ROYAL NEWCASTLE AERO CLUB

Windsock Tales – #33

RNAC Newsletter for Members – June 2021

This edition…

John Tate, RNAC President. 2
Glen Thomson, RNAC HOO/CP 3
Doug Brooks, RNAC Club Captain 4
Introducing, Suzanne Ford 4
Facebook Update and an Interesting Photograph… 5
Donation… 6
Airfield Update 7
ANZAC Day 2021 8
RNAC Articles of Association Amendments 10

John Tate.

RNAC President

Hello Members,

Optimism is the feeling I equate with the productive discussions and knowledge sharing at the Focus on Safety Members Forum held at RNAC on Sunday 16/5/21.

I congratulate HOO Glen Thomson on his simple and clear presentation of a wide range of matters relating to all aspects of members and visitors' use of our facilities both airside and non-airside.

This marked the first of what we hope will develop into a more common occurrence. As requested at the previous Members Forum, both the Board and Members are keen to setup an Aerodrome Safety Committee. Led by RNAC Head of Operations, Glen Thomson, the meeting focused on specific aspects of safety in the hope our membership and the new sub-committee can foster a more “Safety Conscious” culture.

I look forward to members making their contribution to enhanced safety discussions and applications as these discussions progress.

In fact each one of us could well begin by asking ourselves *"What can I do to enhance "safety" as I use the RNAC facilities?"*

The above photograph was taken on Sunday, 16th May. RNAC Comp day, and clearly demonstrates an example of improved safety by the wearing of “*High Visibility*” vests. I support this initiative and congratulate those who can adopt this practice whilst airside at RNAC.

Glen Thomson

RNAC Head Of Operations / Chief Pilot

Hi Members

Just an update on the RNAC part 141 training profile which I spoke of previously, I am glad to announce that all of the training approvals applied for from CASA have all been granted, These include Multi Engine Training, Private and Command SE and MEA IFR.

With the ending of daylight saving we have now restarted our night training activities, we currently we have a number of students who have commenced their NVFR training - anyone wishing to join in please don't hesitate to contact the office. The aircraft we are using are using for the Night Rating are the PA28 Archer 3, Cessna 172S and the Cessna 182T (IFR), all of our aircraft are Post 2000 models.

I am about to embark on an across Australia trip to Western Australia to pick up a Cessna 310R to fly back to Maitland, this aircraft will be used as an advanced trainer.

The Flying school has continued to grow beyond my expectations, we have students travelling from as far as Sydney, and the Blue Mountains to come to carry out their flight training with us, as a result of this we have engaged two new instructors.

On the 16th May we held a safety meeting for members which had a fantastic turnout, thanks to all for showing and interest in safety here at Maitland Aerodrome, we discussed airfield/airside and flight operations and how we can make is safer for all who operate within and around these areas. As a result of this meeting we called for members to form an on field safety committee in which we had 7 members who put their hands up, which was a great result. We are anticipating having our first meeting on the 20th June 2021.

Just a reminder for all those who fly RNAC aircraft we have spent a considerable amount of money on our fleet of aircraft in the last 5 months to bring them back to a presentable standard, this is a continuous process of improvement to keep our aircraft in good condition, these are your aircraft so please look after them. Over the past 12 months we have introduced cleaning kits within all aircraft for cleaning of windscreens. Cleaning buckets are also located in the hangar for cleaning bugs off all surfaces.

So again these are your aircraft so please look after them.

Safe Flying.

Glen Thomson.

Doug Brooks.

RNAC Club Captain

Greetings Members

The year is going by quickly and we have managed to get through some of the months without getting washed out too many times thank goodness! We have just completed the second round of the club championship competition on May 10th. Ten competitors took part and we followed the flying activities with a BBQ lunch.

I would like to thank our instructors for their time and help on club days. Without them we would not be able to hold our club days so many thanks to everyone who helps out.

I have been working closely with Greg Kennewell on a few new challenges for our club days and we will be trying them out over the next few months.

A reminder that you are welcome to come along and join in as this is a day for all members no matter what level, from student to professional pilots. It is a great opportunity to make new friends and practice your flying skills.

I hope to see you on the third Sunday of each month.

Regards Doug.

Introducing, Suzanne Ford.

Suzanne has recently joined RNAC in an office administrative position. Working, Tuesday – Friday each week.

Suzanne is a people person, keen to meet all our members. She is very friendly, and will always greet you cheerily and is willing to help with your enquiries.

Aviation administration is new to Suzanne, however she is working very hard and making good progress in learning our customer base and our "*In House*" processes.

If you haven't already, please come and introduce yourself. Suzanne would love to meet you…

Facebook Update and an Interesting Photograph…

As many members now know, our Facebook account is very active. I believe this is mainly due to two fundamental factors…

1. Facebook Lily, our Facebook champion is doing an incredible job. In an honorary capacity, and in the true spirt of our Club, Facebook Lily is maintaining a very valuable communication tool for our members and the broader community.

2. Facebook content contributions. Content is coming through on a very regular basis. Many thanks must go to all who have embraced this activity.

If you would like to contribute, please send through your photographs and a short story to Facebook Lily at the following address… facebook@rnac.com.au

As an example, some weeks ago this photograph appeared on our Facebook page…

Have a closer look at the bottom left…

- Do you know what that is…?
- Have you ever seen one before…?
- Do you know what it is called…?
- Do you know how they are formed…?

This is too hard for me to explain, have a look at the link below for a "*Wikipedia*" explanation…

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glory_(optical_phenomenon)

Donation…

Professional photographer, **Gary Luke** happened to be at Norah Head recently at the same time VH-RNI, Tiger Moth was carrying out a commercial activity that involved several passes overhead.

Gary took the opportunity to take some shots and put together this photographic montage.

Our Club has had many people over the years, volunteers happy to donate their time, energy and expertise for the benefit of our Members. This is a great example of a non-member, at the right place at the right time, happy to contribute.

This photograph will now be archived and become part of our Club's history for generations to come.

Thank you Gary, greatly appreciated…

Gary Luke Photographics

Mobile: 0419 618 808
Home: 02 4393 5763
Web: www.flickr.com/garyluke
Facebook: www.facebook.com/gary.luke.7503
Email: gary.luke1@bigpond.com

© Gary Luke Photographics
gary.luke1@bigpond.com

Airfield Update

Much of the Airfield has been impacted by recent heavy rain events, particularly in the lower lying areas of the Eastern Hangars.

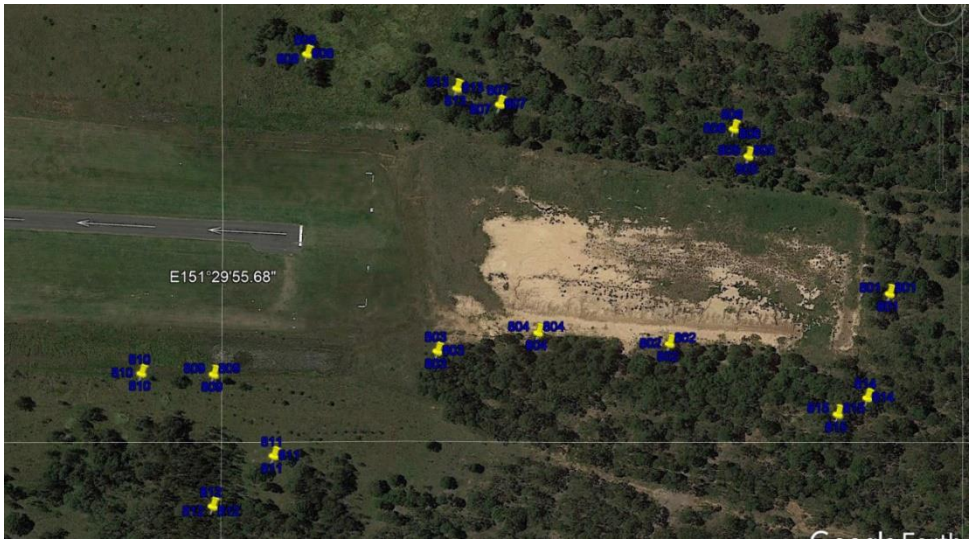
The underground stormwater drainage system has been inspected, with many pipelines and pits cleaned using high pressure water jets to ensure that storm water flows freely into the open swale drains.

The recent Working Bee to remove excess overgrowth from within the open drains was very productive with 10 members assisting.

Waste removal continues, and earthmoving equipment will soon remove excess silt and vegetation to allow free drainage away from infrastructure to complete the task.

The Eastern Hangar Precinct gravel access road has also been impacted from heavy rains, washing away sections of the roadway. Once drainage work in the vicinity is complete, the roadway will be remediated.

A recent Aerodrome Survey identified approx. 50 obstacles that infringe on Runway Approach & Take-off surfaces, mostly trees which are on both RNAC and neighbouring properties. These obstacles are currently identified in a NOTAM for the airfield. The task is underway to liaise with our neighbours and to implement a programmed tree trimming project over the coming months, to comply with CASA regulations for Certified Airports.



Here is just one of many airfield surveys photographs that clearly indicate the problem trees.

This is the threshold of runway 26.

ANZAC Day 2021

You may remember, last year's ANZAC day was cancelled due to Covid-19. As a result RNAC decided to fly our Tiger Moth over Newcastle and Lake Macquarie at dawn. This activity was well received and appreciated by the community.

This year, the Board decided to continue this contribution, but in a different way. After consultation with our friends at Luskintyre and the local RSL Clubs, it was decided that our local community, IE both Maitland and East Maitland would receive a "*Fly Over*" during the march, just prior to the commemoration ceremony.

The timing was great as both services were two hours apart.

East Maitland

- 8:00am – Trevor will phone John confirm all is ok.
- 8:40am – Luskintyre A/C start.
- 8:45am – RNI Start.
- 8:50am – Luskintyre and RNI rendezvous overhead.
- 9:00am – Overhead East Maitland.
- 9:15am – Back to RNAC and land.

Back to RNAC for a coffee and a chocolate slice. Thank you Lyn, it was lovely…

Maitland

- 10:30am – Start.
- 10:35am – Depart RNAC.
- 10:45am – Overhead Maitland Park.
- 10:55am – Return to Luskintyre and RNAC.

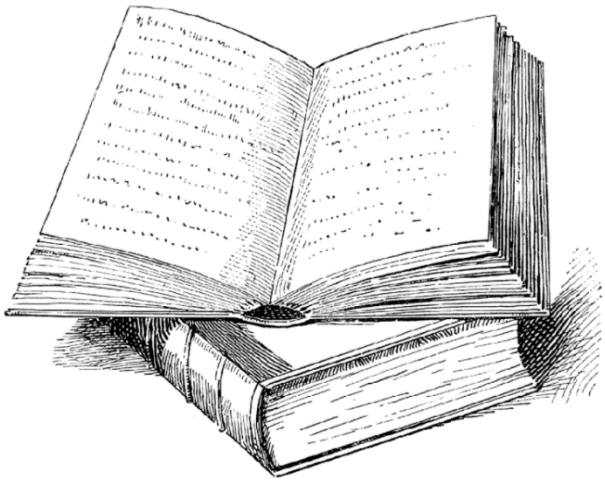
Again, the activity was well received. Feedback from both Maitland and East Maitland RSL Club's was positive with great appreciation.

ANZAC Day 2021 continued…

A big thank you must go to our close friends at Luskintyre. From left, Dan Cross, Ed Pitrolo, Craig Gunther, Kieran Balkin, Matt Adderley, John McMaster and yours truly, Trevor Bright.

It was a great morning… We all hope this can become an annual, RNAC/Luskintyre, ANZAC Day community contribution.

RNAC Articles of Association Amendments



As many Members are aware, the Board is currently undertaking a project to amend several clauses within our current articles. This came about, primarily due to Member feedback regarding the postal limitations associated with the Club's voting processes.

Again, as already shared with Members at the last Club Information Forum, steady progress is being made.

To Date…

- Multiple review sessions by the sub-committee have been undertaken.
- Consolation with the Club's solicitor, Terry Morgan has taken place.
- Initial draft amendments are now being reviewed and a second visit to the solicitor has been scheduled.

Club Members need to understand that any amendments to our articles need to be carefully determined and constructed accurately. This is proving to be a difficult and time consuming task. I sincerely hope Members can appreciate the work being done.

In summary, below is a list of desired outcomes the Team hopes to achieve…

1. Increase the time allowed to distribute and return postal votes.
2. Introduce the option to conduct the vote via electronic means.
3. Delete outdated processes within article 6.
4. Increase the Club's student pilot Club membership.
5. Protect Tiger Moth, VH-RNI within the articles to allow RNAC Members to decide any major decisions regarding this aircraft.

The Team is really working hard to reach a point of comfort so we can present our recommendations. This can be done at an EGM before our next AGM. Time is short, so this may not be possible however, we are confident that we will put forward amendments that will work for the benefit of our Club.

Should any Member have concerns or just enquiries, please contact our Business Manager Lyn, via the following email address… Lyn@rnac.com.au

I shall respond…

Very kind regards, Trevor.

Trevor Bright
RNAC Vice President
PO Box 491
Rutherford NSW 2320
Phone: 02 4932 8888
Royal Newcastle Aero Club