



ROYAL NEWCASTLE AERO CLUB

Windsock Tales – #35



RNAC Newsletter for Members – December 2021

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Maitland Airport



Trevor Bright.

RNAC President

Hello Members,

Welcome to Windsock Tales #35.

It is good to see our Club returning to the new, COVID normal as we approach Christmas 2021. I sincerely hope everyone has been able to come through this period in good health and optimism for the future. As most would be aware, the 2021 AGM was delayed due to COVID, however it was great to see a good number of members on the day.

Following the formality of the AGM, an information session was conducted. All RNAC Directors gave presentations on current RNAC business that I believe was valued by those present.

I would like to extend a big thank you to all members who attended the AGM and look forward to seeing you at the Club soon.

In the following pages, I have put together a “*snapshot*” of Club activity that in my view demonstrates an effective Team of RNAC Members, Staff and Directors working towards and achieving common goals for the overall benefit of us all.

Thank you. Let’s maintain the Club spirit as we head towards 2028, our 100th year of operation. It really is not that far away.

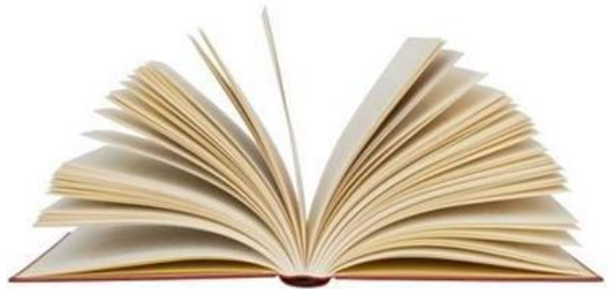
Current Business

RNAC – Constitution: I feel proud of the current Board for reaching a positive consensus on the latest draft of what we all hope to be our Club’s new constitution. At the AGM, I gave an extended overview of the progress that had been made and the path ahead. This latest development brings us closer to being able to present it to you, our members.

Next step will be a legal review. I can share with you that the Board is doing all it can to ensure this document is correct and worthy of recommendation.

I can also give members great confidence that the original core intent and values of the old Memorandum and Articles of Association has been retained. This was of extremely high importance and I believe this goal has been achieved.

Yanda Huts: Project managed by director Richard Morrissey, the demountable and the Yanda Huts are gone.



It has been some time coming but these old buildings have now made way for open space. Thank you, Richard, a job well done... We look forward to the equipment shed on the western side being constructed soon, again being project managed by Richard.



RNAC Greg Kennewell

RNAC Flight Instructor, ARO and HAMCC

Merry Xmas all. It has been a year of great ups and downs (pun intended). Looking back on it, I am going to put the last year down to more experience. At least I didn't catch COVID. Others were not so lucky, so my best wishes to those affected.

As I wear several hats at the Club, including instructing, a/c maintenance, and airfield, thought I would highlight a few of the best bits from my perspective.

My huge congratulations to all my students on the progress you have made, and I know there have been some ups and downs for some, but you have persevered and progressed, despite my interference. It is always a fun time for me whether you know it or not!!!

Secondly, let me thank our Vin!! Vin Pavincich relieved me of the role of Grounds person a year or 2 back, and it wasn't long before we realised, he could be mistaken for the 8th wonder of the world, and we christened him Vin "Turbo." Think energiser bunny for a close analogy. Vin has done a sterling job maintaining our runways and lights as well as many other jobs. Helping prep for the building's removal, and if you haven't noticed, our flags fly high again on the flagpoles thanks to Vin. Always a joy to be around, full of ideas, the bringer of much jollity, intentional or otherwise.

My thanks also to Lyn, Suzanne, and Glen for their support and patience, and the relevant portfolio directors who have aided and assisted me on the maintenance and airfield side of the work.

I look forward to the next year with great anticipation for everyone that we get back to pre-covid training, see our students succeed and more, at this great airfield asset of ours. I look forward also to more Club fly-aways and competitions.

Don't forget, you are all welcome to pop in 4pm Friday afternoons for a catchup and drinks.

Regards Greg

Cessna 152, VH-RNO

This project is being project managed by RNAC director Wendy Meppen.

Cessna 152, VH-RNO Restoration



Aircraft maintenance is a never ending process. We have improved our fleet condition this year and in RNO's case, a full refurbishment.



Cessna 152, VH-RNO continued...



The aircraft was due for a new engine as it had reached full life and the opportunity arose to give RNO a big birthday via a full refurbishment thereby extending the aircraft's life for many years to come.



It is exciting to see the work come together and our thanks to Matt Webber at Luskindyre for the quick turnaround.



Cessna 152, VH-RNO continued...



Somebody said, *"It's beginning to look a lot like an engine..."*



As stated in previous Windsock Tales, Matt Webber from Luskintyre Aircraft Restoration has been a significant partner with RNAC. The work carried out to date has been exceptional and on time. As we can all clearly see, VH-RNO will emerge as another beautifully restored aircraft from L.A.R.

Thank you again Matt... <https://aircraftrestoration.com.au>





Doug Brooks

RNAC Club Captain

Greetings Members

The Year is almost over and Christmas is just around the corner. I would like to thank all of the members who joined in with the Club days this year. I know we have had trouble with Covid lockdown and bad weather but I am sure that everyone who came along on the days had a good time. On behalf of the Flying Sub-Committee and myself I would like to wish everyone a very happy and safe Christmas and we look forward to the New Year.

We will be holding our Club days on the third Sunday of each month next year with a mix of fun days and four rounds of competition. We will finish the days with a BBQ lunch after the flying activities are completed.

If anyone has any questions about coming along, or new ideas for our activities or day trips, please contact me via the RNAC email and we will take it onboard.

Club Captain
Doug Brooks

RNAC Life Member - Kerry Schiemer

OUR BELOVED TIGER MOTH A17-111 VH-RNI ONCE SHE RETIRED FROM DEFENCE FORCE SERVICE

RNAC imported the FIRST tiger Moth, Dh-82, aircraft into Australia! She came to us in Newcastle from Sydney,- she arrived, I believe, in 1934, and was registered VH-UTD. Of course that is not the same machine we now own,- I have no idea what happened, but she probably suffered damage such that repair was not sensible, when they were just "work horses". Our beloved Club has owned and operated one ever since!! That is an **AWSOME** achievement, I believe, and even though the Club itself has an incredible history, she is surely a very special part of it.



I suspect (hope?) that those who know me will admit that I am a Passionate Aviator? My Grandmother, living in the Coolah Valley, listened all night many times for radio reports that Kingsford Smith and his Team were OK. , as they did their wonderful deeds. She went to Mudgee, I believe, by horse and sulky,- 60 miles at 5 mph?, and had a ride with him, I suspect in a Tiger Moth!!



Life Member – Kerry Schiemer continued...

So when I came to RNAC to find out if I could maybe fly an aircraft, I felt a very great need to do so! I had been told at school that I could never hold an Australian Commercial Pilot Licence, due to colour perception issues. The career I had always planned for was denied! Walking to the aircraft for my T.I.F. with Stan Hone, our then CFI., I noticed -RNI in the south-west corner of the Bellman Hangar,- she was painted white but was covered in dust and looked quite neglected, I thought. After my first flight I asked if I could be trained in her,- Stan said no,= I could endorse to fly her when I had my licence. So I did as he said.

With 36hrs. "in command" I commenced my DH-82a endorsement with Bernie Sarroff on January 13th. 1970. And was immediately in love with her!! He allowed me to land her and after a lovely soft, smooth, three-point touch down I yelled " She LOVES ME!!"- He almost broke his harness in shock!!

Bill Hitchcock, one of our most wonderful Members, asked me about starting the Australian Tiger Club in 1974 (I suppose) and he, Alan Wilson and myself obtained Board permission to do so early in 1975. I was privileged to present it to Australian Aviators at the RFACA Conference in Towoomba that October. By December we had more than 100 Members and we ran the Club for many years comfortably,- we never used any RNAC funds (some had been made available) because we had our Tiger Club Wines,- Red, White, and Bubbly from Tyrrell's Wines, which sold VERY well all over Australia!!



I write this to remind my RNAC Members how incredibly fortunate we are for MANY reasons,- the first,- tell me what percentage of Humans get to actually "Slip the Surly Bonds of Earth" and fly by themselves?? NOT MANY!! So always count your Blessings,- Having our Tiger Moth after all these years is also very special!

Life Member – Kerry Schiemer continued...



If you are a Pilot Member and have not flown her just to see if she “loves you” too, PLEASE DO SO? She needs your respectful love, too! If you know our history you will know that NAC gave up our field at Broadmeadow to the RAAF to train their Pilots in WW-2, and many Tiger Moths were used there! The “R” for “Royal” was given for that and is from the King! So how will you feel when you fly that same type over Nobbys Headland, round to the Knights Base (where the airfield was) and home, eh? The other special thing she loves to do is fly

FORMATION!! When I did my endorsement in her, Stan told me that this is the very most “FULL TIME” job you can do!! Why not endorse, and get a team together for RFACA competition next year? We did that many times and it is also awesome!!

To the Board and our management team...

May I ask that we offer every graduating Student at PPL level a FREE “T.I.F.” in VH-RNI as a big “thank you” for their faith in us, their achievement, and their valued Membership?

We will have owned a Tiger Moth for NINETY YEARS in October 2024!! This is a great way to celebrate that, I reckon?



I am very proud of how the Club is going through these most challenging times, and I miss you all very much! As always, may God Bless you and yours, always,

Kerry Schiemer, most proud Life Member.



Work Around the Airfield

Contribution from RNAC Director David Gilford

Removal of Loose Stone from Sealed Runways & Taxiways

Both Runway 05/23 and 08/26 and the Eastern Precinct Taxiways were swept in November, removing approx. 5 tonne of loose stone which will be used elsewhere around the airfield. The task was previously completed in January this year.



The program for rejuvenating the Airfield Open Drainage system by clearing excess overgrowth continues.

One main objective was to allow water to drain freely from the Runway 26 Threshold area via an existing drain into the Vegetation Corridor.



Another objective was to continue the remediation from the Eastern Hangar Precinct through the Vegetation Corridor which joins RWY 26 at the Intersection of both runways.



A small amount of work remains to complete this section, before continuing to clear the drain which runs parallel to RWY 26 eastwards to the Vegetation Corridor.

Work Around the Airfield continued...

The RNAC Vegetation Corridor, between the Airfield and the Anambah Business Park has again been subject to unauthorised dumping of rubbish and used tyres. For the 2nd time in two years, the general waste has been removed to the council tip and approx. 200 tyres for recycling, at considerable cost to RNAC. Fence breaks will be repaired however illegal dumping of rubbish on RNAC property remains a constant problem.



BE AWARE - Anambah Business Park Construction in Progress

While RNAC monitors building construction activity in the recently completed Anambah Business Park, providing contractors with Runway flight path and splay information, pilots need to be aware of the potential for airspace intrusion. Crane booms have the capacity to intrude into the flight path of aircraft.



Safe flying David...



Lyn and Suzanne...

RNAC Administration

Thanks for working with us during another pandemic year, we have been faced with challenges throughout the year that we managed to overcome together.

A thank you to the Board for their continued leadership, also to the Duty Pilots who assist with the office duties during weekends.

We wish all our members and their families a very merry Christmas and a safe and happy New Year and look forward to a brighter 2022 with lots of good flying weather

From the RNAC Admin team

Suzanne and Lyn

Final Word...

Well, that brings us to the end of this edition of Windssock Tales and very soon, 2021. I look forward to the New Year and the promise of good times ahead.

I would like to thank our Staff, Volunteers, Club Captain, Flying Sub-committee, Members and Directors for your support and Club spirit towards this very special organisation.

I sincerely hope this Christmas and New Year period can be a very special time for you. If you can, spend it with people you love...

Very kind regards, Trevor.



Trevor Bright

RNAC President

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Royal Newcastle Aero Club

