



# Watts News

OCTOBER 2009

## QVAG's Festival of Flight, August



Saturday August 29<sup>th</sup> got off to a very foggy start. It took a while for most aircraft to fly into Watts Bridge. However it wasn't long before a hot, gusty northwester blew in which made some arrivals interesting, particularly when the main runway was used.

Apart from the huge variety of aircraft and the disciplined airmanship displayed, mention should be made of the large attendance of vintage cars, the variety of stalls available and the large attendances of well behaved crowds on both days. It was a happy, carnival atmosphere.

Another feature was the presence of a large contingent of air cadets who were able to use the shelter shed for camping purposes. Watts Bridge has always fostered its ADF connections. A RAAF Caribou flew in from Townsville to make a final appearance before being de-commissioned.

It was a nostalgic moment to see the Caribou, sitting there, on its own, near the cross strip for the last time. Members may recall the regular night flying exercises conducted at Watts Bridge by Caribous over the years. To witness a touch and go in total darkness with the bellow of those mighty Pratt and



Whitneys at full throttle was quite an experience.



Credit must be given to President Frank Ragonese and the QVAG team for excellent organisation and catering for what has become the big weekend in the Watts Bridge calendar. And finally, it was heartening to see involvement by all Watts Bridge home base groups at Festival of Flight 2009. Well done everyone!

## Superior Slasher



**This Superior Slasher project was proudly funded by the Queensland Government's Gambling Community Benefit Fund**



It is with pleasure that the Board announces Cheryl Brown's successful application for funding of \$ 8527 from the Community Benefit Gambling Fund for a new Superior slasher. This is the third successful funding application won by Cheryl. Peter Freeman explains some of the benefits of this acquisition:

The need for this unit was brought about by the deteriorating state of the previous unit and the tractor to which it is attached. The old unit is still able to be used but it does not, and never did have, the same performance capabilities of this new unit. The new unit is a 7 ft deck whereas the old is a 6 ft deck. The new unit is attached to a relatively new tractor with considerably more power. As seen in the photo the new unit has two trailing wheels to give added support for the deck which helps the unit travel over undulating ground with less probability of scalping. This is a heavy duty commercial unit which has the two trailing wheels as an optional extra. The deck has been hot dip galvanized to increase its overall service life and chains are fitted to the rear to restrict objects being thrown out, causing a hazard. Most importantly, apart from this being an excellent unit, the Superior Slasher is manufactured at Wacol Brisbane and so its purchase has provided employment for Queenslanders; an appropriate point since the funds have come from one of this state government's benefit funds.

The first test run demonstrated a huge reduction in the time taken to slash a given area in comparison with the old unit. Big smiles all round from the maintenance team and those observing the demonstration.

## Leaseholder's Meeting, October 11<sup>th</sup>

Approximately 35 leaseholders attended the meeting held in the QUA clubhouse on Sunday October 11<sup>th</sup>. This was a congenial occasion with opportunity for leaseholders to discuss matters of common interest and also to discuss latest developments with the Board of Management. Chairman Mal McKenzie will have minutes available shortly and promised to provide everyone with a copy of the updated Leaseholders Information Booklet.

Towards the end of the meeting a heavy shower occurred. The resulting tattoo on the roof made communication difficult. Even raised voices were struggling to compete with Mother Nature.

A welcome morning tea concluded the meeting.

## Annual General Meeting Announcement

**Annual General Meeting:** Liz Cook would like to advise that the AGM will be held at the Australian Aerobatics clubhouse at 10 am, Sunday November 8<sup>th</sup>. Please disregard any advice to the contrary. Financial members are encouraged to attend.