



Newsletter No. 334

January 2023

*OzRunways Seminar
Innisfail Aero Club
11th February (See Poster)*

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.



Departing Old Station



Century Mine Lawn Hill



Birdsville Pub



Enroute Mount Isa to Hells Gate



Refuelling at Hells Gate



Amigos Castle Lightning Ridge



Goondiwindi

Photos: John Martins 2022 Travels

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 334—our first for some months. In this issue, a photo round up of last years activities and some more recent events. Keep those flying adventures going and remember to send us your photos and stories.



A thank you to John Martin, Stephen Klaproth and the other Far North 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 monthly get together and BBQ Lunch on **Sunday the 19th of February 2023** from **10:30am** onwards.

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

Visitors are most welcome.



My Electrified Flight—Stephen Klaproth 2023

For the Christmas holidays I travelled over to Perth to spend time with family. Whilst in Perth I decided to book a Trial Introductory Flight (TIF) in the Pipistrel Alpha Electro. I booked the TIF with FlyOne who owns the aircraft, but the TIF was conducted by Cloud Dancer Flight School at Jandakot.



After finding my way around Jandakot and arriving at the Cloud Dancer hangar, we went into the office and conducted the usual flight planning. One slight difference to my usual flight plan was during planning our flight, we marked what the battery charge should be at different waypoints. The aircraft has a total flight time of an hour. The flight school has to travel out to its training area, which is a ten minute transit each way, leaving a twenty minute training window with a twenty minute reserve. We didn't go to the training area for the TIF but instead did a coastal flight at 1500 feet. Why wouldn't you!!

With flight planning done, we went out to the aircraft for the pre-flight checks. Upon approaching the aircraft, it immediately got my attention as to how clean the aircraft was! No exhaust fumes, oil marks or fuel spillage - the only thing the airframe contends with is dust and bugs. We made our way to the front of the aircraft and disconnected the charge cable. For the record, it was not a USB cable, but a rather chunky plug and cable. The aircraft has two batteries, each weighing around 70kgs. One of the batteries is in the front right hand side and the other battery is in the back on the left hand side (pilot side). Each battery has its own compartment accessed through an external door. You don't actually see much of the battery - only the plug and an electronic battery indicator. There is also a smaller battery in the cabin which was for the instruments and is located under the dashboard. The required checks for the batteries were that they were plugged in and showing 100% charge - pretty simple! The electric engine is connected directly to the propeller and is about the size of a sponge cake. I could move the prop with my light finger and you can move it in either direction, which just felt wrong.

With checks done and the charge cable removed we hopped in the cabin and started the electronics. The engine management system was only showing a 24% charge and I offered to give it a quick technicians tap but was quickly told not to touch anything. A quick system reset and fixed, 100% charge. We knew each battery was 100% because there is an indicator on each battery which we checked whilst doing the airframe checks. We did the usual flight controls checks and then were ready for the engine checks. I flicked a switch and got two green lights and we were ready to go flying, rather anticlimactic.

Continued

My Electrified Flight—Continued

We got the go ahead to taxi and went straight to the holding point, no engine run up necessary. Upon reaching the holding point we got told it would be a ten minute and we watched a procession of 172's come in. We pulled the throttle back and the propellor came to a stop. It took about a minute before we had about ten flies in the cabin. With no wind from the propellor to contend with it didn't take them long. Whilst swatting away the flies I did notice the flight time was still clicking over which is not unusual, but I did feel like I was cheating since the propellor wasn't even turning!! We got the go ahead to enter the runway and depart. With the propellor spinning we tried our best to remove the flies before closing the doors. Being an electric aircraft, power settings are measured in kilowatts and for takeoff it was 49kW which is not full power (60kW). This did not matter and at 49kW I was pulled back into the seat and we were off the ground in no time, climbing at 70 knots at around 700 feet per minute. Reaching circuit height, we powered back to 20kW and had a cruising speed of around 90 knots. It immediately became obvious why this aircraft had become operational so quickly and that was because half the work was already done with the Pipistrel Alpha airframe being ideally suited to electric operations. The airframe is light and very efficient through the air.

We arrived at each waypoint with a few percentages of charge over what was planned. The engine made a whinging noise similar to a turbine but nowhere near as loud. I had got a great day with clear skies and the flight past Coogee beach at 1500 feet was great.

The only other engine instrument we had to monitor apart from the charge, was the battery temperature. We were two degrees below a warning point at takeoff which in reflection was maybe why we didn't use full power but it was a hot day and full power wasn't needed anyway. The battery temperature remained constant whilst at cruising speed.

We did a quick descent to get back to circuit height and as we pulled back the throttle the power setting went negative which meant the batteries were charging, albeit minimally. We got back to the hangar with 50% charge remaining after a 50 minute flight with twenty minutes spent taxiing and waiting for departure. The charge time to bring it back to 100% was an hour. Although if there are no other flights that day, they would trickle charge the batteries overnight to help preserve them. I asked about the maintenance and they said the electrical system was minimal and consisted of inspections rather than the actual replacement of parts. The airframe maintenance is standard, however they said because there is no engine vibration, the airframe has minimal issues.

Overall the plane was great to fly and definitely delivers a more peaceful flight experience. With the obvious drawbacks being endurance and charge time, I don't see these being improved until battery technology improves. In the future once the battery technology improves we may one day be driving to our local club in an electric car and then removing a battery module from our car putting it in a plane and going for a flight!! However, until then I'm happy to listen to the purr of a Rotax or for others the thump thump thump of a Lycoming!



AROUND AND ABOUT THE FAR NORTH - Pinnarendi Fly-In & Overnight

Photos from the well attended weekend fly-in and overnight at Pinnarendi on the 8th and 9th October 2022. Pinnarendi is now CLOSED until Anzac Day 2023.

Our far north flyers made the most of this last opportunity and the good weather.



Pinnarendi Station QLD. Not marked on Charts! 18°2'17.82" S 144°52'59" E
 ELEV 2500
 RWY 10/28 1500M X 15M Unrated Grass Level. Aerodrome Operator Ron Atkinson Ph. 0419 201 622
 AERODROME OBSTACLES Radio CTAF 126.7 BN CEN
 126.15 BN CEN
 1. Microwave tower 1,703 m 337' from threshold of RWY 10
 124.8 Charts WAC
 2. Power lines located along right hand side of RWY 10
 3219
 3. Animal hazard exists

Pinnarendi Fly-In & Overnight - Saturday afternoon & evening



Atherton Aero Clubs 2022 Christmas Party

The Atherton RSL put on an excellent spread for us. All round a great evening was had with plenty of cheer and much to catch up on with friends. Hope next years is as good!



John Martins 2022 Travel Photos 1

The following is a *small* selection of photos (in no particular order) from John's flying travels including the Old Station fly-in and some "secret mens business" trips.



Old Station



Old Station

Old Station Fly-In earlier in 2022



Matt Hall Old Station



Old Station Display Crowd



Old Station



Flying Display Old Station

John Martins 2022 Travel Photos 2



All photos can be zoomed in on for greater detail.



John Martins 2022 Travel Photos 3



Nebo Aerodrome — Bogged



On Final - Lightning Ridge



Lightning Ridge Aerodrome



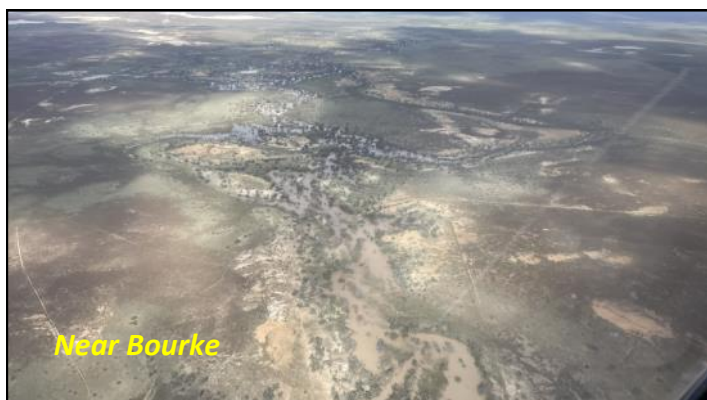
Lightning Ridge
Black Hand Mine



Lightning Ridge
Black Hand Mine



Lightning Ridge
Bottle House



Near Bourke



The team at
Tibooburra Aerodrome

John Martins 2022 Travel Photos 4



Tibooburra



Tibooburra
Memorial



Tibooburra Fossil Fuel Alternative



Tibooburra
Sturts Desert Pea



Tibooburra to Birdsville



Birdsville Pub



On Final Boulia



Boulia Tarmac

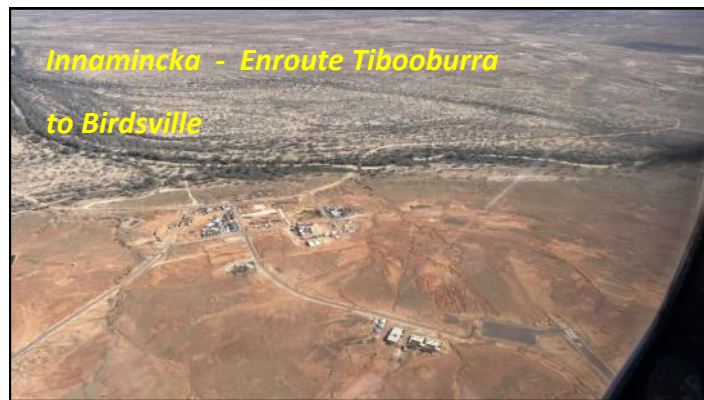
John Martins 2022 Travel Photos 5



Boulia Min Min Lights Centre



Boulia Heritage Centre



Innamtsacka - Enroute Tibooburra to Birdsville



Hells Gate Roadhouse



Hells Gate

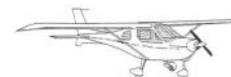


Hells Gate Sunrise



Croydon - Nearing Home

Thank you John. A great collection of photos, sorry we couldn't fit them all in. Far North pilots certainly did their fair share of long flying trips in 2022.



NORTH QUEENSLAND AERO CLUB NEWS & EVENTS

A great atmosphere at the combined NQAC and AMA 2022 Christmas Pizza party. Sooo many pizzas cooked! A great night with lots of members and friends attending.



2022 Christmas Party

NORTH QUEENSLAND AERO CLUB NEWS & EVENTS

Dear Members,

A Happy New Year to you all!

We will be having a [Members Think Tank run by Dave Graham](#) scheduled for [Saturday 11th February](#) (location TBA) to allow members to come along and assist with the planning of this year's events and offer ideas. I am also planning on running a few different flying competitions this year (probably the "Hands off" and "Instrument-less Circuit") similar to the ones held a few years ago that were quite popular.

I will also endeavour to get back into our quarterly newsletters/news shot which I let slide in 2022. I appreciate not all of you follow the NQAC FaceBook page, and as such, are not kept as up to date as you could be with all the flying achievements and goings on through the year.

See you around the Club.

Sally Scott

Chief Flying Instructor & Chief Pilot





Inconjunction with

OzRunways
Electronic Flight Bag

Seminar

Hosted by Innisfail Aero Club

Location: Innisfail Aero Club

Date: 11th February 2023

Time: 12.00pm – BBQ lunch - start time 1.00pm

Everyone is welcome

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



An experience
you'll never forget!
\$150



Go Gliding!



Most weekends, by appointment!

Email us at northqldsoaringcentre@outlook.com or
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



Find us on
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Hot Air Balloon Cairns

As the sun rises over the Atherton Tablelands, Cairns hot air balloon pilot Bob begins his meticulous pre-flight inspection of the balloon envelope. With the utmost care and attention to detail, he ensures that every inch of the envelope is in top condition for another breathtaking flight.

[#hotairballoon](#)

[#balloons](#) [#travel](#) [#hotairballoons](#) [#balloon](#) [#ballooning](#) [#sunrise](#) [#photography](#) [#love](#) [#travelphotography](#) [#nature](#) [#birthday](#) [#surprise](#) [#australia](#) [#queensland](#) [#thisisqueensland](#) [#qld](#) [#instagood](#) [#visitcairns](#) [#hotairballooncairns](#)

https://www.hotair.com.au/cairns?utm_medium=Facebook...





From Kicka and Licka and the whole Pinnarendi team, we'd like to say thank you for your awesome support this year! The gate is now closed until the Anzac Day weekend 2023. Thank you, thank you, thank you from the all of the crew- Ronnie, Nadine, Stacey, Judy, Joy and Carol!

Have a wonderful festive season and we'll see you again next year



Pinnarendi Station Stay & Café

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

Ron Atkinson 0419 201 622



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AAC EVENTS CALENDAR

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

Atherton Aero Club 2023 Events

Feb Sunday 19th—**AAC Meeting & BBQ**—1030 Atherton

Other 2023 Events

Feb Saturday 11th—**NQAC Member Think Tank** - (Location TBA)

Feb Saturday 11th—**OzRunways Seminar, Innisfail Aero Club**



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- * Office Supplies
- * Office and Outdoor Furniture
- * Toners and Printers



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We deliver throughout the Far North

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)

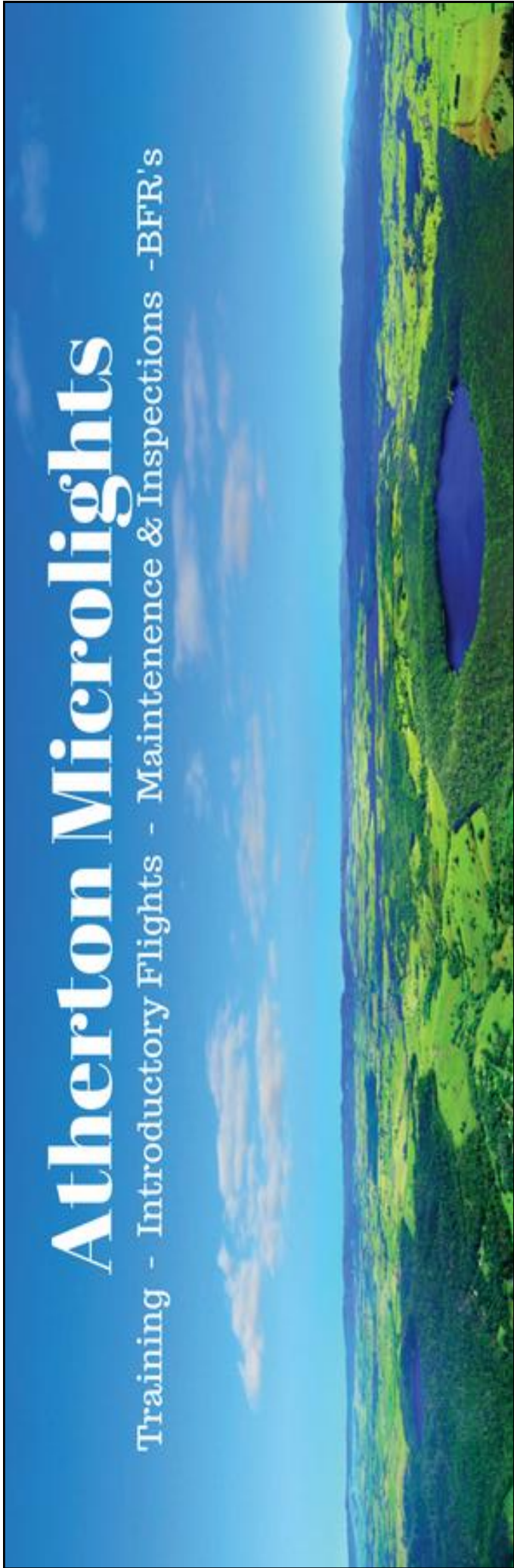


Atherton Aero Club (YATN)



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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Postal Address: P.O. Box 664, North Cairns 4870
Phone: 07 4032 3311
For all mail please only use our postal address.

Townsville Office

Street Address: Suite 8, 286 Floss River Rd, Aikenvale
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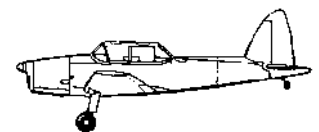


OzRunways Electronic Flight Bag Sponsor ATHERTON AERO CLUB

OzRunways EFB Version 10

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Download on the App Store



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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