



Newsletter No. 342
January/February 2024



WORKING BEE
SUN 18th FEB

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.



Jack Doyle



Jack takes an afternoon Victa Flight

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 342. 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, Rob Palmer, Jack Doyle, 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 18th of February 2024.**

From **10:30am** to around midday at the **AAC Atherton Aerodrome** facility. **Also this month an early WORKING BEE from 9:30 am**





WORKING BEE

SUNDAY THE 18th February 2024

The AAC clubhouse at Atherton Aerodrome is in need of a little tidy up. A working bee will take place in conjunction with our regular monthly Meeting & BBQ Lunch on the 18th February. Usual starting time of our meeting is 10:30 am however, a bit earlier from say 9:30 would get things done earlier.

An hour or two of your time is all that is needed to spruce the building up. The more hands on deck the less time required.



SMOKE IS NO JOKE - (SMOKE HAZARDS)

This recent Flightsafety Australia article ([link below](#)) is a timely reminder of the hazards associated with VFR flight in smoky conditions.

We in Australia are no strangers to the destructive effect of bushfires however the difficulties of VFR flight in even light smoke pollution can come as a real surprise when encountered for the first time. The lack of a defined horizon can be quite disconcerting even when in-flight visibility is well in excess of the minimum.

The dry south-easterly season in Northern Australia can see uncontrolled bushfires start on the eastern side of Cape York and over several months burn right across to the Gulf of Carpentaria producing wide spread areas of smoke sometimes with layers up to 8000 feet.

The glare off smoke haze makes it virtually impossible to see opposite direction traffic when flying into the sun, especially in the early morning or late afternoon. So much for "See and be Seen" - Hold your breath and hope that traffic flying down sun are keeping a *really* good lookout! - Or, plan to avoid those situations and time of day.

Link: [Smoke is no joke | Flight Safety Australia](#)



PHOTO EXTRACTS FROM JONS SKYBOLT BUILD BLOG

Latest update on the build. Ailerons now covered, undercarriage covered and beginning to trial fit everything before priming and painting all fabric work. It's amazing how many little jobs need to be done...shortening tail bracing wires, inspection hatches, gap seals...etc etc!! Next will be fitting and wire bracing the wing. *Jon Collins*

See [Jon's Skybolt Build](#) | [Latest update on the build](#) | [Facebook](#) for the full report.



Ailerons attached to lower wings.



Completed undercarriage legs!



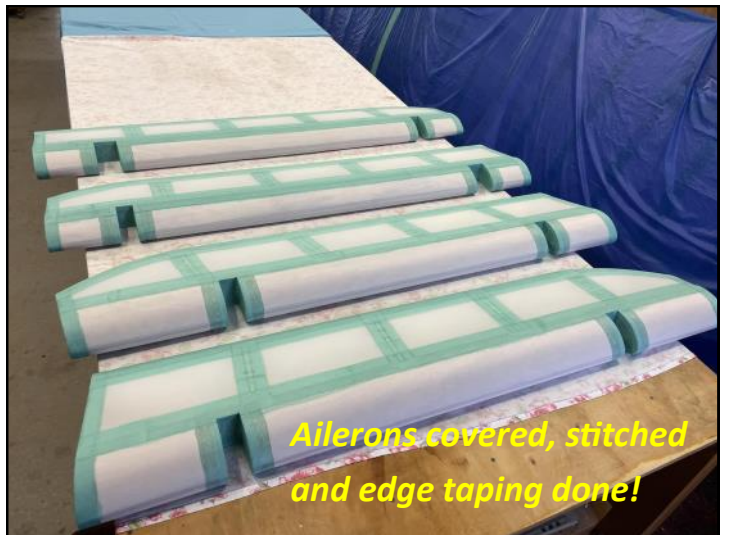
Starting the trial fit. Upper wing on the wing stands ready to be attached.



VHF antenna and strobe trial mounted under rear cockpit.



Tail starting to look completed.



Ailerons covered, stitched and edge taping done!

LINKS TO INTERESTING AVIATION ARTICLES:

[Sunglasses: what pilots need to know : Flight Training Central](#)

Sunglasses: what pilots need to know

[Real Pilot Story: Hidden Hazard - YouTube](#)

Flying his Mooney, this pilot was overcome by carbon monoxide poisoning and lost consciousness while airborne

[Desktop to cockpit | Flight Safety Australia](#)

Desktop to cockpit—More on the Benefits of Desktop Flight Simulators

[Vickers Vimy flies again after 75 years - YouTube](#)

Vickers Vimy flies again after 75 years—1994 Re-enactment London to Darwin



[Used Aircraft Guide Live: Wrecks Revisited \(youtube.com\)](#)

Informative discussion on Accident Statistics and Causes

[FNQAM Flythrough Accessible Tourism display Concept \(youtube.com\)](#)

FNQ Air Museum promo video

NORTH QUEENSLAND AERO CLUB NEWS & EVENTS

Hello Members,
Happy New Year!

2024 marks a special year for the North Queensland Aero Club, it's our 75th anniversary!

The North Queensland Aero Club (NQAC) was formed in Cairns during 1949 and has been training Pilots and providing a Flying Club ever since. Our club continues to grow and expand on it's abilities to train pilots for diverse positions within the aviation industry and provide its members and the greater North Queensland community to experience and enjoy the passion of flight.

We would like to invite you to join us in the Celebrations at a number of events planned for this year. Please see attached Social Calendar for 2024!

2024 North Queensland Aero Club Social Calendar

<p>Fly In Breakfasts at the Aero Club</p> <p><i>Fly (or drive) in to the NQAC hangar for a breakfast catch up with other members and FNQ flyers.</i></p>	<p>Saturday 17th February</p> <p>Saturday 11th May</p> <p>Saturday 10th August</p> <p>Saturday 9th November</p>
<p>75th Anniversary Tom McDonald Spot Landing Competition at Atherton</p> <p><i>Fly one of the NQAC Cessnas or bring your own aircraft and see how closely you can land to the runway marking at Atherton.</i></p>	<p>Sunday 7th April (Weather standby 21st April)</p>
<p>Charters Towers Gliding Club visit and joy flight</p> <p><i>Join us for a visit to the North Queensland Soaring Centre and take an Air Experience Flight in a glider with one of their instructors.</i></p>	<p>Date to be confirmed...stay tuned!</p>
<p>Talaroo Overnight Fly In</p> <p><i>Talaroo Hot Springs unite one of outback Queensland's most extraordinary geological wonders with the Aboriginal hospitality of the Ewamian people.</i></p>	<p>Saturday 13th July</p>
<p>Helenvale Overnight Fly In</p> <p><i>Enjoy the peaceful bushland surroundings, the abundant wildlife & the amazing stargazing opportunities at Rossville Retreat.</i></p>	<p>Saturday 10th August</p>
<p>75th Anniversary Air Race</p> <p><i>The NQAC Ray Fry Air Race. Actually it's not a race. Rather it's a time trial. The fastest aircraft is not the one that wins rather the most accurate one based on nominated ETI.</i></p>	<p>Sunday 1st September (Weather standby 15th September)</p>
<p>2024 Wings Night</p>	<p>Saturday 9th November</p>
<p>Christmas Party</p>	<p>Friday 13th December</p>

NORTH QUEENSLAND AERO CLUB NEWS & EVENTS

Thanks to Rob Palmer from Daintree Manor for this stunning photo from this morning (1st February) of an iridescent cloud formation over Mossman.



A Reminder

Atherton Aero Club Membership is from the start of the calendar year and Renewal is now due.



A Membership Application/Renewal form can be found on the last page.



Extracts from the FNQAM Feb 2024 News

Hi All.

The following is a summary of 2024 to date plus some pictures and a new concept video below.

We reopened our doors on January 10th and were thrilled to welcome visitors from across the globe, including guests from America, as well as domestic visitors and attendees of the Cairns Aviation Careers Day. Surpassing our expectations, we've seen more visitors than expected for this time of year.

We've recently acquired a 6-metre storage container, providing essential storage space for new donations and parts. Thanks to FGF for generously allowing us to utilise their space while we loaded Stephen Fowler's recently donated collection. This new addition will liberate space in our main restoration area, paving the way for upcoming projects.

In other developments, we're in the process of re-securing public liability insurance for Dakota access with the national museum's insurance broker. After our proactiveness to advise of new, safer stairs, our current insurer was taken aback by the presence of aircraft at an aviation museum—quite an unexpected revelation! Unfortunately, until this matter is resolved, we are unable to offer young visitors tours inside the Dakota and will be limited to volunteers only, so become a volunteer!

Research: Joan has been making great progress with our locally based WWII personnel finding more and more records, Ian has been focused on local B-17 operations and Alan has been successfully forging links with US groups such as the 43rd Bombardment Group.

Looking ahead, we have an exciting lineup of projects awaiting final funding or approval, including virtual reality flight experiences, a flight simulator project, LEGO STEM Science Week, and immersive displays for accessible tourism (see the impressive video below). Our display stands and signage are also in the process of being upgraded.

Finally, we're in urgent need of engineers to lead and mentor our students and volunteers to help our projects move forward. If you know any LAMEs who may be interested in contributing, even once a month on a Thursday, Friday, or Saturday, please don't hesitate to reach out!

Brendan
0422 379 984

FNQAM News Continued

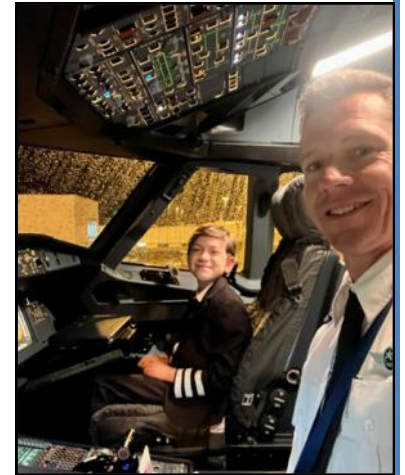
8 Year Old First Officer Visits:

In January we welcomed 8 year old Gabriel and his family travelling up to Cairns for holidays. During boarding his flight from Brisbane to Cairns, Captain Brendan met young Gabriel dressed in a full First Officer's suit. Given the effort he went to, we took him on a personal tour on the flight deck.

He likes to play flight simulator at home on his xbox, knew his way around the cockpit very well and checks in on the Jetstar careers page occasionally to check on any upcoming First Officer positions!

We invited him to come back up to the flight deck after landing so Gabriel could take a good look at the Airbus 320, his favourite aircraft.

Being such an aviation enthusiast, we invited him up to the FNQ Aviation Museum for a personal tour to check out some of our older aircraft including the Dakota (pictured with his Uncle).



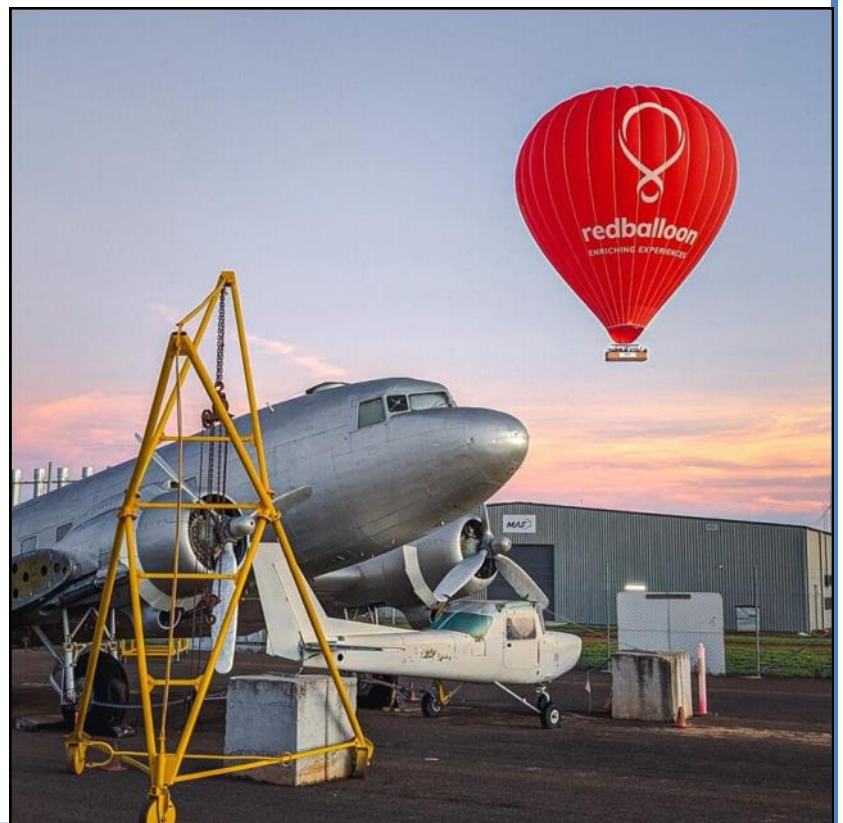
Aircraft Models:

Some impressive attention to detail with the Beaufort model coming along nicely! Big thanks to Tony who has also offered to donate his Caudron G.3, the first to land in Far North Queensland.



Photo Gallery:

Early morning picture taken by Hot Air Balloon Cairns,



FNQAM News Continued

Pictures from around the museum:

(Right) Alan making great progress creating additional storage in the new container (apparently the helmets make great shaving bowls!)

(Left) Student volunteer Teresa putting the finishing touches on the Sea Venom engine.



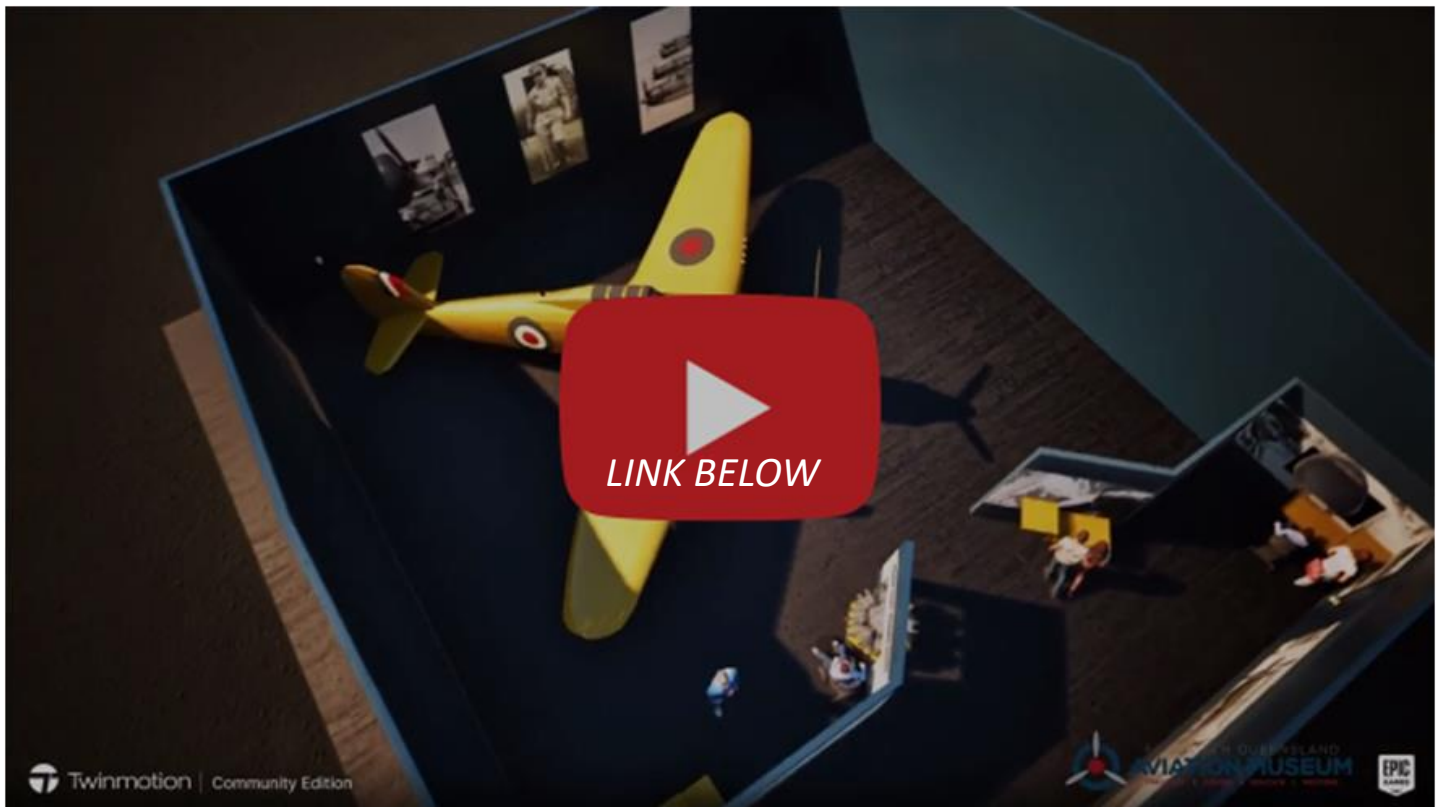
New display items:



Thanks to Rolph at Aerosmith Welding for the donation of some artefacts from the DC3 that once perched on top of a pole at the entrance to Cairns airport. Rolph also had a cool chunk of DC3 spar that he loves to show his visitors.

FNQAM News Continued

New concept video of our new immersive displays:



Project partner, Earthstory has been working with us to create an impressive immersive aviation museum experience. We recently applied to the Queensland Government's Accessible Tourism fund to transform a stock standard hangar into a first class, inclusive facility. This will provide our visitors, funders and donors a taste of future stages.

[FNQAM Flythrough Accessible Tourism display Concept \(youtube.com\)](#)

The Faces of North Queensland during WWII:

Recent research with the faces of 5 and 100 Squadron Royal Australian Air Force personnel who served in Far North Queensland during WWII.

Joan has been making great progress finding more and more people who served locally and building profiles for our database.

Do you have any relatives or info on those who served in FNQ during WWII that you'd like to share info or pictures to add to their profile?



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



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AAC EVENTS CALENDAR

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

Atherton Aero Club 2024 Events

Feb Sunday 18th—AAC Working Bee, Meeting & BBQ Lunch

Other 2024 Events

Feb Saturday 17th - NQAC Fly-In Breakfast Mareeba



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Donnington Airpark (YDOP)



Burdekin Flyers (YAYR)

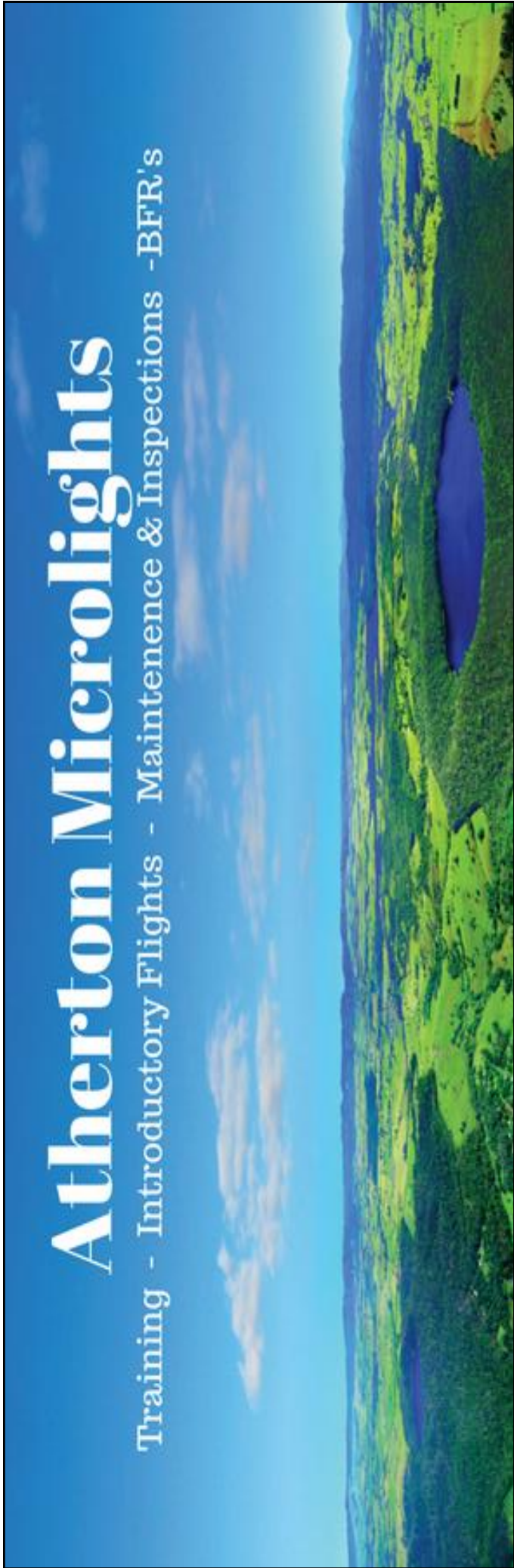


Atherton Aero Club (YATN)



Atherton Microlights

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



Atherton YATN
Elevation 2460 feet

Flight Strip
Length 1286 mtrs Width 90 mtrs
Grass Runway
Length 1166 mtrs Width 30 mtrs

Right Circuit Rwy 33
(All circuits to the East)

This UNOFFICIAL Map is for
general reference purposes only

33

15

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.

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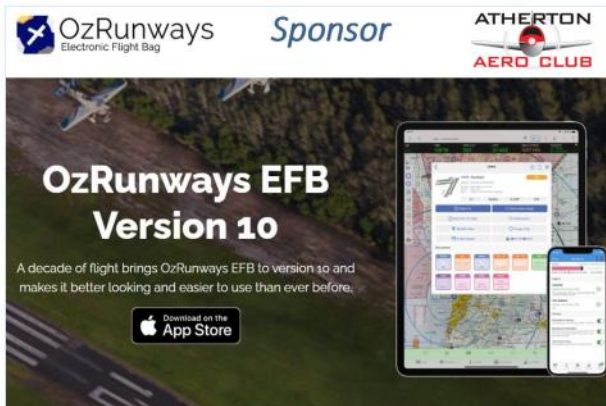
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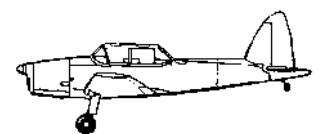



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Atherton Aero Club - Membership Application / Renewal

- New Member
- Returning Member



PERSONAL DETAILS

Full name		Date of Birth	
Street address		State	Postcode
Postal address		State	Postcode
Email address		Occupation	
Telephone	ah	hh	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*
Stephen Klaproth
PO Box 227
ATHERTON QLD 4883

or email to: *sjklaproth@gmail.com*

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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