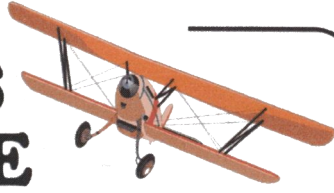


**WATTS
BRIDGE
MEMORIAL AIRFIELD INC.**



**Watts
News**

A newsletter issued by the Watts Bridge Memorial Airfield

MAY 2006

WBMA HONOURS TONY HAYES



On Saturday January 14th a planning meeting was convened by the Board of Management. Tony and Kay Hayes were invited to the meeting for a simple ceremony that honoured Tony's efforts in the early days of the Airfield. From left to right: Mike Nelson, Tony Hayes, Liz Cook.

The fact is that the original vision and foundations laid by Tony and many others still hold good today. This foresight is remarkable. Tony was presented with the inaugural WBMA Certificate of Merit by Mike Nelson who thanked him for his efforts over the years.

In reply Tony spoke of the heartaches and the perseverance required. Also he spoke of the endless work in building early relations with SEQWater, Esk Council and other stakeholders. He observed that he was not accepting the award for himself alone but also for those pioneers who had formed a part of that early team. Finally he thanked Kay for her unwavering support, particularly when the going got tough.

Our heartfelt thanks to both.

DID YOU KNOW

So far this year up to the end of March, over 650 litres of fuel (diesel for tractors and ULP for mowers) have been used in keeping the airfield up to its required standard. This already equates to more than \$750 and going skywards. In addition 60 litres of engine, transmission and hydraulic oils (\$220) have been consumed during this period. Finally there is a minimum of 270 unpaid man hours that go with it. Impressive statistics we'd all agree. Airfield maintenance doesn't come cheaply.

SHIPPO'S DREAM MACHINE

Recently published in QVAG's April News Bulletin is Mal Shipton's fascinating story of ferrying his newly acquired DH60 Gipsy Moth (in pristine condition with only four hours flying time) from a museum in Bendigo to Redcliffe.

In a moderate headwind, Mal speaks of the way he was easily overtaken by traffic on the Newell Highway. His groundspeed at the time was around 43 knots. Total airtime for the trip was thirteen hours.

We congratulate Mal on his latest acquisition and the contribution it makes to vintage flying in Southeast Queensland. We look forward to its regular appearance at Watts Bridge.



THE AIRFIELD NOW HAS THREE NEW WINDSOCKS OF USER-FRIENDLY DESIGN THANKS TO PETER FREEMAN AND THE WORKTEAM.

After a small group of members visited some other airfields to see if there was a maintenance friendly windsock pole design and it became apparent we would need to do some design work of our own. The design requirement indicated a need for it to be simple and easy for one person to operate when service is needed. Considerable discussion took place on how this could be achieved with winches and so forth until a helpful non-member became involved in the discussion over the proverbial cup of coffee. Why, it's simple, just counterbalance it, he suggested.



The height of the fulcrum was dictated by what can be achieved by cutting a length of material in half. With this measurement and a knowledge of the weight of the pole material, moments were calculated which allowed the counterweight mass and physical size to be determined. After purchasing a quantity of scrap lead the ballast weights were cast and with a little trial an error resulting in more cups of coffee and discussion a satisfactory combination of mass and position was achieved. It is wonderful to have friends who, even though not involved in aviation are prepared to help problem solve. The base has

been placed in the position suggested by the airfield construction manual and concreted in. We now have a windsock pole that self erects. Is the design original? I doubt it, but we haven't seen the other one yet. Have we got it right? Only time will tell. It is certainly different having to pull the pole down against a modest load rather than trying to push or pull the total weight upwards. - *Peter Freeman*

MIKE COAD TURNS IT ON FOR THE H.O.G. AT WATTS BRIDGE

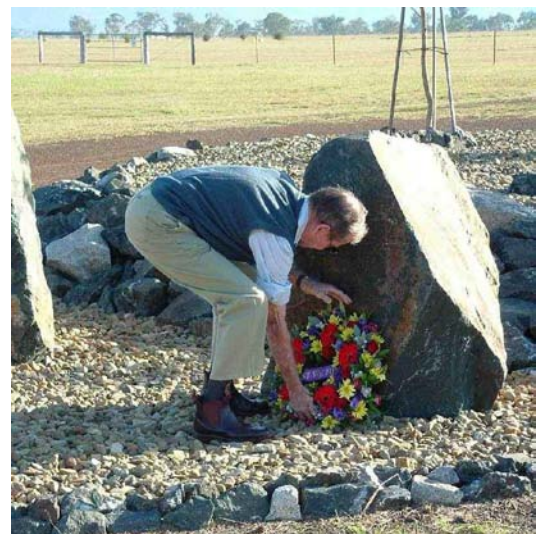
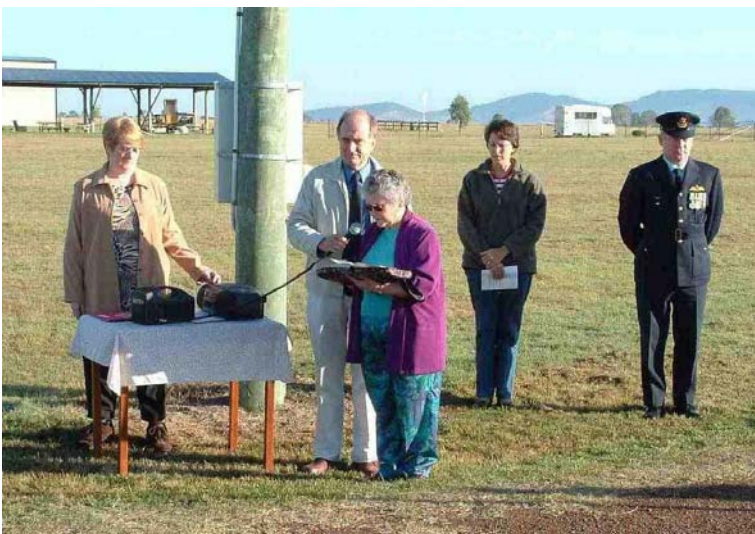


Pictured are members of the Harley Davidson Owners Group (HOG Club) There were about 170 in attendance and they were on their monthly ride. The ride was organized by Aerobatic club member & QVAG supporter Mike Coad. Mike and his wife Joanne both own Harleys and are members of the HOG club. Mike delighted them with an impromptu display of aerobatics in his Yak-50, while QVAG offered them the hospitality of its facilities. Yet another successful promotional event involving two WBMA Homebase Groups *Shane Winter/Tracy Hearne*

ANZAC Day 2006

The morning can only be described as typical Watts Bridge. Long fingers of glowing fog backlit by the early sun creating its own special atmosphere. The picture was complete as aircraft arrived, drifting down through the thinning fog.

Mike Nelson welcomed all to the airfield and led the ceremony. Squadron Leader Peter Ward (38 Squadron) marvelled at the beauty of the airfield as he had only seen it under night vision goggles in a Caribou. He spoke comprehensively of the role of the RAAF at Watts Bridge over the years. Also the operational night training afforded at Watts Bridge was mentioned. Peter stated that as of this week (April 25th) the ADF now has over 2500 young Australians, in harms way, serving overseas and that this needs to be borne in mind on a National Day of Remembrance. Cheryl Brown responded on behalf of the Airfield affirming the desire of Watts Bridge Members to maintain and develop links with the ADF. Ed de Laat lent an international touch by reciting the ANZAC Ode. Rod Mill hoisted the colours. Of note was the number of airfield friends and neighbours in attendance, enhancing the spirit of remembrance.



Noelene Mill read the Scriptures and Tony Hughes laid the Watts Bridge Wreath

AMBERLEY AIR CADETS AT WATTS BRIDGE

The weekend of the 29th – 30th of April saw QVAG host a bivouac weekend for the Amberley Air Cadets. About 65 cadets along with their officers and staff arrived on Friday night and set up camp along with their “command post”. A busy weekend followed for all. Saturday saw a talk by Frank Ragonese on aircraft engines. After lunch Gary Button held a talk and practical demonstration on the principles of flight in Shane & Joanne Winter’s hangar using a Piper Cub and Gary’s own Luton Minor.

There was a brief break in the proceedings while the cadets were marched to the flight line to observe the arrival of QVAG and WBMA member Mal Shipton in his beautiful DH 60 Gipsy Moth. The cadets were then marched back to hangar where the final phase of Gary’s talk got underway. Gary had pre-made some simple balsa chuck gliders of his own design; the cadets had a ball flying



these. To finish the afternoon the cadets were treated to a display of the Cub and the Luton by Gary Button and Shane Winter in the form of some circuits. It was then time to prepare for dinner. The cadets set up an outdoor mess in front of the QVAG clubhouse and invited us to “dine in” with them. It was a different and very pleasurable experience for all the members. There was a master of ceremonies, the banner was marched in. QVAG representatives were invited to sit at the head table, where we were waited on in true military fashion. After dinner and toasts, the cadets departed on a night seek and find exercise.

Sunday morning saw a beautiful morning at Watts for QVAG’s first breakfast fly-in of the year, with a good turn-up of aircraft. 59 breakfasts were served, and this number did not include any of the cadets. They had their breakfast before the rest of us woke up. Members Mal Shipton, Michael Redmond and Rod Blievers showed the cadets around a variety of aircraft.

It’s fair to say a good weekend was had by all, providing a much needed PR exercise for our next generation of “Guardians” of our aircraft and airfields, while once again promoting Watts Bridge Memorial Airfield. QVAG’s next event is to celebrate the 60th birthday of the de Havilland Chipmunk on Sunday 21st of May, everyone is welcome to join in. This will be a day fly-in from 10.00hrs onwards with a sausage sizzle lunch. Please note this is not a breakfast fly-in and breakfast will not be available. Hope to see you there for the day.

The photo above shows Gary Button preparing to deliver instruction to the Cadets prior to doing his stint in his Luton Minor

Shane Winter

Just a reminder: The content of Watts News is as good as the contributions made to it by Home Base Groups. Should any items of interest arise please pass them on to Mike Nelson for inclusion in the next issue - mikejanelson@powerup.com.au