



Watts News

October 2004

A newsletter issued by the Watts Bridge Memorial Airfield

Vintage fly-in at Amberley

What do you do on a Saturday morning when it's blowing a gale? Well if you're eager enough you might take your vintage flying machine out to Watts to assemble with others of like mind and fly off to be a part of the Amberley Airshow. Such was the case on October 3rd. It was a pretty bumpy ride by all accounts. After a briefing by Flight Lieutenant Aaron Ferrari of 38 Squadron, pilots of fourteen vintage aircraft flew out of Watts with the

Tigers leading. Faster aircraft remained until all others were airborne so that all arrived at Amberley together. After a rousing reception at the Airshow crews enjoyed RAAF hospitality for the rest of the day. A smaller number of vintage aircraft flew out from Watts to join them on Sunday. This vintage contribution to the RAAF Airshow was organised by Gary Smith and coordinated by Ross Stenhouse.



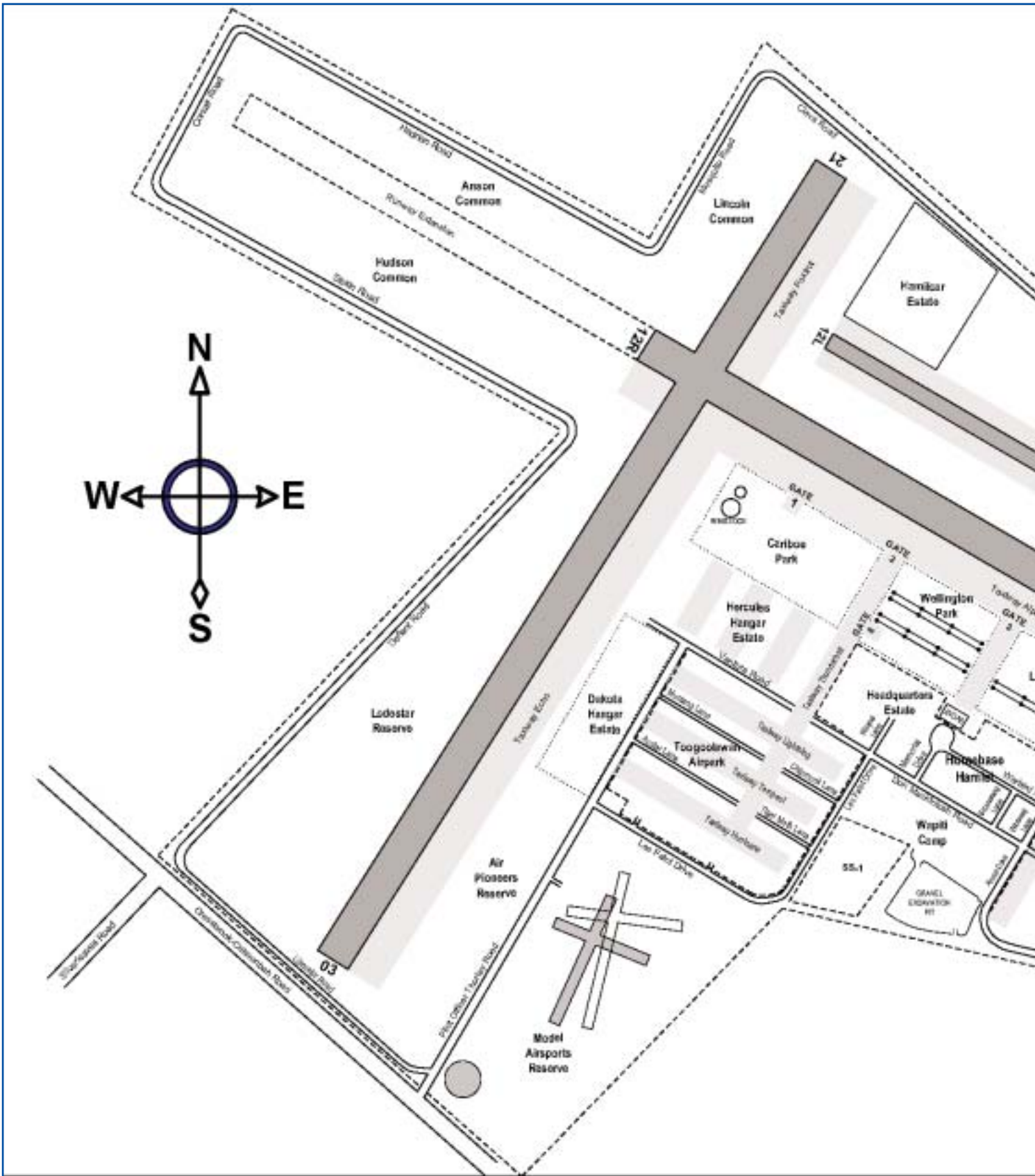
Pilots are briefed by Flt Lieut Aaron Ferrari prior to take-off in the QVAG building



The First – Liz and Ross Stenhouse prepare to lead the flight to Amberley

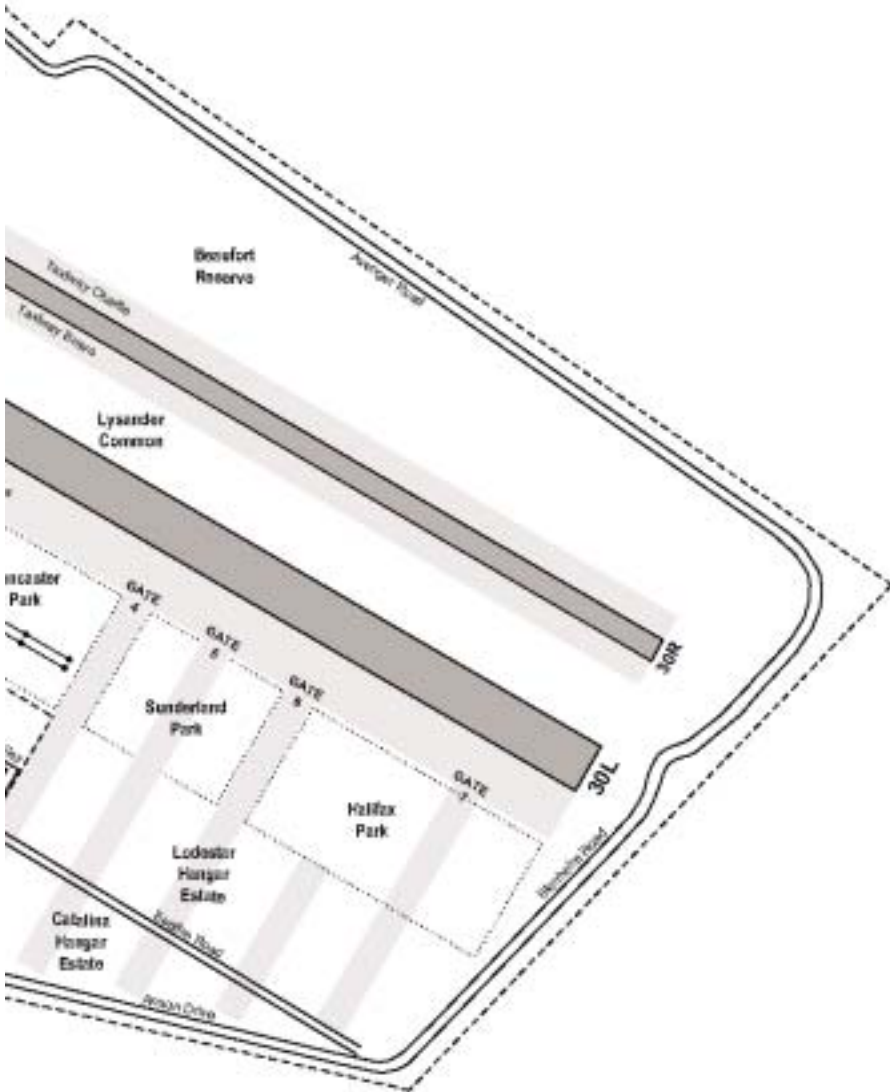


And the last – Mike Sullivan gets the Spitfire's tail up quickly as the final aircraft leaves Watts



Watts Bridge Memorial Airfield

SUGGESTED NOMENCLATURE



DATE
05/10/2004
DRAWN BY
Rod Mill

THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

By the time of reading it will be close to the AGM. Certainly all nominations will be in and you may be interested to know that incumbent Board of Management members will be offering themselves again for re-election.

It is timely to review the year that has past. One concern was the airfield valuation and while some relief has been gained, the burden largely falls upon airfield leaseholders. The Board has recently argued the case to State Development and SEQWC that valuation increases are the greatest drivers towards a large airfield as the creation of more leases seems the only realistic way of recovering these costs. As neither WBMA members nor SEQWC want a large airfield it would seem that curbing valuation increases is in the interests of both parties and should be treated as a priority.

On a brighter note, we now face the imminent prospect of registering the leases thus making them secure. Also there is now agreement to have regular working meetings between Council, SEQWC and WBMA in order to advance the airfield.

In connection with the proposed land use plan I would encourage members to study the new airfield map that Rod Mill has drawn up for this issue. You will notice suggested nomenclature for all areas. Naming the precincts, taxiways, roads and lanes makes it easier for all to understand the nature of things on the airfield. Aeromodellers please note your proposed new runway alignments (originals are dotted) that are more in keeping with prevailing winds. Should there be aspects or names that concern members, please advise Rod who will be happy to take suggestions. Once we have agreement I'm sure we can persuade Richard to put it on the website.

Most realise that a lot of hard work has gone into 2004. I am confident that all of this will bear fruit in 2005.

It has certainly been a bumper year for flying events. These typify the energy and goodwill present at Watts Bridge. Don't forget our final one (see the ad in this issue): The Christmas Extravaganza on November 27. See you there.

Mike Nelson



Building gets underway once more at Watts. An early shot of Derek Robinson's Airchalet footings, just poured.

Information from the leaseholders meeting

Peter Freeman would like to canvass leaseholders not currently on the e mail list so that current information and developments can be provided to them. Even a fax number would be appreciated. If unsure please contact Peter at sandcas-peter@powerup.com.au

The next Leaseholder's meeting will be held at Watts Bridge 10am Sunday November 7th. Peter has the airchalet venue.

Also Peter has a book on loan detailing information on WW2 airfields. Included in the book are details pertaining to Watts Bridge including aerial photos. We may be able to include some of this in Watts News from time to time.

The great vetiever grass plant in

Do you know what vetiever grass is? It is a marvellous plant that can soak up a great quantity of moisture transferring it into the air and as such is great for septic transpiration areas. So you are invited to the great vetiever grass plant-in at 8am,

October 30th at the transpiration area. Be sure to bring plenty of water, a sun hat and plenty of sunscreen. Your organisers (slavedrivers) will be Bill Finlen and Rod Mill. The grass has been purchased from Esk Council and is quite expensive.

The Festival of Flight 2004

The weekend of August 28th and 29th witnessed another successful Festival of Flight organised by QVAG, great weather and great flying. As usual the variety of aircraft was considerable, the numbers attending good and the atmosphere congenial. Saturday night's guests were treated to a great dinner with a bit of model night flying by the irrepresible Matt (Schultzy) Baker. Breakfast was held on Sunday morning with most remaining for the second day. The organisation was excellent and events such as these do much to raise the Watts Bridge profile as the preferred place for recreational flyers.



**WATTS
BRIDGE
MEMORIAL AIRFIELD INC.**



**CHRISTMAS
EXTRAVAGANZA
27th Nov 2004**



Entree

*A delicious platter of selected Cheeses,
Nuts, Meats, Savories & Nibbles.*

Main Meal

*The choice of three Roast Meats,
Summer Salads and Hot Vegies.*

Dessert

*Apple Pie or Fruit Salad
with Icecream*

*All Aviation Enthusiasts are invited to join
the festive celebrations at the
Watts Bridge Christmas Extravaganza.*

*The evening gets underway at 6:30pm in
Hangar 1 at Watts Bridge Airfield with a
sumptuous 3 Course Dinner being served.
Drinks are available at the QVAG Bar.
Throughout the evening there will be the
chance to win some great prizes with several
Raffles and a Lucky Door Prize. Santa
will have some special delights for the kids.*

The meal and entertainment ticket is just \$25

*Sunday morning and it's the traditional
"Aussie BBQ Breakfast".*

*For additional information contact:
Glenda (07) 3818-1988 or
glenda@auav.org*



*Lots of Great Raffles
Fabulous Lucky Door Prize!
Aviation Movies All Night Long
Entertainment till late late late !*