



Newsletter No. 329

April 2022

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.



Navigating in marginal weather around the Ranges has become even more interesting.

Recent photos (29 April) of the Kaban Wind Farm project. These babies are **740'** high, not charted and no Notam is out for them it seems. This is as close as we could get today, hopefully on a sunny day we can get a better look.



Report & Photos Courtesy of the NQAC

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	Stephen Klaproth PO Box 227 ATHERTON Q 4883 sjklaproth@gmail.com

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 329. In this issue, local activities and links to interesting articles from elsewhere. Keep those flying adventures going and remember to send us your photos and stories.

A thank you to Gareth Davey, John Martin, the FNQAM, NQAC, NQSC and others 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.

COVER PHOTOS - For further information:

[Kaban Green Power Hub | Clean Energy For Queensland](#)



The next **AAC Club Meeting** will be our monthly get together on **Sunday the 15th of May 2022** starting at **10:30am**.

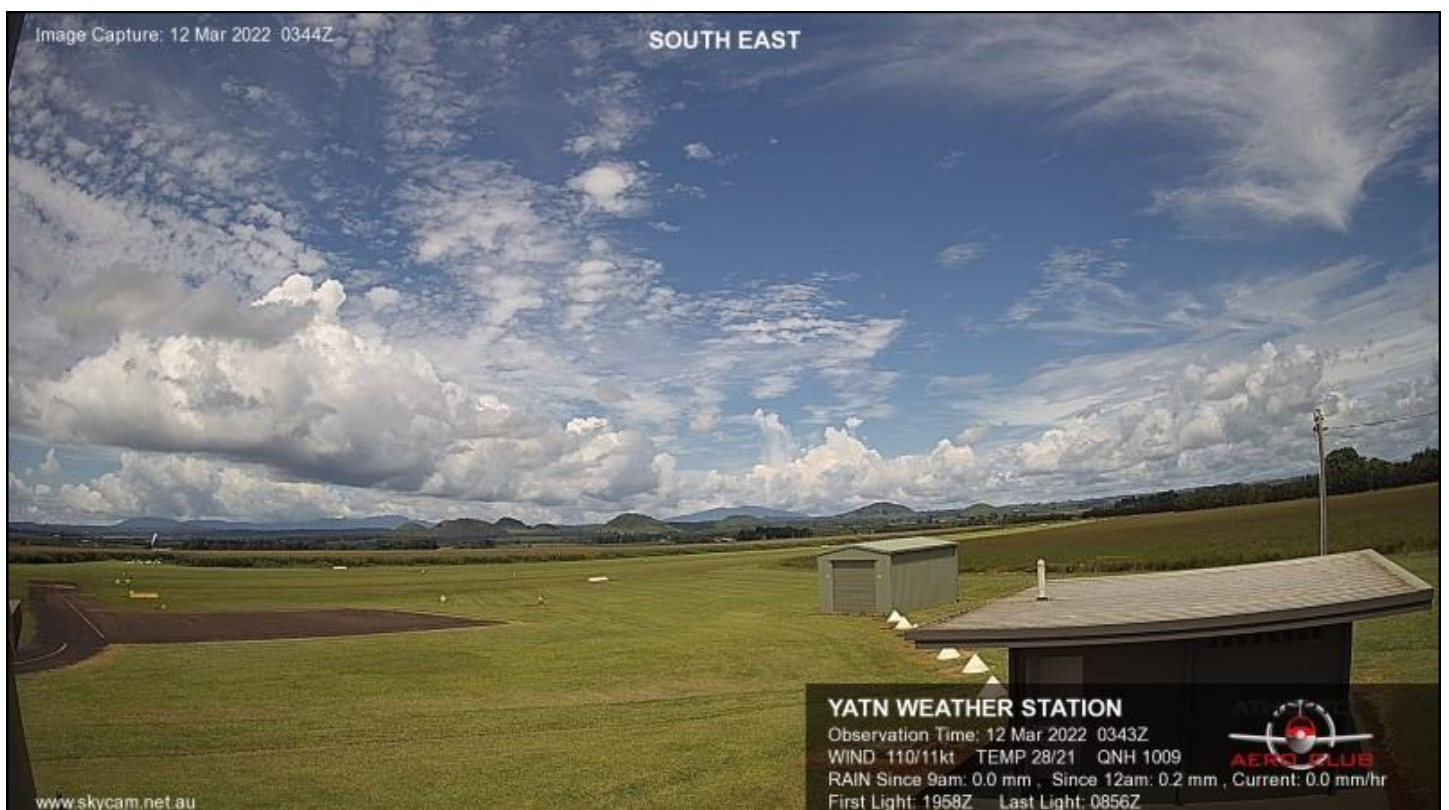
Venue the **AAC Atherton Aerodrome** storage facility.

Visitors are most welcome.



Atherton Weather Cameras Now Back In Service

New waterproof cameras have replaced the older “not so waterproof” ones on the Atherton Aero Club building. The new fish eye lens gives a much wider field of view and is tilted up to display a larger amount of sky.



Trip Report - NQ to Essendon, VIC

On a recent VFR trip to Essendon VIC from northern Queensland, I was keen to avoid the east coast flooding weather and all of New South Wales at the same time. A westerly route trialled last year was via Thargomindah QLD and Swan Hill VIC, both having 24/7 avgas and reasonable accommodation with airport transfers, so this year it was time to try it again. (See *route map next page*).

At Thargomindah, the good people at the airconditioned Oasis Motel will happily pickup and dropoff at the airport. They also have a restaurant and bar onsite offering breakfast, a take-away lunch pack, and dinner. Phone 07 4655 3155 or email oasismotelqld@bigpond.com.au. Thargomindah's population is about 270.

Bulloo Shire Council operate Thargomindah Airport including the fuel facility. As the photos show, they welcome general aviation and recreational aircraft with anchor points for secure parking. Note the solar-charged lights on the path to the coded gate. Yes, it's a security controlled airport, so hi-viz and ASICs prevail. If you're airside, the gate code is not difficult to work out.



There's avgas and avtur available on demand (I paid \$2.87 per litre for avgas in mid-March) ... except when a Rex airliner parks at the airport terminal which blocks the refuelling area for a couple of hours twice a week. Check the airline schedule to make sure you're not delayed getting fuel while fare-paying pax are down- and up-loaded.

Here's a website link to the current info: https://www.rex.com.au/Products_Promo/Freight/_lib/pdf/QLDschedul_e_RO497_New.pdf?d=100222.

The bowsers take any credit card. There's no rewind button on the avgas hose reel, but if you start feeding the hose back onto the drum its spring loading will help you. There's a quality toilet airside, near the bowser paystation.

Continued/

Trip Report - NQ to Essendon, VIC (Continued)

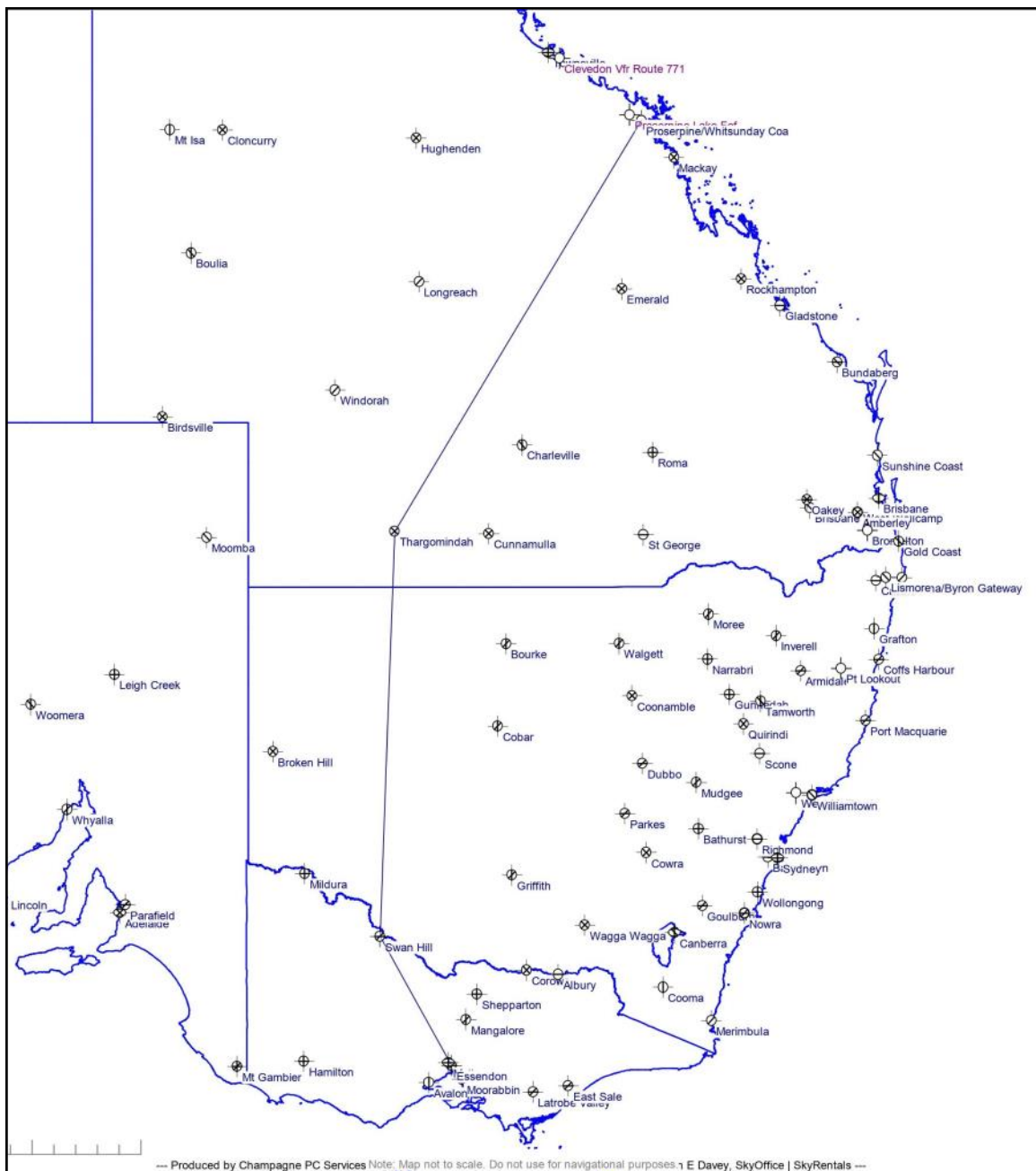
Between the airport and town, Thargomindah has some tourist attractions that are walkable if you have the time, insect repellent (flies), and sun protection (heat). The airport is also a good springboard for flying into Eromanga and Quilpie which are each about an hour away. Quilpie also has avgas.

At Swan Hill, fuel is available 24/7 with avgas costing me \$2.688 per litre (in mid-March). The bowser takes an Air BP card, and the airport is not security-controlled.

There's a basic toilet not far from the bowser. I haven't tried the accommodation there yet, but town is not far from the airport and there is a taxi service. Swan Hill's population is about 9,600.

Regards

Gareth Davey in Cessna 182 VH-VMA



Around and About in the Far North

Jon and Simon make a 7th April morning flight for a quick look at Mount Mulligan.



The Mount Mulligan Escarpment



Back home at Atherton



Mareeba Sunrise

Photo: NQAC

Short Belfast - Britain's Hercules - A Brief History

During the height of the Cold War, as America and the Soviet Union prepared for inevitable open conflict by strengthening their armed forces, Britain attempted to do the same with the Short Belfast, among the largest turboprop aircraft in the world, and one that had been designed to swiftly transport troops and weaponry into the combat zone.



Sadly, the Belfast came at a very bad time in British history, as with the collapse of the British Empire between the 1940s and 1980s, the UK's role as a global superpower diminished rapidly, and therefore the Belfast was a gigantic aircraft left without a purpose. View the full story via the following link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DH9TCgBoRbI>



The last flyable example is now a Tarmac Ornament at Cairns Airport. Will it ever fly again??

EASTER WEEKEND 1

By John Martin

Our initial plan for a longer trip away at Easter did not eventuate. Work and family commitments across the group meant we were all free on different days, so our first day of being able to go away together ended up being Easter Sunday.

We saddled up the two Jabirus, Dave Camp's and Dave Graham's Glassairs and John Atkinson's Long Ezi and headed out to Einasleigh.

Dave and Connie had departed earlier and Martin and I were the last to leave Atherton.

The trip out of Atherton was typical of this time of year, low cloud at Atherton but easy to get out under it. We headed toward Walkamin where it lifted and then it was high broken, till about Petford where it became high scattered.

It was only as we descended into Einasleigh that I saw what appeared to be a much bigger town than I was used to, and when I was there a few months back. It was when I was on final that I realised the races were on.

An uneventful landing was followed by the announcement that there a \$30 entry fee and that even being there for only an hour or so was no respite from the cost.

So we went down to the river instead!

It was a hot day and plenty of people were swimming so there was a lot of entertainment there anyway. None of us were particularly keen on swimming so we found a shelter and tables and had lunch.

We pretty much just had lunch, got back in the planes and headed home again with an uneventful flight and return to Atherton.



ABOVE: The Copperfield River at Einasleigh proving popular on a hot day.

LEFT: John Atkinson surveys the unruly masses!

Continued >

EASTER WEEKEND 2

Monday was pretty much a write-off with most of the day being low cloud, drizzle rain and very unsuitable flying conditions.

This all changed on Tuesday which fortunately Martin and I had off. The weather was not good near the coast but further out west was looking pretty good so we resorted to our typical planning, of “where is the weather good, and in that good area, where have we not been recently or at all?”

In looking at the map we decided we hadn't been to Croydon before, so Croydon it was!

The flight to Croydon was uneventful and followed same pattern as the trip to Einasleigh with getting out under low cloud and then once west of Dimbulah being able to climb to 6500 feet out and 7500 feet on the way back.

We landed at Croydon and were setting out chairs and table for a drink and snack when a bloke arrived and introduced himself as Ian Southwell who owned the little Allegro tied down next to where we were parked. He said he saw us come in, wondered who we were and decided to just come out and say G'day. As it happened he had met both of us at Atherton for a club meeting some-time before though he didn't realise it was us when he came out to the airport.



BELOW: Croydon Airport. We arrived on a busy day, RFDS King Air plus the resident Allegro.

ABOVE: Lake Belmore, Croydon



EASTER WEEKEND 3

We had a bit of a chat and he then asked if we wanted a tour of Croydon?

It was not an offer we could pass up, so we piled into his car and got a tour of the town.

He then took us out to the dam and lake then the mining museum and back to town with a stop at the café for lunch.

After lunch we headed back to the airport via his place and a fairly dodgy back track that brought us out beside the airport.



The centre of every town is the pub. Now it's the only pub. In its heyday there were 33 pubs in Croydon.



Croydon Station. One end of the popular tourist railcar run between Croydon and Normanton.

EASTER WEEKEND 4



EASTER WEEKEND 5



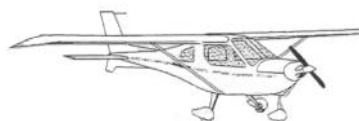
The 5 Header Stamper. Functioning and gets started up for tours and visitors, though we hadn't organised anything so just had a look at it.



Our host, Ian Southwell who just came and offered to take us around and show us town!

Once again country hospitality came through and we got to see a lot more of the town than just the airport. Thanks Ian!

We also established that, as far as Croydon goes, there is enough to see to justify going back and staying overnight. There's accommodation at the pub and the caravan park. It's probably worth a future stopover.



NORTH QUEENSLAND AERO CLUB NEWS & EVENTS

TOM MCDONALD SPOT LANDING COMPETITION 2022

Great weather for a change and one of the best attended for quite some time!

And the winner is! Matt Jennings In Cherokee 6 FDY.



A selection of photos from Sunday 3rd April:

NORTH QUEENSLAND AERO CLUB NEWS & EVENTS



Bill Owen
INSURANCE BROKERS

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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



FACEBOOK



WEBSITE



Dakota/DC3 Progress Report 17 March 2022

The guys have been busy the last few weeks on the Dakota. All the instruments removed from the panel, plywood instrument panel (material shortages in the day?) removed and ready for refurb.

Missing overhead subpanels measured & pending photographs new panels will be made - show us your C-47 cockpit panel photos!

New sunshades made out of some recycled & repurposed sisalation left over from a hangar build.

After a good vacuum out is starting to look the part .

The hamburger door has also been removed to repair a seriously corroded latch.



More photos over page/

FNQAM Dakota/DC3 Photos — Continued



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message us on Facebook!

Charters Towers Airport

Air Experience Flight - \$150

An air experience flight, is a flight in a 2 seat training glider designed to
introduce you to the joys and fun of gliding.

It includes an introductory GFA membership and approximately 20 minutes
worth of flying with an instructor. Additional launches and flying at club
rates.

North Queensland Soaring Centre



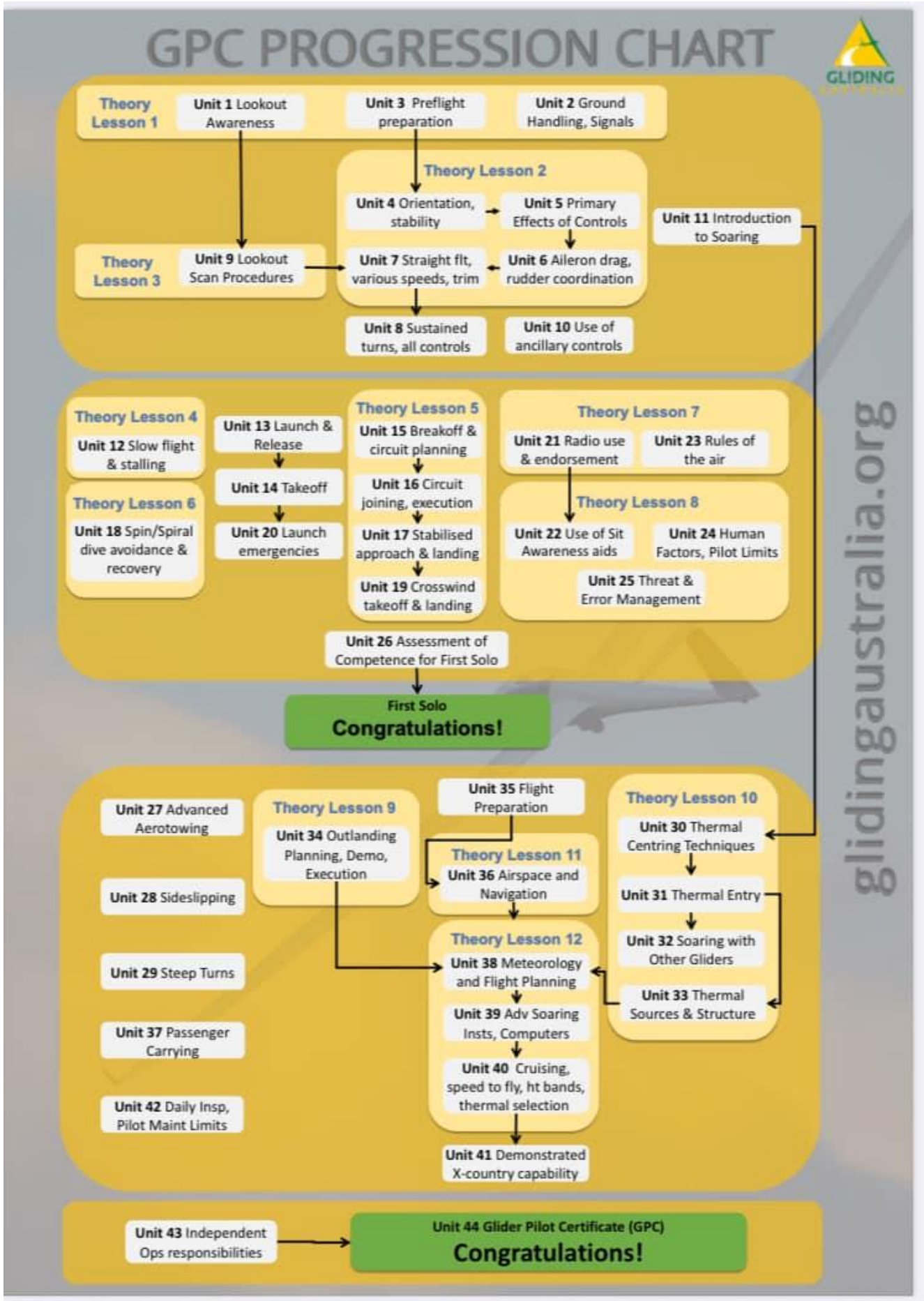
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Hot Air Ballooning In The Far North



Hot Air Balloon Cairns. Stunning time of year to be soaring over the lush Atherton Tablelands in a hot air balloon! Balloon tours depart daily from Cairns, Palm Cove, Port Douglas, Trinity Beach, Cairns Beaches and the Atherton Tablelands with door to door transfers included in your hot air ballooning ticket.



Hi Everyone

Pinnarendi is currently closed for the season.

Thank you all so very much for visiting us in 2021! The craziest year ever! Here's to many more!

We will be re-opening on the 6th May 2022, after spending Easter with our family.

Ronnie, Nadine, Joy, Carol, Stacey and Kids

Pinnarendi Station Stay & Café

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

Ron Atkinson 0419 201 622



AAC EVENTS CALENDAR

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

Atherton Aero Club 2022 Events

May Sun 15th **AAC Meeting & BBQ**—1030 Atherton

Other 2022 Events

May Sat 21st **NQAC Forsyth – Cobbold Gorge Overnight**

May 28th & 29th **Old Station Fly-In, Raglan**

Tiger Moth joy-flights at Donnington Airpark (YDOP)

Experience the wind in the wires and the thrill of flying in a vintage aircraft!

Saturday 25th June 8 am to 4 pm

Sunday 26th June 8 am - 11 am

30-minute flights - \$250

Limited seats available - bookings are essential! Walk-ins accepted but bookings will take priority.

Contact Whitsunday Office Machines 9 am to 5 pm Mon - Fri. on 07 4998 5677 for bookings and joy-flight information.

*Subject to weather conditions and aircraft serviceability.

Mackay Tiger Moth Museum is a non-profit organisation - joy- flight fees go towards fuel, maintenance, insurance and all the other costs incurred in keeping these magnificent aircraft in the air.

Donnington Airpark has secured fuel sponsorship from local businesses and private individuals to cover the cost of ferry fuel required to get both aircraft to Woodstock.

Donnington Airpark also offers free entry to the public for this event. Our event is registered as a fund-raiser for [Royal Flying Doctor Service - Queensland Section](#) - raffles and novelty activities will be conducted to assist in this endeavor.



Regards, Christian.

Christian D Smith

Donnington Airpark

donningtonsmmythe1@gmail.com

0418 636727

"Australia's Favourite Country Air Show"



The Old Station Fly In & Heritage Show Raglan Queensland

28th & 29th May 2022

AIR SHOW DISPLAY Starts at 2pm Saturday



Car & Bike Show



Vintage Machinery



Aircraft



Truck Show



Tractor Pulling

Camping welcome from 12 noon Friday 27th May

**PROCEEDS AID LOCAL
COMMUNITY GROUPS &**



www.oldstationflyin.com



STRICTLY NO DOGS

Atherton Aero Club Fundraising - Club Treasurer 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.

Northern Flyers

Donnington Airpark (YDOP)



Burdekin Flyers (YAYR)

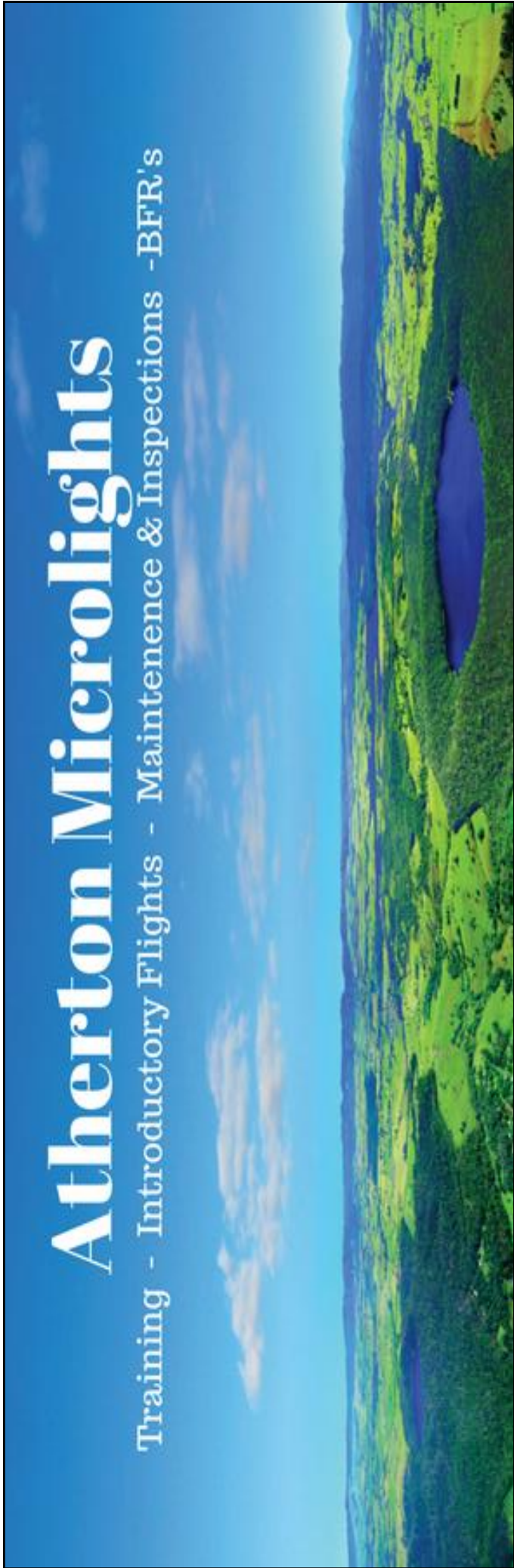


Atherton Aero Club (YATN)



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

(CHECK ERSa & NOTAMS FOR CHANGES)

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

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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: <i>The Treasurer</i> <i>Stephen Klaproth</i> <i>PO Box 227</i> <i>ATHERTON QLD 4883</i>	or email to: <i>sjklaproth@gmail.com</i>
Payments can be made by: <i>EFT, Cheque, cash, or at the Bendigo Bank</i>	
EFT Details: <i>Atherton Aero Club BSB 633000 ACC 114331796 (Ref - Your Name)</i>	

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

Over the Shoulder F-16 Demo Cockpit Footage Myrtle Beach Airshow



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IY8BHSPHv90>

*Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, famous for its **86** golf courses.*

(Editor overnighted there during 2010/2011)