



October 2010

WET CONDITIONS FORCE AIRFIELD CLOSURE

Heavy rain late August and early September, followed by a downpour of 40mm on Friday night 24th September has forced Watts Bridge Memorial Airfield to be closed. All runways and taxiways are suffering from surface water, soft wet surface and ruts and gouging caused by aircraft and vehicles.

The first runway to be closed was Rwy 12L/30R which was closed late August, due to surface water and deep vehicle ruts. This runway, also known as the glider/gyro runway, will be out of action for some time as dry conditions will be needed to allow the heavy roller and other machinery, access to it for repairs.

Following the heavy downpour on Friday night, management had no choice but to close the remainder of the airfield.

The main runway, Rwy 12/30, has been under pressure since being damaged during the recent Festival of Flight and the heavy rain was the last straw.

The Airfield is expected to reopen during this week if no further rain occurs.

The Glider/Gyro runway, and runway 03/21 will remain closed for a longer period.

All unserviceable runways

Watts Bridge is not an all weather airfield.

will be marked by white 'X' markers.

Watts Bridge is not an all weather airfield, and precautions must be taken when operating after rain.

Members might follow the following suggestions for

wet surface operations:
Rwy 03/21.

Do not use this runway unless strong winds dictate its use.

Do not use the parallel taxiway.

Confine all ops to the centerline of the runway, backtracking on the centerline if necessary.

Main Runway 12/30.

Where practicable, do not use the parallel taxiway.

Taxi straight onto the centre section of the runway and backtrack if possible. At the runway ends make slow wide turns to minimize damage.

When exiting the runway, bring the aircraft almost to a full stop opposite your required taxi lane and taxi directly off the main runway, avoiding turns if possible.

(below).....meanwhile at an airfield somewhere in S.E. Queensland



Photo taken September 29th 2010

The photos on the right show damage to the runways. A further 130mm of rain has fallen since the photos were taken.

Photo on the left was taken, after 25mm of rain had fallen within an hour at Watts Bridge Memorial Airfield.



Festival of Flight 2010

Watching the sun set over Watt's Bridge on the last weekend in August has become a sight and a half for the past 18 years and this year was no different.

There are many events that contribute to the aura of Watt's Bridge and the Festival of Flight is one of them.

As you can see from the picture taken at this year's FoF on the Sunday at 1100hrs it was an impressive sight. A safari of around 70 aircraft parked in rows. Some new and some seriously old yet all well loved.

Thank you QVAG - looking forward to what awaits us next year.



WINNERS are GRINNERS

Two WBMA members shared in the silverware at the Festival of Flight.



Mark and Jackie Bolsover took out the "Reserve Champion" award for their Chipmunk.



Rob and Val Plackett took out the award for "Best Chipmunk".

... Congratulations guys!!

Leaseholders Meeting, September 19th 2010

Approximately 18 leaseholders attended the meeting held in the QUA clubhouse on Sunday September 19th. This was a congenial occasion with opportunity for leaseholders to discuss matters of common interest and latest developments. Matters raised included council's recent rate increase, future road improvement and rubbish removal. Minutes available shortly for all to read. A welcome morning tea concluded the meeting. Leaseholders will be advised of the date of the next meeting.

QUEENSLAND FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE CHOOSE WATTS BRIDGE

Members from the South East Region of the Queensland Fire and Rescue Service were operating at Watts Bridge Memorial Airfield. The Service has been searching for bases in strategic areas to assist in bushfire control. Normal equipment comprises helicopter and fixed wing aircraft. The service is able to supply its own fire fighting water and aviation fuel.



Recently the Fire and Rescue Service conducted an operational survey of the airfield, and brought a range of equipment including Rescue Vehicles and personnel, water bladders and a Turbine fixed wing aircraft. A spokesman for the Service said they were more than satisfied with the facilities of the airfield and hoped they would be able to assist the local community from Watts Bridge whenever required.



SNIPPETTS

CASA recently conducted an on- field audit of one of the home base groups. A timely reminder to all members to ensure their aeronautical affairs are in order!

Glenda Faint has been seen out and about. Glenda and husband Richard, were seen enjoying the Festival of Flight, and last week was spotted attending the Lease Holders meeting.

Glenda is now able to stand by herself for a short time. Best wishes for a speedy recovery Glenda!

The Board has recently appointed Mr Ron Dunn as the Airfield Safety Coordinator. Ron, a WBMA member, has held commercial/instrument/ instructor and multi engine ratings; and is well versed in aerodrome reporting and the use of air-ground aids and is an approved Airfield Weather Observer. Ron will report to the Board regarding aviation safety matters concerning the airfield.

It was not all plain sailing at the recent FoF. Word between the Hangars is that thieves were operating on the Saturday night. A generator was stolen and in another incident, a sum of money taken from one of the clubhouses.

A "Lone Pine" small tree has been planted at the Airfield Memorial. President Bruce and Secretary Liz did the required digging.



WATTS BRIDGE SEPTIC SYSTEM

What is a Septic System

The Watts Bridge septic system is a relatively basic sewage treatment system. It has three major components: Septic tanks, Holding tanks and Absorption trenches. The septic tank separates solids from liquids, and allows anaerobic breakdown of the organic solids and then transfers the liquid to the Holding tanks before pumping to the Absorption trenches and final filtering.

Who is responsible for the System

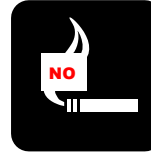
All lease holders and **users** of the public facilities are responsible for maintaining a healthy system.

Feeding your septic system

To ensure that the system is healthy, long lasting and trouble free, it is essential that the system is fed correctly. Therefore the following should be avoided in our septic system.

- * Household products which can harm our system— e.g. Bleach, disinfectants, antibiotics, chemical cleaners, pesticides, herbicides.
- * Use low-phosphorus or phosphorus-free detergents and biodegradable Soap.
- * Don't pour fats and oils down the sink as they solidify and accumulations will result in blockages of the system.
- * Keep out toxic and hazardous chemicals. Chemicals include paints, varnishes, thinners, oil, pesticides and any organic chemicals that will inhibit the biological digestion process.
- * Keep out strong disinfectants and caustic substances because they are capable of destroying bacteria that are essential for digestion in the holding tank.
- * Keep out items not readily degraded because they will result in the holding tank filling up which decreases the efficiency and requires more pump out maintenance. These items include but are not limited to plastic, cigarette filters, condoms, sanitary napkins and paper towels.
- * Don't install garbage grinders in kitchen sinks.

If you have any queries in regard to the system please email info@wattsbridge.com.au



IMPROVED SHELTER COMING

Work has commenced on the Public Shelter Shed to improve the facility. Areas will be provided for people to sit down and picnic on concrete pads at either end. Shed supports and guttering etc will also be improved.

Recently the shelter was used by motorcyclists on a fund raising ride for Mission Aviation Fellowship. The group enjoyed a barbecue lunch at Watts Bridge before continuing on to Caboolture.



ALL IN FLY-IN



What can we say!! May 22nd 2010 has been and gone however the memories still lives, and tales are still being told. Aircraft come and go from Watt's all year round yet this year, we saw the birth of a new fly-in named "THE ALL IN FLY-IN" What a day - graceful lines of mixed aircraft and a field full of pilots and crews. You could say this year's fly-in was a prototype. Look out for next year. Congratulations to all!

