menu for the luncheon will be BBQ Sausages & Onions, followed by Potato Bake and an array of salads plus a selection of cakes. Please remember to come along and join in the work-a-thon then relax over a delicious lunch and a chat with your fellow members.

OPEN DAY SUNDAY 14TH NOVEMBER

Once again it’s almost time for our one day of the year when we show off our fantastic airfield and our members aircraft to our relatives, friends, local residents and to many first comers who just can’t believe we exist.

Once again we have enlisted the services of the Lions Club of Camden to cook the Hot food for all the hungry visitors and they have a great menu of delicious food. Your Social Committee of SAC will be serving Devonshire Teas, (fantastic home made Pikelets made on the premises or Scones) also slices of Carrot and Chocolate cake with Tea or Coffee and fresh sandwiches made to order. There will be plenty of bottled water and soft drinks available. Our stalls will have all the Club Merchandise for sale and possibly a table full of second hand books. Our famous Jams and Relishes may be in short supply this year, we are still checking with the cooks.

We would ask that you all come along to support OUR DAY and bring your money with you. See you all on the 14th November.

A REMINDER TO ALL – The Lions Club of Camden hold a Craft Market Day every third (3rd) Saturday of each month at the Camden Showground. Open from 9.00 a.m. to 1.00 p.m. Please try and get yourselves there to support our friends “The Lions Club”. The next one will be held on Saturday 16th October.

Cheers,

Margaret Adams



VALE — JACQUELINE MONTAGUE

For the record Jacqueline Montague (simply “Jacquie” to us) joined our club in the mid 90’s, even though she had visited us regularly for years before that with Doug. During all her years at the club she continually contributed her energy to all the functions that the Club held.

Over the years Jacquie has always been a hands-on worker, assisting the Ladies Auxiliary in preparing and serving Work Day lunches and Brunches to our many members.

Our stalls for Open Day were enhanced with Jacquie’s home made jams and beautiful handicrafts, including her signature hand crafted gift cards, for us to sell.

When it came to selling raffle tickets for our Open Day Jacquie was a master at this art. We remember well how she kept asking for more tickets to sell. She was amazing, and over the years helped us to raise a lot of money with her selling skills.

Jacquie and Doug always attended our many social gatherings we held in the Clubhouse, entering into the spirit of the evening and enjoying every minute of their time there. They also became regulars at most of the Fly-aways that were organised for the aviators, travelling to many country towns and interstate. On one such event in March 2007, Jacquie and Doug championed the day and around 30 of our members flew or drove to Goulburn to enjoy a day of sight seeing and visiting interesting landmarks at this great location. We were indebted to Jacquie and Doug for arranging this wonderful day for all of us to enjoy.

Jacquie supported Doug in all of his flying activities. She was always with Doug on any of the club’s organised flying trips, the most recent one being out to Broken Hill and beyond. Doug’s trophy room is a testament to his many flying exploits and achievements. On almost all of these occasions Jacquie was with him in the co-pilot’s seat.

We had a fashion show in our Clubhouse last year, where Jacquie displayed her considerable talents as a fashion model. She wore many outfits on the day, and carried off the role with wonderful grace and confidence. She certainly had style.

Jacquie was a very sincere and lovable lady, loyal to our Club in every way, and never shied away from hard work. There was always a happy laugh to greet us with when we arrived at the Club, and most of all she treated everyone equally. Our lives have been enriched by knowing Jacquie and we will miss her so very much.



During my time in the Club we have lost a few members as they have passed from this world, but I have never seen an emotional upheaval like the one created by the news of Jacquie’s passing. I have witnessed, both women and men, spontaneously and unashamedly, bursting into tears upon hearing the news. She was very much loved.

One of our members has described Jacquie as “a gracious lady”. I would describe her also as a very stylish and classy lady.

Because of Jacquie’s passing the club has lost a part of its very soul that will never be replaced, and she will remain in our hearts and minds forever.

David Rittie

VALE — EDWARD BRUCE WALSH**Aged 84 years**

Bruce passed away peacefully on 10th September after a short illness. Bruce was a member of SAAA in the 1970's, when he decided to build his own Thorp T18 aircraft and then when SAC was established he became a foundation member.

To many of our SAAA and early SAC members they will remember Bruce, together with Jean, coming out to so many of our social get togethers and always being on hand to work hard on our scheduled work days, and when called upon Bruce would always be available to help with special work projects at the airfield. Many times his son, Peter, would come out to give of his time on our work days, for which we were very thankful.

Bruce was a qualified mechanic working for Borg Warner as a foreman then he spent many years working for Qantas.

Over the past few years Bruce had to take care of Jean, who had suffered a stroke so his visits to the Airfield became less.

His beloved homebuilt Aircraft was firstly at Bankstown then at Wedderburn and he flew it as often as he could attending many interstate Air shows, then the time came for him to sell and he was delighted when Rodney Luke became the new owner of BJW and from that moment Bruce knew his aircraft was in capable hands. As we know the new home for the Thorp T18 is Temora.

Those of us who attended Bruce's funeral were touched by the beautiful service for him. Donna, his second daughter and two of his granddaughters read Eulogies and they all mentioned just what a wonderful and caring person Bruce was. We who knew him all agreed.

To his beloved wife Jean, daughters Kerry & Donna and son Peter and their families we extend our sincere sympathy.

Margaret Adams



Letters to the Editor

The Editor,
SAC Newsletter
28th September 2010

Dear Sir,

The SAC Constitution

Regrettably I will be unable to attend the Special Meeting on 31st October to discuss the proposed new constitution due to a prior engagement. I would, however, like to make a few comments which might clarify the thinking of the membership. It was unfortunate that the salient points of the proposal were not discussed in any depth at the General Meeting on 19th September due to some doubt about the legality of the proposed change. As I understand it the legal issues are to be addressed after attendance at some relevant meeting(s) to be held around now. I am not able to be at those meetings either as I am presently not in Australia. Even if I were, I am happy for others to clarify them. Assuming they are resolved, my purpose here is to address the sensitive issues that will inevitably arise if the Constitution is to be changed and hopefully show that they are not threatening at all but simply make good sense.

The two controversial points in the Proposal are:-

1. The use of proxies, and
2. The requirement that the committee must secure 75% of a membership vote in order to discipline a member.

I am of the view that proxies should not be permitted because they are open to abuse. We know that at General Meetings it is common for only a fraction of the membership to attend. Many members have no interest in the running of the club and prefer that it be done by others. These members are presently entitled to a vote by proxy and we have seen these proxies abused. For example, I was recently on my way to a meeting and met a member who said he was not going to the meeting as he was not interested. He had already given his proxy to another member who used it to his own advantage. This is not the purpose of proxies and it is well known that many proxies can be collected by one individual for personal advantage. This is not within the spirit of the club. If only sixty members turn up at a meeting one only has to collect twenty proxies to defeat the motion even if everyone else at the meeting vote for it.

I do not see Proxies the same as I see Postal Votes. A postal vote is one which is posted to the Secretary before the election or poll and which states on it how the member wishes to vote. It should be secret, inside an unmarked envelope, enclosed in an envelope identifying the sender so that he or she can be verified as financial. It must arrive before the election or poll. Postal votes allow those members who are unable to attend the meeting because they are otherwise engaged or because they live in country areas, to express their view as is their right.

For the same reason I am of the view that a simple majority decision should be adequate to support the committee. To require the committee to achieve a majority of 75% is to hamstring them. Our committee is democratically elected annually to manage the club. We must give them the power to do so. I have heard it said that the committee might go mad and do stupid things and, therefore, they should not be given too much power. I see that as scaremongering. If the committee does go mad, then surely they will not be re-elected. If they propose to expel a member unjustly a 50% majority in support of their decision is adequate protection for any alleged offender. As the matter stands, if a member uses the club for running drugs, damages club property, brings the club into disrepute or, as we have recently seen, vandalises a member's hangar with graffiti, the committee is powerless to protect our property whether it be the club's generally or the individual's.

It has been said that many members have a large investment in this club. Indeed all members have a large investment in this club and we all depend upon the committee to manage it well. I have a considerable investment in this club and it is for that reason in particular that I want the committee to have the power to protect that investment. I favour abolishing proxies and supporting the committee by requiring only a simple democratic majority. I have nothing to fear from such a policy. Nor does anyone else except maybe those who vandalise property with graffiti.

Yours sincerely,

Jock Anderson

Letters to the Editor (cont.)

26/09/2010

Dear Dave and committee members,

I am writing to express my thoughts on the recent proposed changes to the club rules/ constitution.

In the last several years our club has lost some important characteristics; commonsense in financial management, transparency, unity, and freedom of speech. These are four most important pillars that form the foundation of any successful organisation be it a large or small business or a club.

I feel that the proposed new constitution will entrench this situation by providing too much power to the committee to the detriment of members' involvement and ability to voice concerns. I would encourage you to consider revising the constitution to expand members' involvement in decision making. For example:

1. The decision to hold closed committee meetings is detrimental. I believe that committee meetings should be open to the members without Pre bookings - members should be allowed to attend if they remain silent and don't disrupt the meeting. Perhaps this should be incorporated in the proposed constitution.

2. It appears that one of the amendments proposed to the new constitution is to disallow a Proxy vote. Some members for one reason or another are at times unavailable to attend important meeting- Proxy votes is the only way for them to participate in critical club decisions.

3. Improved processes for decisions in relation to budget and expenditure should be included in our rule. I have been concerned by the apparent lack of commonsense in the manner in which our finances have been handled lately. The spending of \$97k earlier this year without the membership approval is one example. I think the constitution should have adequate controls to ensure that funds are not extravagantly spent or committed without adequate consultation. A limit should be set to the amount the committee could spend without the membership approval.

4. I think a statement in the constitution that encourages members' input and feedback would be useful guidance. The practical outcome might be inviting unedited members contributions into the monthly newsletter.

5. The number of years a committee member or an office bearer can serve should be limited so that more members participate in the running of the club.

It is important to encourage a more democratic system within the club and I would encourage the committee to re-view the constitution to ensure it protects, rather than stifled, member's participation and involvement in critical club decisions.

Sincerely yours,

Ami Gale

* * * * *

Editor's response:

Dear Ami

Every member has the right to propose a rule change. You need to propose a motion in writing, with a seconder, and forward it to the Secretary. The motion will be put to a general meeting after (at least) 21 days' notice.

Your **Point 1.** requires an addition to Rule 20.

Your **Point 2.** requires a change to Rule 33.

Your **Point 3.** requires an addition to Rule 13(c),

Your **Point 4.** requires a new rule. Be aware that the Newsletter goes out to the public. Newsflashes remain internal.

Your **Point 5.** requires an addition at the end of Rule 14(c).

I am prepared to assist you with the wording of any motion you wish to propose.

Regards

David Rittie

News Snippets



Top left: Transferring the cage from the old fuel bowser to the new.

Top right: Ready to pour the new apron for the bowser.

Above left: Rob Mangan carrying out the finishing touches to the new bowser.

Above right: Three generations of the aviating Laybuts: Siahn, Vic and Jay.

Left: This is the very last photo taken of Jacquie Montague.

Right. It's really good to see Randall Krebs back on his feet after a near-death experience with leukaemia.



**CONCEPT
AVIATION
SUPPLIES**

For all your piloting needs
including maps, headsets,
GPS, radio, books & more

Drop in and see Chris or Lenka at Bankstown, or visit
our website: www.conceptaviation.com.au



Training courses are now available from Concept Aviation Theory College, delivered in our Bankstown Airport classrooms by our experienced teachers. Available courses include PPL, CPL and IREX.

Go to our website: www.conceptaviation.com.au for details and timetables