



Royal Newcastle Aero Club

Windsock Tales, #28



Hello Everyone,

I hope you are all well as we navigate the difficulties of Covid-19. As with most small business, RNAC has had to modify our operations to satisfy the social distancing requirements needed to overcome this dreadful virus. Flying hours are down, however I am very confident our club has the capacity to return to ops normal once this pandemic has past.

Two major community events have taken place since the last Windsock Tales. Maitland Steamfest and ANZAC Day. These two event are described below.

Steamfest

18th and 19th April 2020.

The event itself was cancelled, again due to Covid-19. As a substitute, Maitland Council was able to put together a “*Virtual Steamfest*” by a collaboration of participants. RNAC has been involved with Steamfest since 1987, so obviously we were enthusiastic to be a part of STEAMFEST LIVE – 2020.

It is available from the link below. Two hours of interesting interviews, with snapshots of previous Steamfest celebrations.

<https://www.steamfest.com.au>

If you wish to skip through a little bit, RNAC is featured a little after 1hr and 15min for about a 2 minute session.



Our club has a very strong and long relationship with Maitland Council and we look forward to future involvement with community events such as Steamfest.

ANZAC Day

Saturday, 25th April 2020.

Again, a very different day for all of us. No dawn services, everyone to stay at home...

Glen Thomson, our newly appointed HOO/CFI came up with a great idea. Why don't we do a dawn, fly over Newcastle, Lake Macquarie and the lower Hunter? So that's what we did...

Greg Kennewell and I piloted the Tiger. Ed Pitrolo provided start up duties. Marty Burrige, piloted the clubs C-182, in company with Richard Morrissey and Freddie Howard.



The results were absolutely outstanding...

We travelled from Maitland to Newcastle to rendezvous with several warbirds, courtesy of Paul Bennet. On to Swansea, Wangi Wangi, Toronto, Wallsend, Maitland then back to the field. It was a perfect day and a perfect flight.

We also achieved NBN Television coverage from ANZAC Walk. RNAC President John Tate being interviewed and speaking on our behalf.

Richard was able to capture some outstanding photographs, just a small selection below...



A really big thank you must go to RNAC club member, Freddie Howard. I would encourage you to go to the link below and see the video that Freddie has been able to capture. Basically a 1hr 30min flight, condensed to about 1min and 30 seconds.

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1SCHUSCSmyDTfR1PvhmvOk37mvlZxQjJO/view?usp=sharing>

Well done Freddie, a great effort for your club and I'm sure, greatly appreciated by our members...



Just a quick note to finish...

Covid-19 has had a major impact on everyone in the community. Our club is no different. I would like to extend a very heart felt thank you to the RNAC staff and members as we, like everyone work our way through this very difficult period. It will come to an end and flying operations will return to a new normal. The unknown factor here is of course, when?

In the meantime, keep safe and keep well...

Kind regards,

Trevor

**Vice President and Life Member
Royal Newcastle Aero Club**



Trevor Bright

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