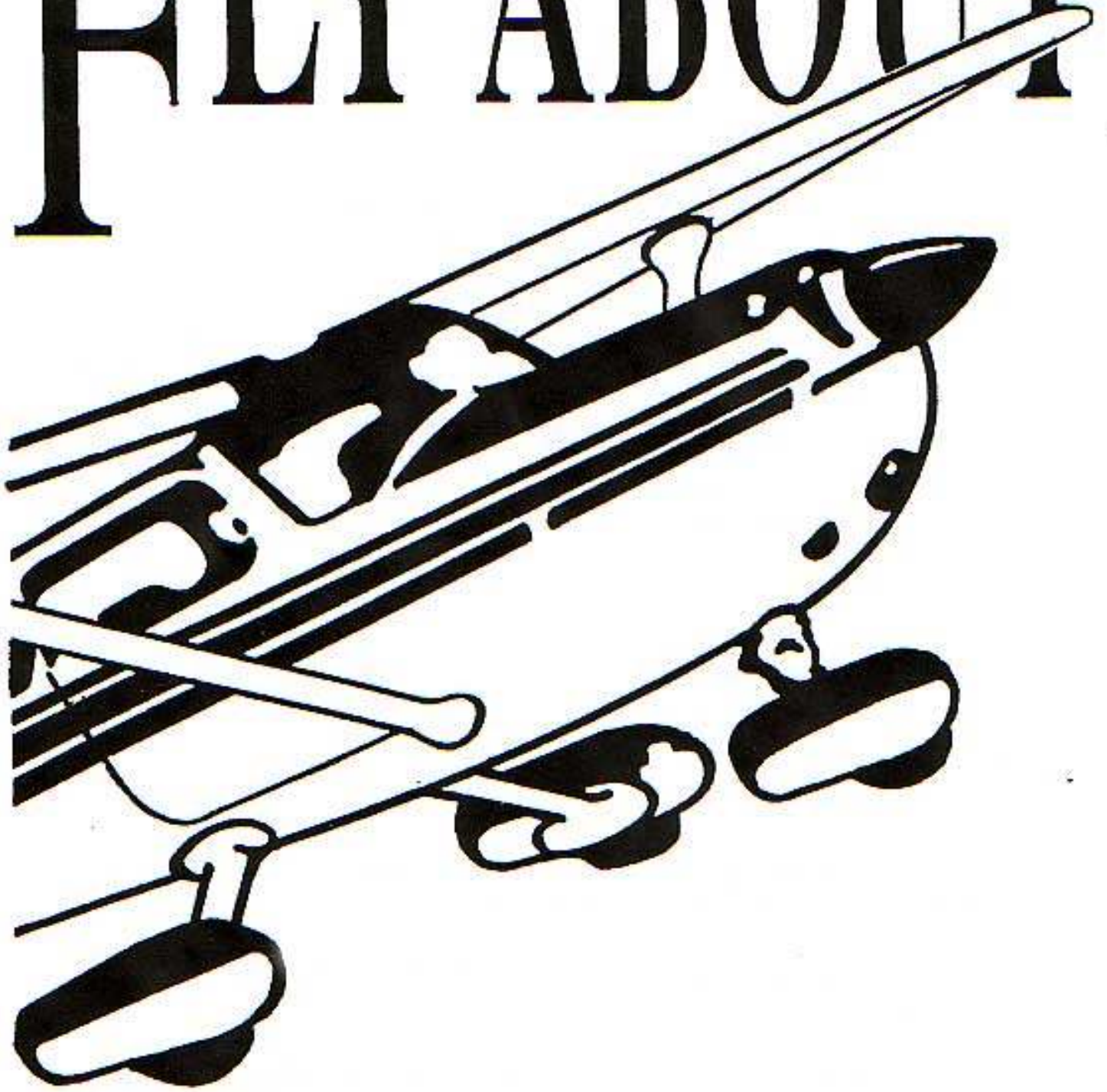


FLY ABOUT



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PO BOX 247 NORTHAM WA 6401

COMMITTEE CONTACTS

PRESIDENT	Simon Cooper simon.sj.cooper@centrelink.gov.au	0429 202 597
IPP	Claude Meunier claudemeunier@bigpond.com	08 9622 5574 0417 816 168
VICE PRESIDENT	Errol Croft dowref@bigpond.net.au	0428 880 149
SECRETARY	Les Ballantyne les@aquasport.com.au	08 9622 5303
TREASURER	Ashley Smith	9622-3673
CLUB CAPTAIN	Errol Croft dowref@bigpond.net.au	0428 880 149
COMMITTEE	Steve Vette svette@southernphone.com.au	0407 577 617
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AIRCRAFT BOOKINGS • AIRFIELD OFFICER • BAR MANAGER • HOUSE & GROUNDS 	Matt Bignell big.matty@hotmail.com	0428 962 001 08 9622 3001
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AIRCRAFT • FLIGHT TRAINING • AIRSIDE & SAFETY 	Denis Beresford	08 96225 222 0408 747 182
FLYING INSTRUCTORS	Phil Butherway Kevin Lathbury	0427 967 363 0434 000 217
SOCIAL	Ryan Bristow-Stagg bristow82@bigpond.com	0404 081 786
BALLOONING LIASON	Ryan Bristow-Stagg bristow82@bigpond.com	0404 081 786
FLY ABOUT EDITOR	Debra Donovan nac.editor@yahoo.com	0429 207 502
WEBSITE E-MAIL CLUB ROOM	www.northamaeroclub.com northamaeroclub@westnet.com.au	08 9622 3248

Vice Presidents Report

Another month & another Aero Club Meeting. Not a lot to report from the meeting side of things, but we do have a new member being the one & only Heather Deegan. Welcome Heather, as I know you enjoy your flying!

The majority of our meeting were discussions on the success of our Open Day even though the Cross Wind Landings required lots of flying skills which in turn provided much interest for spectators and added to the day's events.

There are many people I wish to thank, firstly Les for the food van with support from his Lions guys and helpers in Lyla, Steve, Wayne, June & Heather. Matt for security, Preston, Peter, Ray, Dave & Ryan. Ashley & Denis for the overall running of the Aero Club side of the day & Paul Pedretti for the wonderful job he did with the hand out brochures & flyers. Tony Rees for his advertising skills. Pity he couldn't keep his dog on a leash on the day, Ha Ha! Also a very big thanks to the Royals Aero Club, Linda, Deb, Gary & Trevor for their Junior Hawks which proved very successful.

Finally there were many people who gave verbal advise so I thankyou for that.

If I have left anyone out I apologise as I took the punt to name people which could cause a face slap. Thank you all!

Cheers,
Errol

Club Captains Report – April Open Day Flying Comp

10th April Comp was interesting with a very strong cross wind. Once again we intended to involve The Royals, but due to weather conditions they couldn't make the day. Claude & Denis presented another Mini Air Trial but this time we distributed the questions as the pilots were about to fly. 1st was Ashley Smith, 2nd myself, 3rd Ian Berry, 4th Paul Pedretti & 5th Ray Howell.

Many thanks to Harold, Denis & Claude.

I would like to apologise for the mix-up with a name in the last Flyabout. I listed Glen Metcalf as a place getter in the comp & it should have been Glen Millstead.

Next Comp 8th May.

Cheers,

Errol



OPEN DAY-APRIL 10, 2011



Thanks to Errol, for all your hard work in bringing the day together...



And John and co. for bringing the model planes...



And Matt for making sure the day went smoothly...

And everybody else who leant a hand and showed up...



CHECKING OUT THE MIGHTY MURRAY

*Tony Rees and Claude Meunier flew Tony's Mooney, MIP, to the
Australian
Mooney Pilots' Association AGM in Echuca*

Claude and I set off from Northam for the milk run across the Nullarbor at sparrow's on a glorious sunny Friday morning. MIP knows her way by now, though she was happy to follow signals from our Garmin 155 XL, installed recently by the brilliant Ian Bristow-Stagg. For people raised in the steam age, that is a lovely piece of gear.

Our first refuelling stop was Caiguna, sometimes referred to as the Paris of the Nullarbor but more accurately reflecting the properties of its fundamental orifice. Avgas, sandwich, then off. We thought we might stop to top up at Nullarbor Homestead, but we had plenty of fuel and plenty of time despite the two-and-a-half hour difference between WA and SA during daylight saving. We were experiencing headwinds up to about 17 knots, but what the hell – Streaky Bay and those big, fat, inviting oysters urged us through the last 200 nm.

We've been in the habit of overnighting at Ceduna, but we decided to give Streaky Bay a go and were happy we did. It's a beaut little town, neat, tidy and overflowing with oysters. We stayed at the Streaky Bay Motel and Villas, whose friendly manager, Paul, interrupted a late-afternoon beer to book us in. He'll also give you a lift to/from the airport if you need it. We were lucky to get a ride in with a local who happened to be at the field when we landed. Going out was a breeze, with Graham – the local Foodland proprietor, pilot and fuel agent – picking us up from the motel and filling MIP from a wonderful old ex-Parafield tanker that burns more oil than fuel.

The place to eat in Streaky Bay is the Mocean Café Restaurant – really good food, friendly service and oysters to die for. Well, you would if you got a bad one.



Tony with a White Pointer he caught at Streaky Bay

The trip down the coast to Goolwa would have been interesting if we'd been able to see anything, but 8/8ths cloud gets in the way a bit. We popped out (through a hole, naturally) near Goolwa – to find a Porsche race car sizzling along the runway! We took the grass, and some fuel for the final leg to Echuca.

Tooling east along the coast we were able to observe at close quarters the amazing transformation of the Murray. The river, swollen by floods that breathed new life into the Darling and Murrumbidgee rivers further upstream, was flowing strongly into the Southern Ocean. An enormous brown plume stretched miles out to sea, reminding the world that we all need a good cleanout now and again. The Coorong, Lake Alexandrina and Lake Albert, *in extremis* a year ago, are full of water and presumably providing habitat for the myriad fauna and flora that make the area unique. A beautiful and unforgettable sight.



Crusing on the Murray, full of water after floods.

The arrival at Echuca was unforgettable, too, with eighteen other Mooneys waiting for MIP to join them. We were met by one of our members dressed in a KGB uniform and driving a black Volga staff car, plated CCCP 1, which he recently imported from Lithuania.

Our visit to the Great Aussie Beer Shed was, well, entertaining. However, our first-night dinner at Oscar W's, overlooking the Murray, set the punishing pace of sumptuous eating and drinking that characterised this memorable event.



Claude and Tony are arrested by the KGB at Echuca

Our digs, at the historic Steampacket Inn, were quaint and no doubt represented faithfully the dimensions of bedrooms of the 1870s, when it was built, with period furnishings to match. The Steampacket dispenses Real Aussie Breakfasts as part of the tariff and I reckoned they were beaut, even if the service was a little erratic. A, a highlight of this was the emergence from the kitchen of a waitress aged about three holding a plate of bacon and eggs at an impossible angle before another staff member rescued it seconds from disaster. Pure gold!

Echuca is a splendid town, reflecting its robust and somewhat seedy past as a major pre-rail port. Its restoration has been achieved without recourse to Disneyisation – no plastic big bananas or giant sheep here; what you see is the real thing, from paddle steamers to shops and warehouses and pubs and brothels which thrived and proliferated until the Victorian wowsers took

charge and closed most of them down. Not that it stopped the trade, you understand.

We had a wonderful morning being guided around the old port by a man with an acrobatic parrot on his shoulder, followed by a trip on the PS Pevensey, a relative newcomer built on the Murray in 1911. Watching that two-cylinder, 20-horsepower steam engine propelling the 130-ton vessel through the brimming waters at eight knots was mesmerising. What a glorious relic – long may the Pevensey, which cut its teeth hauling wool bales from stations along the river to the railhead, ply the tourist trade.

The afternoon brought a winery tour – some intriguing grape varieties and wines – to limber us up for dinner at Nic's Greek Taverna. Very pleasant, but too much food!

On Monday, we were off to the Holden Museum (great for history-minded rev-heads) and the Echuca Historical Society Museum, which contains one of the best local collections I've seen, including a fair bit of dirt on the town's founder, a ratbag ex-convict called Henry Hopwood, who seems to have had his finger in every pie (and a few other things) around town.

After lunch we took off for Lake Mungo, some 170 nm to the north-west. The Lake Mungo Lodge is a pleasant place run by a French couple and their son, aided by a couple of nubile young things from Lille. Claude, being a long-removed Frenchman, was in his element. He was also the centrepiece of a most entertaining and informative talk on the activities of Earthrounders, which he founded after flying solo around the world in his Aerostar in 1996. Claude is a vastly experienced airman and a natural speaker and his anecdotes were well received by an attentive audience.

We had two trips to the fabled White Cliffs of Dover that border the lake. Sorry, Great Walls of China. Whichever – and they resemble neither – they contain a complex and fascinating history which

completely escaped our “expert” guide, Trevor, who was about as articulate as your average garden slug, with a personality to match. It was possible to string together some idea of the Aboriginal timeline in the Visitor Centre, and to learn of the discovery of Mungo Woman and Mungo Man, buried there more than 40,000 years ago, but five minutes on the internet will teach you a lot more.

Our next stop was Mildura, a mere 50 miles away, where we set off for Wentworth, named after the fabled W.C. (terrible initials), the political firebrand of early NSW, though never visited by him, according to our passionate guide, Carmel, who steered us through the town’s rich history. She left us in no doubt that Wentworth, home of the first Australian-designed jail, was top dog on the Murray and that Echuca and Mildura were just pretenders.

We also had a look at where the Darling meets the Murray, adding the aftermath of floods in southern Queensland to Australia’s most important river, and dropped in to the Varapodio Estate, producers of first-class extra-virgin olive oil. Claude and I both brought some back to WA – a memory in every taste!



The Mighty Murray flowing strongly out to sea

The gastronomic highlight of a very gastro AGM fly-in was dinner at Stefano di Pieri’s restaurant in Mildura. I’d been wanting to eat there for years, but could never get in (perhaps they knew I was

coming). Luckily our president, being the consummate organiser, booked well ahead – and the staff at Stefano’s did us proud. The service was every bit a match for the superlative dinner, built around a main of rare wagyu beef. Yum-oh!

Claude and I checked out of the grand old Grand Hotel next day, leaving the rest of the Mooniacs to do their thing while we buzzed off to visit friends in Balranald. More booze, more tall stories . . . and more food! And a chance to see the Murrumbidgee, much higher than I’d ever seen it, making its flood-driven donation to the Murray-Darling basin.

We had decided to return to WA via Lake Eyre to complete the water-related theme of our flight, and fuelled up at Broken Hill. The lake had plenty of water in the western and northern sectors, with more to come down the Cooper in due course from the deluge in Queensland. For a change we actually picked up some tailwinds flying westward – not much, but better than a poke in the eye with a jetstream.

We overnighted at William Creek – a scream of a pub where the natives are friendly, the landlady’s name is Mim and the dog is called Pig. We set off at daybreak next morning for Forrest, for fuel, Kalgoorlie, for more, and home. The tailwinds stayed with us, up to ten knots, dumping us back in Northam in the early afternoon.



The Mooney takes a drink at Streaky Bay



Claude visits some relations

Errols Club Calendar 2011

	February	March	April	May
1				BAR-MATT
2			BAR-ERROL	
3			BAR-ERROL	
4				
5	BAR-STEVE	BAR-LES		
6	BAR-STEVE	BAR-LES		
7				
8				BAR-ASHLEY
9			BAR-RYAN	BAR-ASHLEY CLUB COMP 9AM
10			BAR-RYAN NAC OPEN DAY	NAC.MEETING 7PM
11			NAC.MEETING 7PM	
12	BAR-ASHLEY	BAR-MATT		
13	BAR-ASHLEY CLUB COMP 9AM	BAR-MATT CLUB COMP 9AM		
14	NAC.MEETING 7PM	NAC.MEETING 7PM		
15				BAR-ERROL
16			BAR-LES	BAR-ERROL
17			BAR-LES	
18				
19	BAR-ERROL	BAR-STEVE		
20	BAR-ERROL	BAR-STEVE		
21				
22				BAR-RYAN
23			BAR-STEVE	BAR-RYAN
24			BAR-STEVE	
25				
26	BAR-RYAN	BAR-ASHLEY		
27	BAR-RYAN	BAR-ASHLEY		
28				
29				BAR-LES
30			BAR-MATT	BAR-LES
31				

N.A.C.

Bar roster

2011

Opening
Hours
*Saturday 5pm
- 7pm
Sunday 5pm -
7 pm*

FEBRUARY		
5th-6th	-	Steve
12th-13th	-	Ashley
19th-20th	-	Crofty
26th-27th	-	Ryan

MAY		
1st	-	Matt
7th-8th	-	Ashley
14th-15th	-	Crofty
21st-22nd	-	Ryan
28th-29th		Les

MARCH		
5th-6th	-	Les
12th-13th	-	Matt
19th-30th	-	Steve
26th-27th	-	Ashley

JUNE		
4th - 5th	-	Matt
11th - 12th	-	Steve
18th - 19th	-	Ashley
25th - 26th	-	Crofty

APRIL		
2nd - 3rd	-	Crofty
9th - 10th	-	Ryan
16th - 17th	-	Les
23rd - 24th	-	Steve
30th		Matt

JULY		
2nd-3rd	-	Ashley
9th-10th	-	Crofty
16th-17th	-	Ryan
23rd-24th	-	Les
30th-31st		Matt

NEXT CLUB COMPETITION

9 th May at 9am

NEXT CLUB MEETING

10 th May at 7pm

BAR ROSTER

Opening hours
Saturday 5pm – 7pm
Sunday 5pm – 7pm

May		
1st	-	Matt
7th-8th	-	Ashley
14th-15th	-	Crofty
21st-22nd	-	Ryan
28th-29th		Les

Well! Sometimes one just has to do it!!!

**Please make arrangements to swap
with someone if you are not available
on your rostered day(s)**

FOR MORE INFORMATION
THE AERO CLUB CONTACTS ARE;

08 9622 3248
0429 202 597

PO BOX 247
NORTHAM WA 6401

**OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE NORTHAM AERO CLUB (Inc.)
PO Box 247 NORTHAM WESTERN AUSTRALIA 6401**

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