



Newsletter No. 343

March 2024

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



***The NQAC's Annual Spot Landing Competition
Atherton Aerodrome***

Atherton Aero Club - Committee Contacts

President Jack Cross PO Box 227 ATHERTON Q 4883 xjac@bigpond.net.au	Vice-President Dave Camp PO Box 227 ATHERTON Q 4883 dcamp.gvale@gmail.com	Secretary Mark Aitken PO Box 227 ATHERTON Q 4883 mjaitken54@bigpond.com	Treasurer TBA PO Box 227 ATHERTON Q 4883
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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 343. In this issue (a little light-on due to the wet season weather), Progress of Jon's Skybolt build, News 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 Jon Collins, Christian Smith, Liam Roebuck, 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 Meeting** will be our regular monthly social get-together and BBQ Lunch on **Sunday the 21st of April 2024.**

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



AAC WORKING BEE

A big THANK YOU to the crew who attended the club Working Bee held in conjunction with our February meeting. All done and dusted before I arrived (excellent timing). ED



AAC ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The club AGM was held on Sunday the 17th March. All of the current committee members were re-elected unopposed. The position of Treasurer remains vacant and the tasks usually carried out by the treasurer are being shared by the other committee members.



PLEASE PUT YOUR HAND UP IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO ASSIST BY TAKING ON THE POSITION ON AND HELP TO SPREAD THE WORKLOAD.

AvSafety pilot seminar - Mareeba

An opportunity for industry to interact with us discuss local issues and ask questions.

Location: MAREEBA, Qld

Date: 29 April 2024 18:00 local time

Open for registration [AvSafety Seminar - Mareeba Tickets, Mon 29/04/2024 at 6:00 pm | Eventbrite](#)



Jon's Skybolt Build

Jon Collins

Another update on the build. Trial fit of the pieces to make sure everything fits. Some minor adjustments needed. Now to dismantle and prepare for painting. Still need to do the instruments, electrical and engine installation. It is certainly getting closer to being finished!!



Pto >>>

Jon's Build—09 April Update

Couldn't resist jumping in the plane with Kelly! First time in it. Fits like a glove. Might have made a few aeroplane sounds! Almost ready for painting.



Rotax 447 Engine For Sale

Decommissioned Rotax 447 Engine, Propeller and Accessories for sale

Engine also suitable for Go-Kart, Swamp Boat, etc

Located Mareeba Area

Contact Volker Schwerdtfeger

(07) 4093 4392 or volkys2@bigpond.com

Out & About NQ With Jon & Kelly

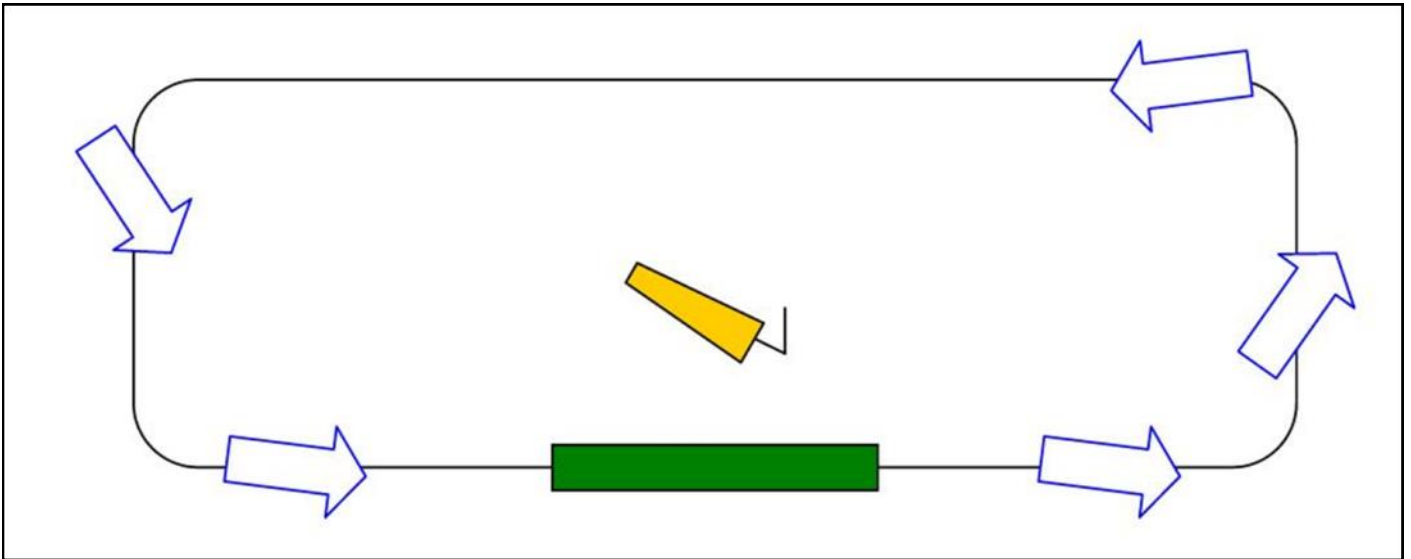


Making the most of a good day



FLYING AN ACCURATE CIRCUIT

Looking to do something different to do on your next flight? The following link describes an exercise that will refresh your drift allowance skills and keep you usefully occupied for an hour or two:



[How to fly a rectangular course : Flight Training Central](#)

(A Ground Reference Maneuver article from Sporty's Flight Training)



HISTORICAL AVIATION PHOTOS - Courtesy "Donnington Smythe"



TAA's DC-4 Skymaster, the McDougall Stuart at Townsville, 1950s.



ABOVE: Passengers board TAA's first DC-4 Skymaster, the John Eyre, at Garbutt Airport, Townsville, 1952.

FLY TAA TO THE SUN
with the luxury Skymaster
"SUNSHINE SPECIAL"
to Northern Queensland

A holiday in Northern Queensland means escape from rain and cold to sea and sunshine! Commencing July 12, the TAA "Sunshine Special" departs from Melbourne daily, calling at Sydney, Brisbane, Rockhampton, Townsville and Cairns. TAA service is as luxurious as it is inexpensive . . . book to-day!

Trans-Australia Airlines
339 Swanston St., Melbourne (Opposite Public Library).
Telephone: MY 810.

LEFT: An advertisement for TAA's north Queensland flights from the Melbourne Argus in June 1947.

NORTH QUEENSLAND AERO CLUB NEWS & EVENTS

Hello Members,

We have locked in a date for our trip to go gliding at Charters Towers. We will be heading down on Saturday the 11th May, back on Sunday. It will be best to make this one an overnight trip to get the best opportunity for gliding. The North Queensland Soaring Centre offers 'Air Experience Flights', like a trial flight but for gliders. These will cost \$190 each.

"One of our highly experienced instructors will give you a ground briefing about your flight and what you will enjoy. They will explain how to fly a glider, covering such things as Effect of Controls and the sort of things a glider pilot is thinking about and doing during a flight. This will include how glider pilots use the weather and in particular the thermal conditions it creates to allow us to stay aloft without a motor and soar just like a bird. You will be invited to fly the glider yourself for as long or as little you would enjoy."

I used to fly at a gliding club in SA and can thoroughly recommend it, it is really good fun! Gliding is also a great tool to improve your 'stick n rudder' skills. If you are interested in attending, please let me know. We should be able to take a few aircraft and share the cost of the flight down there. Here is a link for their website if you would like to see a bit more about the Gliding Club: [North Queensland Soaring Centre | TidyHQ](#)

Otherwise training operations have been fairly busy at the club lately. Our 2 instructor rating candidates, Guy and Ben, have successfully passed their Flight Instructor Rating tests this week. These were conducted with an independent examiner who travelled up from Melbourne. And there a several PPL and CPL candidates getting ready for flight tests soon. We will wish them all the best.

Our Spot Landing Competition is coming up, on the 7th April at Atherton. Fingers crossed for some good weather by then!

Kind regards,

Jack Doyle

Grade 1 Flight

Instructor



NORTH QUEENSLAND AERO CLUB NEWS & EVENTS

Congratulations to Jake Weston who won today's Tom McDonald Spot landing comp at Atherton Airfield. 17 entrants with Warren Jonsson 2nd place and Kane Sherrin 3rd place. DJ Voyce had the best landing of comp. A great day reported! (Sunday 7th April).



MORE PHOTOS FROM THE NQAC SPOT LANDING COMPETITION AT ATHERTON



Mellory on the judging line



Warren goes for it!



A Nice One for Second Place



Some of the competition aircraft

**MORE PHOTOS FROM THE NQAC SPOT
LANDING COMPETITION AT ATHERTON**



Competitors and spectators watch the action



Jake eyes off the opposition



Both NQAC 172s were kept busy





Extracts from the FNQAM March 2024 News

Welcome to our March 2024 update! We're thrilled to share the latest progress on our ongoing projects as we dive into an exciting year ahead. Our primary focus so far has been on reorganising our storage facilities to accommodate upcoming aircraft restoration endeavors. With the installation of floor-to-ceiling shelving in our 'new' shipping container, we're creating the perfect space to kickstart these restoration efforts. Additionally, our interpretive and informational boards are undergoing final review, promising an enhanced visitor experience upon completion.

Looking forward, our attention shifts to the construction and fitout of our next hangar, which is underway and will see more on-site works commence in near future. But that's not all—we have a multitude of modular projects underway, from tooling & parts storage upgrades, sign upgrades to groundbreaking ventures like our pioneering aviation virtual reality project. Keep an eye out for updates on our Dakota restoration, Yale airworthy project, kids play plane - Cessna 152, video recording of local stories, airport diorama, displays development, WWII vehicle acquisition, and the addition of the RAN Sea Venom aircraft to our site.

We extend a warm welcome to all volunteers who have joined or are considering joining us on this journey. Your support is invaluable in driving our mission forward.

In positive news since our last newsletter, we're pleased to announce that our public liability insurance has seen an insurance backflip of their decision with full coverage reconfirmed and includes access inside aircraft, with no exclusions—great news for our young visitors and the entire community. We have also identified an affiliate group through the Aviation Museum National Network which can provide a great value for money insurance product providing us with more certainty in the future.

Donations are gratefully accepted to aid in our ongoing projects, especially as we navigate a competitive grant funding environment.

We welcome Darren Hughes to the board who has been assisting with grant applications over the last few years.

As we celebrate Membership Month this March, we invite you to renew your membership easily and continue to be an integral part of our community organisation. Thank you for your ongoing support as we embark on this exciting chapter together!

FNQAM News Continued

More dakota instruments off to get refurbished

Mick and Aaron with some instruments from the Dakota's navigator station that look like they've resurfaced from underwater! We look forward to seeing the finished product.



New storage container fitout



Our new shipping container has had a make over and Alan has painstakingly installed the dexion shelving, donated by Stephen Fowler. This isn't modern shelving where you easily tap it together but a solid, bolt it together job which took some time to complete, but now provides us with much needed storage space and already have it 90% full! Thanks to Charlie Jennings for helping with some of the painting as well!

Dakota Instrument Panel update

All the required instruments except for an airspeed and altimeter are required for the instrument panel. Steve C is making good progress and by the next update will be looking as it was! We've made the difficult decision to use an aluminum spare panel, as the original plywood panel had been butchered, along with the instrument mounting reconfiguration needed, was beyond economic repair. The good news is the original panel will make a great display panel in the future.



FNQAM News Continued

POSITIONS VACANT

Aircraft Engineers are wanted to lead and mentor our students and volunteers with the restoration of the Dakota, Yale and Cessna 152 kids play plane. If you know any LAMEs who may be interested in contributing, even once a month on a Thursday, Friday, or Saturday, please get in touch!

Accommodation options available.

Woodworkers and Upholsterers are also needed for the Dakota Navigation station restoration.

WE ARE OPEN

Every Thursday and Saturday morning 9am - noon (western end of Mareeba Airport)

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the sponsors listed below, whose generous support has been instrumental to our endeavors. If you're a business owner interested in joining our cause, we warmly invite you to reach out and explore opportunities for collaboration!

Sponsors



FAR NORTH QUEENSLAND AVIATION MUSEUM



VOLUNTEER RUN | COMMUNITY BASED | NOT FOR PROFIT | LOCALLY OPERATED

The FNQ Aviation Museum is a brand new facility due to open in the near future showcasing the incredible contribution that aviation has played in Far North Queensland's history.

The Museum will create employment, volunteering, educational and training opportunities that will benefit the community and boost tourism.

GET INVOLVED TODAY!

PRESERVE | INSPIRE | EDUCATE | RESTORE



DONATE

Make a tax deductible donation.



ARTEFACTS

Preserve aviation items that will be of educational or display interest.



VOLUNTEER

Variety of roles available - admin, grants, social media, design, curation, research and history



SERVICES & MATERIALS

In-kind support to assist with building construction and restoration.



RESTORE

Help our restoration team every Thursday or Saturday.



MEMBERSHIP

Show your support by becoming a member.





SHARE

Spread the word on Facebook, Instagram and join our newsletter.

 JRM Braes Rd, Mareeba Airport, QLD

 admin@fnqam.com.au

 www.fnqam.com.au

 0422 379 984



DONATE



MEMBERSHIP



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AAC EVENTS CALENDAR

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

Atherton Aero Club 2024 Events

Apr Sunday 21st—AAC Meeting & BBQ Lunch

Other 2024 Events

Apr Monday 29th-CASA AvSafety Seminar at NQAC Mareeba

May Sat/Sun 11th & 12th-NQAC Gliding Weekend Charters Towers



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*www.fnqam.com.au
0422 379 964*

Northern Flyers

Donnington Airpark (YDOP)



Burdekin Flyers (YAYR)

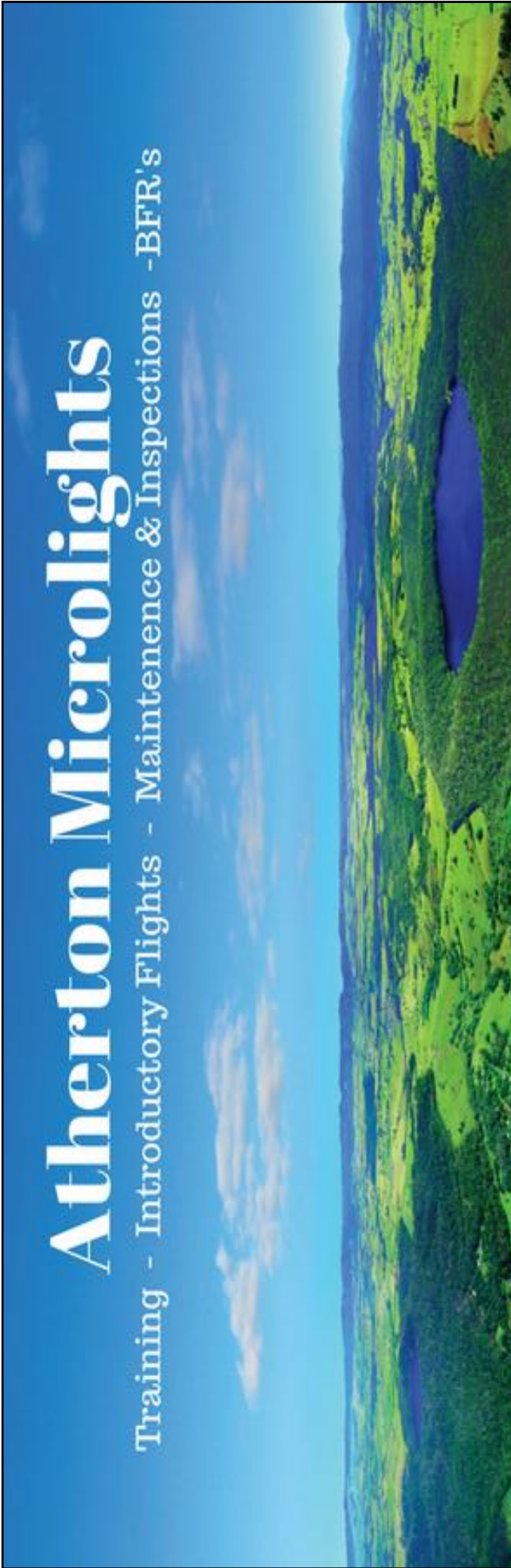


Atherton Aero Club (YATN)



Atherton Microlights

Training - Introductory Flights - Maintenance & Inspections - BFR's



Right Circuit Rwy 33
(All circuits to the East)

This UNOFFICIAL Map is for
general reference purposes only

Atherton YATN

Elevation 2460 feet

Flight Strip

Length 1286 mtrs Width 90 mtrs

Grass Runway

Length 1166 mtrs Width 30 mtrs

15

33

52

Feeney Gl

es-Hwy

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.

ATHERTON AERO CLUB CORPORATE SPONSORS



Electrical & Roadway Lighting Consultants

Address: P.O. Box 664
North Cairns
Queensland
4870

E-mail: admin@speconsulting.com.au
Telephone: 07 4032 3311

Cairns Office:

Street Address: 144 Pease Street, Manocora
Postal Address: P.O. Box 664, North Cairns 4870
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Contact details

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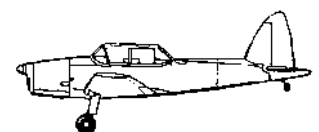
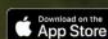


Sponsor



OzRunways EFB Version 10

A decade of flight brings OzRunways EFB to version 10 and makes it better looking and easier to use than ever before.



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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THE LAST PAGE

A little something for all you Foxbat "Warbird" owners out there



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Moment Ukrainian drone sets off fireball as it hits Russian UAV plant

©social media/e2w

Kremlin-loyal Readovka reported: 'It is too early to conclude whether the [self-murder] pilot was alive at the wheel or whether the aircraft was controlled by an autopilot. 'In favour of the latter is the fact that how straight and clear the A-22 went to the target - such a result could not be achieved even by Japanese kamikazes, so, apparently, we are dealing with a new kind of long-range kamikaze drones based on light-engine aircraft.' An eyewitness even asks: 'Is that a plane.'

And something for the Coffee-holics

