

QUEENSLAND ULTRALIGHT ASSOCIATION

FEBRUARY 2007 NEWSLETTER

Watts Bridge Memorial Airfield, Silverleaves Road via Toogoolawah, Qld

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STORM DAMAGE AT WATTS BRIDGE



On Saturday afternoon 16th of December 2006 three storm cells converged over the airfield locality causing severe damage to many buildings in the surrounding area. Worst affected was John and Tanys McCarron's hangar which was blown away, destroying the Drifter stored inside. Other buildings, including the QUA hangar had doors blown in or other minor damage. The storm cells also damaged buildings in Kilcoy and Cooroy / Tewantin as they continued on their path. Wind speed recorded as it passed Double Island Point was 195 kilometers per hour. Two other vintage aircraft were also damaged.



Above photos show damage to the QUA Hangar. Main damage is to the doors, fittings and some side wall panels. Photo on the right shows the remains of John and Tanys's unfortunate hangar with rolled up Drifter remnants below. The Drifter was destroyed. Bottom right photo shows the wing of a Tiger Moth clipped by a door on the vintage hangar. The doors at the other end were blown off. The QVAG Clubhouse suffered roof damage from the flying debris.



QUA HANGAR REPORT

Fortunately the five aircraft stored in the QUA hangar suffered no damage when the building was damaged. Nor was anyone seriously hurt by the flying debris, considering that QVAG members were setting up for their Christmas party at the time. One member, Shane Winter, was stuck outside during the storm and was unable to return to the safety of the clubhouse due to the very strong winds. He had to hang on and wait for the winds to drop in speed. The next day a team of people worked together to start the clean up process and to assess the damage. The following Saturday a small team of QUA members secured the hangar by bolting up the damaged doors so that the aircraft were safe from vandalism and theft of components. It is estimated the hangar will be repaired by the end of February, thanks to the insurance company and Chris Gratton Sheds.

AIRCRAFT FOR SALE



ALL METAL ULTRALIGHT

The above R.A.Aus registered 95.10 all metal fun machine is powered by Fuji Robin 440 cc dual ignition engine with a 2.55/1 belt reduction drive. Instruments fitted – Digital Tacho, CHT, EGT. Skid/Slip Indicator, ASI, VSI, Compass, Sensitive Altimeter. Optional UHF & VHF radios. Complete spare engine and propeller. Includes a Panel Rib covered trailer for transport to the airfield and storage. Floats included .Fly at 45 knots @ 5 litres p/h or 60 knots @ 10 litres p/h. Very docile machine to fly. Offers invited. Contact Richard on 07 3245 2579 or via email on rsweetapple@optusnet.com.au.

SOCIAL CALENDAR

- February 5 QUA General Meeting at the SAAA Clubroom at Archerfield Airfield. Starting from 07.30 pm with supper provided after the meeting.
- February 25 Goolwa Airport Sunday Fly-in 11.30 to 16.30. Ultralights to Warbirds All welcome. Camp Saturday night or fly in before 11.00 am Sunday. Contact Geoff on 0427812422 or visit www.goolwaairport.com.au
- March 11 Clifton Annual Fly-in at Bange's Airfield. See below for details.
- March 17 – 18 Silver City Annual Fly-in near Broken Hill, NSW. Arrive Saturday with dinner under the stars. Depart Sunday or Monday. Station accommodation available (BYO sleeping bag) On field camping welcome. Ring if fuel is required. Contact James on 0418858189 for airfield details.
- April 6 – 8 Natfly 10th anniversary Fly-in at Narromine, NSW. Contact the RAAus Office on 02 62804700 for more details

**11 MARCH 2007
CLIFTON (BANG)
ANNUAL CLIFTON FLYIN**

This fly-in has become a premier event for all types of aviation in southern Queensland with recreational ultralights/ homebuilt/ sport and vintage aircraft/ and any other flying machine catered for (even amphibians with wheels)

Come late Saturday 10 March for BBQ and drinks (your shout)

FLY IN OR DRIVE IN/ ON FIELD CAMPING/ ADVISE FOR CATERING

contact Trevor Bange at trevorbange@bigpond.com OR 07 4695 8541

VALE.....RUSTY JENKINS

It is with sadness that we announce the passing one of our pioneering ultralight fliers, Rusty Jenkins. Rusty succumbed to an ongoing illness on the 10th of January 2007 and will be remembered for his interest in building and flying various ultralight aircraft including the early Scouts and Thrusters. I remember Rusty was always looking at ways to make his aircraft fly better through various means like improving the streamlining of these draggy airframes. Our sympathy is extended to Rusty's family and many friends.

QUA member Gordon Clarke is interested to speak to any members interested in establishing an aircraft owners syndicate to purchase and operate a suitable enclosed one or two seat aircraft to be based at Caboolture Airfield. Gordon estimates that for a syndicate of three or four people, the initial costs to be \$7,000 to \$9,000 to cover the aircraft purchase with ongoing costs to cover hangarage , insurance and maintenance. A minimum 'wet' hourly rate for flying operations would be determined to suit the aircraft purchased. Interested persons can contact Gordon Clarke on 0437878375 or 07 34252551(h) or via email gordon@adf-serials.com to discuss further details.

Gordon Clarke is also interested to talk to any QUA members who may be planning to attend Natfly in Narromine next Easter. Whether you are driving or flying, now is a good time to start planning. Natfly is always good to visit to meet other flyers. Contact details for Gordon are as above.

NEXT QUA MEETING

MONDAY 5th FEBRUARY 2007

Starting from 07.30 pm at the SAAA clubroom near the main airfield gate on Beatty Road , Archerfield. Same time , Same place. Some good discussion of the building and flying of Recreational Aircraft always heard each month.

Everyone is welcome to make it a great night and share Robin's supper.

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