

Newsletter No. 317 – February 2021



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.



Cruising down the Walsh River

A scenic flight with James and Kevin. More photos inside.



Back home to Mareeba

Atherton Aero Club - Committee Contacts

President Simon Perkins PO Box 227 ATHERTON Q 4883 simon@spaconsulting.com.au	Vice-President Dave Camp PO Box 227 ATHERTON Q 4883 admin@gorex.com.au	Secretary Tracey Hayes PO Box 227 ATHERTON Q 4883 athertonaeroclub@gmail.com	Treasurer Connie Graham PO Box 227 ATHERTON Q 4883 connieg@fnoc.com.au
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Web Page <http://www.athertonaeroclub.org/>

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

EDITOR'S NOTE - by Bill Gronbeck

Hi All and welcome to edition No 317. In this issue, some great photography from our adventurous club members, more of Jon's builders blog and news from other northern clubs and flying groups. Members continue to get flights in even with the wet season weather. Photos and articles from various sources. Hope you enjoy the read.



A thank you to Kevin, Jon and others who 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

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 a **CASA sponsored, AAC Safety Presentation "Skills Transferrable From Heavy Metal"** on **Sunday the 21st of March**. Presented by Brendan Kent and starting around **10:30am**. A **BBQ Lunch** will follow. To assist with catering arrangements please advise if you will be attending.

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

Visitors are most welcome.

BUILDERS CORNER - Extracts from Jon Collins' Skybolt Blog

February 6th - Haven't updated the group for a while. Lots of stuff done! Seats upholstered, tail wheel installed, wheel pants cut out and ready to install, windscreens mounted, front and rear panels cut out for instruments. Instruments temporarily installed ready for wiring. Instruments temporarily installed ready for wiring.



BUILDERS CORNER - More photos from Jon's Skybolt Blog



Out And About In The Far North - January



Go Paul (The Fun Stuff)



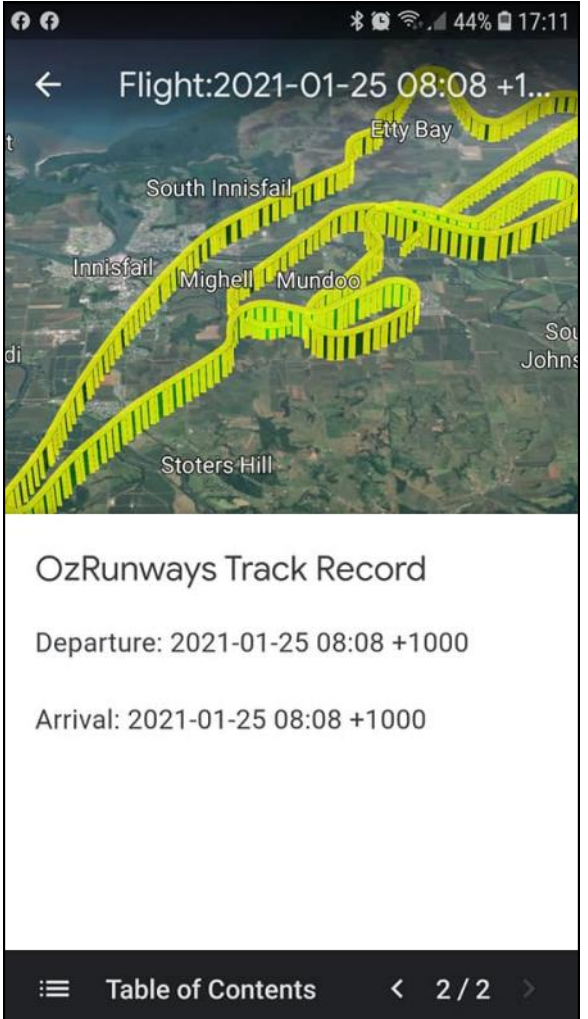
Simons Instrument Rating Renewal (The Not So Much Fun Stuff)

Out And About In The Far North - Innisfail - January

Had a couple of drop-ins this morning, 2 aircraft from Toowoomba and another 2 Fox's came down from Atherton. Lloyd

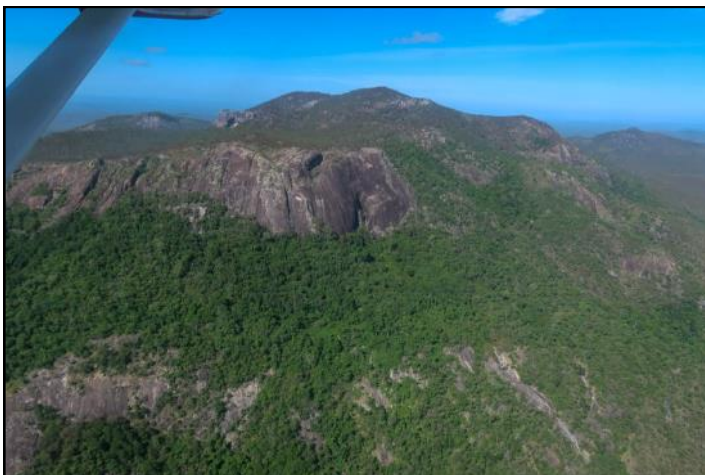


Just to prove I flew it and didn't just draw it in google earth!
- Lloyd



Out And About In The Far North - Mt Carbine, McLeod River

Quick trip to Mt Carbine and upper reaches of the McLeod River and Elephant Rock. Solo effort, sorry about the quality of pictures, snapping away with compact camera while flying. Unable to focus on focus etc. Spectacular country and worth a return mission with another pilot onboard. *PHOTOS: Kevin Priestly*

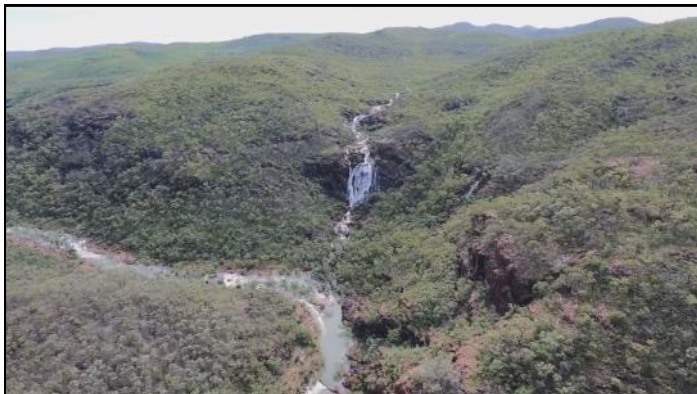


The route flown by Kevin is shown as a series of green circles on the map above.

Zoom in on the PDF for a larger view.

Out And About In The Far North - Scenic Flight west from Mareeba

Today, an amazing explore in the Harley of the Sky of the Walsh River (west of Dimbulah) in flood then tracking north up a tributary and over the ranges, exiting north-west of Mt Mulligan. Tracked back to Mareeba via Mt Mulligan and Tryconnell Gold Mine site. Thanks James.



Numerous waterfalls along the way as we head out west



A stop for a break west of Mount Mulligan then a circuit around and over the escarpment



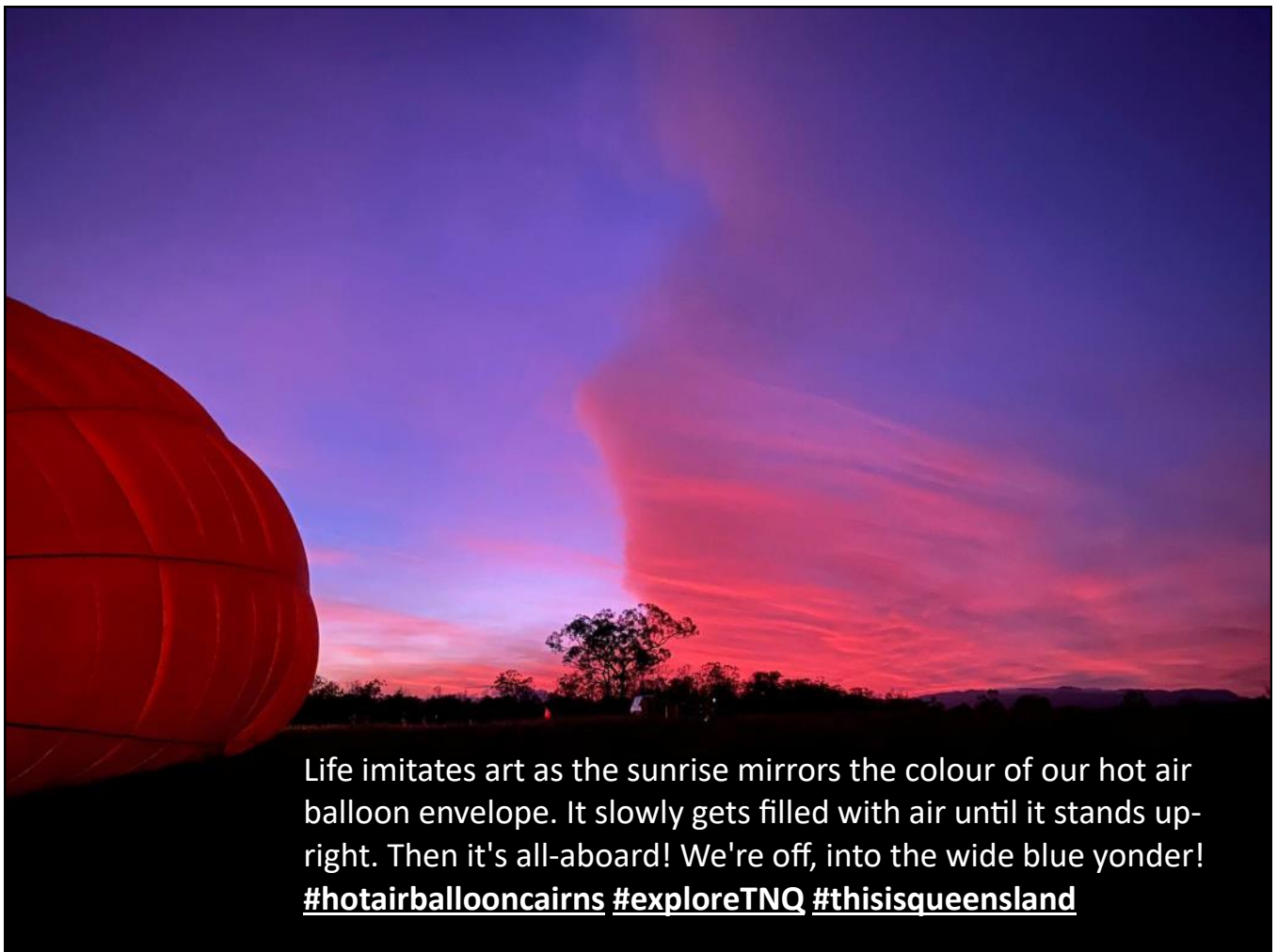
Many picturesque waterfalls draining from the heavily eroded Mt Mulligan escarpment



Around the southern peak then home via the Tryconnell Mine.

Photos: Kevin Priestly

Out And About In The Far North - February Balloon Sunrise



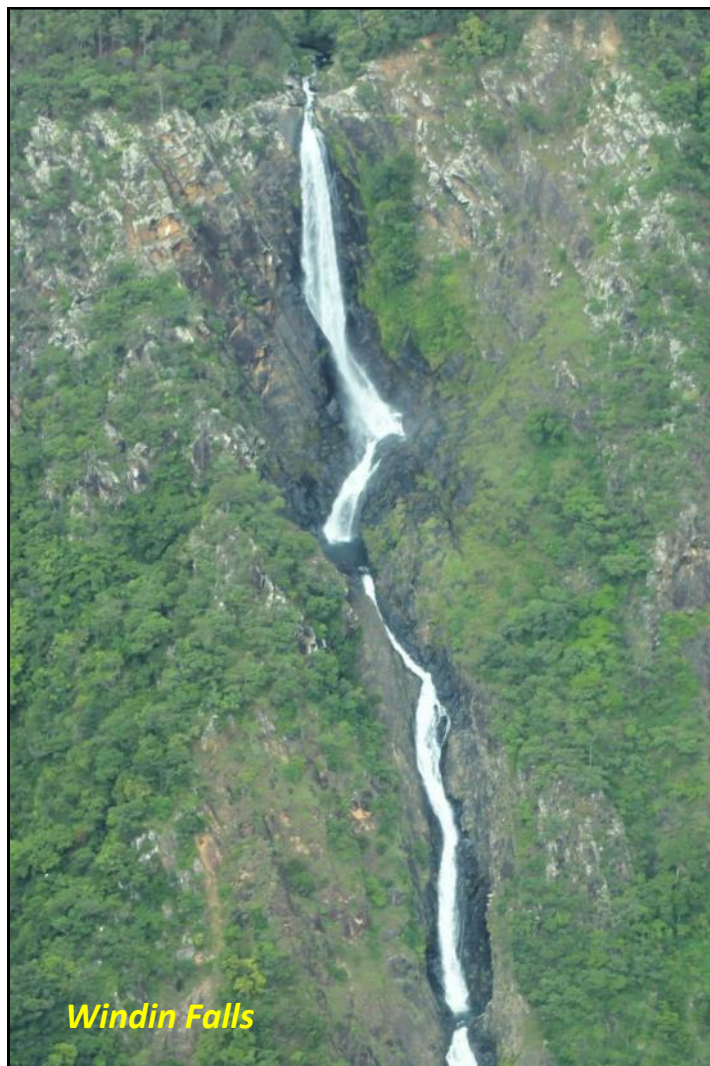
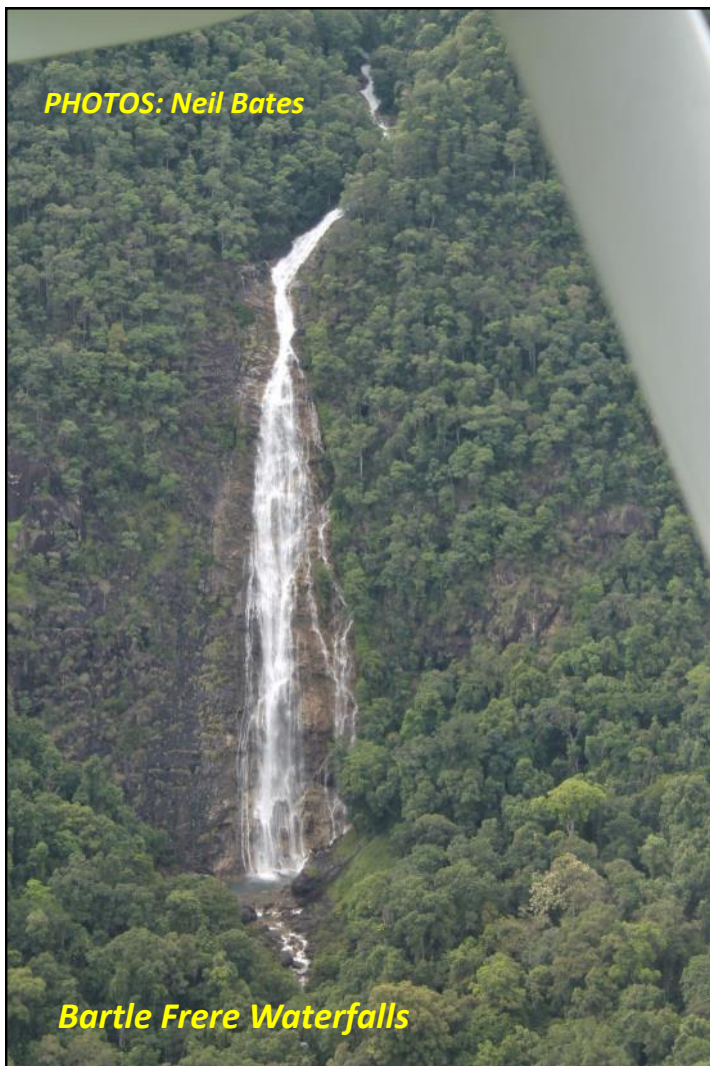
Life imitates art as the sunrise mirrors the colour of our hot air balloon envelope. It slowly gets filled with air until it stands upright. Then it's all-aboard! We're off, into the wide blue yonder!
[#hotairballooncairns](#) [#exploreTNQ](#) [#thisisqueensland](#)



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Out And About In The Far North - February, Tableland Waterfalls



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Out And About In The Far North



HOT AIR BALLOON CAIRNS

Keeping it LOCAL. Come and say g'day to our local team. You may also meet some of the other Mareeba locals while you're at it. We are departing on selected days through the week so please call us or check the website for departure dates! We have smaller group departures in regulation with Covid19 safety... However, if you have a special occasion, i.e: A date for two ...and wish to fly privately, we can work with you to arrange a date that suits you to fly with just your party and the pilot.

[#holidayherethisyear](#) [#exploreathertontablelands](#) [#visitcairns](#) [#covidsafetymeasures](#)

[#tourismtropicalnorthqueensland](#)

NORTH QUEENSLAND AERO CLUB NEWS & EVENTS

**UPCOMING SOCIAL
EVENTS**

Av Safety Seminar
Thursday 25th February
NQAC Hangar
6pm

CLUB BOOKINGS

The club is still very busy at the moment. Particularly for instructor bookings so if you need a flight review or training make sure you book ahead to ensure you don't miss out!

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS!



Congratulations to Quentin Pienaar who went first solo in LIO on the 1st November 2020. Great work Quentin!



Congratulations to Glenn Corrie who went first solo in CRM on the 3rd of December 2020. Well done Glenn!



Congratulations to Joey Soh who went first solo in WMR on the 13th of December 2020. Well done Joey!

DECEMBER 2020 - JANUARY 2021



**NORTH QUEENSLAND
AERO CLUB**

FAREWELL TO THE C152'S

The end of an era! After operating C150/152's for four decades, INQ departed Mareeba last week to join CRM at their new home on the Sunshine Coast.



The NQAC Board of Directors made the decision 12 months ago to replace the 152's after taking into account their operational limitations in the hot and high altitude conditions of the Tablelands. These great little aircraft have served the club well over the years and it's good to know they go to another school where they will continue to help new pilots achieve their flying goals.

You can check out our Facebook page for some great historic 150 and 152 photos that have been posted by our members and former students!



WELCOME VH-MIS

The NQAC is proud to announce that we have purchased the lovely VH-MIS from our friends and neighbours Missionary Aviation Fellowship.

MIS is a 172N, IFR capable and is now online for training and private hire. So come in a check her out!



NORTH QUEENSLAND AERO CLUB NEWS & EVENTS

JANUARY SAFETY CHAT

Precautionary Search and Runway Inspections

It's the wet season and some of our local strips are getting a bit boggy. So it's time to think about when you last did a runway inspection. Precautionary Search is a standard part of everyone's PPL training but is one of those things that can be forgotten in routine flights and practice. So can you remember how to conduct a safe runway inspection? Can you remember the last time you practiced or had to conduct one on a wet and possibly boggy runway?

Planning your trip!

Planning your trip! Do you want to land on a grass or dirt runway in the wet season? You should always try to find out about the conditions before you head out! Your best step is to call the aerodrome operator, they should be able to tell you the most up to date information. You can then speak to one of our friendly instructing team for local advice. We keep our ears out for strip condition reports from local pilots across the wet season and can let you know the last report we received for your destination.



The Procedure

You have arrived overhead and you want to have a look at the strip before committing to a landing, this is a great idea! Remember always make your CTAF radio calls and fly the standard circuit pattern, a runway inspection is a safe procedure carried out to ensure a safe landing!

Step 1: Configure your aircraft. There is no point in rushing in to fly past the strip only to whip past so quickly you don't get a chance to actually inspect! A good configuration to set up on base or final is the slow speed straight and level configuration. For our 172's this is 2100 RPM, Carby Heat On, 10° of flap and trim it.

Step 2: Your height depends on the situation, always make a safe decision. Perhaps the visibility is good and you are happy with a 1000ft pass or perhaps the grass is long on the strip and you would like to descend to 500ft for a closer view. Remember to be aware of obstacles, wind direction, traffic, birds and be ready to perform a Go Around procedure if you need.

Step 3: The inspection. If you have your aircraft properly configured and trimmed for Straight and Level you will be able to focus on the inspection run. Ideally position the landing strip out your window so you can see exactly where you are planning on putting the wheels down. Now it's time for the WOSSSS checks. Wind, Obstacles, Size, Surface, Slope and Civilisation. You need to assess if this location is suitable for a safe landing.

Step 4: Decision time! Remember, you can make as many inspection passes as you would like, before you make your decision on whether to land or not.

If you think before you even depart that you are going to have to make an inspection run be certain you have planned with enough fuel to arrive at a safe alternate destination. And as always, if in doubt, or if in need of practice you can book in with one of our friendly instructors for a refresher!

2021 MEMBERSHIPS

2021 Membership updates are now due!

This year we are consolidating membership number records from across the 71 years of NQAC operations. If you know your membership number can you please make sure you let us know what it is when renewing so we can double check we have it on file!

Attached to this email you will find the membership form if you have not already picked one up from the club.

Please make sure you update any changed details and make sure your emergency contact details are correct!

2021 RATES

On the attached email you will find a copy of the new 2021 Rates sheet. Changes this year are all about aircraft changes with rates for MIS, UTO and EPL included!

2020 XMAS PARTY



NORTH QUEENSLAND AERO CLUB NEWS & EVENTS

This is how you transfer ownership of a new aircraft. 😊 Wheel it from one lease area to another! The NQAC is proud to announce it has purchased VH-MIS from our friends at Missionary Aviation Fellowship. MIS is a C172N model that has been proudly owned by MAF for 20 years. It's IFR and even in the same paint scheme as the Clubs. Welcome Miss! We look forward to flying you.

29th January 2021



NORTH QUEENSLAND AERO CLUB NEWS & EVENTS



Photos: NQ Aero Club



NORTH QUEENSLAND AERO CLUB NEWS & EVENTS

Social Calendar for 2021.

The Club hopes to have a few more fly-ins this year compared to last year (provided Covid19 behaves!) with the first being held in Mid March to Bloomfield. This will be a new destination for us and we hope to have a day trip to the Black Cockatoo Gallery and lunch. It will still be the wet season then of course however Bloomfield is best tackled when there isn't a raging winter south easterly. So save the date of the 20th (Sat) and we will see what the weather is looking like a week or two out and give more details. There may be the opportunity to overnight at Mt Louis station for those who want to make a weekend of it. All other corners of the far north will be visited once winter is here and it's a great bunch of destinations!

Board member, Paul McKenna, is looking after the social calendar this year, with assistance from other Directors and staff. If anyone has any suggestions for future events or would like to assist in arranging fly-ins and events please email Paul on p@tyn.tn or myself on cfi@nqaeroclub.com.au .

We are looking forward to another active and safe year of flying!

Sally Scott

Chief Flying Instructor and Chief Pilot

NQAC Annual Event Calendar

Month	Dates	Details
Mar	Sat 20 th or Sun 21 st	Bloomfield Nav-ex/Lunch Fly In - potential <i>(very weather and wind dependant)</i>
April	Thurs 1 st	April Fools Pizza night at the Club
April	24 th / 25 th / 26 th	Shute Harbour Runway Dinner Fly-In
May	Sunday 23 rd	Pinnarendi Station Lunch
June	Sat 12 th / Sun 13 th	Cooktown Fly-In (lunch or overnight (Spot Land Comp) (Weather backup will be Atherton)
July	9 th / 10 th / 11 th	Trip to the Tip! Pundsand Bay QLD
Aug	14 th / 15 th	Overnight get-away Karumba QLD
Sep	Sat 18 th / Sun 19 th	Annual Air Race Competition
Oct	Sat 2 nd or Sun 3 rd	Dunk Island Day Trip.
Nov	Saturday 13th	NQAC Wing Night
Nov	Saturday 30th	AGM: Annual General Meeting
Dec	Saturday 11 th	NQAC Christmas Party – Pizza Night





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AIRCRAFT FOR SALE - Skyfox Gazelle

1997 Skyfox Gazelle, Original Rotax 80HP engine, 1044 engine hours, 1363 airframe hours.
Only had 3 owners and is very good condition.

Comes with all original Operating , Maintenance and Repair Manuals.

Hangared at Gympie. \$28,000 neg.

Phone Tony on 0429 459 320 for further information.





FEBRUARY MUSEUM NEWSLETTER

This month fabrication is underway for our storage/restoration area roof and will be complete by the end of March. Containers (hangar walls) are being moved into place on Tuesday. In the coming weeks our efforts will be mainly focused on creating a functional storage/restoration area, putting the C-47 back on wheels, relocating fencing around our lease and submitting some crucial infrastructure grant applications.

From March onwards we plan to commence regular fortnightly meetings but if you are available to help beforehand feel free to get in touch.

RAAF 100 Squadron – the first aircraft to land at the newly-built Mareeba Airstrip in May 1942, 3 months after the Squadron was formed in NSW.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

OG1605

Image: Australian-built Bristol Beaufort Torpedo Bomber Aircraft with their Crews

FEBRUARY MUSEUM NEWSLETTER—Continued

RAAF re-establishes No. 100 Squadron

6 February 2021

The Hon Michael McCormack MP, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister Minister for Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Development. Ahead of centenary commemorations of the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF), No. 100 Squadron will be re-formed as the Air Force Heritage Squadron, operating from two locations RAAF Base Point Cook and Temora.

Minister for Defence Personnel Darren Chester said 100 Squadron had a proud history and after a 75-year absence it was fitting that RAAF reactivates it in the same year as it commemorates its first 100 years.

“First established during the Second World War in February 1942 at RAAF Base Richmond, 100 Squadron was an Air Force bomber and maritime patrol squadron, trained on Australian-built Bristol Beauforts,” Mr Chester said. “The squadron conducted several successful missions throughout the war, taking part in the famous Battle of the Bismarck Sea in March 1943, and eventually disbanding in New Guinea on 19 August 1946”.



Aerocommander Acquisition

The FNQAM board has agreed to acquire Aerocommander Shrike 500S, formerly registered as VH-UJE. The 1973 model aircraft type is well known to the north and was preferred for its high wing allowing uninterrupted visibility of the ground/water unlike most other twin engine aircraft. They were used extensively in Coastwatch, scenic & prawn spotting operations.

The aircraft comes with a fresh paint job but unfortunately has suffered corrosion to the wing spar rendering the aircraft unairworthy. It will require sheet metal work to re-join the wings and fabrication of engine cowls and other parts to turn return it to a complete aircraft.

Mid year it is expected the handover will occur relocating the aircraft from Cairns to Mareeba. Once restored will make a great gate guard, display or kids play-plane.

FEBRUARY MUSEUM NEWSLETTER—Continued

DC3/C47 Restoration Team Leader

We'll soon be sending out an expressions of interest for members and engineers to manage and assist the restoration of the C-47 to a presentable and safe standard. This position will lead other restoration volunteers, liaise with the board and suppliers as the aircraft is returned to its former RAAF glory.

The tailwheel leg and wheel rim has been welded up beautifully by Aerosmith Welding and is now awaiting reassembly and some fine weather. Thanks to Tableland Aircraft Maintenance for the use of their sand-blasting equipment and assisting with painting.

Membership

2021 Memberships are available now. The majority of the funds raised from this meagre amount of \$25 (inc GST) covers public liability insurance, volunteers insurance when you're on site and other operational costs like the website.

Please consider supporting us and if you are already a 2021 financial member due to covid membership deferrals may we suggest considering making a donation this year instead.

Donations

Perhaps you would like to consider making a donation towards our building fund? The next few weeks will be critical as to determining the size of the next building we construct. With your help you can make the dollar go even further – for every dollar raised we will be able to apply for the same amount again from the government! These funds will be used for the purposes of constructing our next museum building. Don't forget every dollar donated is tax deductible. Thank you as you consider this!

SPONSORS



For an enquiries please get in touch with:

President Brendan Kent 0422 379 984

Treasurer Scott Brady 0438 751 767



***CASA AvSafety Seminar
Atherton Sunday 21st February***

Thank you Kirsty for another interesting presentation

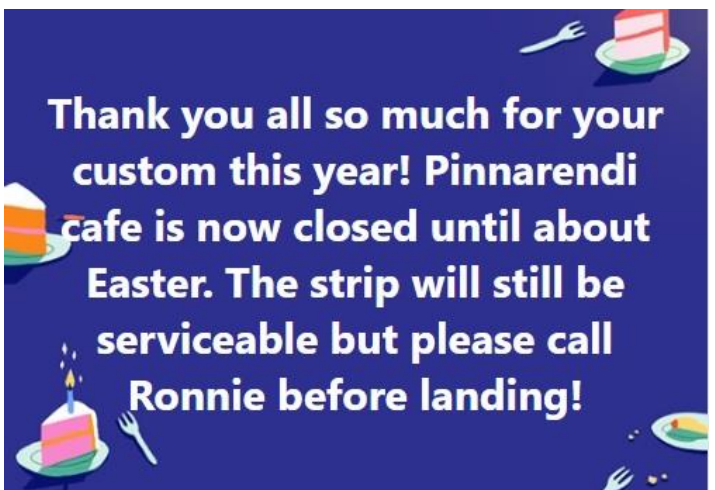


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***[https://www.facebook.com/
Pinnarendi/](https://www.facebook.com/Pinnarendi/)***

Ron Atkinson 0419 201 622

Thank you all so much for your custom this year! Pinnarendi cafe is now closed until about Easter. The strip will still be serviceable but please call Ronnie before landing!



AAC EVENTS CALENDAR

**EVENTS MAY BE SUBJECT TO SHORT NOTICE CANCELLATION
OR POSTPONEMENT DUE COVID19 RESTRICTIONS**

Check Your Club Website or Facebook Page For changes

Atherton Aero Club—2021 EVENTS

- Mar** Sun 21st **CASA sponsored, AAC Safety Presentation. Brendan Kent. Skills Transferrable from Heavy Metal. 1030 Atherton**
- Apr** Sun 18th **CASA sponsored, AAC Safety Presentation. Simon Perkins. Controlled Flight Into Terrain. 1030 Atherton**
- May** Sun 16th **Final CASA sponsored, AAC Safety Presentation. An Open Discussion - Events that we have learned from. 1030 Atherton**

**** All the above events are followed by a BBQ Lunch.**

Atherton Aero Club Annual General Meeting—Date to be advised

OTHER EVENTS OF INTEREST

- Mar** Sat 20th or Sun 21st **NQAC Bloomfield Flight (Tentative)**
- Apr** Sat 24th to Mon 26th **Shute Harbour Runway Dinner Fly-In**
- May** Sun 23rd **NQAC Pinnarendi Lunch**



Northern Flyers

Donnington Airpark (YDOP)



Burdekin Flyers (YAYR)

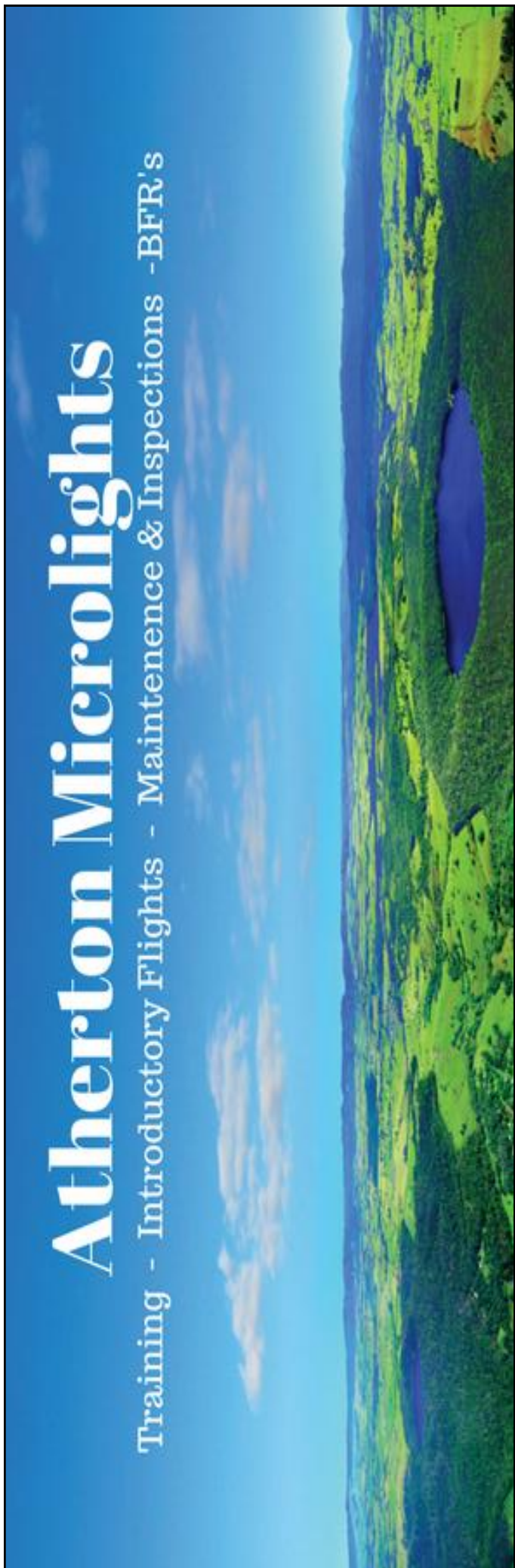


Atherton Aero Club (YATN)



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) 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

Forms to be sent to: <i>The Treasurer Connie Graham PO Box 227 ATHERTON QLD 4883</i>	or email to: <i>connieg@fnoc.com.au</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

