



# Watts News

WINTER EDITION  
2015





## President's Corner

The All-In Fly-In for 2015 was an unprecedented success with over 160 aircraft flying in for the day. Thanks to our many event volunteers. Again we heard the dulcet tones of Rob Plackett on 'Watts Bridge Advisory' guiding the visitors to the airfield. It was a little overwhelming at times with five aircraft on final at one stage.

We are now all hard at work planning for the Gathering of Eagles which is to be held over the last weekend in August. It promises to be a big show.

Our work experience programme is again in progress. At present we have two Toogoolawah High School students, Josh Pude and Max Sabti working with us on Kevin and Lynn's Dr1 Fokker Tri-plane. Mentors for the project include Bill Oates, Kev Walters, Glenda Faint and myself. Good to have a few young faces on the airfield again.



*Keep Safe - Bruce Clarke*





## ANZAC Day Remembrance - 2015



In keeping with the history of Watts Bridge Memorial Airfield an ANZAC Day Remembrance Service is held to honour and remember all Australian service men and women. Warrant Officer Malcolm Swingler gave a heart-felt speech on behalf of the RAAF and indeed all in the services. This year carried special meaning for all Australians, being the 100th anniversary of the landing at Gallipoli, a place where so many gave their lives. An impromptu fly-over of a Nieuport Replica piloted by Kev Walters paid tribute to those fought with great valour on the Western Front.

Following the bible readings, speeches and prayers, floral wreaths were placed on the cairn dedicated to those who have fallen in the line of duty. At the conclusion of the service an F/A-18F Super Hornet based at the RAAF Base Amberley performed an impressive low level pass over the airfield. Approximately 70 people enjoyed a traditional Australian Morning Tea served in the AAC-QC clubrooms bringing the morning to a conclusion.



## Remembering 100 Years Since Gallipoli



# All-In Fly-In 2015

There are various versions (ranging from 130 to 165) of how many aircraft turned up to the 2015 AIFI but the official count was **'lots'**.

The day dawned with clear skies and little wind, remaining that way for the whole day. Thankfully the fog of the previous morning did not eventuate. Despite this there was a slow start to the day with only little activity before 0900hrs. About this time I took the C170 up for a short flight and the radio was filled with inbound calls from all points of the compass. I guess everybody just slept in .



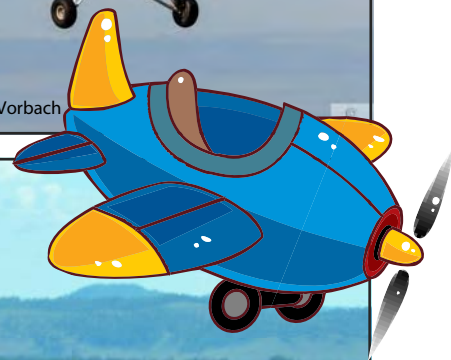
Photograph courtesy of Daniel Vorbach



Photograph courtesy of Daniel Vorbach



Photograph courtesy of Peter Freeman





By 1100hrs there were aircraft lined up the whole length of the parking area, ably assisted by the many marshals who volunteered their time. Aircraft ranged from vintage and classic to the more modern. It was good to see the return of the heavy metal in the form of Harvards, Trojans, Grumman Mallard & De Havilland Dove. One aircraft we have not seen before was the recently restored, DH-85 Leopard Moth VH-USK. Built in 1934 this may have been the oldest aircraft on the field.

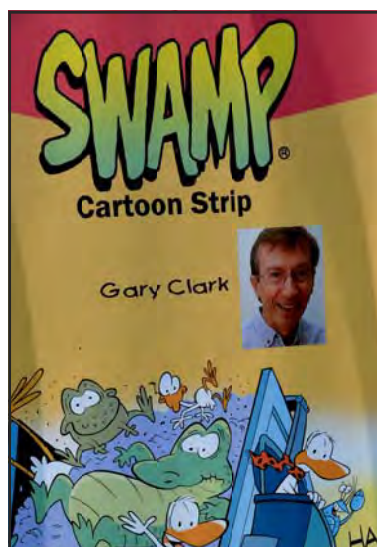
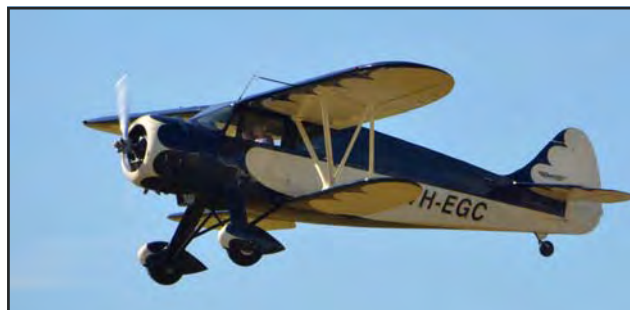
Thanks must go to the many people who helped make the day a success. You may have noticed a new addition to the infrastructure this year in the form of our 'control tower'. While not providing normal control functions in the form of traffic separation or clearances it was used to provide a welcoming voice to arrivals and to assist in directing them to parking. Thanks to Rob Placket for manning the tower for the morning.

By 1500hrs it was largely all over again for another year with just the locals enjoying the late afternoon flying.

The AIFI has become well entrenched in the local aviation scene, I guess you could call it the \$100 hamburger concept or a Pilot's Picnic perhaps?.

Let's see what we can do for the Gathering of Eagles on the 29th & 30th of August.

Article courtesy of Peter Biddle



During the All-In Fly-In we were lucky enough to have Gary Clark, creator of "Swamp" cartoons join us on the field. Chances are every pilot (and air traffic controller) feels a special affinity with "Ding Duck" and all the other characters that inhabit the swamp.

Gary had a wide variety of his books, cartoons and other merchandise on display and was only too happy to personally autograph them for the lucky purchaser.

Swamp cartoons used with permission. *Thanks Gary!*

Subscribe freely to the Swamp daily email by going to [www.swamp.com.au](http://www.swamp.com.au) and clicking the subscribe link.





# Gathering of Eagles Australia



**Watts Bridge Memorial Airfield**  
Remembering 100 Years Since Gallipoli

29th-30th August 2015  
[www.wattsbridge.com.au](http://www.wattsbridge.com.au)  
Bruce - 0427 699 239

# The Gathering of Eagles - Australia

## 29<sup>th</sup> - 30<sup>th</sup> August 2015

### Celebrating the 40th Anniversary of QVAG / AFM

Watts Bridge Memorial Airfield Inc. invites all aviation enthusiasts to be a part of our annual fly-in, the "Gathering of Eagles - Australia", which is being staged across two days, the 29<sup>th</sup> - 30<sup>th</sup> August 2015.

Overnight camping on the airfield is encouraged. It is anticipated that Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> will see the highlight aircraft and other activities on field.

### Aircraft & Activities

- ◆ WW1 and WW2 Warbirds and Replica Aircraft
- ◆ Vintage, Aerobatic and Homebuilt Aeroplanes
- ◆ General Aviation and Light Sports Aircraft
- ◆ Static Displays of Aircraft Construction
- ◆ WW1 and WW2 Military Re-Enactors
- ◆ Vintage Cars and Military Vehicles
- ◆ Aviation Museum Exhibits
- ◆ Local Historical Societies
- ◆ Twilight Parachute Drop
- ◆ Air Adventure Flights
- ◆ 100LL AVGAS Available
- ◆ Local Historical Societies

### Food & Entertainment

- ◆ On-field Catering on Saturday and Sunday Morning
- ◆ Hamburgers and other BBQ Snacks
- ◆ Hot Deli-style Coffee
- ◆ Icy Cold Drinks
- ◆ 3 Course Dinner on Saturday Evening (Booking is essential)
- ◆ Refreshments to accompany the Dinner
- ◆ Country Style Entertainment on Saturday Evening

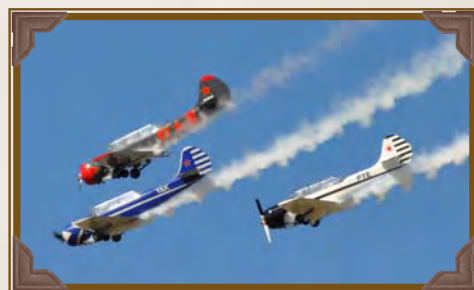
### Admission & Camping

- ◆ Admission for all pilots and aircrew flying into the "Gathering of Eagles" is free with absolutely no landing fees.
- ◆ For visitors attending the event on Saturday, there will be an entry fee of \$10 with children under 12 years free.

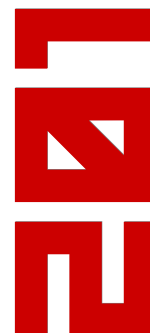
### Contact & Information

- ◆ To book for the Saturday Evening Meal  
Contact: Liz Cook 0419-369-963 or by  
Email: [info@wattsbridge.com.au](mailto:info@wattsbridge.com.au)
- ◆ If you require additional Information  
Contact: Bruce Clarke 0427-699-239  
Email: [info@wattsbridge.com.au](mailto:info@wattsbridge.com.au)

### Remembering 100 Years Since Gallipoli



# RED THUNDER



The annual gathering of the Watts Bridge Warbirds "RED THUNDER 2015" was held over the period 14th to 17th of May 2015.

The event was a great success facilitating an opportunity for Warbird Operators to socialise and refine piloting skills. Several 'Eastern Block' warbird aircraft take part in these events, and accordingly RED THUNDER 2015 continued its 'Russian Flavour' in both its flying and social activities.

RED THUNDER flying activities facilitate a safe environment for continuation training for both ab-initio and proficiency pilot training in the areas of ;

- Flour Bombing,
- Streamer Cutting,
- Close Formation,
- Tactical Formation,
- Max Performance Handling, and
- Combat Manoeuvring (Flying the Combat Position)







RED THUNDER 2015 centred its flying activities to facilitate the final days competition 'POEHALI' ("Lets Ride !!!", YURI GARGARIN 12 April 1961)

Several of our female Komrades (Natasha's) attend Red Thunder, and several 'Natasha' activities were enjoyed by the girls. These included ;

- Natasha's 'Glass House Mountain' aerial tour & Seafood luncheon on the Sunshine Coast,
- Natasha's Gallery and Antiques crawl - Brisbane Valley (Esk & Fernvale), and
- Natasha's Spa Day.

Of particular great success was Saturday Night's RED AIR SQUADRON Dinning Inn Night held at the Toogoolawah Hotel. A great time was enjoyed by all and, as at last years event, most found the time to 'dress' for the occasion !!

**RED THUNDER 2016** promises to be an even better event, and we would encourage players to contact organiser **Gill Vardi** on **0412 963 106** for next year's event details, and to register your interest.

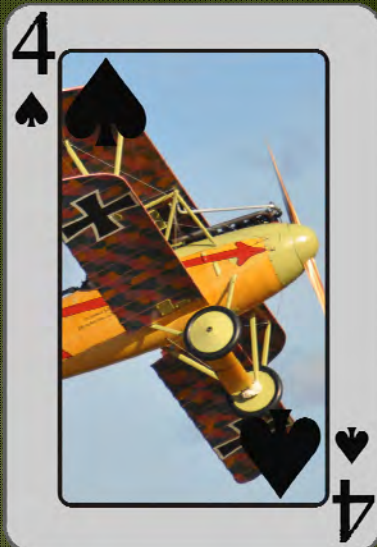


**KONTACT**

Text & photo's  
courtesy of  
Gill Vardi.



# B.V.S.A.C. FUN FLY POKER



## THE EVENT

The Brisbane Valley Sport Aviation Club's Fun Fly Poker Run will be held on Saturday 4th July 2015.

Starting time is 9:00am and finishing at 2:00pm.

It doesn't matter what you fly— Recreational, Homebuilt, General Aviation, Gyroplanes — we would love to have you join in the fun !!

## THE GAME

Fly to any three of the participating airfields, Bradfield, Kilcoy, Gatton Airpark or Mc Carron's Field and collect an envelope which contains a playing card from underneath the primary windsock.

You can start anywhere you like and go to the airfields of your choice in any order that suits you.

Then just fly on to Watts Bridge Memorial Airfield where you pay your entrance fee of \$5.00 and register your hand.

## THE WINNER

The organizers will have drawn two cards at random prior to the start of the game. These cards will complete the five card hands for all players.

*THIS IS FUN FLYING AT ITS BEST,  
SO COME ON AND GIVE IT A GO !!*

## AIRFIELD LOCATIONS

|           |              |             |              |
|-----------|--------------|-------------|--------------|
| BRADFIELD | S 27° 25.1'  | KILCOY      | S 26° 58.2'  |
|           | E 152° 24.1' |             | E 152° 34.0' |
| GATTON    | S 27° 35.4'  | Mc CARRON'S | S 27° 05.9'  |
| AIRPARK   | E 152° 15.4' | FIELD       | E 152° 36.2' |
| WATTS     | S 27° 05.9'  |             |              |
| BRIDGE    | E 152° 27.6' |             |              |

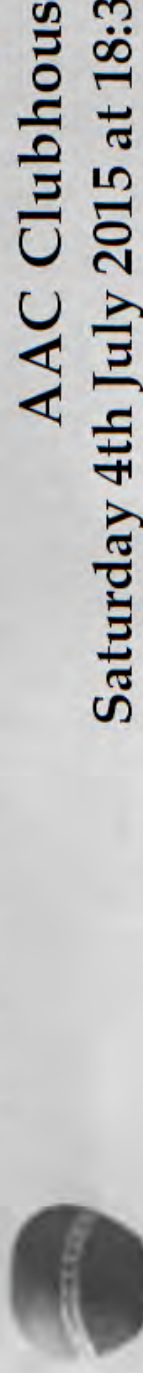
If you have any questions : Phone: (07) 5427-0816  
please contact :



Richard Faint



# CHRISTMAS IN JULY at Watts Bridge



AAC Clubhouse  
Saturday 4th July 2015 at 18:30

## MENU

### Nibbles

### Soup & Bread Roll

### Main

Pork, Beef or Lamb  
with Apple Sauce, Gravy  
or Mint Jelly

### Roast Vegetables

### Desert

Plum Pudding with Brandy  
Cream & Custard  
Coffee, Tea with  
Chocolates

### Drinks: BYO

Bookings are essential as places are limited — contact Liz Cook 0419 369 963

To assist with catering please email [lizcook1@bigpond.com](mailto:lizcook1@bigpond.com) to advise attendance before Wednesday 24th June 2015

Please also deposit cost of tickets to Westpac BSB 034-115 Account No 16-4115

Using Surname as reference by Wednesday 24th June 2015

We look forward to seeing you all at Watts Bridge Airfield in July



Cost:  
\$35.00 per person



## BVSAC Clubrooms Flooring

Over a period of several years the Brisbane Valley Sport Aviation Club has been building, fitting out and finally finishing their clubrooms.

The final stage in the process has been the floor coverings. A hard wearing vinyl with the appearance of random hardwood planking was chosen. President Wayne Petty carried out the work over a couple of days in May and the final result really suits the room and its purpose.

So remember now - WIPE YOUR FEET - before entering !!



## Maintenance Volunteers

So much of the ongoing maintenance work around the airfield is done by a small group of dedicated volunteers working tirelessly to keep the place looking all ship-shape.

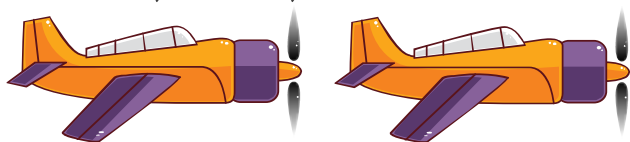
Now all you Workplace Health and Safety fiends take note....

Bob Dennis is showing everyone how it should be done !!

PPE by way of eye, ear and airways protection and a great sun shield fitted to his immaculately maintained equipment.

But seriously: It's the volunteers like Bob that make Watts work so well and we take our hats off to them !!

*Thank you everyone!!*

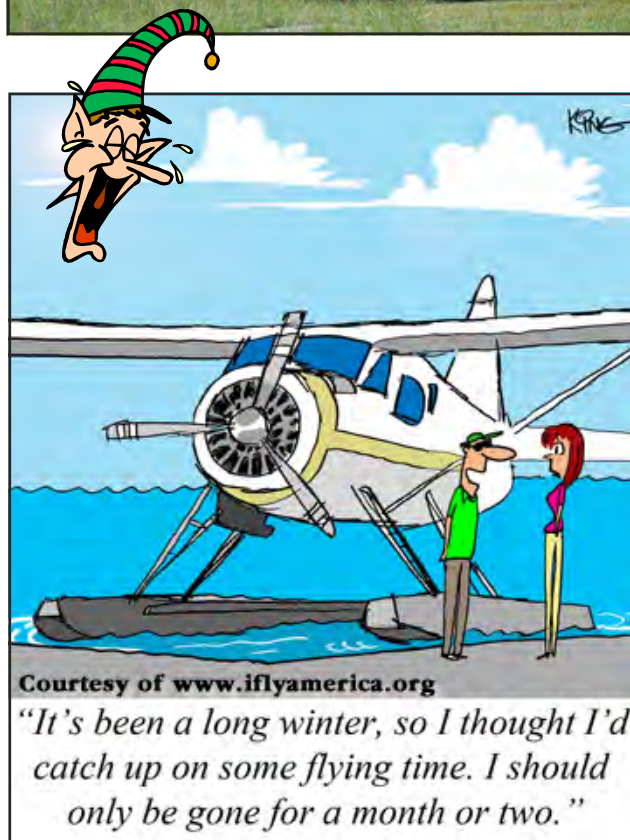


## WBMA Board of Management

| WBMA BoM                     |                |
|------------------------------|----------------|
| President                    | Bruce Clarke   |
| Vice President               | Ron Dunn       |
| Secretary                    | Liz Cook       |
| Treasurer                    | Cheryl Brown   |
| Maintenance & Infrastructure | Phillip Cooper |

## WBMA Airfield Council

| WBMA Council        |                   |
|---------------------|-------------------|
| AAC - QC            | Mark Foy          |
| BVSAC               | Richard Faint     |
| CGC                 | No Representative |
| Lease Holders Group | John Innes        |
| QVAG                | Peter Biddle      |
| SEQGC               | No Representative |



Courtesy of [www.iflyamerica.org](http://www.iflyamerica.org)

*"It's been a long winter, so I thought I'd catch up on some flying time. I should only be gone for a month or two."*