



Watts News

*A newsletter issued by the
Watts Bridge Memorial Airfield*

www.wattsbridge.com.au

SEPTEMBER 2011



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Here we are – another month has gone by and a hint of spring is in the air. A fine day has prevailed for the Watts Bridge Poker Run and a great dinner was had by all at the Watts Bridge Christmas in July Dinner. These enjoyable events were hosted by QUA and AAC and were very well attended. Peter Freeman did the rounds of the Poker Run a few times during the day and clocked up a few hours on his very comfortable C182. Great Flying Peter!



On a less entertaining note, it has been reported that there has been a break-in at Caboolture and tools and aviation gear have been stolen from a hangar there. Please be aware of your building and hangar security and take steps to protect your belongings and minimise your losses – maybe your insurances may worth looking into to check if you are adequately covered. Watts Bridge is doing its utmost to keep an eye on things on the airfield and is also looking to further improve security in the airfield.

Bill Oats has now acquired Tony's light wing and hopes to have the plane gracing the skies in the near future. Do not forget the Caboolture FoF is on at the end of August and also the Watts Bridge Gathering of Eagles in September. Also remember to pay up your membership fees to Cheryl, our Treasurer, if you have not already done so.

Keep safe flying. Blue Skies.

Bruce Clarke



THE GATHERING OF EAGLES

Watts Bridge Airfield Leaseholders have banded together to run another fly-in. Although the fly-in may be known to some as the Gathering of Sparrows, or the Gathering of Willy Wag-Tails ... or even Tom-Tits ... if you combine all these, you have "The Gathering of Eagles" !



This one day event is being held on Saturday 17th September 2011.

The Gathering of Eagles is being held to provide aviators with a venue to fly into and enjoy the facilities of a great airstrip providing two good wide grass runways, a good social atmosphere and to allow pilots to view a wide array of visiting aircraft.

Expect all types from the Historical to the Hysterical, including Warbird, Vintage, mainstream GA types, Trikes and Gyros, the latest LSA types and maybe a Glider or two! Bring a friend, and if you haven't any friends, bring yer mate, but bring someone and introduce them to the wonderful world of aviation at Watts Bridge

KENNY'S A WINNER

Member Kenny Edwards recently scooped the pool at the annual NATFLY fly-in held over Easter at Temora NSW. Kenny is a helicopter pilot flying for a large international company out of Moro in PNG. Kenny fly's the Chinook and Vertol Helicopter specialising on long line hauling. He is also a qualified helicopter engineer and helps out in that capacity when required.

Here is Kenny's own report of the big win.



I Flew the airplane some 600 Nm's South and back again over the Easter weekend to Temora in New South Wales where the annual Natfly flyin was held.

This is a show case incorporating a large percentage of Australia's' homebuilt aircraft and their enthusiasts builders. The fly-in is run over four days including judging of all the aircraft categories with a Saturday night dinner and awards presentations.

19-7222 is a Rans S-7S Courier, kit built aircraft, the kit being supplied from Rans Aircraft Company in Hays Kansas. I have spent the last two years building this aircraft, consuming approximately 1200 man hours, conservatively whilst touring to and from PNG. The aircraft is powered by a 100HP Rotax 912ULS engine, pulled along with a 70 inch Air master electric constant speed propeller. Cruise speed between 90-100 Knots using about 20 litres of fuel per hour.

The construction went well but I incorporated a lot of small modifications and some not so small, as in the completely redesigned dashboard and instrument coaming, aux fuel and acrylic windscreen and windows throughout. This was my second Rag and Tube aircraft: prior to that I have built 3 RV6s'.

There was a lot of competition over the weekend and some really well presented projects however the Courier come up trumps taking out the "Best Rag and Tube" award, and then out of the blue being nominated and winning the "Concourse De Elegance award", for the best overall aircraft, a real honour and making all that hard work and attention to detail well worth it ,not to speak of igniting that little spark in me to maybe front up to do it again one day.

Well done Kenny



ALL - IN FLY-IN A BIG SUCCESS

It's hard to believe we are more than halfway through 2011 already and the flying season is well under-way. Events such as The all in fly-in held on Saturday May 21 was a big success with over 120 aircraft counted in attendance throughout the day. As you can see from the photos below there were some huge challenges faced by a few Watt's Bridge members. (like putting up the tent).

Bad weather on the coast stopped some aircraft from Heck Field, Caboolture and other ports from attending, however the weather at Watts Bridge remained fine for the occasion.

The full spectrum of aircraft types was represented, ranging from Trikes to ex military Warbirds. This is a great event for breaking down the barriers of "category and class."

The LSA types were particularly well represented with some manufacturers bringing along their latest models for display and even a few test flights.

Food and drink was available all day to keep the aviators happy. Some positive comments were received regarding the organising and conduct of the event. All in fly-in is just one of the many events that Watt's Bridge provides that allow active pilots the opportunity to meet face-to-face with other pilots. Stay tuned for the next one!



INTERESTING ARRIVALS AT WATTS



Pictured above with their Nanchang CJ6 after refuelling is Steve Newing and his charming wife. The Newings are from Gatton Airpark . They were enroute to the Maryborough Wings and Wheels fly-in held on 14/15th May.



Pictured above is this Waco biplane based at Caloundra The operator intends setting up an “up market “ joy flight business catering for weddings anniversaries and other special occasions. The Waco was refuelling while on a special mothers day flight.

SPOTTED OUT & ABOUT AT THE BRIDGE





A group of happy Watts Bridge members recently attended the "Classic Fighters" air show at Omarka. Pictured above is the group enjoying the Gold pass facilities.

QLD AEROBATIC CHAMPIONSHIPS

The Aerobatic Club recently hosted the Qld State Championships during the June long weekend.

As usual the weather was cold which must have had the southern visitors wondering about glorious Queensland.

Congratulations to our very own Qld Chapter. The championships were well organised and it is always great to see visitors enjoying themselves at Watts Bridge!

There were 18 competitors. Initially 21, however 3 had to withdraw due to family/health.

The winner of the Tony Gordon Perpetual Trophy was Stephen Hudson. This trophy is awarded to the pilot with the highest percentage overall.

Unlimited

- 1 - Paul Bennet – NSW
- 2 – Glenn Graham – NSW

Advanced

- 1 – Rob Noonan – VIC
- 2 – Mark Galletly – Qld
- 3 – Brendan Scilini – Qld

Intermediate

- 1 – Ben Brazier – Qld
- 2 – Colin Appleton – just moved to Noosa from Sydney
- 3 – David Brown – WA

Sportsman

- 1 – Stephen Hudson – Qld
- 2 – Danny Robinson – Qld
- 3 – Ian Close – Vic

QUA FUN FLY POKER RUN 2011



Saturday the 23rd July was the day for the annual QUA Fun Fly Poker Run. A cold crisp winter morning saw more than 20 pilots from airfields in S.E. Queensland including Caboolture, the Gold Coast, Gatton and Watts Bridge taking to the air in search of the elusive "winning hand".

Upon arrival at Watts Bridge the offer of a welcoming hamburger or warming cup of soup was gladly accepted. The winner on the day was Brendan Scilini, who with an amazing run of good fortune won with a mere pair of Kings!!



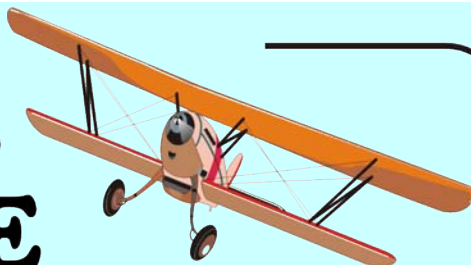
AAC-QC CHRISTMAS IN JULY

After a fun day of flying in the Poker Run it was all off to the Aerobatic's Clubhouse to get down and celebrate Christmas In July - good food, good wine and good company !

The date has already been set for next year's combined QUA / AAC event. Mark down the 14th July 2012 as a date not to be missed.



WATTS BRIDGE MEMORIAL AIRFIELD INC.



Gathering of Eagles Saturday 17th September 2011

**Open invitation to ALL Aviators.
Fly in and enjoy the freedom of
flight at picturesque
Watts Bridge**



Food and drink available all day

Avgas

No landing fees



All aircraft types welcome!

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