

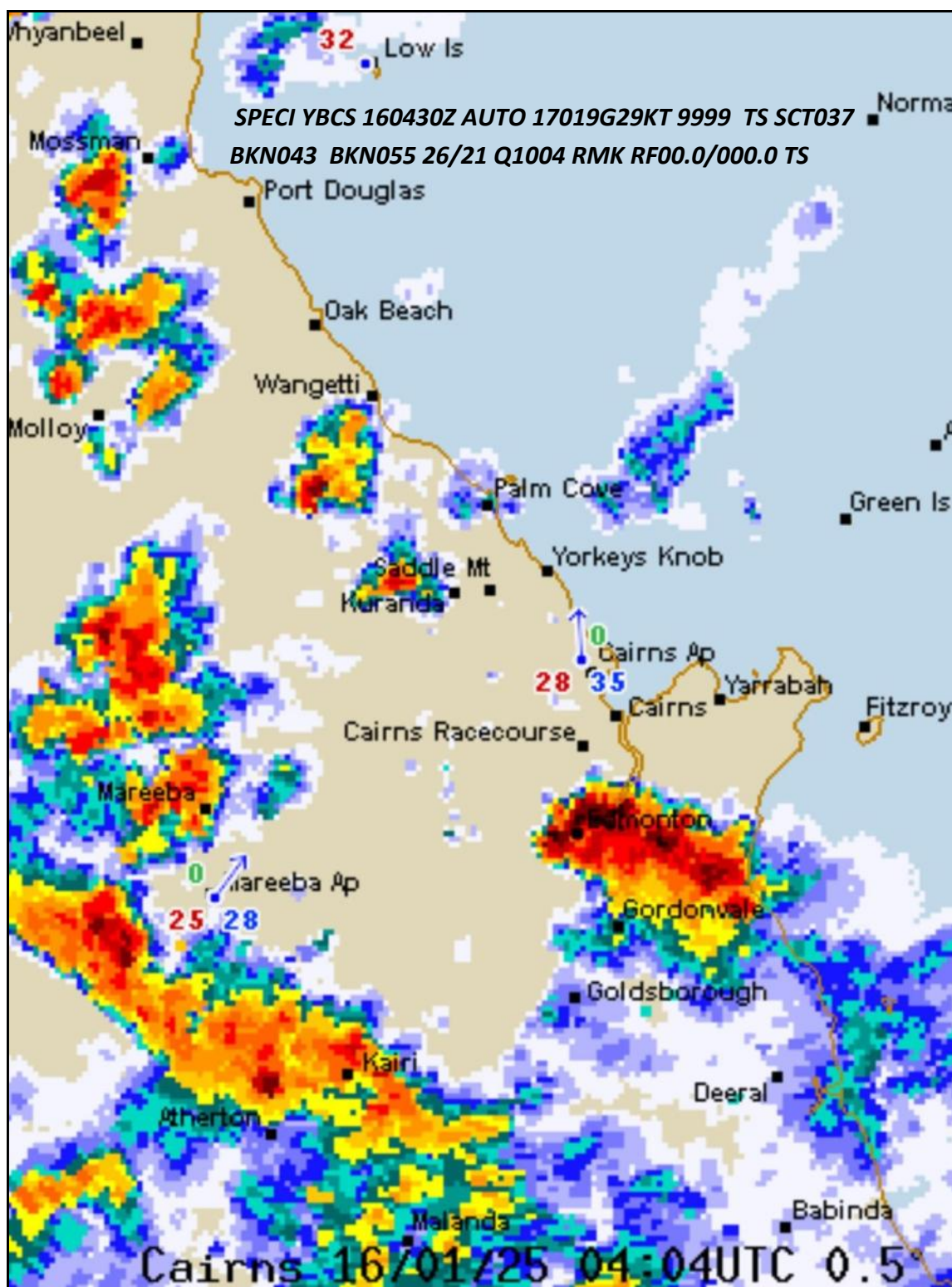


Newsletter No. 349
January/February 2025

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
16TH MARCH 2025

The Atherton Aero Club is an organization of aviation enthusiasts who promote the sport of aircraft building and flying.

The organization is associated with *Recreation Aviation Australia Inc.* The Club meets at Atherton Airport every third Sunday of the month. Food and drinks are available and visitors are most welcome.



Wild weather in the region this afternoon (16 Jan). Hail in the southern suburbs of Cairns (as shown in the screen shot of the radar showing black colouration over Edmonton). And a gusting 30 kt southerly wind now at the airport in Cairns.

Atherton Aero Club - Committee Contacts

President	Vice-President	Secretary	Treasurer
Jack Cross PO Box 227 ATHERTON Q 4883 xjac@bigpond.net.au	Dave Camp PO Box 227 ATHERTON Q 4883 dcamp.gvale@gmail.com	Mark Aitken PO Box 227 ATHERTON Q 4883 mjaitken54@bigpond.com	TBA PO Box 227 ATHERTON Q 4883

Web Page <http://www.athertonaeroclub.org/>

Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/AthertonAeroClub?ref=hl>

Email athertonaeroclub@gmail.com

EDITOR'S NOTE - by Bill Gronbeck

Hi All and welcome to edition No 349. In this issue, a Situation Report on the AAC Advanced Pilot Proficiency Program, NQAC activities during the wet season, historical information from the FNQ Air Museum and upcoming events. Keep those flying adventures going and remember to send us your photos and stories.



A thank you to the NQAC, FNQAM and other Clubs and Flying Groups who contributed content to this edition. Please contact me with your newsletter contributions on any of the following: (07) 4036 2868 or 0408 073 142 or email at -

williamgronbeck2@gmail.com

Watch the AAC, NQAC, Burdekin Flyers, FNQ Flyers, Donnington and Innisfail Facebook Pages for details of calendar changes and other short notice events. Check out the AAC Website for the YATN weather-cam and older AAC Newsletters.



The next **AAC Club Function** will be our regular monthly social get-together and BBQ Lunch on **Sunday the 16th of February 2025.**

From **10:30am** to around midday at the **AAC Atherton Aerodrome** facility.

Visitors are most welcome.



The Atherton Aero Club 2024 Christmas Party Lunch

Saturday the 7th December.

What a great turn out and what an enjoyable day!

Congratulations ladies, that was one of the best catered lunches that I have been to for a long time. The request to "bring a plate" was well and truly responded to. Sorry about the lack of photos, we were just having too much of a good time.

Beautiful weather apart from the brief shower of rain that sent us indoors for a short while before the sun returned.

Looking forward to next Christmas!



Members enjoying the outdoors at the Atherton Christmas Party.

Congratulations to club member Simon for gaining his RAAus Flight Instructors Certificate.



Great to see Simon and Jane taking an interest in flying training. An excellent way to further ones own flying skills.



ATHERTON AERO CLUB MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL NOW DUE

A friendly REMINDER that the new membership year commences on the 1st January. Your membership needs to be renewed before the Club Annual General Meeting in March if you wish to exercise your members voting privilege.

ATHERTON AERO CLUB ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The AAC AGM will take place on Sunday the 16th of March 2025. Commencing 10:30am at the club's Atherton Aerodrome Facility and will be followed by a BBQ lunch.

Membership Application/Renewal Form at the back of this newsletter.

Atherton Aero Club - Advanced Pilot Proficiency Program

Members may recall that a few years back our club applied for and received a grant as part of a CASA Safety Promotion being conducted at the time. The purpose of the grant was to assist the club in developing a program to help club members maintain their flying proficiency and also to motivate the participants to improve their flying skills above those basic requirements.

Accordingly, and to that end, a series of flying exercises were designed for use as practice pieces. Pilot members were involved in trialing the exercises and provided excellent feedback and practical suggestions that helped us to iron out the initial shortcomings.

Work progressed to the stage where, following a number of revisions, five Units containing a total of 28 Exercises plus additional Supporting documents were finalized. Following that, and for a number of reasons, those involved needed to take a break from the program to attend to other commitments. The completed Units are as follows:-

Unit 1 - Straight & Level (5 Exercises)

Unit 2 - Level Turns (8 Exercises)

Unit 2A - Combined Straight & Level and Level Turns (2 Exercises)

Unit 3 - Climb, Descent, Climbing & Descending Turns (8 Exercises)

Unit 4 - Steep Level Turns (2 Exercises)

Unit 5 - Steep Descending Turns (3 Exercises)

Another five Units are awaiting completion.

The five completed Units are now available for members to download from the Atherton Aero Club website. Those interested in doing so please contact me for the necessary **link and password** and to arrange for a **briefing** on the workings of the program.

Password protection allows us to keep track of who is using the program. It is also an acknowledgement by users that the program is the property of the Atherton Aero Club.

It is appropriate that AAC members should have first go at the exercises so initially access to the material is only being made available to club members. Others will eventually be able to access the program but only after AAC members have had an opportunity to assess and comment on its contents. The Exercises completed to date should be considered as a Work In Progress. Further refinements can be expected as experience is gained with the program.

Bill Gronbeck.

0408 073 142



NORTH QUEENSLAND AERO CLUB NEWS & EVENTS

The rains been coming and going here so the flying lately has been confined to the circuit only (29th Jan). Maybe it's a good time to catch up on some reading?...the Aero Club library has got lots of great aviation related books. I just finished this one all about the mighty Hawker Hurricane. All the books can be taken home then returned when you're finished. You'll find it located under the stairs to the hangar mezzanine.

2025 Memberships are now due so if you'd like to stay in the loop with Aero Club news and events plus receive discounted private hire and training please drop in to the office sometime or send us an email and we can arrange an invoice for you. For memberships please email: admin@nqaeroclub.com.au



Well it's been nice to see the sun come out for a while this morning (6th Feb), we even managed a flight to the training area!

There was still extensive low cloud in the area though and TEMPOs returning this afternoon. Stay safe if you are out the flying this week.

Also wanted to say a big THANK YOU to those members who have renewed your memberships. We have a great year of events and club activities planned and can't wait to share the social calendar with you all shortly. If you would like to renew your membership please get in touch with us by email admin@nqaeroclub.com.au and we can arrange an invoice to be sent out. Also let us know if you've lost your Club badge and we can send you a new one.



A Brief History of the FNQAM Dakota A65-73

The FNQAMs beloved Douglas C-47 Dakota turns 80 this month (February 2025).

This remarkable aircraft has a rich history—from its service in World War II and post-war duties to its later role as a movie star in The Thin Red Line. Now, it's legacy will be honored with a small gathering of aviation enthusiasts, history buffs, and friends on Saturday 15th February, 2025 at the FNQA Mareeba museum site.

Dakota A65-73's Flight Authorisation log A71 showing its final flights. The second last sortie to Mareeba to return Air Training Corp Cadets from a rifle shoot.

Aircraft Specific Details

RAAF Registration: A65-73

Civilian Registration: VH-CIP

Model No: C-47B-25-DK

Serial No: 32671

USAAF Registration: 44-76339

Engines: Pratt & Whitney R-1830-90C Twin Wasp

Continued >>>

History of the FNQAM Dakota A65-73 (Continued)

A65-73 was constructed under a USAAF contract (AC535-AC-2032) and was the fourth of ten C-47Bs produced in its batch (Case 573, Indent 2415). Originally designated 44-76339, it was delivered to the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) in February 1945.

Wartime Service Delivered to the RAAF as Dakota A65-73 in February 1945, the aircraft was assigned to 3 Air Depot (3 AD) on 27 February. Shortly thereafter, on 3 March 1945, it was transferred to 37 Squadron with the call sign VH-CIP and fuselage code OM-P. It later became part of 86 Wing.

Postwar Service A65-73 played a role in the 1946 Australian film The Overlanders. On 14 March 1947, it was transferred to the Department of Aircraft Production (DAP), and on 25 August 1947, it moved to 1 Air Depot (1 AD). Around this time, it was stripped to a bare aluminium finish with "No. 86 Transport Wing" painted above the fuselage windows, a centre stripe along the fuselage, and the RAAF logo on the nose. It returned to 86 Wing on 5 September 1947.

Between 1948 and the early 1960s, A65-73 was frequently reassigned between units, including Central Flying School (CFS), 90 Wing, 25 Squadron, and various Air Depots. The aircraft suffered several incidents, including an accident at East Sale Airfield in 1950 and hailstorm damage in 1952. Despite these setbacks, it remained in service, undergoing repairs and modifications as needed.

In the 1960s, the Dakota continued to serve in various capacities, including assignments with Base Squadron at RAAF Darwin and 2 Squadron at RAAF Butterworth. In 1967, it was modified at Bankstown Airfield for TACAN calibration installation before being assigned to 10 MR Squadron in 1969.

On 5 September 1971, A65-73 was damaged beyond repair while landing at RAAF Townsville. It was officially stricken from RAAF service on 10 October 1973 and subsequently disposed of to the public.

Later Years and Display The aircraft was acquired by Sid Beck and placed on outdoor display at The Beck Museum. In the late 1990s, it was repainted in the markings of C-47-DL Dakota "13866" with olive drab upper surfaces and grey lower surfaces for its role in the Hollywood film The Thin Red Line (1998). By mid-2007, it had been repainted in silver.

A65-73 remains a testament to the enduring legacy of the Dakota aircraft in Australian military and aviation history.

2025 Sponsors



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<https://www.facebook.com/Pinnarendi/>

Ron Atkinson 0419 201 622



SAVE THE DATE

The Old Station
Fly-In & Heritage Show

SAVE THE DATE

23 - 25 May 2025

Show planning is underway, 2025 will be bigger and better than ever!

- Exciting air show
- Earlier camping entry
- Improved gate entry
- More entertainment
- More food vans

"Australia's Favourite Country Air Show"

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"Australia's Favourite Country Air Show"

AAC EVENTS CALENDAR

(Check Your Club Website or Facebook Page For Short Notice Changes)

Atherton Aero Club 2025 Events

- Feb** Sunday 16th—**AAC Meeting & BBQ Lunch** 1030 at Atherton YATN
- Mar** Sunday 16th—**AAC Annual General Meeting** 1030 Atherton YATN
- Apr** Sunday 20th—**AAC Meeting & BBQ Lunch** 1030 at Atherton YATN

Other 2025 Events

- Mar** Sunday 23rd—**Woodstock Wings & Wheels** 0800–1200 YDOP
- Apr** Sunday 27th—**Woodstock Wings & Wheels** (Including militaria buy/swap/sell) 0800–1200 YDOP
- May** Friday 23rd to Sunday 25th—**The Old Station Fly-In**

**YOUR CLUB'S EVENTS
CALENDAR HERE**



Woodstock Wings & Wheels Events Calendar 2025



Hi, for those who like to plan ahead, please find below our 2025 schedule for Woodstock Wings & Wheels events at Donnington Airpark.

Woodstock Wings & Wheels at Donnington Airpark 2025

March 23 – Woodstock Wings & Wheels 8 am – 12 noon

April 27 - Woodstock Wings & Wheels including militaria buy/swap/sell 8 am – 12 noon

May 18 – Woodstock Wings & Wheels 8 am to 12 noon

June 21-22 – Woodstock Wings & Wheels/Great Northern Jabiru Flock-In (weekend event)

July 26-27 – North Queensland Military Muster (weekend event) – camp-oven dinner Saturday night, Warbird Adventure Flights, military displays and militaria buy/swap/sell

August 9-10 – Mind, Body & Soul Festival (weekend event)

August 24 – Learn to Fly Expo/Woodstock Wings & Wheels 8 am – 12 noon

September 28 - Woodstock Wings & Wheels 8 am – 12 noon

October 26 – Woodstock Wings & Wheels including militaria buy/swap/sell 8 am to 12 noon

November 22-23 – pre-Xmas camp-over, BBQ dinner (Saturday night) and Wings & Wheels Christmas Convoy (Sunday 8 am to 12 noon)

Any queries, please contact me.

Regards, Christian.

Christian D. Smith

Operations Manager

Donnington Airpark

0418 636 727

A BLAST FROM THE PAST



All Photos: Donnington 1993



Places of Interest and Activities in NQ



North Queensland Soaring Centre

 Find us on **facebook**

Email us at northqldsoaringcentre@outlook.com

Or message us on Facebook

The background image shows a vast, flat landscape under a clear blue sky. A glider is visible in the upper right corner, and another glider's wing is partially visible on the right edge.



hot air
BALLOON

www.hotair.com.au/cairns

The background image shows two hot air balloons, one orange and yellow, and another orange and yellow, floating over a misty, hilly landscape with scattered trees.



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The background image is split into two panels. The left panel shows a large, modern building with a glass facade, likely the museum. The right panel shows a line of vintage biplanes parked on a tarmac.

Northern Flyers

Donnington Airpark (YDOP)



Burdekin Flyers (YAYR)



Atherton Aero Club (YATN)



NOTICE



The **Atherton Aero Club** is now an ASIC Issuing Agent for **Aviation ID Australia**.

Those seeking the issue or renewal of an Aviation Security Identification Card (ASIC) should apply directly to **Aviation ID Australia** via the following link:

<https://aviationidaustralia.net.au/application.html>

Once the ASIC card has been approved the applicant will be advised and the required “face-to-face” identity check carried out locally by an Atherton Aero Club representative. On the satisfactory completion of the identity check the local agent will hand over the ASIC card to the applicant.

AIRCRAFT FOR SALE AND WANTED

If you have, or know of, an aircraft for sale please contact me directly by telephone or email with full details. The AAC offers free advertising in the club newsletter as a service to local flyers. Direct emailing of your advert to aviators on the club mailing list is available should your advert be received after the publication cut-off date. *Bill Gronbeck, EDITOR.*



INTERESTED IN BUILDING YOUR OWN AIRCRAFT?

The Sport Aircraft Association of Australia (SAAA) is an organization that has mentored and assisted many owner builders, for both VH and Ultralight registered aircraft.

Further information on the SAAA's National and FNQ Chapter 34 websites:

<http://www.saaa.com/>

<http://www.saaafnq.com/>

Local contact is:

Laurie Wincen (Secretary) laurieq19@gmail.com

Atherton Aero Club Fundraising - Club Member Stephen has arranged the Scheme ID for members who would like to donate their 10 cents Container Refund to the club. These regular small donations will greatly assist in covering our running costs.

Congratulations Atherton Aero Club Inc! You're all set.

You've joined our Containers for Change team doing our best to make a real difference in our communities and to our environment. We're super excited to have you on board.

Here's your Containers for Change scheme ID. Your scheme ID makes it even easier to return containers and receive refunds directly to your bank account.

Scheme ID

C10476716

Save your scheme ID to your mobile wallet

iPhone users



Android users



If you don't have WalletPasses installed, you will need to download it from the Play Store.

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Lilley Grose & Long - Solicitors

Atherton, Queensland.

Practicing in the following areas of law: Commercial, Criminal, Family Law, Property & Conveyancing, Wills & Estates

Contact details

Lilley Grose & Long
34 Main Street
Atherton, QLD4883
Phone: 07 4091 2655

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Atherton Aero Club - Membership Application / Renewal

☐

New Member

☐

Returning Member



PERSONAL DETAILS

Full name				Date of Birth			
Street address				State		Postcode	
Postal address				State		Postcode	
Email address				Occupation			
Telephone	ah		bh		mobile		

MEMBERSHIP

<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 60.00	Single Member	Single member with voting rights
<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 100.00	Family Member	Two members with voting rights
<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 50.00	Associate Member	Single member with NO voting rights
<input type="checkbox"/> no charge	Student Member	Single member with NO voting rights

PAYMENT

Forms to be sent to: *The Treasurer
Atherton Aero Club
PO Box 227
ATHERTON QLD 4883*

or email to: *xjac@bigpond.net.au*

Payments can be made by: *EFT, Cheque, cash, or at the Bendigo Bank*

EFT Details: *Atherton Aero Club BSB 633000 ACC 114331796 (Ref - Your Name)*

I hereby apply for membership to the Atherton Aero Club and agree to abide by the Constitution and any rules and regulations thereof. I further agree that my contact details may be made available to other members of the association as the Management Committee deems necessary.

Signed _____ Dated _____

Print name: _____ Print name: _____

OFFICE USE ONLY

Membership type		Receipt No		Fee Paid	\$
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