



The N.S.W. Sport Aircraft Club Newsletter



DECEMBER 2010 - JANUARY 2011

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Above: Gary Criddle's Cessna Dragonfly dropped by on our annual Open Day.

Below: A few of our SAC aircraft visited Rick and Wendy Harper's "Farcombe Hall" airstrip for a quick cuppa after the Gloucester Fly-in, including (from the left) Dave Thomas's Aeronca, Wendy and Rick (in the centre of the picture) are standing in front of David Rittie's Jabiru, Richard Thompson's Twin Commander is in the background and in the foreground is SAAA visitor, Darin McLean's rented Sport Star



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

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

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		Caretaker "Kanga" Rouen Andrews	0425 380 964 - - -

* * **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

Australia Day BBQ and Trivia Quiz

Wednesday, 26th January, 6pm

Contact: Margaret Nightingale

Wedderburn Clubhouse

Fly-in/Drive-in Brunch

Sunday, 6th February, 10am to 1pm

Contact: Margaret Adams 9567 6522

Wedderburn

Social Workday

Sunday, 27th February, 2011

Sign in before 0900. Free lunch for members.

Contact: Peter Lightbown

Wedderburn

General Meeting

Sunday, 13th March, 2pm, 2011

Contact: Margaret Nightingale

Wedderburn Clubhouse

Annual General Meeting

Sunday, 13th March, 2011, approx 4pm

immediately after the G. M.

Contact: Margaret Nightingale

Wedderburn Clubhouse

Annual Bowylie Fly-in

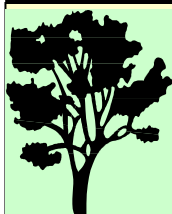
(Dick Smith's place). Sunday, 27th March, 2011

BYO everything. BBQ facilities available.

Contact: David Rittie

Gundaroo

We need members to organise some social events and some flying adventures. Please contact Bret Cavanagh if you are able to organise an event (or two).

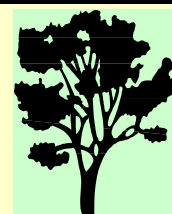


Need some exotic plants, or want some peaches or other stone fruit? You can choose from a wide selection near the airfield, just around the corner at #7 Blackburn Road.

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 December 2010/January 2011 issue of your Newsletter.

Since the last Newsletter was issued we lost another of our members, Ron Graham. We also bid a final farewell to Bruce Walsh at the airfield recently by scattering his ashes. (See **Page 10.**)

The main focus of this Newsletter is the annual big event - our Open Day,



with articles written by Greg Ackman and also our caretaker. These are in addition to our regular con-

tributions from the usual suspects.

Pictures of the Open Day have flooded in from many members. Sincere thanks for all of them, but unfortunately, we simply can't print them all.

As always, we hope you enjoy this edition of your Newsletter.

David Rittie

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

Words from the President

Hi there.

More bad news was received recently. We (sadly) lost another member, Ron Graham, who is well remembered as he carried out maintenance on many of our members' aircraft at Bankstown.

On the same sombre note, family members scattered the ashes of Bruce Walsh over the airfield just a week or so ago.

Lease Renewal

Just as this Newsletter was going to print our solicitors received a reply from the DoL to our request for some clauses to be added to the new lease. We have not yet had time to discuss this development with our solicitors, but we will keep you all posted of progress with this matter in future Newsflashes.

Fly Neighbourly

As mentioned in a recent Newsflash, we have received a complaint about our flying activities from one of our neighbours through the Department of Lands. This is regrettable both from the local community's point of view, and also that the DoL has been brought into the loop whilst we are trying to renew our lease.

Please adhere to our "Fly Neighbourly" policy which is very clearly depicted in the new picture which appears on the **Page 12** of this Newsletter. Also, please spread the word to your flying friends about the requirement to adhere to this policy.

Open Day

I have already expressed my very positive views about the last Open Day in a recent Newsflash. Suffice to say here that there were many willing people that allowed the whole thing to happen and to run so smoothly. Sincere thanks go to all who contributed their time to this event. Hopefully, everyone enjoyed the day.

Our Open Day organiser this year was Geoff May (well done, Geoff) who has selflessly already volunteered to do next year's event.

We will be consulting you (the members) about what you would like next year's Open Day to be, ranging anywhere from a full-blown air show to a very low-key visitors day - or not to hold any form of Open Day.

Our thanks go to Dave Thomas for making his hangar available for the traditional Pre-Open Day Party, which is usually hosted by Anne and Greg Goulding, who had other pressing family commitments this year.

Grass Strip

There has been some progress made to the grass safety strip. The newly seeded grass has taken advantage of the wet weather, and Peter Lightbown has assembled a small team of volunteers who will maintain the strip on a regular basis. Thanks guys.

New Constitution

Your Committee has selected a team (from a group of volunteers) who will review our rules and to recommend



changes that the team feels to be appropriate for a new constitution. The plan is to have a Special General Meeting to vote on any changes by next June.

New members

Your Committee has also appointed a small team to review and to upgrade the "New Member" interview and approval process. The team will meet early in the new year.

Trees at the ends of the runway

We have moved another step closer to gaining approval to trim some of the taller trees in the glide path of the runways. We have a green light from the Wollondilly Shire Council and the Department of Lands. All we need now is permission from our aboriginal friends and we will be able to proceed.

That's all for this year. Allow me to wish you all a very Merry Christmas, and an even better 2011.

Please fly safely.

David Rittie

From the Secretary's Desk

Hi there everyone.

While it's been raining for most of the Spring so far it is easy to be complacent about the threat of bushfires. The weather bureau has warned that a few weeks of hot weather in the summer and the onset of dry westerly winds could change the situation very rapidly. Without alarming members I would like you to consider the following.

Those of you who attended the September General Meeting will remember that representatives of the Rural Fire Service at Wedderburn addressed the meeting with particular reference to bush fires. Our thanks go to the fireies for their attendance and their willingness to help us with our airfield fire plan. While we are finalising our airfield management plan I would like to refresh your memories about some things that individuals can do to help themselves when facing the threat of a bushfire at the airfield.

Because we are in an isolated area we need to be able to help ourselves while we wait for help to arrive. The time scale for the RFS to help would be anything from at least 20 minutes to hours depending on the fire threat to others in the community. The airfield buildings would not be as high on the priority list for the RFS as homes and lives in more built up areas. Most of the buildings on the airfield are made of material that is most effective at withstanding the intense heat of a bushfire.

There are four key considerations when dealing with bush fires:

- Safety of you and your family and friends
- Defendability of your property
- Protection of irreplaceable valuables
- Maintenance of adequate insurance

The first things that should spring to mind in a bushfire prone area such as the airfield is PREPARE, ACT, SURVIVE.

Prepare

- A bushfire survival plan that includes thought about whether you would stay and defend or leave early. The RFS recommend that members and visitors to the airfield should leave or stay away if the fire warning is severe or extreme.
- You need to be physically and mentally prepared to defend your property during a fire event
- Your property
 - o Identify fire risks around your hangar

and its environment

- o Keep the grass short and the leaf litter as thin as possible
- o Clean out the gutters
- o Fill in any gaps or holes in the walls or roof
- o Make sure the pressure relief valves of any gas bottles outside face away from the building
- o Have non-combustible door mats or no mats outside
- o Remove and store any flammable material inside or away from the building
- o Ensure you have a hose long enough to reach every part of the area around you hangar
- o Store wood piles well away from structures



If you decide to stay and defend your hangar and the surrounding property you will need to have already prepared the following:

- consider that staying and defending property involves the risk of psychological trauma, injury and death.
- your fire fighting equipment is well maintained and you know how to use it
- you have appropriate protective clothing – cotton clothes, gloves, boots, hat etc
- you have a survival plan and a contingency plan
- you have enough drinking water
- you have water buckets, a torch and a ladder
- listen to the radio for fire updates

As the fire approaches

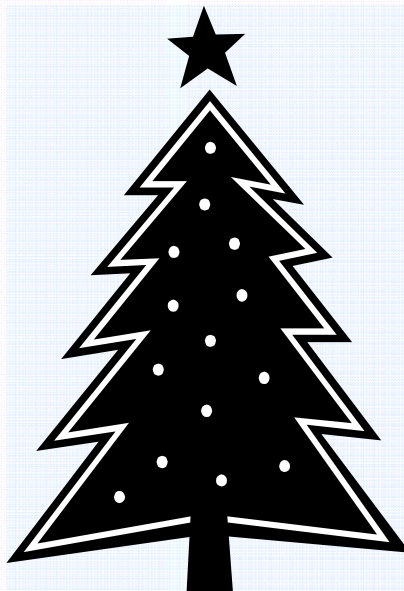
- block the downpipes and fill the gutters with water
- shut all windows and doors and place wet towels around them
- patrol the inside as well as the outside for embers
- wet the vegetation around the building

As the fire front arrives

- take all fire fighting equipment inside as it may melt in the fire
- patrol the inside for embers

When the fire front has passed

- go outside and extinguish small



From the Secretary's Desk (cont.)

spot fires and burning embers

- patrol both inside and outside for embers
- stay until all the surrounding areas are free of fires

You should have considered a contingency plan to cover a change in circumstances on the day.

The above suggestions are put together from a Rural Fire Service document called "Bushfire Survival Plan, Prepare Act Survive." These are available in the clubhouse. You can also get information from www.rfs.nsw.gov.au. Some of this information would be useful in preparing your own homes as well as hangars and the club's buildings.

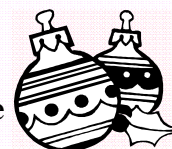
Suggestions for vetting new members

Also at the September General Meeting we discussed the interview process for prospective new members. The Committee would appreciate your input if you have any suggestions on how this process may be improved. If you have any constructive suggestions can you please let me know at fireweed@netspace.net.au.

Well that's it for this year except to wish everyone a happy and safe holiday season.

Cheers,

Margaret Nightingale



Social Workday Activities

Hi Everyone,

I would like to thank all who joined in the workdays for their participation during the year. I think there is a great atmosphere of co-operation in the club, and this feeling was echoed by our new caretaker, Rou, who was amazed at what was achieved on workdays.

Last workday focused on getting ready for Open Day and with our caretaker still somewhat incapacitated there was much mowing that needed to be done. One member in particular spent the entire time on the ride-on mower, keeping on going after the lunch bell rang to complete one last section. My



thanks to all of you who prepared the airfield so well for Open Day. I heard so many

positive comments from visiting aviators about the presentation of the airfield. My thanks also to those who cleaned up so well after the event, again Rou could not believe the speed of the team.

I have quite a few members volunteering to mow the new grass strip, with the great rain we are having I will be calling on you soon.

Thanks again for all your work and a happy Christmas to everyone.

Cheers

Peter Lightbown

The Caretaker's Corner

At the behest of the President after discussions about the Open Day, I decided to pen these congratulatory lines to all concerned in the preparation and execution of duties of all members in regard to the organisation of this day.



As a newcomer to Wedderburn, but having been involved in club activities (sporting etc.), I give all concerned a very big 'pat on the back' for the cheerful and enthusiastic manner in which all the assignments were carried out, especially the clean-up and removal of rubbish (Big tick to Greg Ackman.)

Dawn and I would like to take this opportunity to thank all members for their welcome, and their assistance and support when I had my broken wrist.

We are enjoying our position here and hope to see many more Open Days at Wedderburn.

Merry Christmas to all.

"Kanga" Rouen and Dawn Andrews



Bird Talk

Hi Everyone,

Well, here we are almost to the end of another year and your Social Committee has been kept very busy over the year with our Social Work Days, Brunches and the Open Day. I would like to “thank” the members who have supported us by attending all our days and to our newer Associate Members who came along to lend a hand, together with our wonderful team of ladies, prepare all of the meals, also to Dave T. and Robert S. for always being on hand to help us. It all works very well and this is what makes our Club survive – to be all team players.



SOCIAL WORK DAY SUNDAY 31st OCTOBER.

Robert Seisun



Our last organised Work Day of the year saw 65 of our members sit down to enjoy a wonderful luncheon, after they had worked so hard at the many jobs that had to be carried out in the morning. Our Chef of the day, Robert Seisun, cooked up tasty BBQ Sausages, Rissoles & Onions and the ladies prepared a variety of delicious salads to accompany the meats. The meal was not complete without the tempting trays of cakes, including the famous Apple cake made by Veronica - thanks for your contribution Veronica.

Our Raffle of the day went very well and the winner of the 1st Prize of a Coles/Myer Gift card worth \$50.00 was won by Greg Goulding. The winner of the 2nd Prize of a Bunnings Gift Card worth \$20.00 was won by Rodney George. Congratulations to our winners, and to all who supported our Raffle better luck next time.

To all the workers who worked so hard in having our Airfield looking so good, in readiness for our Open Day, “thanks”, and to all who assisted me with the luncheon a big “thank you”.

We must not forget our young ladies who help us all the time – to Grace, Lillian and Abbey – “thanks” for being there for us - we love you all.

OPEN DAY 14TH NOVEMBER, 2010

Yes, as David has said in the Newsflash of 15th November, our Open Day has been and gone and certainly the crowds were down on last year, despite this, all those who I spoke to had a great day.

To Geoff May, you certainly did an excellent job as Open Day co-ordinator- so well done. To all our other members who assisted with many tasks – I say “thank” you all.

Our friends from the Lions Club of Camden looked after the hot food again and they too said they were quieter than last year, as usual we do appreciate their support every year.



It was wonderful to see Arthur Napper, David Archer, Bob Phillips, George Hennessy, Brian Mayer, Ted Furby and Ken Brierley attending our day. These members had, in our early years, worked their hearts out for this Club in many different ways and I know they do enjoy seeing how their club has flourished. To the many others who I may not have caught up with I trust you had an enjoyable day.

Bird Talk (cont.)

By the way I do know that Arthur Napper was to be celebrating his 90th Birthday near the end of November and to him "Congratulations" from all of us and we wish you many more Happy Birthdays – well done Arthur.

I would like to "thank" all who helped our Social Committee team on Open Day, firstly to my friends, Peter & Colin in helping to set up the tables, chairs and beach umbrellas ready for the patrons to sit down and enjoy their Devonshire teas and packing the soft drinks and water into the bins of ice with our Ken Teifel assisting- you were all great to do this.



Arthur Napper and Margaret Adams. Photo by Colin Rook

Our food sales people, Rena and Rob (my friends) came along again this year to take on this role and what an excellent job you did, sales of the Devonshire teas were slow but I think it all had to do with the hot weather. Last year we had a most successful day selling out of everything we had, unfortunately, this year was different and most disappointing.

To the very dedicated Ladies, Therese cooking pikelets and Penny preparing the scones "Thanks" for taking care of this very important job. I think I should include Tim who was assisting and Peter who also helped – thank you all.

This year we included the selling of second hand books and firstly I would like to "thank" everyone who donated some wonderful books from their collection, we did appreciate your generosity. The Ladies of the Social Committee, Inez, Maryanne & Veronica looked after the stalls very well selling the second hand books and the Club Merchandise. At the end of the day, from the Book Sales we took \$112.00, and sale of Club Shirts and Caps \$240. "Thanks" for a job well done Ladies. Final figures of the sales from our food stalls will be posted in a Newsflash shortly. We "thank" all members and friends who came along and supported us on our big day.

During the early part of 2011 we hope to have a get together with our friends from the WRFS. Arrangements are still to be finalised as to what we will hold - perhaps it will be a lunch time BBQ or the always popular Trivia night. Further details will be in a Newsflash in the New Year.

A special request to all members using the Club House Kitchen, could you please clean up after yourselves. The last few times I have been down to the Clubhouse I have had to wash up dirty crockery left by some of you. Remember this is a self help club and there are no kitchen maids on hand to do the work.

FLY-IN/ DRIVE-IN BRUNCH SUNDAY 6TH FEBRUARY, 2011

Please remember to write this date down in your diary – we want to see as many of you come along and join in the fun. Good food is available at very reasonable prices and most importantly you are socialising with your fellow members. See you all on the 6th February next year.

I wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and I trust Santa will be good to you. Have a very Happy and Healthy 2011



Cheers,

Margaret Adams

Annual OPEN DAY Report - from Greg Ackman

On Saturday 13th November, many of our members joined in to help set up the airfield for our Open Day. At the end of the day and when all was in readiness it

was time to begin the traditional Pre-Open Day party. Because Anne and Greg Goulding were away, this year the party was held in Dave Thomas's hangar.



Top: John Bennett with Veronica. Greg Ackman. Don Harvie. **Above:** Steve Cohen, Penny and Doug Stickland having a laugh. Founding member, Arthur Napper, chats to former Club President, Vic Laybutt.

What a wonderful day we had again this year. The weather was kind to us this time and good flying conditions saw an excellent turnout of visiting aircraft with the parking area busy and full. As usual the turnout of locals and flying enthusiasts was evident. The numbers were well down on last year as the club committee decided on a more low key approach with no air displays.

As usual, 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. All this being orchestrated effortlessly by this year's event manager **Geoff May**.

The aircraft parking and movement area saw **Dave Thomas** and his team again keeping airplanes coming and going like clockwork all day. The crowd was able to get close to the aircraft and the **Harvard** from **Curtis Aviation** and **Sy's Twin Pioneer** were great crowd pleasers.

Jim Drinnan from **Curtis** put on quite an arrival with smoke and again on departure in a perfect formation with the **Pitts Special**. The **A37 Cessna Dragonfly** flown by **Jeff Criddel** from **Combat Dragon** was doing joy flights from Bankstown, and he programmed an at-

tendance at our open day into his sortie. He arrived in the circuit at 9am and again at 11am, doing a very spectacular touch-and-go on each occasion. Thanks Jeff !

The PA was manned continuously by **Peter Hodgens** and **Greg Ackman** with the usual expert commentary by Peter. **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 no issues and smooth flying the order of the day.



Peter



Vic



The Raffle in aid of **Angel Flight** was a resounding success with \$900 worth of tickets sold. Angel Bears were also in great demand and another \$160 was raised from sales. The Angel Flight Stand was well patronised by members and visitors.

A number of volunteer Angel Flight Pilots and Earth Angels were in attendance to answer questions and sell Bears and Tickets.

Prizes donated by our major sponsors were **CURTIS AVIATION** (Tiger Moth Joy Flight) and **Flights** donated by both SAC Members **Dave Rittie (Jabiru)** and **Peter Hodgens (Lancair IV)**. Many other minor prizes were also donated by various sponsors including **Club Fuel Vouchers** (One was won by Peter Hodgens!!), **Harland's Nursery** as well as **C.B. Antennas** from **Mobile One Australia**.

Some members flew their aircraft during the day and there were some very impressive water operations on the dam opposite the clubhouse by a funny looking bi-plane pusher thingy!

The Laybutts demonstrating the Petrel's capability



Again the **LIONS CLUB of CAMDEN** provided their portable food van and they were busy serving hot food continuously all day. The **Ladies of the SAC Social**



Committee also did a good trade in scones, coffee, Devonshire teas and super cold drinks. The coffee truck **Beanz Around** was a crowd pleaser with a continuous line of customers. They did a great job of keeping the hot liquid flowing! I had the pleasure of sampling their fantastic Ice Coffee's on two occasions, just in the nick of time as the heat became quite oppressive.

The local **Rural Fire Service**, **Vintage Bikes**, **Aircraft Modellers** and the **Bush Band** rounded of the attendees and helped add to the flavour of our annual open day.

The crowd was able to get close to the aircraft



SAC 10 12

The Aeronca Champ and Chief of Dave Thomas and Ian Harvie



The Bush Band



Thanks should go to **Geoff May** and his **team of members** who made their time available and helped make the day a great event. All your efforts were greatly appreciated.

SAC Social Committee

The day wound down early and by 4pm the clean-up crew had finished and the airfield was back to normal.

Now the planning starts again for next year ! See you then.

Greg Ackman
Member # 312

Frank Krassoi's
Acrosport →

↙ **Sy Allsep's Twin**
Pioneer and Beaver



Farewell to Bruce Walsh

On Saturday 20th November, in the morning, the family of the late Edward Bruce Walsh, gathered to witness the ashes of Bruce being scattered over his beloved Wedderburn Airfield.

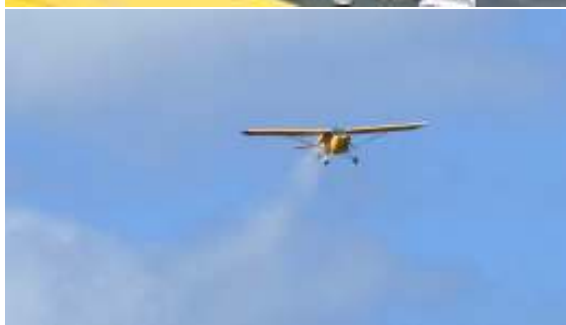


Ian Harvie was the pilot and he took Bruce's son, Peter, up in the Aeronca Chief to do the honours. The family, Bruce's wife Jean, son Peter, daughters Kerry and Donna with their husbands and families were touched by the experience and a moving farewell speech by son-in-law, Geoff.

A morning tea was enjoyed by those present and there were many recollections of Bruce's happy years as a NSW Sport Aircraft Club Member.

Margaret Adams

Below: Bruce's wife and extended family at the airfield during the ceremony to spread his ashes.



Ronald Graham has passed away



Ron's beloved
Harmon F1 Rocket

Last month we were saddened by the news of the death of SAC member, Ronald Graham.

Ron was a highly qualified L.A.M.E. with licences on airframe, engines, instruments and electrical. He worked out at Bankstown where he serviced many SAC member's aircraft.

The photo (at left) is of Ron's very high performing Harmon F1 Rocket, which he built himself.

Our condolences and thoughts go out to Ron's family.

David Rittie



Aircraft and Hangars For Sale

Kevin Haydon's impressive RV8, VH-KVI, is reluctantly for sale



110 hours, IFR category, Full glass panel, full featured A/P, every possible extra.
Oshkosh Silver Lindy award winner.
Call Kevin on 0408 694 713 for a full spec sheet and price.

Bret Cavanagh's
Piper Tomahawk

VH - KAJ

is (reluctantly) for sale

Low hours

Contact Bret on 0407 344 795



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.



SOLAR PANEL FOR SALE

The Club has an extra solar panel for sale after the bulk purchase for the clubhouse power system.
The panel is a 12 volt/200 watt unit, at the cost price of \$575.
If you are interested you should contact our Hon. Treasurer, John Duncan, on 0425 380 967

