



# Watts News

*A newsletter issued by the Watts Bridge Memorial Airfield*

**OCTOBER 2007**

## **A Sunny Saturday Afternoon at Watts**

QUA's Mal McKenzie is always looking for photographic opportunities and so, one sunny Saturday afternoon several weeks ago, he took a series of pictures that exemplify the recreational flying spirit of Watts Bridge. Some are included here. Our thanks to Mal.



### **Cheryl Brown does it again**

Once again Cheryl's efforts have borne fruit in terms of successfully applying for a government grant. This time from the office of Mal Brough of Community Affairs. The grant enables the purchase of a portable Silvan Fire fighting unit. WBMA will be purchasing a dedicated trailer for ease of transportation. Congratulations Cheryl!

## QUA Poker Run 2007



Above are some of the dozen or so light aircraft, including a couple of gyros, that competed in this year's Poker Run. Several of the competing GA pilots commented on how challenging they found a couple of the landing strips they landed at to pick up their playing cards. Weather on the Saturday morning was close to perfect for the fliers. At the QUA hangar Peter and crew stoked up the BBQ, cooking sausages, onions and heating Glenda's soup for the folk who drove out or flew in to make the event a success.



On cards to continue the theme of playing poker for the participants. The trophy was won by Jeff Underhill, who secured the most favourable selection of cards.

The Christmas in July Dinner was also well attended, with people from most of the flying groups that share the scene at Watts Bridge participating in a great meal. Thanks to Liz and her crew in the Australian Aerobatic Chapter's clubhouse.

Thanks those who gave of their time to make this a great weekend, and also the respective airfield owners who allowed the competitors to land and pick up cards. We were fortunate that the flying proceeded safely too.

### **Just A Reminder**

By now members will have received information on the AGM. This will be held at the Airfield on Sunday 21st October at 10am in the AAC Clubhouse. Morning tea is provided. Members are reminded they must be financial and allowed only one proxy vote.

## Gyros at Watts Bridge



The flying weekend got off to a slow start this month probably due to the cold mornings. Members started arriving from 0900 with others progressively turning up 'til lunch time. Kevin O'Brien was the first to turn up with his recently purchased machine from Graham Lewis in tow. Also present Saturday were Alan and Kerry, Lance Bowman and Clem Skerman, Daryl Gibson, Peter Bice, Ian Sg and Robo, Owen Dull also flew from in from Boonah. The weather behaved itself with no breeze until 1430 and a mild temperature of 20deg. Circuit training was in full swing for the best part of the day with the regulation cups of tea in between. The glider came in for some T.L.C. with some new rotor covers to keep the bird droppings off and a good clean up, oil and grease.



The weekend coincided with the QUA Fun Fly Poker Run and Christmas in July dinner and it was being won up to the last moment by the Gyro's. At the last moment Geoff Underhill took out the prize with 3 Aces to our 2 Queens and 2 Tens. What a burglar! Sunday started with good calm weather and also saw Ivan Baxter turn up after a long absence. The glider was also given a thorough work out with Kevin O'Brien reaching his first milestone by soloing.

This shot is a Gyro view of the newly-flowing head waters of the Brisbane River adjacent to the Airfield.

### Flying Weekends at Watts Bridge

October	13th & 14th
November	10th & 11th
December	8th & 9th



## Festival of Flight

Concern was mounting as the heavy rain depression moved in during the days immediately prior to this major event. Areas of the airfield rapidly became impassable with 92mm of rainfall. The strips remained useable but care was needed for aircraft movements. Several vehicles became bogged and tractors were used in recovery.

A few intrepid pilots made it on Saturday and the dinner was well attended but there was a collective sigh of relief when Sunday dawned bright and clear. Vintage aircraft started arriving in large numbers and everyone enjoyed themselves.



Our webmaster, Richard Faint, has provided a new section entitled site sales. If you are interested in buying or selling a lease in one of the precincts then 'site sales' will provide the initial details. All transactions must be conducted through WBMA's solicitor, Biggs & Biggs.

### **STOP PRESS**

QUA has gained all approvals necessary to commence building the Club House.  
Well done QUA!



### **History in the making at Watts**

On Saturday September 13<sup>th</sup> in perfect weather, John Goss fired up his home-built  $\frac{3}{4}$  scale Grumman Panther replica; barrelled down the main strip and lifted into the skies thus opening a new chapter of flight at Watts Bridge.

The aircraft is powered by an adapted helicopter jet turbine that guzzles fuel at a prodigious rate. As in the full-size version, the wing pods carry fuel to augment the main supply. The Panther was the US Navy's first jet carrier fighter and saw service in Korea as a low-level strike fighter. The Panther's new home is at Watts Bridge.

### **Annual General Meeting 2007**

Around thirty members attended the AGM held in the AAC Clubhouse on October 21 where the existing Board of Management was elected unopposed. Representatives of the Airfield Council were also announced with only one position yet to be filled. The meeting was informative and positive. Morning tea followed.

Members may be interested to know that the Army's helicopter base at Oakey now uses the airfield on a regular basis.

### **Another Reminder**

For any airfield good relations with neighbours is essential to its existence and development. Unfortunately there are still occasions when the President takes angry phonecalls from neighbours. The main problem is overflights of dwellings, usually while the aircraft is under full power during take-off. A visit to our website [www.wattsbridge.com.au](http://www.wattsbridge.com.au) will provide pilots with all the information they need under the heading 'Fly-neighbourly Rules'. If unsure please check it out as our future depends on it.