

Newsletter No. 306 – November/December 2019



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.



**REMINDER—AAC 2020
MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL
DUE 1ST JAN**

Mount Emerald Wind Farm

Photo Tracey Hayes



Atherton Aerodrome Sunrise Trike Flight

Photo Tracey Hayes

AAC Christmas Party

Sat 7th December

PLEASE RSVP

By 1st December



Atherton Aero Club - Committee Contacts

President	Vice-President	Secretary	Treasurer
Simon Perkins PO Box 227 ATHERTON Q 4883 simon@spaconsulting.com.au	Dave Camp PO Box 227 ATHERTON Q 4883 admin@gorex.com.au	Tracey Hayes PO Box 227 ATHERTON Q 4883 athertonaeroclub@gmail.com	Connie Graham PO Box 227 ATHERTON Q 4883 connieg@fnoc.com.au

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

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

EDITOR'S NOTE - by Bill Gronbeck

Hi All,

Welcome to edition No 306. In this issue - photos of members flying activities over the last few months, aircraft acquisitions, posters advertising upcoming aviation events and news from our sister club the NQAC.

Thank you Mark Aitken for your Longreach trip report.

A thank you also to all the others who (knowingly or un-knowingly) contributed photos and articles for this edition. Please contact me with your newsletter contributions on any of the following: (07) 4036 2868 or 0408 073 142 or by email at -

williamgronbeck2@gmail.com (NOTE CHANGED EMAIL ADDRESS)

Watch the AAC, NQAC 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 club newsletters.



The **next AAC Club Function** will be our **Christmas Party on Saturday the 7th of December** commencing 6 pm.
Venue: . Atherton International Club.
See poster next page for details





HO! HO! HO!

You're invited to the
Atherton Aeroclub
Christmas Party!
Date: 7th December
Time: 6.00

At the Atherton
International Club
\$45pp full xmas buffett

RSVP by 1st December
athertonaeroclub@gmail.com

Full payment to
BSB 633000
A/c 114 331 796

XX NOTICE XX

TEMPORARY CLOSURE—DIMBULAH AIRSTRIP

The Mareeba Shire Council advise that Dimbulah Airstrip will be totally unserviceable from 7:00am next Wednesday, **27 November 2019**.

“Mareeba Shire Council will be undertaking gravel re-sheeting works and the runway will be occupied by construction traffic and materials for **approximately ten calendar days**.”

As Dimbulah Airstrip is described as an Aircraft Landing Area (ALA), no NOTAM is able to be issued for this work, so please feel free to distribute this email to your contacts.”



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LONG WEEKEND IN LONGREACH

After considering a few options for a long weekend away, one of which included a visit to Winton to see the new Waltzing Matilda Centre, we settled on a weekend away in Longreach. We had visited both centres before as road trips with the much younger kids, and were looking forward to taking the opportunity to have a quicker trip away.

The weather leading up to the weekend had crystal clear skies with no rain on the short-term forecast. We departed Atherton about 8:00 and climbed to 8500'. The planned ground speed was 111knots and managed 114knots most of the way. We joined the circuit as the QantasLink Dash was departing at 11:30.



Refuelling at the BP bowser with our newly acquired carnet card supplied by Skyfuel sure beats having to chase up the refueller and worry about callout fees. Not long after parking and tying the plane down the airport security bloke turned up and was very helpful in organising a lift to our motel. One of the good things about Longreach is that the airport, accommodation, attractions and the town are all only a short walk away from each other. But it was nice to have a lift with our bags.

A short walk from the motel to the Stockman's Hall of Fame for lunch and a lazy afternoon going through the exhibits took care of the rest of the day. From my time in Cooktown at the school I recognised a number of the names of aboriginal stockman who are profiled in the Hall of Fame.



A recent addition to the Hall of Fame is the RFDS Queen Air VH-FDS that has been beautifully presented and suspended in the main hall. I believe this aircraft served in Cairns, was on display at the RFDS information centre, then was relocated to the Mareeba Warbirds before ending up at the Hall of Fame.

The next day (Saturday) we enjoyed an early walk along a well presented and treed path into town for breakfast. This was followed by some shopping for locally produced and unique goods which took care of the morning. Ann confirms that Longreach is a good place to shop! Even though it was the tail end of the tourist season there was a sense of vibrancy about the town centre. Plenty of people catching up, filling cafes and coffee shops for breakfast, and shops opening for Saturday morning trade.

LONG WEEKEND IN LONGREACH (2)

A somewhat warmer walk back to the motel to drop the goods, cool down then across the road to the air-conditioned QANTAS Museum for lunch and the afternoon of soaking up some aviation history. The most striking thing at the museum at present is the construction of a multi-million dollar 'shed' that is going to cover the 747, 707 and Constellation. I'd imagine when it is finished someone will be handed a rag and bottle of polish. The western sun is starting the dull the duco a little. The DC3 and the Catalina are also exposed to the elements. I hope the plan is to preserve them under cover as well.



Initially operated by the US Air Force then transporting fish. Previous home Manila mud.



Building the shed



DC3 VH-EAP started life with US Army Air Force in 1944, given to RAAF in 1944, converted to DC3 in 1948 by QANTAS Empire Airways

flown in New Guinea until 1982 joining Bush Pilots in Cairns, ended up in Tasmania before being donated to the Museum and transported by road.



Formally a fire bomber in USA, Canada and Spain. Now in Longreach



The old and the new



VH-EBA 707 has an interesting history.

A wander into the original QANTAS hangar is a trip back in time. The original section poured concrete floor, the exposed construction of the hangar, the exhibits and the reproduced aircraft allow you to soak up how it was in a time gone by.



QANTAS Hangar, built in 1922, remained in use until 1996 then altered for use as a museum. Heritage listed in 1992.

LONG WEEKEND IN LONGREACH (3)

A recent addition includes salvaged parts of a QANTAS Constellation VH-EAB which had been abandoned at Kuwait City Airport in 1976 only to suffer damage during the Gulf War in 1991 due to bombing. Included is one of the engines. Having the cowls open for display provides the opportunity to fully appreciate the engineering that went into the design and manufacture of the parts and how they all go together. The exposed connections at the rear of the engine makes the mind boggle – now what is this connected to??



It is easy to understand why they offer free return entry the following day – but we had a river cruise and dinner next on the schedule.

When we were planning the trip I wasn't sure if the river cruise would be on given that they were in drought. I needn't have concerned myself. Whoever decided to locate a town there knew what they were doing. The waterhole goes for about 10 kilometres and in most parts is 7 to 9 metres deep (according to 'old mate').

We were collected from our motel in a bus to start the cruise. The cruise was very relaxing with drinks and nibbles accompanied by 'old mate's' interesting and informative commentary of wildlife and history including Harry Redford's venture into droving cattle from Bowen Downs to South Australia.

Dinner at Smithy's on the banks of the Thomson accompanied by another 'old mate' singing covers as well as some of his own made for a great evening under the stars.



LONG WEEKEND IN LONGREACH (4)

Sunday morning, a bite for breaky, submit a plan and a lift to the airport by the friendly motel staff. Another cloudless sky, load up, the usual pre-flight and a long back track for a departure on runway 22. Last time I flew into Longreach there was a fair crosswind and this time on departure it was no different. Departing over the town we turned right to follow the Thomson before climbing to 9500'. A planned ground speed of 152 knots meant that there was a bit of wind about. This proved to be the case with at one stage having a ground speed of 160 knots. Don't see that often in the Cherokee.

The trip to Longreach was about 3 and a half hours, we were home in about 2 and a half.

Abeam Pinnarendi we got a call from Brisbane Centre letting us know we were approaching Class C, I thanked her and let her know we wouldn't be requesting a clearance, top of descent was in another 5 miles.

On a clear day descending into Atherton is one of the most enjoyable flying experiences to be had, to see the rivers heading to the west, to have the hills rising to the west of Atherton, Bellenden Ker and Bartle Frere to the east and the ocean beyond capped off with a beer when you get home.

A couple of weeks later Longreach and a number of central towns got rain – they need it.

Mark Aitken



Thomson River waterhole



158.5 kts, the GPS doesn't lie



Descent into Atherton, Tinaroo Dam to the east

SATURDAY FLIGHT & WIND FARM TOUR

Saturday started with a sunrise flight to Lake Mitchell, past the Mt Emerald wind farm and ended with a great tour of the wind farm by bus! So much smoke around, visibility wasn't fabulous below the inversion layer.

Tracey Hayes 9 Nov 2019



Atherton Aerodrome



Lake Tinaroo & The Seven Sisters looking East towards the coastal ranges



487 Feet from ground to top of vertical blade



Mount Emerald Wind Farm Looking SSE



Tracey Hayes | Professional Image Maker
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DEERAL FAMILY FLIGHTS

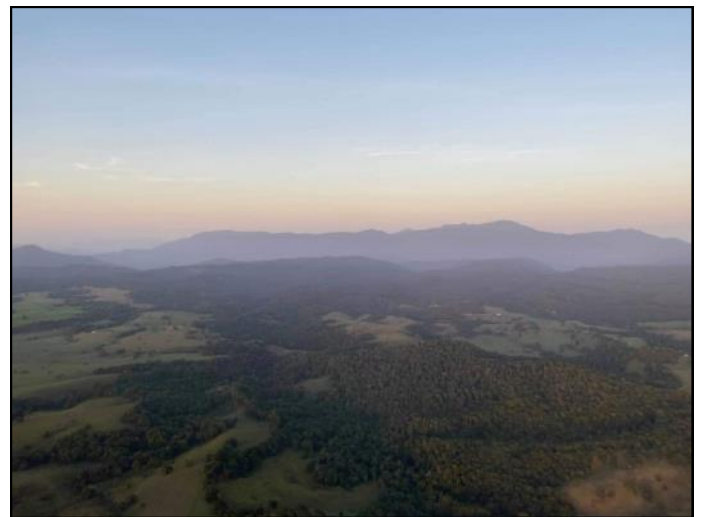
Another great afternoon of Drifter flying, with Brooklyn my 6-year-old Great-Grand-Daughter! *Kristy* my Grand-Daughter and Keah my Grand-Daughter-In-Law.

Frank Arri 9 Nov 2019



NOVEMBER AFTERNOON TABLELAND FLIGHT

With Dave Graham Glasair Sii. Smoke from the Southern QLD bushfires.



SATURDAY MORNING FLY-IN AT INNISFAIL (16/11)

A great line up this morning for smoko, big thanks to Princess Pam fo the lovely fruit cake.



MORE IN-FLIGHT VIEWS OF THE ATHERTON TABLELAND

Where else would you want to live? Lakes Eacham and Barrine.



FIRST FLIGHT OF TONY'S GLASAIR

Tully Heads aircraft builder and pilot Tony Ilyes has completed his Glasair project. The aircraft flew for the first time on the 18th November. Tony's words:

"First flight this morning! Uneventful! Circuit with a low overfly of the troops watching at 200k!!! Tony"
Congratulations on a first class build job.



Another new aircraft in the Far North skies



Taxying in after a successful First Flight



***ANOTHER NEW AIRCRAFT
ON THE TABLELAND***

Local pilot Steve Gordon has acquired a new (to him) Gazelle aircraft from down south. He expects to bring it home later in December—not a bad Christmas present. Onya Steve!



Atherton Sunrise

Photo: JackX



Innisfail Aero Club

Christmas Party

18:00 on the 6th

December

\$20 Per Head

Nibbles, Main & Desert

RSVP Lloyd by 23rd November

Lloydenglish1@dodo.com.au

DRIFTER FOR SALE

Retired Fishery Falls cane farmer Ron Biondi has reluctantly decided that, at 89 years of age, its time he stopped flying. Ron's 95.10, single seat Drifter (Regn 10-669) is now up for sale;

Engine; Rotax 582 Blue Head, 65HP, 300 engine hours

Propeller; Brolga, four blade

A rare opportunity to own and fly a CLASSIC Ultralight before it disappears from our skies.

Contact Bill Gronbeck on 0408 073 142 for link to owner.



NORTH QUEENSLAND AERO CLUB NEWS & EVENTS



Completion of Mareeba Aerodrome Upgrade

Local Dignitaries at the Official Completion of Works Ceremony

Norship MARINE



CONTACT DETAILS

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FAR NORTH QUEENSLAND AVIATION MUSEUM

PRESERVE | INSPIRE | EDUCATE | RESTORE

GET INVOLVED WITH AN ALL NEW COMMUNITY PROJECT

- Community-based Aviation Museum
- Serve both the community & tourism
- Restoring & preserving aviation history
- WW2 Aircraft, Aviators, Memorabilia, Interactive Displays, Simulation, Café...
- Currently in the design & fundraising stage
- Looking for interested people to help in a range of roles
- Please get in touch if you have aviation related exhibits, uniforms, retired parts etc for display
- Located Mareeba Airport, Far North Queensland

CONTACT SECRETARY

Brendan Kent
0422 379 984
admin@fnqam.com.au
www.fnqam.com.au



ATHERTON AERO CLUB

WET WEATHER WORKSHOP

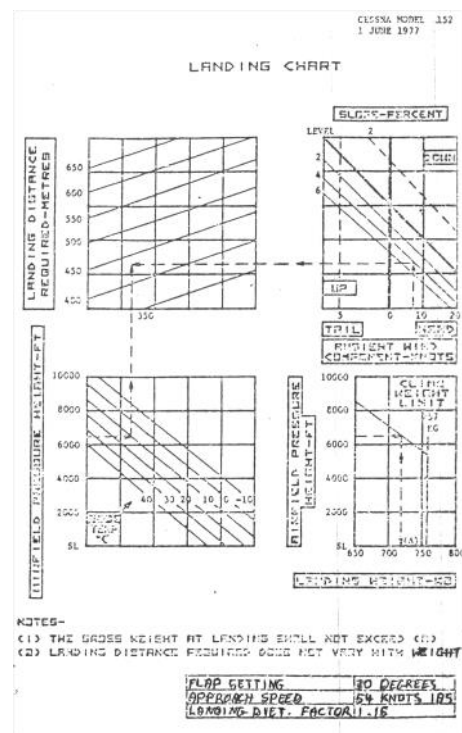
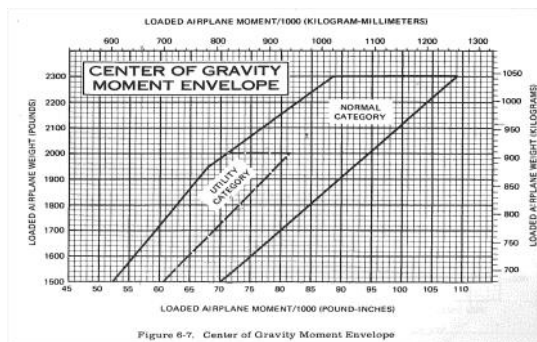
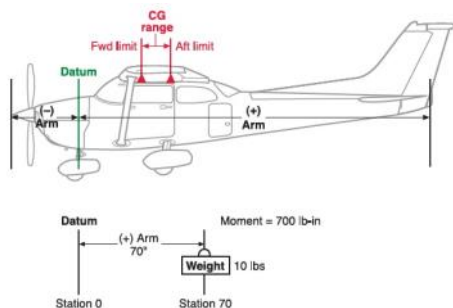
What to do when you can't fly on those Wet Season rainy days?

A great opportunity to get together and re-fresh our aviation knowledge?

How about a session on Take-off and Landing Performance, both Normal and STOL ops?

Some basic theory involved but with an emphasis the practical side. Or, explore the Weight & Balance limitations of your aircraft. Or, delve into the advanced features of the OzRunways program on your iPad or Tablet.

Please give your committee members your ideas, suggestions and preferences. Now is the time to start planning these activities so as to be prepared when poor weather conditions interrupt our flying activities.



Atherton Microlights

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



Atherton Aero Club—2019 EVENTS CALENDAR

Dec Sat 7th, **AAC Christmas Party**, Atherton International Club, 6pm

OTHER LOCAL & LONGER TERM EVENTS

Nov Fri 29th, **Mareeba Airport Christmas Roast**, NQAC, 3:30pm

Dec Fri 6th, **Innisfail Aero Club Christmas Party**, Details TBA

Dec Sat 21st, **FNQ Air Museum, AGM 10am, Raffle Draw, Fly-In & BBQ**

LINKS TO INTERESTING ARTICLES & VIDEOS:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qCqPtqvU9mg>

Instructional Video—Hand Propping (Hand Starting) Procedures

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7KpOg9Ci284&fbclid=IwAR0Q8SJ0z7yPHF80HMRA1rtaRczDEJWKugjOWen64ycZQZTvEeOtqaWYdms)

[v=7KpOg9Ci284&fbclid=IwAR0Q8SJ0z7yPHF80HMRA1rtaRczDEJWKugjOWen64ycZQZTvEeOtqaWYdms](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7KpOg9Ci284&fbclid=IwAR0Q8SJ0z7yPHF80HMRA1rtaRczDEJWKugjOWen64ycZQZTvEeOtqaWYdms)

Hand Propping Accident

<https://www.avweb.com/flight-safety/technique/fly-the-high-road-or-the-low-road/>

Fly the High Road or the Low Road?



Pinnarendi Station

Stay & Café

[https://www.facebook.com/](https://www.facebook.com/Pinnarendi/)

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Ron Atkinson 0419 201 622



Late afternoon Atherton



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) laurie19@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

<p>Forms to be sent to: <i>The Treasurer</i> <i>Jon Collins</i> <i>PO Box 1360</i> <i>ATHERTON QLD 4883</i></p>	<p>or email to: <i>jc4487@gmail.com</i></p>
<p>Payments can be made by: <i>EFT, Cheque, cash, or at the Bendigo Bank</i></p>	
<p>EFT Details: <i>Atherton Aero Club BSB 633000 ACC 114331796 (Ref - Your Name)</i></p>	

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

