

Royal Newcastle Aero Club

Windsock Tales, #29



Hello Everyone,

Welcome to "RNAC Windsock Tales" #29

A very tragic event...

On behalf of the Royal Newcastle Aero Club Members, Staff and Board, I would like to share the following statement...

On Sunday, 18th May 2020, long term RNAC member Andy Shepherd was tragically killed in an aircraft accident whilst on approach for runway 08. On behalf of all RNAC Members and Staff I would offer our sincere condolences to Andy's family and friends. A very active RNAC member, held in very high esteem, he will be sadly missed ...

John Tate, President RNAC.

Hello Everyone,

Well COVID-19 continues to dominate our daily lives and I guess it's here to stay for some time to come. I really hope everyone is OK. Almost everything we do has changed. Social distancing, temperature checks, disinfecting and many other factors have created a new "normal" for all of us....

You may recall that our previous information session was cancelled due to Covid-19. The subsequent Windsock Tales contained, what was deemed to be a "Report from the Board". Again, our information session scheduled for August has been cancelled. This time a dedicated "Board Report" will be created and distributed to Members very soon.

COVID-19 has had a direct impact on flying and flying training in general. The good news is... We are coming back... Glen, Greg, Kristy and Lyn are all working very hard to re-establish our Club's traditional flying training and their hard work is now yielding encouraging results. Our month on month hours are rising and this support, both from Club Members and Trainees is greatly appreciated.

A very special thank you must go to both **Glen Thomson** and **Greg Kennewell**...

- **Glen**, our newly appointed HOO / CP. Glen has worked incredibly hard over recent months. Several exams and many CASA reviews have taken place to enable Glen to hold this position. In more recent weeks, Glen has embarked on a new project, Command or Private Instrument Rating. This project has the potential to significantly enhance what our Club can offer. There are many dependencies' that need to be overcome and it is early days however both Glen and the Board are working together with a view to achieving a positive outcome.
- **Greg** has gained his Grade II Flight Instructor Rating. Other recent achievements include being authorised as the Club's HAMC, "Head of Aircraft Maintenance Control" . Also, Authorised, BP Fuel Representative and this week, Greg is in training to achieve authorised ARO, " Aerodrome Reporting Officer" .

The RNAC Board and our Members genuinely appreciate the significant efforts both Glen and Greg are achieving.

Membership Renewal

It's that time again. For those who have already renewed your membership, thank you. For those who are yet to do so I would respectfully suggest that this is the single best way to contribute to your Club.

Your Membership fee entitles you to the full benefit of our facilities. We are now in our 92nd year, and we will continue...

Facebook is Back !

<https://www.facebook.com/royalnewcastle.aeroclub>

For some months now we have had difficulty with our Facebook account, however now it's also back...

I would hope interested Members can become involved, contribute and maybe help us with this account. Call the office if you think you can assist...



Tiger Maintenance

Our Tiger, VH-RNI requires some maintenance. The aircraft will be unserviceable for the next few weeks.



What a great photograph. I'm not bias am I.... ANZAC Day 25th April 2020, taken by Club Member Freddie Howard.

Below is a former RNAC Staff Member and longtime friend Terry Ryan. Terry worked for many years with Lance Fletcher and Steve Fraser in the Club's main hangar when our aircraft maintenance was carried out "In House".

This photograph was recently taken at Matt Webber's maintenance facility at Luskintyre. The engine block beside Terry belongs to our Tiger, VH-RNI.



Terry tells me he originally overhauled this engine, eleven years ago.

Today I feel very happy that Terry is once again taking care of our beloved Tiger and hopefully will have it back flying soon.

A big thank you must also go to Matt Webber. Matt has been very interested and concerned with this project providing several options for the Board to consider.

Just a Bit of History...

Our Tiger Moth VH-RNI was overhauled with new fabric and a new colour scheme, (the one it has today) back in 1999. It took 18 months to complete the work and once done, it really was something to see... The local paper, Maitland Mercury did an article on the rebuild that gave the Club and our Tiger significant coverage.

It should be noted that the rebuild was to restore the Tiger back to its original RAAF livery including its original RAAF registration. A17-111.

A number of weeks after that I was scheduled to do a joy flight with a fellow named Keith Thomas. He was an elderly gentleman who lived at Rutherford and had noticed the article about VH-RNI and the associated reference to its heritage as a RAAF trainer.

Keith provided me with a photo copy of a page in his log book when he was in the RAAF in 1941.

YEAR 1941	AIRCRAFT		Pilot, or 1st Pilot	2nd Pilot, Pupul or Passenger	DUTY (Including Results and Remarks)	SINGLE-ENGINE AIRCRAFT					
	Month	Date				Type	No.	DAY		NIGHT	
Totals Brought Forward						Deal (1)	Flt (2)	Deal (3)	Flt (4)	Deal (5)	Flt (6)
TOTAL FLYING W/E 21/6/41						3-00	5-15				
PROGRESS TOTAL						3-00	5-15				
June	23	DH 82	A17-66	P/O BUCK	SELF STEEP TURNS, FORCED LANDINGS						
	23	"	A17-66	SELF	"						
	23	"	A17-83	SELF	"						
	23	"	A17-111	SELF	ALDING TURNS SIDESLIPS						
	23	LINK	TRAINER		LESSON 2.						
	24	DH 82	A17-66	P/O BUCK	SELF STEEP TURNS, FORCED LANDINGS						
	24	"	A17-83	F/L PENTLAND	SELF * PROGRESS TEST						
	24	"	A17-69	SELF	SELF STEEP TURNS, POWD. APPROACHES						
	24	"	A17-83	SELF	SELF STEEP TURNS, FORCED LANDINGS						
	25	"	A17-66	P/O BUCK	SELF FORCED LANDINGS, CROSS WIND TAK-OFF + LANDING, POWD. APP.						
	25	"	A17-66	SELF	SELF FORCED LANDINGS, POWD. APP.						
	25	"	A17-75	SELF	SELF POWERED APPROACHES						
	25	LINK	TRAINER		LESSON 3.						
	26	DH 82	A17-70	P/O BUCK	SELF SPIN, AEROBATICS, STEEP TURNS, FORCED LANDINGS, PRECUT LAND.						
	26	"	A17-70	SELF	SELF SPINS, LOOPS, STEEP TURNS, FORCED LANDINGS						
	27	"	A17-66	SELF	SELF FORCED LANDINGS, STEEP TURNS						
TOTAL W/E 28/6/41						2-55	7-25				
PROGRESSIVE TOTAL						19-55	13-30				
June	30	DH 82	A17-73	P/O BUCK	SELF FORCED LANDINGS						
	30	"	A17-73	SELF	SELF INSTRUMENT FLYING, 40 STEEP TURNS, FORCED LANDINGS						
GRAND TOTAL (Cols. (1) to (10))						-55	-55				
Totals Carried Forward											

As you can see above, he had flown our Tiger all those years ago. He had many entries of A17-111, this was the page he had copied for me. I think it may have been the first flight in VH-RNI.

The joy flight proceeded and of course Keith had the stick for a period. It was a great flight and a privilege to fly with Keith that day.

Safari Plans

The following information has been provided by Club member David Gilford. There has been previous emails distributed regarding these safari's however for the interest of all I have added David's contribution to Windsock Tales. Thank you David...

Our Club is actively planning fly-outs for the benefit of all members, whether students or qualified pilots, in Club aircraft or privately owned aircraft. Our objectives are to Explore, to Learn and to Enjoy, particularly in the company of like-minded aviators.

Queensland, New South Wales: – AUGUST 2020: Members will be aware from recent email updates that we have a short 7-Day Safari departing on Saturday 8th August. Originally planned to explore Queensland. Due to COVID-19, the track has now been amended to explore New South Wales. Returning to Maitland on Sat 15th. Arrangements have been finalised and the Crew comprises of 10 people in 6 aircraft.

THE KIMBERLEY – JUNE 2021: Our challenging 20-Day Safari through Central Australia, the Kimberley Region and Central Queensland has been deferred from June this year until June 2021 again due to the Covid-19 nuisance. We will be visiting many iconic Australian communities and exploring numerous natural wonders from the air, the ground and by water. Arrangements have been finalised and the Crew comprises of 22 people in 9 aircraft.

RNAC KIMBERLEY SAFARI – DEPARTING 19 JUNE 2021



Stay tuned for new Safari adventures. It is a wonderful way to gain valuable experience, explore our unique country in the company of a diverse group of Club Members.

In Closing...

The ongoing impact of COVID-19 is basically determining what we can do and how we can do it. Where this is going and the future impact on all of us is very much an unknown. I sincerely hope everyone is ok and navigating successfully through these unprecedented times...

Please, keep safe and well.

Kind regards,

Trevor

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



Trevor Bright

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