

Queensland Ultralight Association

AUGUST 2004 NEWSLETTER

Watts Bridge Memorial Airfield, Silverleaves Road, via Toogoolawah Q'ld

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KARA SPORTS



FESTIVAL OF FLIGHT - 2004

Queensland Vintage Aeroplane Group

Watts Bridge Memorial Airfield 28th-30th August 2004

The big fly in event of the year at Watts Bridge—definitely not to be missed. Although this gathering is devoted to “all things old” in aviation, it attracts almost everything that flies from miles around. Fully catered across the entire weekend, with sit down Saturday Evening Dinner and a well stocked bar to boot !!

Contact: Shane Winter 0407-122-219 for all the details.



PRESIDENT: *Michael Smith (07) 3206-3548* **SECRETARY:** *Colin Thorpe (07) 3208 0461*

TREASURER: *Richard Faint (07) 3818-1988*

The Bert Purcell Story

Continued From Last Month

In the stillness of the afternoon, we flew 10 miles to a Property called Bundab which had an airstrip, so we lined up and settled into the grass then noticed rather high termite mounds hurtling by so I pulled the brakes on and stopped.

Bundab is owned by the Hughes Family who have been friends for a long time, so we had a very enjoyable night sleeping in a real bed. The next morning we drove to an old gate on the boundary where our sister June was born on the back of an old Ford truck when I was sixteen years old. The gate had an other incident years later when a Kangaroo shooter pulled up on the other side and a rifle went off and shot one of his children in the shoulder.

After a very enjoyable night we packed the little Bantam for the next leg of our journey around South West Queensland. The Airstrip was too rugged for me, so I lined up on their road which led into Talwood and made a great departure for Thallon further out west. I went to school at Thallon and when I left school my biggest ambition was to get a job on a property called Bullamon Plains.

During our trip last year we noticed Bullamon Plains had a small red soil airstrip, so after getting approval to land, we landed and walked into town. We rang the owner of the property who delivered a vehicle to us to have a look around town. In the afternoon we drove back out to Bullamon Plains and noticed the wind had dropped so we decided to fly on to Nindi Gully Hotel where I once won the Bull ride at the local rodeo, and the movie "Paperback Hero" was made in 1998.

I had a road in mind to land on, but during recent heavy rain it was badly washed out so after circling around we decided to head to St George. After spending the night in St George we took off towards Mitchell further out west, about halfway we landed on a property called Begonia Station which we landed on last year during a bowling Westerly.

Our host Don Kellop made us welcome so we decided to stay the night and fly to Surat the next morning. After an early start we flew across to Surat, crossing over normally fairly arid country, but the country looks a picture right now after recent heavy rains. We walked down town at Surat had breakfast then went through the Cobb & Co Museum where they have the last stage coach which ran from Surat to Yuleba in 1924. They also have a photo of

Alice and the family in the back of a horse drawn wagon.

A pleasant night was had by all as we stayed with friends that night, then they ran us out to the airport for the next leg of our journey to "Warenga" Station near Mt Abundance not far from Roma. The weather forecast was for afternoon thunderstorms and "Warenga" airstrip is black soil so at the last minute I decided to



go to Roma where there is bitumen.

The flight from Surat to Roma was glorious, smooth and clear, then as we came into land we noticed the Roma show was on.

We went looking for AVGAS and run into Jennifer Cameron who now has the depot and who knows a lot of A.U.F. members. After fueling the little Bantam we walked down the road and spent the day at the Roma Show, then we were picked up by Lloyd Disthorpe from "Warenga" Station, where we stayed for the night.

Next morning after checking out the airstrip and Lloyd's Cessna which is in top condition, he took us back into Roma where we did some shopping, visited a few relatives then back out to the airport where we stayed for the night. Sunday morning early we were

Here We Go Again.

packing up to leave when a gentleman turned up to have a look at the Bantam as he was keen to purchase one. We lifted off from Roma on the next leg of our journey which was Chinchilla, but on the way we were pushing a headwind and the head temperature was fluctuating so we decided to land on the airstrip at miles not far from the township. As we touched down at Miles, we realized this airstrip has not been used for years, there were termite mounds,



wasbouts and glass covering a lot of it.

We had to make a choice, which was the best end to take off on, finally we taxied down one end to the south and after using every usable metre we lifted into the air, I would not recommend this airstrip as it is very marginal.

After landing at Chinchilla, we filled up, put the Bantam in a hangar then went to town for breakfast. We spent a pleasant day and night in Chinchilla, but as we were warming up to go to taxi I found out why the head temperature was fluctuating, the problem was a loose joint on the sender a little crimp and it was fixed.

The little Bantam bolted down the runway and jumped into the air

with all temperatures reading normal. It was a pleasant flight to Tara Airport, but scrub as far as the eye can see, as we came into land heaps of kangaroos on the strip, then Tom Porter came onto the air with directions. We spent a pleasant day and night with Tom and Irma Porter, Tom ran us into Tara for a look around which brought back a lot of old memories.

The weather forecast was suggesting strong winds later in the day, so we left Tara and flew to Jimbour where we landed at Jimbour House on a nice bitumen airstrip ..I decided to stay at Jimbour House in case we met the winds over the Great Dividing Range and what a great stay we had. We were made welcome by the owners and staff, took lots of videos and photos. I have not seen a private residence with so much grandeur and elegance and history as well. Ludwig Leichhardt the explorer left here twice when going on expeditions, but the second time he left here, he disappeared without trace. They have a 1000 metre bitumen airstrip, a great place to call in for a cuppa and something to eat, they are open from 10:00 AM. to 4:00 PM.

Wednesday 12th May, 2004 looked glorious as we packed the little Bantam up for the final leg over the Mountain to Kilcoy. As we took off from the Jimbour House Airstrip Karl Graham the manager was taking a photo of us while we were videoing him. By the time we reached the Great Dividing Range near Cooyar a westerly wind started to blow but it was on our tail, look out Kilcoy here we come. It took us barely an hour to cover over 70NM, but as we came in to land at Kilcoy the wind was blowing 15 knots, but twenty minutes after landing it blew 20 knots and freezing cold.

The trip last year was awesome, but Max and I both agree this years trip was fantastic, what the hell are we going to do next year. We had a great trip, the little Bantam performed superbly once we found the loose wire which gave us fluctuating head temperatures, we landed and took off on strips which left a lot to be desired, but the little Bantam never missed a beat. We met some great people , made some new friends had a great adventure. I must thank my brother Max for being such good company and taking some good video footage while I was doing the flying and I would like to thank Max Clear in New Zealand for making such a safe little aeroplane and making my childhood dreams come true.

Many happy landings

Bert Purcell May 2004.

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MINUTES OF MEETING

5th June 2004

Meeting opened 8.00 pm

APOLOGIES

Andy Dunlop

VISITORS

Nil

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Accepted: Robert Cousin Seconded: Colin Thorpe.

TREASURER REPORT

Account Balance: \$19459.16

SECRETARY REPORT

New member Peter Freeman is ex GA & is interested in all fixed wing aviation. 2004 Annual General Meeting will be held at the start of the August Meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE

Nil In and Nil Out

PRESIDENT REPORT

Nil.

RAA REPORT

The RAA AGM is on 17/8/04

CASA is proposing photo licenses for GA. Is this going to pass on to the AUF also?

GENERAL BUSINESS

Why there is apathy amongst the members, this question was raised by Richard & Glenda after a poor turnout for the Xmas in July. Is Watts Bridge too far away, should events be organised for both days, we welcome your comments.

Lynton Hudson has a share in a Jabiru & had some questions about some severe Vibration on take-off, various experienced members offered their advice about the problem, this open forum for any questions is a great help for the inexperienced.

Thank you to Robin Salisbury for preparing the supper.

MEETING CLOSED

9.00 pm.

