



The N.S.W. Sport Aircraft Club Newsletter



DECEMBER 2009 - JANUARY 2010

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Above: SAC's largest and smallest aircraft, the Cri-Cri and the Twin Pioneer at the Open Day.

Below: Noel Carmody's Tailwind, Frank Krassoi's Acroport, Ray Feneley's Jodel and the Feneley's Yak 18T all on display at the Open Day. **Bottom:** Robert Greig's Cessna 140 flying at the Open Day, Greg Stevenson's speedcars on display, Greg Ackman blowing his own trumpet.



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From your Editor

Welcome to the December 2009/January 2010 issue of your Newsletter.

Major events that have happened since the last issue include the SAC October Air Safari and the annual Open Day.

The Open Day is mentioned in various articles, but Greg Ackman has written a full account which appears on **Page 4**.

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Special thanks go to Greg Ackman for (again) printing the Newsletter in full colour for us, and we must not forget the work done by the distribution team that gets the Newsletter mailed out to you all, mainly Dorothy McSparron and Margaret Adams.

Wes Brown, who organised the October Air Safari, has written a story about the event which appears on **Page 9**.

On **Page 11** you will find a tribute to the life of our departed member, Gwen Teiffel, contributed by Margaret Adams.

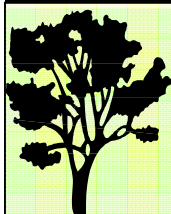
Thanks to Anne Goulding and Geoff May for the pictures in this issue, and also to all those who have contributed articles for us all to read. Enjoy.



Merry Christmas everyone, and have a great 2010.

David Rittie

Dorothy McSparron turned 90 on 7th November. Many SAC members attended the birthday party to help her celebrate. **Below:** Dot is surrounded by her family just before she cuts the cake.

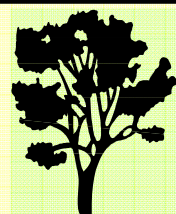


Need some exotic plants, or want some peaches or other stone fruit? You can choose from a wide selection near the airfield, just around the corner at #7 Blackburn Road.

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



Hi there.

Gwen Teiffel passes away.

The bad news just keeps coming. We were recently shocked at the news of the passing of Gwen Teiffel. Her funeral was held on 27th November where Ken Teiffel celebrated Gwen's life by recounting many enjoyable moments and good times with his mother.

Our thoughts are with Fred, Ken and the extended family at this time. A tribute to Gwen appears elsewhere in this newsletter.

Open Day

We had well over a thousand visitors attend the Open Day in November, lots of SAC and visiting aircraft on display, good food, a variety of static displays, musical entertainment, and some awesome flying displays, all combining to make it a great day. Most importantly, over \$4,300 was raised for the Angel Flight organisation.

The Open Day was judged as a great success by most who attended, and one of our very senior members described it as a "red letter day in the history of the Club".

There are many people who should be mentioned for their efforts during the Open Day where many members contributed their time and efforts on the day. Thank you all.. At the risk of failing to mention some, let me express my thanks to the Gouldings (for putting on the traditional fund raising party the night before), to June Nicholson (for rescuing a sticky situation with the National Parks and Wildlife representative), Greg Ackman (for contributing in all sorts of ways, including Public Address announcer along with Peter Hodgens), Vic Laybutt (base radio) Dave Thomas (aircraft parking team leader), Bret Cavanagh (car parking team leader), Peter Wordsworth (publicity), Robert Greig (our Garbo), Geoff May and Don Harvie (photographers), Kim Gatherer's face painting team and Richard Wiltshire for putting on two very professional aerobatic displays.

Finally I need to thank Margaret Adams for joining Margaret Nightingale and me on the organising committee, but special thanks must go to Margaret Nightingale who did all the lead-up and detail planning work for many months prior to the event.

Treasurer

John Duncan from the Committee has stepped up to the plate to become our Treasurer for the time being after the retirement from the job by Tara.. John has accountancy qualifications, is the treasurer of other clubs, is very familiar with the accounting software (MYOB) and is a fund raiser for an Australian political party. Thank you John for taking on this important task.

Whilst on that subject, let me say how very pleasantly surprised I was when Rachel Lumb and Lorraine Wood both volunteered to take up the Club's Treasurer's duties. Rachel actually did some work with Tara over a few weeks. Thank you both for making the offer, and thank you Rachel for your work.



Lastly, on that subject, I know I speak on behalf of all Club members in thanking Tara for the great job she did as our Treasurer over the last four years. Thanks Tara.

Electricity

Noel Carmody gave us some very valuable advice regarding bringing electrical power to the airfield, but due to his busy work schedule, was not able to devote the necessary time to carry out a full investigation into the costs involved in the project.

Geoff Harris, a recently interviewed prospective member, has been able to look into the project, and his preliminary cost estimates, by and large, agree with the estimates that have been previously obtained. The Club is simply not able to afford this luxury at this time, and so the project has been shelved for the time being.

Taxiways

It has been decided that all of the taxiways in the northern precinct, except the northernmost taxiway ("YZ") will be blocked at the eastern end, so that they will not directly access the road. This is to conform to the "buffer zone" requirements placed upon us by the Department of Lands. These closures will not happen immediately but will progress as hangar constructions are completed in each row.

AFRU

Greg Ackman has obtained quotes for the purchase and installation of an AFRU (airfield frequency response unit), and an order will be placed for this asset early next year.

Email Addresses

Please inform our Webmaster if you want to update your email address on the website.

So, that's all for this issue and for this year. So until next time have a great Christmas, and **please fly safely.**

David Rittie



Hi Everyone

Well we've come to the end of yet another year. They all seem to go so fast these days. It's been another big year for the Club and I must say that the airfield is looking pretty terrific these days thanks to the efforts of many. Some people help in big ways and others in small ways but every bit helps. Everybody's contributions are valued and it's fantastic when we all pull together to make our club a great organization to belong to.



but we were able to help Angel Flight at the same time.

Special thanks go to Kim Gatherer, Jan Faulkner, Abbey Gray and Lilli Harvie who painted heaps of faces and kept the kids entertained, also Matthew Feneley for organizing the Jumping Castle and all our volunteer members who looked after the cars, the aircraft and the donations at the gates and everything from collecting the rubbish to erecting fences and making jam. What a great team effort. I think we can feel really proud of

Our annual Open Day has come and gone, again. What a day! There are lots of people to thank for the success of the day. Again some of these people are obvious and others are not.

I'm really proud to report to you that the NSW Sport Aircraft Club has sent a cheque for \$4314.00 to Angel Flight as our donation from Open Day. This amount includes \$1480.00 from the raffle, \$2214.00 from the gate takings and \$620.00 from donations from various stall holders. So not only did we have a fantastically fun day

ourselves and our achievements.

Well, I for one am looking forward to the holiday season and I hope that you and your families have a happy and safe Christmas and that the New Year is prosperous for us all.



Keep safe and may the weather be favourable for flying and fun this Christmas.

Cheers

Margaret Nightingale

New Members

The following three people have applied for membership of the Club:

Geoffrey Harris, an engineer of Beecroft NSW, has been proposed by Peter Wordsworth and seconded by Greg Ackman. Geoff has a Mooney and a Cozy Mk IV, and is applying for Full Membership.

Eugen Lovric, a security worker of Currans Hill NSW, has been proposed by John Barnett and seconded by Richard Wiltshire. Eugen is an aerobatic pilot, is building an Edge 300, and is applying for full membership.

Michael Nickolls, a retired engineer of Blacktown, NSW, has been proposed by Doug Stickland and seconded by Peter Lightbown. Michael flies a J3 Kitten, will not be based at Wedderburn, and is applying for Social membership.

If any member feels the need to comment about any of the above prospective members please contact a Committee member.

Margaret Nightingale

Open Day Report

from Greg Ackman

What a wonderful Open day we had this year. In spite of the weather being overcast and occasionally drizzly we had a record turnout of locals and flying enthusiasts. The crowds of people and kids just kept coming and were consistent all day.

Set-up on Saturday saw many members chip in and help with the organisation of the things that needed to be done including setting up barriers and signage as well as preparing the grounds and hangars. As usual the club's caretaker **Mike** was busy helping to get things sorted out and in order.

On Sunday the visitors started coming from 9am and the 'car park' at one stage in the middle of the day was lined with cars from gate to gate. Thanks to **Bret Cavanagh** and his crew parking cars, chaos was averted and order prevailed, what a great effort! Using the road for parking was a really smart idea, although more people were needed to help as the crew was run off their feet.

In the aircraft parking and movements area **Dave Thomas** and his team kept airplanes coming and going like clockwork and Dave proved that good planning and execution works every time. Allowing the crowd to get close to the aircraft and being in control of all aircraft

movements was a big plus. They were going all day with big smiles and bright orange vests!

The PA and Communication System worked well after a few bugs with radio reliability. Luckily this was sorted out early. The PA was manned continuously by **Peter Hodgens** and his helper with good commentary and a professional operation noted by many visitors and members. **Vic Laybutt** also spent the day manning the Base Radio and kept a close eye on all the comings and goings of aircraft on the CTAF frequency with only a few altercations with disagreeing pilots!

The Raffle was a resounding success with prizes donated by our major sponsors, **CURTIS AVIATION** (Tiger Moth Joy Flight) and also **CONCEPT AVIATION SUPPLIES** (ICOM Wide-Band Portable Scanner) Many other minor prizes were also donated by various sponsors including Harley Davidson Backpacks, Clock Radios, Palm Readings and CB Antennas. Over \$1500 was raised for Angel Flight.

Gary Criddle in the Cessna Dragonfly



As well as many members flying their aircraft during the day there were some very impressive aerobatic flying on two occasions by **Richard Whiltshire**, firstly in his nifty little 'One Design', and later in the Extra.. Also **Gary Criddle** of **COMBAT DRAGON** in the Cessna A37 Dragonfly Twin Jet did an impressive low level routine and **Jim Drinnan** from **CURTIS AVIATION** in the North American Harvard and the De-Havilland Tiger Moth gave a great display on two occasions. The day was capped off with a fine demonstration of flying by resident identity **Sy Allsep** in the elegant Twin Pioneer.

Jim Drinnan's North American Harvard

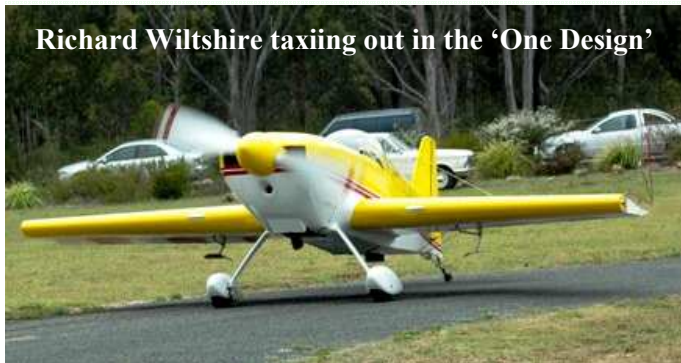


Many took the spirit of the day to heart and opened their hangars to their family, friends and the public. Picnics

and BBQ's were the flavour of the day as many enjoyed the hospitality of members hangars and I personally enjoyed the fruits of their labours while rushing to and fro!

Again the **LIONS CLUB of CAMDEN** provided their portable food van and they were busy serving hot food continuously all day with the waiting line rarely less than 10 minutes long. The ladies of the **SAC SOCIAL COMMITTEE** also did a roaring trade in scones, coffee, Devonshire teas and super cold drinks. I pity the poor lady in the Coffee Truck as she didn't get a break all day and finally finished at 4.30pm!

Richard Wiltshire taxiing out in the 'One Design'



Thanks should also go to all the other sponsors and exhibitors both from the aviation and local community who made the effort to be there and support our club.

A special thanks to **CAMDEN HIRE** for providing clean portable toilets including a special one for the disabled as this was a relief (excuse the pun) on our normal toilet facilities. We wouldn't have coped with the volume of people otherwise.

To those keen members who made their time available and helped make the day a great event, your excellent efforts were greatly appreciated. To all those other members who didn't help but want to next year, please put your hand up early as we sure could do with your assistance.

We have a great club and the Open day was certainly a great way to showcase our facilities and its unique bush venue to the local community. This was done in a proper and professional manner, and is a credit to the committee and the members who planned and executed this memorable event.

Well done all!

Greg Ackman

Peter Hodgens on the P.A.



Hi Everyone,

Well, here we are nearing the end of 2009 – where has the year gone? Our Club activities this year have all been very successful and I wish to “Thank” all of our members who have given their precious time working so hard to make our club one to be proud of and for supporting the Ladies and Gents of the Social Committee all year. This year I have been lucky to have many of the new associate members come along to join our regular team of ladies in the preparation of our menus for Work Days, Fly-In Brunches, Special Functions and our Open Day. To all involved I “Thank” you.



Our Work Day held on Sunday 25th October was a general clean up day in preparation for our many visitors who hopefully were going to attend our Open Day set down for two weeks later. Everyone worked very well and at the end of the day our Airfield looked so neat and tidy it was a credit to all. We had a great roll up for our Luncheon and we served 65 meals of delicious Cold Chicken and Cold Meat with a variety of Salads, followed by Apple Slice & Coconut slice to our workers. A special “Thank” you to Veronica for her suggestion of the sweets of the day and then ordering and collecting them. Everyone certainly enjoyed them (especially the Apple Pie) and we will repeat this menu early in the New Year. To all of our team of Ladies who helped on the Work Day and to Helen Somogyi, welcome, and so glad you came along to help us. To our two junior assistants Lilli and Abbey, you are both so willing and happy to carry out any task we give you. we love you both and we hope you will continue to come and help us.

The raffle of the day was won by the Ladies:

1st Prize was won by Jacquie Montague, and 2nd Prize was won by Judy Krebs.

Congratulations Jacquie and Judy and we do hope you enjoyed spending your Gift Vouchers.

We appreciate all who contribute to our Raffles we hold on Work Days and early in the New Year we hope to make a purchase of a brand new BBQ with the takings from the Raffles.

We must “Congratulate” two of our wonderful members who have just celebrated “BIG” Birthdays. Firstly, our lovely Dorothy McSparron turned 90 years on Saturday 7th November, and second is, our Chef. Yes, our friend Dave Thomas turned 80 years on Monday 9th November. To both of these very popular SAC members, we send our very best wishes for your special Birthdays and trust you both enjoy many more.

OPEN DAY Sunday 8th November

Well, what a great day it was. “Thanks” firstly to the SAC Open Day Organising Committee headed by David Rittie and Margaret N. with great assistance from Dave T, Greg A. and many more of us who all did their little bit to help make our day the success it was.

Our friends from the Lions Club of Camden, once again accepted our invitation to cook the Hot Food for our many members and visitors and they told me the day was very successful for them. They were disappointed that around 2.30 p.m. they did run out of food, even though they had purchased more to cover the extra visitors we had told them we were expecting. We are sorry to those that did miss out and we will make sure this does not happen next year. We “Thank” the Lions Club of Camden for their donation of \$120.00 (in lieu of the cost of VIP lunches) for Angel Flight. The day started very early for me working with my great team of strong men, Rodney, Peter & Colin who set up Tables, Chairs, Marquees, Beach Umbrellas ready for the Ladies to enjoy a bit of comfort and shade before they started to stack their stalls with all the goodies we had for sale. Soft drinks and bottles of water were bedded down in the 10 bags of ice in readiness for the thirsty visi-



tors. Next we moved upstairs to the Clubhouse kitchen to prepare the Devonshire Teas for the expected crowds who would be waiting to buy. This year we were very lucky Therese Walmsley had offered to cook Pikelets to accompany the Scones we had purchased and my goodness poor Therese never stopped cooking. You did a sterling job and we very much appreciated your hard work. Like last year we put Peter to work again whipping up the cream for the scones and pikelets, he was happy working with Janice, Penny & Judy and you were all great keeping up the supply to our hungry visitors and “Thanks” for a job well done.

My friends Rena and Rob were put to work serving the Devonshire Teas, Slices of Carrot Cake and other items downstairs and I must “Thank” Judy for giving them a few hints on streamlining things, they were happy to learn and they enjoyed every minute of helping us so I have already booked them for next year. I “Thank” them for helping us and doing a great job. It was great to have Joyce and Steve join us for Open Day and Joyce soon helped Inez, Maryanne and Jacquie in selling all the goodies that were on display and we were only left with a few items which have since been sold, so well done.

To Inez who made the lovely lace coat hangers and headbands: our Jam and Pickle Chefs, Jacquie, Dot and yours truly: Maryanne and daughter Monica certainly had a great display of their home made Butter Cakes and over 120 Cup Cakes made by Monica. I believe they were selling before they were placed on the stalls. To all of you I “Thank” you for your contributions and for all the hard work you did to make our day successful and to Monica I appreciate your support of SAC. A special “Thank” you to Helen who made a boiler full of delicious fresh Chicken and Vegetable Soup, which we sold for \$1.00 a cup – I missed out on a taste but I believe it was fantastic and what a great idea, so “Thanks” again Helen for your wonderful donation. Our Lilli and Abbey helped us for a little while but then they went face painting – something new we had this year. They had a great time, but we did miss them.

At the end of our wonderful Open Day my team of Rodney, Peter and Colin dismantled everything and helped with the cleaning up. They did a great job all day and I appreciate the help you gave me. “Thank” you boys.

We “Thank” all members and friends who came along and supported us on our day of days.

FLY-IN/DRIVE-IN BRUNCH – WILL BE HELD ON SUNDAY 7TH FEBRUARY, 2010 AT 10.00 A.M. Just to remind everyone that we will be holding the first Fly-In/Drive-In Brunch of the New Year on the above date. Aero Clubs around our area will be invited to either Fly-in or Drive-In to visit us and enjoy the delicious food we serve – all for a very reasonable charge. Please place this date in your diary now, remember we need you to come along to socialise with our visitors and enjoy the day.

SOCIAL WORK DAY – SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 21ST, 2010

As printed in the Newsflash of 26th our Work Day has been brought forward by one week so please make a note of the new date. The Social Committee will prepare a delicious FREE luncheon for our workers so please come along and spend the morning working then enjoy the company of your fellow member at lunch.



I wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Healthy and Happy 2010.
Cheers,

Margaret Adams

Hello Everyone,

Well, 2009 is just about done and dusted – the end is near, so... how have 'you' gone with your 2009 New Year's resolutions, and more importantly, that one where you specifically promised yourself you would spend more time flying and being active within the club? Did you succeed?. For me, I started off relatively well, but as usual, as the year ground on, my available time became less and less, though to be fair, I did manage to rack up around 50 hours of flying time in the USA during July and August, with Leigh Cunneen, flying from LA to Oshkosh and back again in a Cessna 177 Cardinal, kindly donated to us by one of my US friends, Royson Parsons. Royson is owner of the International Cessna 150-152 Club. He of course flew along with us in his 160hp 150K Aerobat, as did a few others who "caravanned" (their talk for group flying cross country) along the way. The purpose of this whole trip was to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Cessna 150 at Oshkosh, which saw us arrive at Oshkosh in a 21 plane formation. We were greeted by repre-



sentatives of Cessna and were presented with Commemorative Medallions and showered with various gifts on the day. We stayed only for a few days before moving on to Clinton Iowa for the Clubs Annual Fly-in, before heading back to LA via numerous touristy locations along the way - Monument Valley, Page Arizona, Grand Canyon, Las Vegas – just to name a few, so I guess I shouldn't really complain too much about the lack of flying this year. On the local front, I did manage to score around 20 odd hours between the Airedale and Aerobat during 2009, not brilliant, but again probably not bad all things considered.

accrue some more time to offset your membership costs, so... there is still time left to make good any shortfall in your workday commitment.

With regard to the workday credit sheet, as usual, if you believe that the credits accrued to you are not correct, please feel free to contact me to discuss it – as usual the credit accruals for Social/Workdays are taken directly from the attendance list which everyone is supposed to sign-in on, on arrival on the day. The annual subs for 2010 membership will be sent out in early January, so it is important you have checked the list to ensure the bill sent out to you for the 2010 period is correct. I would think, to be fair to our Treasurer, that you should have this sorted out before, or as close to, the 31st December as possible so I can pass the updated information to him to reduce the amount of possible errors to your account.

All things considered, as a Club, I think we had a fairly reasonable year, with regard to work carried out on infrastructure project, flying activities and of course the Open Day. Let's hope 2010 is even a bigger year for us to grow in all aspects of our club environment

I hope you all have a safe and enjoyable Christmas and New Year period, and I look forward to seeing you all in 2010

Matthew Gray

Departing Oshkosh



Ok, I'd better get down to business.

As you are all aware the official Work/Social Days are over for 2009 and the score board is up on the club's website for you all to view. Having said that, anyone short on credits does have until Dec 31 to

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In October of this year five aircraft carrying 11 club members and friends embarked on an outback air safari. The planned route was Wedderburn, Mungo Lodge, Broken Hill, Parachilna, Arkaroola, William Creek, Milparinka, White Cliffs then home - seven days in all.

We arrived at Mungo Lodge about midday. This was our first night stopover. To our pleasant surprise the Lodge had been given a recent refurbishment so accommodation and meals were literally 5 star (price too). Later that day we took a bus tour of Mungo National Park. Visits to the information centre then off to what is known as 'The Great Walls of China'. These walls sit on the eastern side of Lake Mungo and have been created by westerly winds blowing sand from the dry lake bed to the east over thousands of years creating what looks very much like the Great Wall of China. About 700 meters wide and 10 kilometres long. From a distance late in the afternoon the walls look like they are moving due to heat rising from the dried lake.

Day 2. We headed for Broken Hill with a 'tick that box' stop over at a place called Menindee situated on the Darling River. Suffice to say a five minute walk from the airport to the town turned into about a half hour walk in about 40 degree heat. Thankfully a few got a ride from some passers by who felt sorry for us. Cool drinks and great hamburgers at a local pub then a ride back to the airport where we headed for Broken Hill.

Arriving in Broken Hill at about 2pm we headed for our hotel and to see what the town had to offer (not a lot on Sundays). Some found a local watering hole while others relaxed in their rooms.

Day 3 The group split whereby Greg and Anne Goulding with their friends went to Parachilna for the night at the famous Prairie Hotel and a self drive tour of the lower Flinders ranges. The rest of us stayed on to explore Broken Hill and Silverton. About 10.30am a bus (licensed to carry about 40) picked up just seven slightly embarrassed passengers for our trip to Silverton. Anyhow, it made for a few laughs and was a very pleasant way to see the country side. Silverton established in the 1880's was home to about 3000 residents, eight pubs and its own brewery, schools and a railway system that

The touring party on the "Great Wall" at Lake Mungo



took the iron ore to South Australia. The only privately owned railway in Australia at the time. Now just a few museums and the pub. The pub which has had many names over the years is presently known as the Silverton Hotel (where Mad Max 2 was made amongst a whole heap of other famous movies). We left for Broken Hill about 1pm and were greeted by a dust storm, which was to later cause some grief on our way to Arkaroola the next day. Before being dropped back at our hotel we farewelled David Rittie at Broken Hill airport as he needed to get back to Sydney. (Great to have the Club President with us for the few days.)

Day 4. We decided to leave early to beat the effects of a strong westerly wind which the day before had started to lift the red dust from the dry earth. We had hoped to meet Greg and Annie at Parachilna for lunch, however the strong head wind made it a 'no go' so we decided to head direct to Arkaroola. About 20 minutes into our trip we all copped what I would say was IFR flying due to the dust. I've never seen dust as thick. Visibility became zero. Base of the dust was about 500 Ft and ceiling about 8000 Ft. Vic and I stayed low while Doug in his RV10 was on top. For those who haven't experienced flying in dust, it really is an eerie feeling. After about an hour into our flight near Lake Frome the dust cleared. We arrived safely in a strong crosswind at Arkaroola. About 10 minutes later Greg and Anne, who the day before went off to Parachilna, arrived so we were all together again.

After checking in to our very comfortable accommodation Greg was able to get a 4WD land cruiser from the owner (with a not so good tourist map), and eight of us ventured off to explore the place. Spectacular gorges, hot springs, water holes and yes, rocks! If you want to see

Below: the aircraft on the "Safari". Greg Goulding's Piper Seneca, Wes Brown's Cessna 172, David Rittie's Jabiru, Vic Laybutt's Cessna Cardinal, and Doug Montague's RV10, all parked outside Lake Mungo Lodge.





Alice, Vic, Wes and Anne at the William Creek Pub

rocks then this is the place to visit. I've never seen so many rocks! Exposed over time due to erosion, the mainly granite rock which has been broken down over the years is everywhere. Although a wilderness sanctuary, Arkaroola has in the past been mined for gold and uranium and is currently under threat of being mined further for uranium. The owners are opposed to the resumption which is currently being fought in court.

Day 5. Next morning nine of us did the 'Ridge Top Tour'. About a four hour round trip, two specially designed 4WD land cruisers took us on a guided tour up and down mountains with our destination being a place called Sillers Lookout, which sits at the very northern end of the Flinders Ranges. After some tea and coffee with fresh lamingtons we headed back and packed up to leave for William Creek.

After crossing the flinders ranges we headed further North West to do some low level flying over Lake Eyre which is the world's largest salt lake and Australia's largest inland lake. Fortunately there was still water in Lake Eyre north however no bird life which was a bit disappointing. From here we headed for William Creek, South Australia's smallest town where we were treated to a classic old pub built in 1887 to service the Ghan railway. Not a lot to see on the outside; however it is the interior which is worth a look. Walls, floors and ceilings lined with pictures, bras, underpants, foreign currency notes and coins, business cards, driver's licenses, you name it you could find it from all walks of life and dating back decades. The beer and company made for a very enjoyable evening.



Lake Eyre with water

Day 6. Next morning nursing sore heads we had some good old fashioned breakfast and started back for home via Milparinka and White Cliffs. Yet again we encountered another dust storm about 50 miles from Milparinka. It made for some anxious moments for all of us especially Doug who was managing problems with his GPS (which is a must out here) and also separation of fabric on the underside starboard wingtip caused by what Doug believes was several cuts. Trying to find Milparinka at the best of times is not easy, however Doug calmly dealt with the problem at hand and made a diversion to Tibooburra, 40 kms north, where he was able to get assistance to make good the problem to fly directly home a few days later. Knowing Doug was safe we settled in. Established in 1845 Milparinka is the oldest proclaimed township in the Corner Country, and is situated on the banks of the Evelyn Creek, named by Charles Sturt during his 1845 Inland Expedition. In 1870 Gold was discovered from which the town grew. The resources boom was followed by a bust, and by the early twentieth century Milparinka became a virtual ghost town. Today there still stands the police station, jail and court house and the Albert Hotel which is where we stayed. Great meals and an interesting publican who later warmed to the idea of having some city folk staying at his pub.

Day 7. Next morning we headed for White Cliffs, an opal mining town 80 mile east. Opals were found in the area as early as 1884 but the harsh conditions kept development at a snail's pace. When workers at a local station took samples to Adelaide, a promoter by the name of Tullie Cornthwaite Wollaston realised their worth and began selling the semi-precious stones in Europe. The first store and hotel opened in 1892 and miners soon arrived to dig their fortune out of the ground. By the turn of the century, the population had risen to 1,000 people. To beat the summer heat, miners turned disused shafts into homes, stores and even hotels, a tradition that continues today. We stayed in the local hotel and visited a number of opal shops, an underground opal mine and later in the day a tour by the local SES volunteer of the mining area known as plots.

Day 8. the following morning we left early to beat wind and turbulence and cloud forecasted later in the day for our arrival at Wedderburn. We refuelled at Narromine and all progressively made it home safely. Doug arrived from Tibooburra later that day.

A great experience I sincerely hope we can get more club members on next year's safari. Thanks to all who came along.

Wes Brown

Thanks for the story Wes, and thanks for organising such a fantastic trip.

Ed



Vale - Gwen Teiffel

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I know you will all be saddened to learn of the passing on 23rd November, of our long standing associate member, Gwentyth Lillian Teiffel, aged 91 years and beloved wife, of 67 years, to Fred.



Gwen played a very important role as a member of our Ladies Auxiliary, and for many years was always a willing worker at the many and varied functions we held. Unfortunately due to illness Gwen had to slow down on her visits to Wedderburn, but when her health allowed she always assisted us.

Each Thursday (unless it rained) Fred and Gwen (a lot of times with their family) would drive out to Wedderburn for Fred to enjoy some flying with Frank. Gwen would always be busy watering the plants around their hangar and having a good time chatting with many of us who regularly went out to Wedderburn on the same Thursdays. They were OUR days to get together and they were very happy days to spend with all of our friends. I know Gwen always enjoyed herself at the airfield, and with Inez loved to find time to work on their cross word puzzles.



To represent the Sport Aircraft Club 14 of us attended a service for Gwen at the Woronora Crematorium, Sutherland on Friday 27th November.

At the funeral Ken paid beautiful tributes to his mother in his eulogy. We who had known her for so long were touched by his words.

We will always remember Gwen as a gentle, loving, thoughtful lady, and we were so lucky to have her as a dedicated SAC Member and a true friend. We will miss her.

To Fred, Ken & Libby, Margaret & Ian and your families, our thoughts are with you at this sad time, and we extend our sincere sympathy.

Margaret Adams

Hangar S3 is For Sale

Hangar S3, three and a half years old. White and blue coloured. 15 meters wide and 15.5 meters deep, with driveway and roller door access to road. Has also a council approved mezzanine floor, full width by 3.6 meters deep.

Price is \$120,000 (negotiable).

Call the owner, Mel Musemeci, on 0417 065 574, or Robert Greig on 0418 271 188 to view.



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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

Christmas Party and Awards Presentation, Sunday, 13th December, Midday, Aviators Lounge, Albion Park. Call Robert Greig on 0418 271 188 for bookings. \$36 per head.

Fly-in/Drive-in Brunch. Sunday, 7th February, 10am to 2pm, in the Clubhouse.

Social Workday. Sunday, 21st February. Sign on at 0900. Free lunch. Please note that this is a week earlier than usual due to the "Wings over Illawarra" event.

Wings over Illawarra. Sunday 28th February, Wollongong Airport at Albion Park.



Above: Anne Goulding as the angel, and Kim Gatherer as the devil at the pre-Open Day party. Robert Greig erects some signage, and some children after having their faces painted by Kim on Open Day

Seven SAC aircraft at Old Bar, stopping for lunch on the way home from Gloucester, 1st November



Remembering Barry Davis.

