



ROYAL NEWCASTLE AERO CLUB

Windsock Tales – #037



RNAC Newsletter for Students and Members – July 2022

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Trevor Bright.

RNAC President

Hello Members,

Welcome to Windsock Tales #37.

Yes, COVID is still with us, but now it's also flu season... As mentioned, many times, I hope you are all well and keeping safe.

On a sad note, we mark the passing of long time RNAC member, Peter Mellville. His funeral was an incredible statement of love and life achievement and was a very fitting farewell. Again, on behalf of all RNAC members our sincere condolences are passed on to Peter's family and friends.

On a similar theme, flight instructor Peter Larcombe carried out a flyover in the club's Cessna 152 for the memorial service of Ken Ladd-Hudson. Ken passed away at the beginning of COVID when the lockdowns were in place. Ken was a very active RNAC member being Club Captain for many years with strong involvement with the Flying Sub-committee. Again, our thoughts are with Ken's family.

This edition of Windsock Tales covers many topics of activity over the last couple of months. I really hope you find it interesting and informative.

Extraordinary General Meeting

As most members would be aware, on the 29th of May 2022, Royal Newcastle Aero Club conducted an EGM to determine a resolution to replace the club's Memorandum and Articles of Association with a new Constitution.

The membership support was overwhelming... A total of 65 votes were counted in favour of the motion with zero votes against...

This event cannot pass without formal acknowledgement to all involved...

RNAC Membership: Your participation, phone calls, questions, concerns, and your eventual support has culminated in the new constitution being unanimously passed. The document is now part of RNAC and completes the project. To all members that made a contribution of any kind, thank you...

RNAC Board of Directors: This project could only reach the membership with full board support. Reaching this level of support was only achieved by all directors being engaged in the project. Difficult but constructive debate and negotiations took place. Many sessions of scrutiny and questioning. Many emails. Several excel comparison and explanation tools were created to ease the process. My sincere thanks go to all RNAC board members for their positive attitude and willingness to see this document through to fruition.

The Co-op Federation, Sam Byrne: from start to finish, Sam's guidance and advice has been exceptional. Always available, always seeking the correct outcome. Club minded and diplomatic his approach was professional and practical. I would recommend The Co-op Federation to anyone seeking advice in this area.

Baker Love Lawyers, Terry Morgan: Good advice with several areas of difficult understanding, terminology, and legal correctness. The new constitution is a legally sound document that has the potential to serve our club for many years to come. Thank you, Terry.

RNAC, Advisory Team: As stated many times, this team was requested by previous RNAC President, John Tate. The goal was to fix the AGM process as requested by club members. The task became huge once it became clear there was no simple fix to the old Articles. 16 months later the task is complete. I can only pass on a very big thank you to past RNAC Presidents and Life Members, Neil Cromarty, and Peter Meguyer. Their commitment and dedication to our club is unrivalled and I take this opportunity to share this statement with members. Thank you, Neil, and Peter.

Last Word on the Constitution: Members can look forward to amendments. Several areas may come under closer scrutiny soon. One area that is dear to my heart is the protection of our most famous Tiger Moth, VH-RNI. More on this later...

For now, thank you to all concerned



Members Information Session

In addition to the EGM held in late May, the board provided a members information session. All board members made contributions regarding current activity at our club.

The meeting proceeded as follows...

Trevor Bright opened the meeting and welcomed everyone for their attendance. I then went on to give a very broad overview of most club activities from November 2021 to present. On completion I proceeded to introduce each board member for their individual presentations.

Andrew Wagner our new Business Manager gave an introductory speech on his background, education, previous employment, and his recent appointment to RNAC.

Ed Pitrolo gave a comprehensive report on the club's current financial position and an overview of the planned Asset Management Plan.

Marty Burridge covered several subjects including special projects, ARO, Cessnock RNAV approach issues, signage, and several other areas of interest.

Wendy Meppem gave a presentation on recent fleet and Flight School activity and the prospect of a business case supported flight simulator.

Richard Morrissey reported on several projects as follows, driveway potholes, Yanda Hut and demountable removal, Social Club refurb or rebuild, equipment shed and runway lighting switch replacement.

John Tate reported on some recent disturbing / defamatory emails and the associated difficulties managing the club's business. John reiterated that we are here to help and if problems arise, let us know.

It's a Club for all members...

David Gilford gave a comprehensive presentation on several aerodrome activities including airfield drainage, aerodrome certification, and taxiway repairs.

The meeting closed at 16:30.

Thank you to all members that were able to attend.





Glen Thomson

RNAC Head of Operations / Chief Pilot

Hi All

Over the last few months, the weather has not been favourable for flying over the last week there has been the odd few days of good weather, but our students have had their eyes down in the books completing their CASA RPL and CPL exams and preparing for Night Flying lessons.

Below are the achievements from our students for the last month even with the average weather.

- 3 Multi Engine Class Ratings
- 1 New RPL

We also currently have 5 students completing their navigation exercises in the Cessna 172/182 and the Piper Archer. We now have students doing their Private IFR ratings and the night flying program has now commenced.

CASA Regulatory Update

Over the last few months, I have been working on the new RNAC Part 135 and 138 (Airwork and Air Transport Exposition). This is part of the new Part 61 Part 91 reforms for the aviation industry. The new exposition has now been submitted to CASA for approval. Anyone wishing to look at the regulatory changes go to the following URL <https://www.casa.gov.au/rules/regulatory-framework/casas-regulatory-framework>.

RNAC Aerodrome Procedures

The documents for operation at Maitland Aerodrome are located within the CASA ERSA and the aerodrome General Conditions of Use <https://rnac.com.au/aerodrome/terms-and-conditions/> that is available on the RNAC web site. For example, the preferred runway is 23 when the winds are L/V.

RNAC has formed a safety committee and will be meeting on a regular basis to develop and review safety procedures around the aerodrome. If you would like to have an input or suggestions or see any safety issues, please email to office@rnac.com.au.

Also remember we have had several months of wet weather and the grass areas are still very wet so please avoid using these areas as we are having aircraft being bogged and causing serious damage to the grassed areas.

Our instructors are committed to training high quality, highly skilled, capable, and safe pilots, as many of us have not flown for some months or even longer. You may wish to do some pilot recurrency training with one of our instructors please just call the office to arrange. Just remember CASR Part 61 — Recency of Flight Experience

So Safe flying, Glen.





Greg Kennewell RNAC Flight Instructor, ARO and HAMCC

Some great achievements over the last couple of months for many of my students despite difficult weather conditions. This is both at ab initio and PPL level. Congratulations to Travis Bryant, Archie Howard and Libby Burke for progressing through the first solo or area solo stages of their training. Congratulations to Stephen Xenos on the hard work and hours of practice to pass his RPL Theory and Flight Test recently. Mehdi Salek, Roger Fortune and Brendan Burke are progressing solidly towards their PPL licence. Its great to see Mike Yarrington and Stephen Xenos beginning their journey onto PPL also.

Our aircraft are working hard in training and club flying with both RNN and RNX 100 hourlies coinciding this time round. They should be back on deck in a week or 2.

The airfield is slowly drying out, however conditions remain treacherous on grass surfaces except the grass taxiways, which are now mowed and useable for light single engine aircraft. Hopefully we avoid another major rain event in the near future. Remember to check with the office re availability for parking on the grass or risk being bogged as it is still boggy in some areas.

Regards Greg.

From the RNAC Office

During the month of June, RNAC was delighted to host, work experience student, William Doherty. William is a student from Maitland High School and spent five days with RNAC.

Below is an email from William to the RNAC staff...

To everybody at the aero club.

I just want to say a huge thank you for everything you've done for me over this last week, thank you to Suzanne, Andrew and Lyn for teaching me a lot about how a office works I really enjoyed it. Thanks to Greg, Peter, and Vin for teaching me heaps about the planes and maintenance on them, thanks Vin for the lessons on checking the fuel as well, could you also thank your students for the things they taught me as well. I want to express a special thanks to Greg for taking me on the flight, thank you so much for that I am still blown away. Thank you all again for everything I will definitely be back for either a second week of work experience or to get my RPL.

Kind regards

William Doherty.

P.S Could Lyn please email the photos she took of me to this email my mum would like a copy, thanks



Message to William...

William, you are most welcome at our club, and we look forward to a possible second work experience session. From all the RNAC staff, thank you for the kind words above, you are a delight.

Kind regards, RNAC.





Doug Brooks RNAC Club Captain

Greetings Members

Half the year is almost over and the Club Competition has been going very well. We have only missed one or two rounds due to bad weather with June's round unfortunately getting called off because of very strong winds.

I am currently away on a flying safari to the Kimberley WA with other members of RNAC. There are several aircraft taking part in the trip. We departed Maitland with an overnight stay at White Cliffs.

We then pushed onto William Creek with some of us finding the Marree Man and some not. Followed by a look at Lake Eyre before landing and taking part in a debrief over a few drinks and a meal with one of the best sunsets that I have ever seen.



Photo: White Cliffs departure the next morning.



Departing the next morning for Alice Springs, with clear skies and a tailwind, we all made good time to find a large gathering of Jets collecting dust.



Taking to the sky the next morning we found ourselves in Daly Waters. Another debrief over a few drinks, a meal and live entertainment for the night, before departing the next morning for El Questro.

Safari continued...



Photo: Currently staying at El Questro

I will let you know more information about the Safari and the great places we visited upon our return.

Regards Doug Brooks
RNAC Club Captain



ANZAC Day 2022...

Our RSL friends at both Maitland and East Maitland Sub Branches have been the focus of an RNAC fly over for the last three consecutive years. The tradition started at the beginning of COVID, 2020 with a dawn fly over Maitland, Newcastle, Swansea, Wangi Wangi, Wallsend and back to Maitland. The last two years, we have confined the fly over to our local area in company with three aircraft from Luskintyre.



From left, Craig Gunther, Kieran Balkin, Denis Pomfrey, Trevor Bright, John McMaster, and Matt Adderley.



East Maitland Cenotaph



ANZAC Day continued...



Maitland Cenotaph

Again, a really big thank you must go to our friends at Luskintrye. This is a local community event that has significant meaning and sentiment to many people. Our Luskintrye friends and RNAC do this as a donation and mark of respect for the community.

It should also be noted that the aircraft involved have a direct connection with ANZAC Day and the events that this day commemorates.

Letters of appreciation from the RSL have been received regarding our participation.

Quick Message for Peter Meguyer



Some people may remember the day and this photograph when RNAC Life Member, Peter Meguyer received a street name in his honour bearing his name. This occurred as a mark of respect recognising his unwavered support, deeds, accreditations, and general devotion to our club.

Even in recent times, Peter has been involved in the Advisory Team responsible for the development of the recently approved RNAC Constitution.

I have a belief that Peter had thoughts that this was a piece for the “*Man Cave*” at home. Maybe on the mantle, in a cupboard or attached to the wall some where....

No... The sign now has a purpose and a permanent home at RNAC.



Congratulations Peter once again.

In the history of Royal Newcastle Aero Club, your contribution is now represented by this permanent fixture. It will also serve as a reminder to all that follow, what can be achieved by a single person with the dedication, club spirit and good will you have displayed.

For the benefit of members who may not know Peter, below is an extract from **Windsock Tales, #021**. The information details Peter's achievements in relation to our club...

A very hard act to follow...

- *Peter has been a member of our club for about 35 years.*
- *He was a Grade 3, Grade 2 and Grade 1 Flight Instructor for RNAC.*
- *He has been a past RNAC Manager.*
- *He has been a past RNAC CFI.*
- *He built the current RNAC administration building.*
- *He has received the RNAC Presidents Award.*
- *He has served on the RNAC board on 3 separate occasions.*
- *He has served as RNAC Club Secretary.*
- *He has served as RNAC Vice President.*
- *He has served as RNAC President.*
- *He has been the recipient of The Royal Federation of Aero Club's Australia Award.*
- *He created the club's first Flying Times Database that stayed in service for 17 years, only recently being retired.*
- *He was awarded RNAC Life Membership some years ago.*
- *Played a major role with the eastern hangar development.*

The above would only represent what comes to mind, I'm very sure there would be many more...

On behalf of all RNAC members and staff, thank you and well done...



STOP PRESS - Congratulations Greg

Congratulation Greg Kennewell...

Greg has recently achieved Flight Instructor Rating – Grade One.

This is a significant accreditation and promotion for Greg. Well-deserved for the long hours, dedication, and a real commitment to advancing his career in flight training.

Well done, Greg...

Final Word...

It is difficult to come up with different words that mean the same thing. The following statement cannot be overlooked and is shared with genuine sincerity...

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.



We have a rich history that each and every one of us are now part thereof. It's up to all of us to understand and appreciate our past, with respect embrace the present, and most importantly, develop and preserve what we have for future generations...

Very kind regards, Trevor.



Trevor Bright

RNAC President

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Royal Newcastle Aero Club

