

# Royal Newcastle Aero Club

Windsock Tales, #32



Hello Everyone,

Welcome to Windsock Tales, #32...

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This addition covers several areas of recent activity and events at your Club. I sincerely hope you find the content interesting...

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**John Tate.**

**RNAC President**

Hello Members,

At last we are able to have the benefit of a meeting again at a Members Information Session. It is now well over due that such opportunity has been available. The Forum was scheduled for February 14<sup>th</sup> but was delayed by a Board decision.

I urge all members to attend as there is much to be brought to your attention. More importantly, the essence of such Forum is to hear member comment and input on all matters pertaining to RNAC.

I expect that many members receive the Aviation & Brief newsletter which usually concludes with a highlighted quotation. The 18<sup>th</sup> February quotation was, "*Start with what is right rather than what is acceptable*" - Franz Kafka. I think this quote provides an appropriate Segway for our deliberations.

I hope to see you on the 14<sup>th</sup> March.

Regards, John Tate.



## RNAC Information Session,



Further to John's comments above, RNAC Members are reminded that the next "*Information Session*" will be held at the Club on Sunday, 14<sup>th</sup> March 2021, 3:00pm. All Members are invited to hear the RNAC Board report on our Club's affairs to date.

Topics of interest are as follows... RNAC financials to date, proposed Articles of Association amendments, JV developments, RNAC Flying and Fleet report and several other current events / activities that involve our Club.

The meeting will be conducted with COVID-19 protocols observed.

I would encourage all RNAC Members to attend if you can.

## Significant Award,

Australia Day, 26<sup>th</sup> January 2021, past RNAC Club Captain, past RNAC President and current RNAC Life Member, Neil Cromarty has been awarded the [Order of Australia Medal](#).



Neil's work with the East Maitland RSL and general community service work has culminated with this very special and significant recognition.

As many RNAC members would know, Neil's devotion and commitment to RNAC over a very long period of time is clear. What many of us may not know is that Neil's community work extends well beyond our Club.

Being a returned service man himself, Neil has provided support for many local veterans, again over an extended period of time. In 2020, he was named a life member of the RSL.

At a very personal level, I can share with you that Neil was the RSL's representative at my mother's funeral in 2015. It was a surprise to me, but I was very grateful for Neil's support and final salute in recognition for my mum's WWII contribution.

Today, Neil is part of a discussion group developed to oversee our Club's Articles of Association amendments. At this time, 5 amendments are being considered by the Club's solicitor. In due course, these amendments will be put before the Board and the Members for final approval and potential implementation. Neil's contribution to this task has been significant and again appreciated.

On behalf of the Royal Newcastle Aero Club, Members, Staff and Board, well done, well deserved and a very sincere, congratulations Neil.



## Richard Morrissey

### RNAC Director

Hello members,

Just a brief update on a few things I have been working on.

### Work Health and Safety - Emergency Box

You may have noticed a small red box on the entry to the club. We have recently been working with Safework NSW to become a compliant site with respect to bulk hazardous materials e.g. Avgas. The red box contains a bulk hazardous goods manifest and an airport diagram. The purpose of the box is for when NSW Fire and rescue are responding to an emergency at the field they can open the box with a special key and determine where bulk hazardous goods are located. Thanks to Vin our groundsman who installed the signs and box.



### Federal Government Airports Grants Scheme

In December last year we submitted two grant applications under the Federal Government Grants Scheme. The Regional Airports Program provides grants to enhance the safety and accessibility of aerodromes in regional areas of Australia. It will support critical air infrastructure across Australia. There is a total of \$45 million available for round 2 of the scheme. Grants will be from \$20,000 to \$5 million.

Our submission comprised application for funding for a marsupial proof fence around the airport and an upgrade to the taxiway 05/23 and runway lighting upgrade for runway 05/23. We expect successful grant applicants will be announced very soon, so we will keep you updated. Should we be successful we will be seeking member assistance in making sure we get the best outcomes.

Regards, Richard Morrissey.



## Doug Brooks

### RNAC Club Captain

Greetings Members

This year is looking better than last year, we are back in the air with the club days on the third Sunday of each month.

January was a good roll-up with 14 members taking part in the days event (instrument climb, step turns & spot landing) followed by a BBQ lunch.

February the weather was not on our side, low cloud and the odd shower rolling through kept everyone on the ground for the morning.

It was nice to see a good roll-up even with the weather against us.

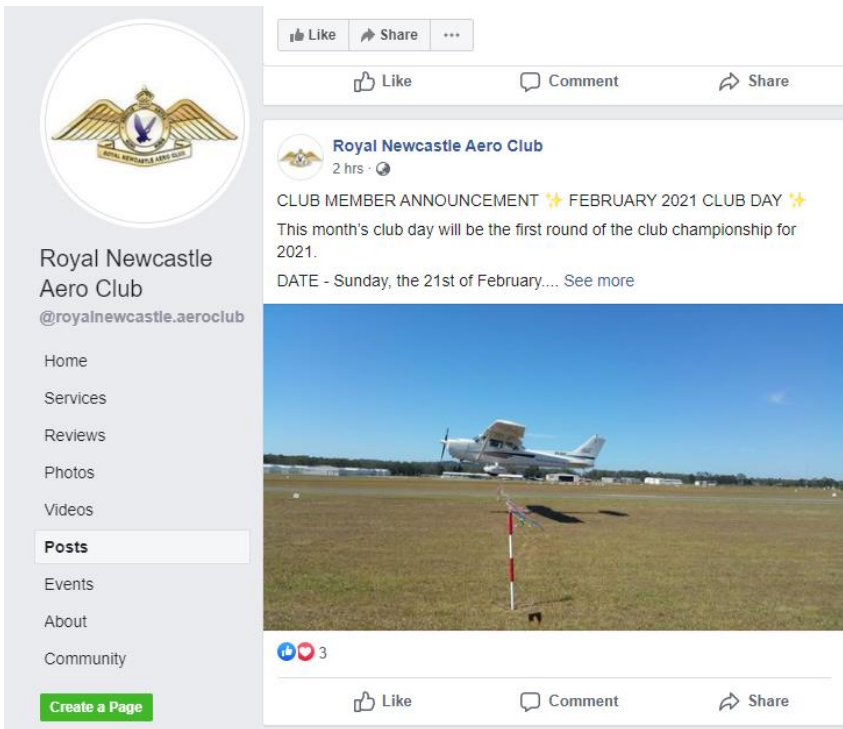
We will be looking for better weather this month 21st March, to hold the first round of the club comp that was unable to get under way last month.

All members are welcome to come along and join in and have a fun day of flying. A BBQ lunch will follow after the flying is completed.

Regards, Doug Brooks.

## Social Media,

I'd be very hopeful that many of you have noticed the significant improvement in the Club's Facebook page...



Our Club has had difficulty with Facebook since my good friend and dedicated RNAC Director, Alex Blanch was killed in a tragic accident in November 2019. In recent times, we have now reestablished administrative access to the account.

During the process of restarting the Club's Facebook communication, we have had the good fortune to find what I would call, a "Facebook Champion". I'd like to introduce to you...

### Facebook Lily...

Facebook Lily has volunteered to oversee and administer the account and would take this opportunity to invite members to contribute.

See below on how this can be done...

The other point worth mentioning is this...

- You do not have to have an account with Facebook to see this contribution.

Just go to the web site and have a look.

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

You will be prompted to join Facebook but just cancel that invite and continue looking at the site. Photos, videos, posts are all available.

The site is still a "Work In Progress" but I am confident we are heading in the right direction.

### Would You Like to Contribute...?

It's a very easy process...

- Take a photograph or three.
- Put together a paragraph of interesting/relevant information.
- Send it off to Facebook Lily at this address, [facebook@rnac.com.au](mailto:facebook@rnac.com.au)

Remember, all contributions should be submitted in "*The Spirit of the Club*" understanding this is a voluntary activity.

## Make It Maitland,

With regard to COVID-19 restrictions, many End of Year and Australia Day community events were cancelled. Maitland Council was faced with similar decisions. As a result, several initiatives by the Council were put forward and one of these involved RNAC.



The idea was that our Tiger, VH-RNI in company with Tiger VH-BBC, fly over the electoral wards of Maitland. This would occur over consecutive Sunday's throughout January. The public were invited to take photographs and submit them as part of the "Make It Maitland", photo competition.

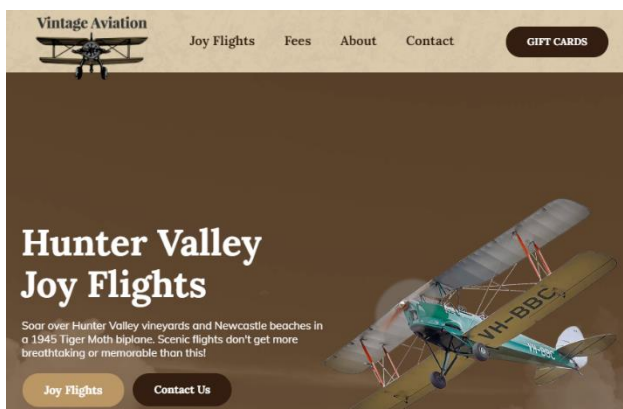


Sharnee O'Rourke was the winner and she was delighted to claim her prize...

30 minute joyride in RNAC Tiger Moth, VH-RNI on Australia Day 2021.

A very big thank you must go to Andrew Biggs and Lee Gosper from Vintage Aviation for helping out at the 11<sup>th</sup> hour.

Greatly appreciated...



Vintage Aviation web site can be accessed by the link below...

<https://vintageaviation.com.au/>

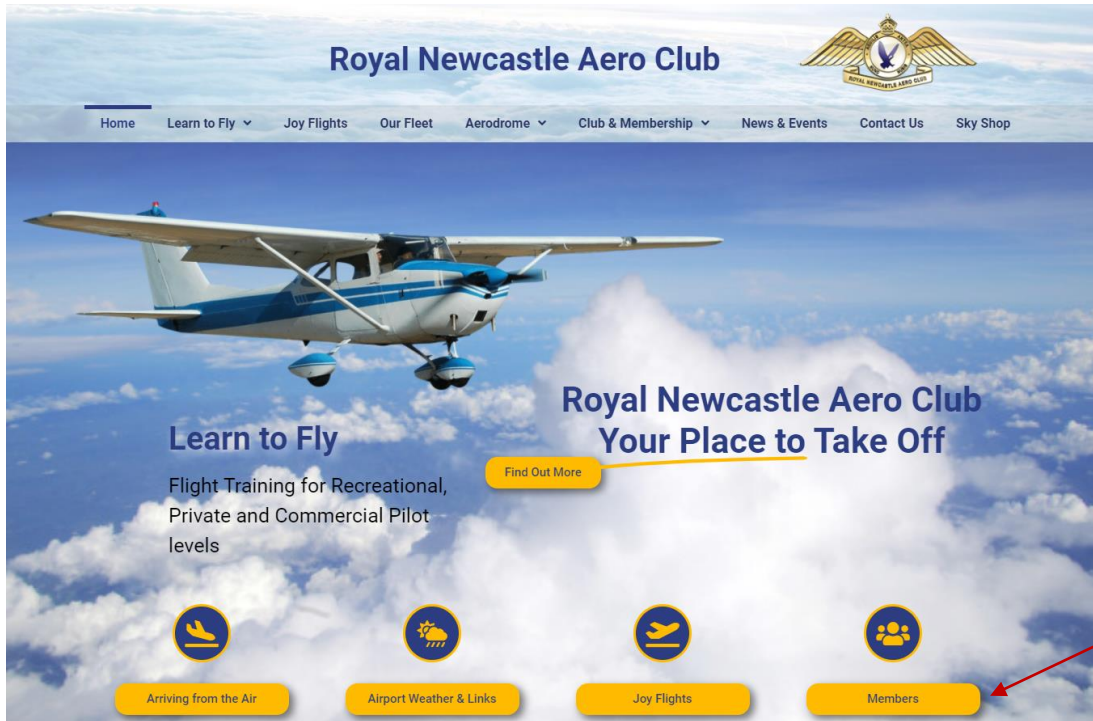
Being able to participate in community events, working with our friends in good spirit and sharing the aviation experience with anyone that's interested, makes for a good day.

Thanks again Vintage Aviation...

# RNAC Web Site,

RNAC Members are reminded that a significant amount of information is available from this site.

RNAC Home Page link, <https://rnac.com.au>



By clicking on the Members icon and logging on the following screen, a significant amount of information is available. Both Students and RNAC Members are provided with relevant Club, Airfield, Board and Student Pilot information.

For Member only access, please contact the RNAC office for access details, 0249 328888...

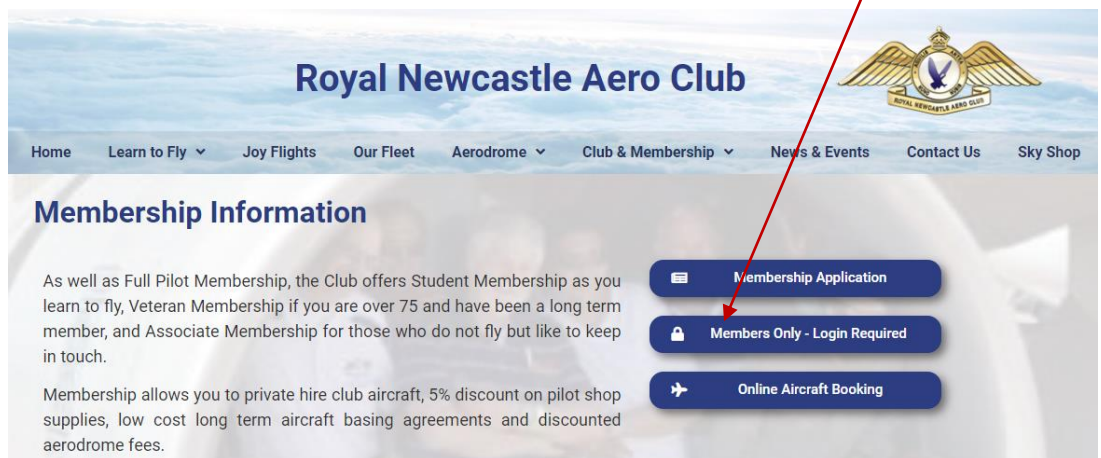
It should also be noted, our current web site has proved to be a significant business success.

Again I would thank RNAC Club Member Mark Jacobson for his work with this project.

A number of months ago, Mark suggested that he could improve the Club's web site. I must confess, I thought all was ok. How wrong was I...

Not only has the site proved successful from a business perspective, but whilst upgrading the site, Mark has identified areas of potential security / network risk.

These have since been resolved and our site is now functioning at a very high level.



Thank you Mark...

**Hunter I.T Services**

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## RNAC – On the Horizon...

### ANZAC Day

Plans are underway between RNAC and our friends at Luskintyre to provide a local fly over, similar to what was carried out last year...



Again this is an opportunity for our Club to interact with our local community and our friends at Luskintyre in an event that strikes a very solemn chord for many people.

The relationship between our Club and our defence services is direct and real.

See the paragraph below copied from the RNAC Web site....

<https://rnac.com.au/club-membership/history/the-50s/>

*1953 was a major year for the Aero Club. The Queen granted permission for the prefix 'Royal' to be affixed to the Club's name. The new title was a great honour for Newcastle as it was the first time a non-capital city had been awarded this as recognition of contribution to the services, particularly to the RAAF in training pilots both pre-war and currently for national service.*



The Club's Tiger, VH-RNI, originally built in 1940 went directly to the RAAF as a trainer. The registration was A17-111.

Our Club still proudly, displaying the original registration.

How lucky are we to still have this beautiful aircraft, airworthy and offered to all RNAC members today...

## Maitland Steamfest 2021

April is normally the time for Maitland Steamfest. As with most public events these days, COVID-19 has played its part and as a result the event has been postponed... 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> September 2021 is the scheduled date.

There is a dedicated web site for Steamfest for those of you that may be interested, the link is below...

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



Maitland Council has once again invited RNAC to participate and once again we have committed to our involvement in this local community event.



That's it for now... Remember, we invite and encourage your Facebook contributions...

Very kind regards, Trevor.



**Trevor Bright**  
**RNAC Vice President**

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**Royal Newcastle Aero Club**

