

TARMAC TOPICS

Official Publication of the Royal Aero Club of Western Australia (Inc.)

September/October 2020



Royal Aero Club
of Western Australia

Featuring:

- ♦ Achievers
- ♦ Return of the 'Away Trip'
- ♦ Life Members
- ♦ What's Happening around your club
- ♦ Old Fliers Group



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Welcome to our New Club Members!



To download our Members Guide visit our Website

A Big Welcome to our New Members

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Aylwin Lim
Clark Rees
Jake Hendry
Peter Signorlie
Russell Bradshaw
Tolga Bilgic
Nathan Broughton

Featured

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3 days, 2 boys, 1 plane, read all about the adventure to south West of Western Australia

13 Life Members

With two members having been granted life membership at the Annual General Meeting we fine out a touch of history on, Andrew Eldridge and Sylvia Byers .

15 Annual Presentation Dinner

Photos from the wonderful night are out. Follow the links to view the pictures of the event.

16 Royal Aero Club 1983

Relive the glory days of the club with a trip back to 1983. With return to an Era reunion just around the corner gain some perspective of the club in 1983.

17 OLD Fliers Group

Having kept busy over the last few months the Old Fliers groups have plenty of content to keep you entertained.

Regulars

4 Presidential Editorial

New President Ray Challen gives his first article since election, giving a touch of insight of his background and the direction of the club moving forward.

6 Club Captain Report

WALAC, Dawn Raid and the Greg Hill trophy. Club Captain Mick Harcourt gives insight to it all and more

8 Congratulations to our Achievers

A warm RACWA, congratulations to all our aviators achieving goals over the last few weeks.

A special Congratulations to all those that won an award at the Annual Presentation Dinner

17 Murrayfield Matters

With some winter Weather that's been around we look at what's been happening at Murray Field

With Christmas Just
around the corner why
not give the gift of flight
this Christmas?
Contact Our Operations
desk or visit our Website
to secure your flight
today

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Front Cover: Cessna 152 Aerobat
VH-JBX conducting Aerobatics in the
Training Area

President's Editorial

"One view that we all hold in common is that the future of RACWA is entirely dependent on the health of our Club and the commitment, enthusiasm and participation of members"

Ray Challen

Hello Members

This is my first Tarmac Topics President's column since donning the mantle at the September AGM. It is very humbling to be elected as the President of this club.

A look back into the history of the club shows that many luminaries of Western Australian aviation have held this position. I cannot in any sense count myself as part of this group.

Rather I am simply an enthusiastic, mostly recreational pilot. The Club has been a very important part of my aviation experience. Friendships gained, conversations had and skills developed. So much so that I am very keen to do my bit to ensure the Club's future suc-

cess. For those of you that I have not met, let me introduce myself. I started flying at the beginning of 2015 with some very patient RACWA instructors, achieving my PPL in September of that year. While I commenced flying simply because it seemed like a fun thing to have a go at, I truly caught the aviation bug.

So much so that before even achieving my RPL I purchased a well-used 172 from the Club: KTV which I am sure many of you will remember and most pilots in Western Australia seem to have flown at some stage. Since then I've collected other ratings and endorsements including a CPL and I am casually employed by RACWA for some occasional survey and charter flying.

I am currently the part owner of a Cessna 182 and a Van's RV14 – a nice combination of station wagon and sports car.

I've been on the RACWA committee as Treasurer for four years. Over this time there has been a steady transition in the Club's financial position from one of commercial recovery and consolidation to now having more opportunity to consider what we want the Club to be in the future.

At a time when we are in a better position to make investments in the club I am finding that many of you have views on our future direction for the Club, whether it be about Club activities, RACWA's commercial-training business, or the future of Murrayfield.



Newly elected Club President Ray Challen making his first address at the Annual Dinner, with MC's of the night Merilee Greenaway and Jarod Rowe. (17th October 2020)

That you hold these views (usually strongly!) is a good thing, reflecting a high level of personal investment of members in the future of the Club that is vitally important if we are to prosper.

One view that we all hold in common is that the future of RACWA is entirely dependent on the health of our Club and the commitment, enthusiasm and participation of members.

During my time on the Committee we have recognised that the Club and its members have tended to be neglected while the focus of the Committee and of management has, by necessity, been on commercial sustainability. It is pleasing to see this situation changing.

The Committee, the staff and several members have been developing many initiatives to regenerate Club participation. The result is that Club activity is trending rapidly upwards with high levels of participation in activities such as flight review seminars, Club competitions, fly-a-ways and Friday evening drinks at the bar.

Over recent months, there has been a significant increase in training of recreational pilots and member hire of club aircraft, maybe assisted by COVID as we find or remember that going out for a fly is much more fun than interstate or overseas travel.

Not that we are free of challenges from COVID. The hangar is

having increasing difficulty with delays in obtaining parts, resulting in some aircraft being off-line for extended periods. Also, international and interstate students have been prevented from commencing CPL training with the College.

Fair to say though that, all things considered, RACWA is coping very well indeed with the pandemic. As we move into summer there is a lot of club activity happening with training, flying and social events. So book in your next flight or use any excuse to get down to the Club.

Happy and safe flying.

Ray



[Club Comp - spot Landing at Murray field](#)

With Club Flying on the rise, now's the perfect time to participate with our upcoming events. The Western Australian Light Aircraft Championships are on in the first week of November and the Annual Greg Hill competition is just around the corner. Go check out our Members' Calendar on the back page!

Club Captain's Report

"...I thank the Flying Committee for their work and efforts over the previous year. All of these people are passionate volunteers – passionate about their flying and passionate about OUR Club." Mick Harcourt, RACWA Club Captain.

Hi all,
With the new committee members on board, I would quickly like to thank the Flying Committee for their work and efforts over the previous year. All of these people are passionate volunteers – passionate about their flying and passionate about OUR Club.

If you see them wandering around aimlessly, it probably means they have not spoken the words "Aeroplane or Flying" in a conversation for more than five minutes or so!

Please stop them and ask them

about flying or some such, then both of you can be on your merry way, happy in the knowledge that you have shared a common bond. But seriously, we are there not only to organise events, but to help members with their ideas too and we are ALL approachable.

If WALAC hasn't been yet, then there is still time for you to help out or even take part on 7th November.

I hope to pick up the pace a little in the coming year, with a variety of activities both in-house and flying to different locations as well as our regular monthly competitions held at Jandakot and Mur-

rayfield.

Earlier this year we held a fly-in to Augusta which proved very popular and had a great attendance, so this coming year, 2021, we may be heading south again. This time only as far as Bunbury, for some cooler January weather and mixing it with the Bunbury Aero Club members.

NORTHAM DAWN RAID

But I'm getting ahead of myself- November 15th there will be a "Dawn Raid" to Northam, known as the gateway to the wheatbelt, the members of this long established club will welcome us with



WALAC Information session, covering all the competition types and the appropriate scoring.

a hearty breakfast and an opportunity to have a competition with their flyers...I'm assured it will be a fun one, such as **HMAS Northam**.....a performance take-off and short field landing circuit.

The idea is to arrive at YNTM before 0800 - not exactly dawn, but at least the airways shouldn't be too busy. In fact it may be a good time to practise your flight planning and CTA skills and go via the city for a sightseeing tour!

YPJT and YMUL REGULAR COMPS

Just to re-iterate, these are held on the last Sunday of the month (YPJT—with registration from 1200), and the second Sunday of the month (YMUL - breakfast from 0830 and register from 0900). If you intend to have breakfast at YMUL please call the Club and register for catering purposes.

LANCASTER FLIGHT

This is a commemorative flight to celebrate the Lancaster that is currently housed at the Bullcreek Museum. After a quick briefing we will set off on a journey around the "Dams" in the hills area. This is a flight for about an hour at most and is usually from around 3pm on Saturday 5th December 2020.



WALAC information session with competition explanations

DECEMBER 2020 COMPS

December IS slightly different for two reasons: because of the proximity to Christmas the comp at YMUL is brought forward to Sunday 6th and Jandakot on Sunday 13th.

Held in the middle of the month to allow for shopping, holidays etc. the Jandakot comp will be a "Two For One" Comp, where the Club gives you a Christmas present of TWO circuits for the price of one. This year it is on Sunday 13th December.

As per normal, if I can help with any information please don't hesitate to contact me.

Cheers

Mick Harcourt, Club Captain

**See our action
packed events
calendar on the
back**



Club Captain Mick Harcourt pictured with Rory Hicks—recent winner of \$600 in "Chase the Ace"

Achievers

First Solo



Ashil Royal

Well done on your First Solo



Ben Cambridge

Nice Job on your First Solo



Cameron Bank Waddell

Good work your First Solo



Camille Vissouran

Outstanding job on your First Solo



Cody Roberts

Congratulation on your First Solo



Connor O'Neil

Great Result on your First Solo



Daniel Palmer

Congrats on your First Solo



Emma Pillage

Well done on your First Solo



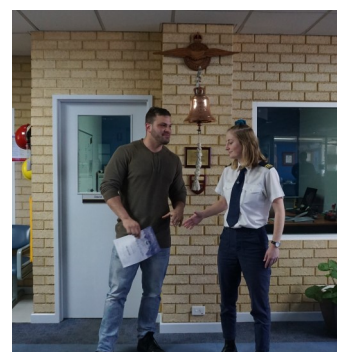
Ethan Jacobs

Outstanding achievement
on your First Solo



Grant Gilmour

Excellent work on your First Solo



Joao Pinto

Well done on your First Solo



Kaleb Harding
Congrats on your First Solo



Liam Brown
Congrats on your First Solo



Rhys McDonald
Well done on your First Solo



Shaun Gregory Heredia
Good work your First Solo

Recreational Pilot's Licence (RPL)



Andrew Korol
Congratulations on your RPL



Brendan Reed
Great result on your RPL



Ryan Flynn
Congrats on your RPL



Travis Schofield
Well done on your RPL

Private Pilot's Licence (PPL)



Aaron Ramilo
Excellent work on your PPL



Brendan Cox
Well done on your PPL

Achievers Continued...



David Elzig

Well done on your PPL



Hayden Rogers

Congratulations on your PPL



Jake Tae-Young Mun

Good work your PPL



Jia Cheng

Congrats on your PPL

Commercial Pilot's Licence (PPL)



Ben Adcock

Well done on your CPL



Craig Bradbury

Nice Job on your CPL



Jamie Barton

Great Result on your CPL



**Javier Fernando Aguilar
Mahecha**

Nice Work on your CPL



Joanne Angus

Congratulations on your CPL



Richard Wekina

Outstanding achievement
on your CPL

Instructor Rating



Anthony Browne

Congrats on your G3 FIR



Palak Aghera

Nice Job on your Instructor Rating

Instrument Flight Rules



Adrian Lawrence

Congratulations on your MECIR

A Big Congratulations to All our Achievers over the last few Months! Wishing you blue skies & tail winds

Congratulations to the following award recipients from our Annual Presentations Dinner

AWARDS 2020 Recipient

Christopher Little **Richard Wekina**

Eclectic **Russell Philip**

JD Instructor Trainee Grad. **Dane Gavranich**

Don & June Club Service **Tim Smale**

Instructor of the Year **Jenny Schmidt**

WA Airways **Ryan McGregor**

Sir Norman Brearley **Dane Gavranich**

WAAC DUX **Silvester Wong**

AWARDS 2020 Recipient

WAAC Principal's Award **Mitchell Walker**

Adkins Trophy **Vincenzo Surace**

President's Award **Trevor Tang**

RFACA Federation Award **Steve Wilson**

RFACA Master Instructor **Jenny Schmidt**

Air BP Scholarships **Anthony Browne & Rhys McDonald**

25 Year Membership **Ian Mckay**

50 Year Membership **Bruce Rathbone**

Return of the 'Away Trip'

“When we were informed that an away trip was an option to complete the hours-building phase of flying, we jumped at the opportunity...We learned that planning really pays off and is incredibly important to ensure everything runs smoothly. We cannot recommend away trips highly enough.” Joshua Kerrich and Jonathan Pinardi

It has been a few months since any of the commercial students training at the Western Australian Aviation college have opted to hours-build on an 'Away Trip'. From our records we believe the last two pilots to embark on one of these challenging endeavours was Dane Gavranich (A current RACWA Instructor) and Jordan Grover, (a Commercial pilot Flying in Shark Bay). This however has recently changed with the students of Joshua Kerrich and Jonathan Pinardi.

These trainee Commercial Pilots recently undertook an hours-building experience to the far South of WA and in doing so, brought back the importance of Planning and Away Trips. The flight training, and their instructors' guidance were crucial in preparing them for their overnight flight. Both student are currently on the Full time Commercial Training course run by the Western Australian Aviation College. The training that they have done



Joshua Kerrich Flying over the Southwest of Western Australia on his Away Trip in October



Jonathan Pinardi Flying over the Stirling Ranges on his October Away Trip with Josh

at the Royal Aero Club of WA through to PPL was what allowed them the confidence and skill set to wander out yonder for their Commercial Licence hours-building.

The pair planned to spend three nights away from Jandakot visiting locations and landmarks like

Esperance, the Pink Lake, and Kalgoorlie's famous open pit Gold mine, 'The Super Pit'.

The boys set about with navigation and meteorology planning with guidance from their instructors a few weeks before their intended departure date. This allowed for questions to be an-



Salt Lakes of the Western Australian Wheat Belt



Jonathan Pinardi (left) and Joshua Kerrich (right) standing in front of an Australian Air Force PC 21 at Albany Airport.



Bluff Knoll and the Stirling Ranges, Just one of the memorable landmarks from their Away Trip

swered and problems to be guided through. Overall this made for a memorable experience with good flight training practices being implemented by the boys and a well executed flight plan. The journey was a success not only for the boys, but the organisation. Seeing the preparation and planning coming to fruition brings hope for future away trips. Just ask Dane and Jordan or Joshua and Jonathan, they will tell you that it's a worthwhile experience.

We did just that, here is Joshua and Jonathan's recount of the events that unfolded:

Away Trip Summary 12/10/2020 – 14/10/2020.

Jonathan Pinardi & Joshua Kerrich

"When we were informed that an away trip was an option to complete the hour building phase of flying, we jumped at the opportunity. We decided to plan for a three-day trip exploring Albany and the Stirling Ranges, Esperance and its surrounding islands as well as the dry landscape of Kalgoorlie.

We adopted the 6 Ps of planning (prior planning and preparation prevents poor performance) to ensure the trip ran smoothly, however what we didn't plan for was a flat spot on one of the tyres the morning of departure.



We'd like to thank the maintenance team for fixing the tyre and allowing us to only have to delay our departure by 90 minutes, (Thanks to Glenn and the rest of the team!) it was much appreciated. Down in Albany, we were joined by two... RAAF PC-21's who we were for-



Self timers are a must for the stop over at Kalgoorlie

Return of the 'Away Trip' Continued....

fortunate to see both land and take-off in formation. It was great talking to the RAAF instructors and discussing the different opportunities available to military and civilian pilots. The circuits at both Esperance and Kalgoorlie were relatively busy and it was great exposure to have to communicate with other aircraft (including RPT and business jets), that you wouldn't normally find around Jandakot.

The away trip was incredibly rewarding, as not only were the views spectacular when we got up to 8500ft, but the challenges we faced and had to overcome together taught us many lessons. We had been setup to deal with these challenges very well by our primary instructor Louise Langford who helped us consider factors that we had not considered in the planning phase.

We learnt that planning really pays off and is incredibly important to ensure everything runs smoothly. We cannot recommend away trips highly enough because they teach you to be independent problem solvers and to not be so reliant on

the instructors, which is what we will have to experience once our training is complete."

Jonathan Pinardi & Joshua Kerich

With the enjoyment and success of this away trip the Royal Aero Club and Western Aviation College of Western Australia hopes that more of our students and pilots partake in flights away from their 'backyard'. The challenges that pilots face on these trips away from the 'safety' of the training area and instructors are memorable and rewarding.



Day Trip out to the Pink Lake



The Super Pit, the famous Kalgoorlie open pit gold mine located on the South Eastern Edge of Kalgoorlie in Western Australia.



ZDR parked up for the night with the sun setting behind after a long day flying on the boys' away trip

Murrayfield Matters

Local Aviation

Liz Garcia, RACWA Flight Instructor

Days are getting longer and warmer and the flies are all in your face, literally. No usual club competition for November - instead WALAC will be commandeering Murrayfield on the 7th of November.

Rhys McDonald achieved his first solo on the 10th of September. After waiting for a day without gusting crosswinds, the 10th gave us much anticipated calm winds. Flying an aircraft on his own before he can drive on his own.

Keep an eye out for events happening at Murrayfield in November with WALAC and the Greg Hill Trophy over the weekends.

If you are down at Murrayfield and want to help or would just like to watch some flying, we would love to have you around at both events.



A big congratulations to Peter Scullion on his RPL

Life Members

Andrew Eldridge and Sylvia Byers

Andrew Eldridge joined the Club in March 1988, retaining his membership while he worked in America. In 2009, Andrew received the Sir Norman Brearley Award for “demonstrating above average ability” in his flying skills at both the WALAC and ALAC competitions. Until he became a commercial pilot, Andrew has been a regular participant in both events, winning Overall Champion at the ALACs in 2013.

Andrew accepted the Presidency of the Club in 2010 at a time when the Club was facing extreme financial difficulties. During the next 10 years, Andrew oversaw a restructuring of the Club that has enabled the Club to return to a generating a surplus with a strong balance sheet. During this time, the Club was able to purchase nine aircraft and a modern simulator.

Since becoming President, An-

drew has become both a commercial pilot, obtained his multi-engine and IF rating and a flight instructor rating. He has given freely of his time to help students and members improve their flying skills. Andrew has been at the forefront of training the wave of new formation pilots.

Andrew launched the very successful RACWA Young Eagles program to introduce aviation to children from 10 to 16 years old. The program has been an unqualified success – both for the children and for their parents! Planning the many activities has required a significant amount of time, but the end-product has more than fulfilled the Club’s Charter of introducing aviation to the general public.

Andrew Eldridge has been an ambassador for aviation in West Australia and Australia. He has recently stepped down as President of the Royal Federation of Flying Clubs in Aus-

tralia, a position he held at the same time as President of RACWA.

During the past 10 years, Andrew has participated in all the many Club events, either as President, an air judge or simply as a member. The amount of time and effort he has dedicated to the Club during the past ten years makes Andrew Eldridge a worthy recipient of life membership of the Club.



Life Member Andrew Eldridge

Sylvia Byers, member 613, joined the Club in February 1980. She has been actively involved in all areas of the Club during this time. Her regular participation in monthly flying competitions and a number of WALAC events saw Sylvia represent WA in a number of ALAC events. Her calligraphy skills were put to good use when winners’ certificates had to be completed.

Sylvia is well known for her positive attitude and enthusiasm for life. She was always helping other members to better their flying standards. She was the WA Director of the Royal Federation of Aero

Clubs of Australia for a number of years, and attended the annual conference of the Federation on a number of occasions.

Encouraging youth to experience the wonders of aviation was one of Sylvia’s core beliefs. She assisted in the Junior Hawks events and later on, was a stalwart in the Club’s Young Eagles programs.

Sylvia served on the Club committee for a number of years, contributing her valuable input into the Club as it emerged from troubled times.

Her significant contribution to RACWA over a 40 year period

makes Sylvia a worthy recipient of life membership of the Club.



Life Member Sylvia Byers

Annual Presentation Dinner



Some photos from the Royal Aero Club of Western Australian Annual Presentation dinner. We hope that you had a splendid evening. To view photos visit the following links:

<https://themightybooths.smugmug.com/Aero/n-LR4fz5/>

https://www.facebook.com/MIGHTYBOOTHS/photos/?tab=album&album_id=3183402575114973

IREX THEORY - Course Full Time - 5 days

Dates: Monday 23rd November – Friday 27th November

Times: 8.30 am – 4.00 pm Monday – Thursday
8.30am – 12.00pm Friday

To register Contact our Client Liaison Manager Merrilee

Email: mgreenaway@royalaeroclubwa.com.au

Ph: 9417 0000

Royal Aero Club of WA - 1983

"Shirley Lee joined the Club (staff) from Metropolitan Business College at 16 straight off her course as a shorthand typist, and bookkeeper, learned to fly on Tiger Moths in 1950, married some bloke named Adkins, had two children, and rejoined the Club in 1970" Reg Adkins

The recent article in Tarmac Topics re the visit of the State Government to our Hangar for the Quarterly Community Cabinet reception brings to mind the events way back in the early 70s and the problems we inherited after the shift of the Club (with all other general aviation organisations) to Jandakot, and of the exorbitant rents then imposed on the Clubs by the Federal government.

Back then the Federal Government owned all aerodromes and facilities and were charging accordingly.

Shirley Lee joined the Club (staff) from Metropolitan Business College at 16 straight off a training course

as a shorthand typist and bookkeeper. She learned to fly on Tiger Moths in 1950, married some bloke named Adkins, had two children, and rejoined the Club in 1970, resat all her private pilot licences and was elected President in 1979.

Her sound financial training had stood her in good stead and she determined to fix the situation of paying \$26,000 rent per year for the hangar. After much study and effort, she made the argument that Aero Clubs are the sole trainers of the new generation of pilots, and these costs were an onerous burden. This rational argument convinced the Department of Civil Aviation, and an agreement was

finally reached ... and in 1983 at the Annual Dinner of the Royal Club of WA, Shirley handed over a cheque for \$105,000 as full payment for ownership. The hangar was now ours, for evermore!

The recipient of this sum was Guest of Honour the Minister for Civil Aviation, Kim Beazley, current Governor of Western Australia and Patron of this great Club.

For more info see Tarmac Topics for October 1983...

Reg Adkins
Membership No. 19.

THE WEST AUSTRALIAN THURSDAY NOVEMBER 17 1983 61

Flyers land their hangar

THE Royal Aero Club has overcome its major financial problem—the escalating rental on its hangar at Jandakot airport—by buying the hangar.

No longer will they pay \$25,000 a year to the Department of Aviation.

"It is bargain priced at \$105,000," the club

president, Mrs Shirley Adkins, said yesterday.

"We could not build our hangar for anywhere near that price today."

Most other hangars at Jandakot were privately owned.

The aero club has raised a bank loan to be repaid over seven years.

Other Australian aero

clubs are expected to follow the WA lead.

The eight staff in the Jandakot hangar maintain the 25 aircraft owned or operated by the club.

Flying about 18,000 hours a year of training, the 1300-member WA Royal Aero Club is the busiest in Australia.

Club from way back when: 1983 news article from the West Australian, documenting the development of the Royal Aero Club of WA and Shirley Adkins' Involvement



Club President Shirley Adkins with then Minister for Civil Aviation, The Honourable Kim Beasley

OLD FLIERS GROUP

When we held our last lunch-time meeting in February, little did we know that this would be the last meeting for some time. We decided early that those who have paid their annual fee would not need to pay again until 2022.

To keep interest in our work alive we thought we would continue to produce videoed talks, uploading them to our YouTube channel, to be enjoyed in the comfort of home. In the last seven months we have uploaded 42 talks!

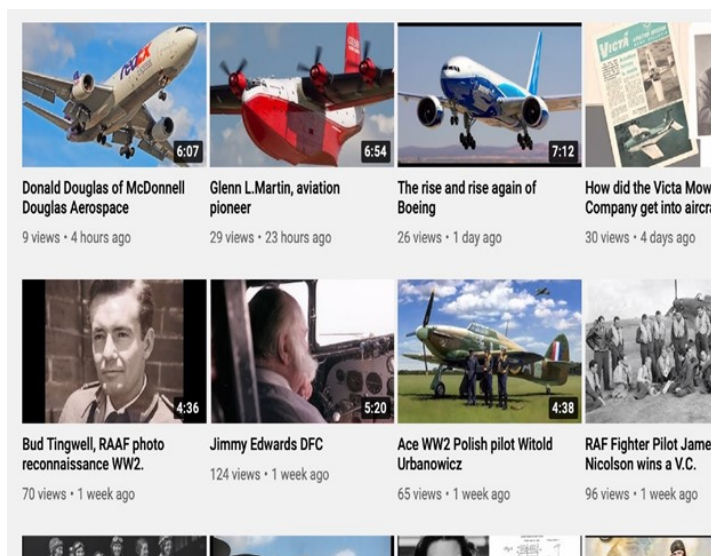
They cover all aspects of aviation, people, places and aircraft. It is easy to choose a video to watch. Just go to:

<https://www.youtube.com/c/OldFliersGroup/videos>

Following are samples of what you will find. Will we meet as we did before, either on October 30th or on November 27th?

Perhaps. There will be notice via email and snail mail in due time. Stay safe.

Steve Rogers.



Check out the Old Fliers YouTube videos from the link

RACWA Members Calendar

For more information on upcoming events contact our friendly staff at the ops desk

Email: Operations@royalaeroclubwa.com.au or Phone: (08) 9417 0000

Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.
1	1 New Members / WINGS Presentation	1	1 <i>New Year's Day</i> CLOSED
2	2	2	2
3 OPEN DAY	3	3	3
4 WALAC W/Shop + "Lonely Hearts"	4	4	4
5	5	5 Lancaster Com-memorative Flight	5
6	6 WALAC Formation - YPJT	6 YMUL COMP Instrumentless cct	6
7	7 WALAC @ YMUL Dinner @ YPJT	7	7
8	8	8	8
9	9	9	9
10	10	10	10 YMUL Comp
11 YMUL COMP P.F.L.	11 Remembrance Day - Poppy Drop McCallum Park	11	11
12	12	12	12
13	13	13 YPJT COMP Two for One Members' XMAS	13
14	14 Greg Hill Trophy YMUL	14	14
15	15 NORTHAM Dawn Raid Member Seminar(12/30)	15	15
16	16	16	16 YBUN Fly-in
17 WINGS Dinner	17	17	17
18	18	18	18
19	19	19	19
20 WALAC Meet	20	20	20
21	21 1975 – 1985 Reunion for Members, Staff et al.	21	21
22	22	22	22
23	23	23	23
24 11 am Flying Committee	24	24	24
25 YSEN Fly-in YPJT COMP Precision CCT	25	25 <i>Christmas Day</i> CLOSED	25
26	26	26 <i>Boxing Day</i> CLOSED	26 <i>Australia Day</i>
27	27	27	27
28	28	28	28
29	29 YPJT COMP Instrumentless cct	29	29
30	30	30	30
31		31 <i>New Year's Eve</i>	31 YPJT Comp