



Newsletter No. 328

March 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.



Lizard Island

Photos: 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 328. 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 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.



A Big Thank You to the members who assisted with the recent club Working Bee. Over the past months Club President Jack Cross has supervised the final fit-out of the club building. The working bee clean up gave it a tidy up in time for the following weekends AvSafety Seminar. Looks great Jack!

The next **AAC Club Meeting** will be our **Annual General Meeting** on **Sunday the 20th of March 2022** starting at **10:30am**.

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

Visitors are most welcome.



Laura - Third Time Lucky 1

Several months ago Martin Boyle spoke to Harold Tabner who runs the Laura Motel and General Store. He was an old Cessna pilot and had just sold his trusty 182 and was in the process of buying an LSA and was tossing up between a Jabiru and a Foxbat.

Since we hadn't been to Laura before we decided that we'd go up there for a run and show Harold a Jabiru.

Being the wrong time of the year for the weather we decided to just try any weekend when the weather forecast was reasonable.

The first weekend came and though the weather was good at Atherton as we headed north we encountered a wall of cloud north of Mareeba. So we re-jigged the flight in the air and diverted to Mt Surprise where we had never been.



A second attempt a few weeks later resulted in a similar issue with cloud and we ended up at Greenvale. Same rationale. Never been there before so that was the place to go.



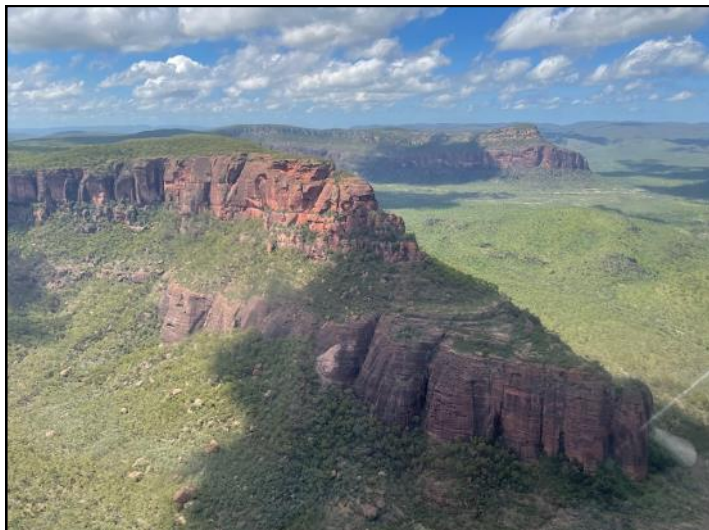
This third time we seemed to get a better forecast so we decided to make a longer weekend of it and planned to go to Laura, overnight there, then fly north to somewhere and then turn east to the coast and come down the coast then cross inland somewhere back to Atherton.

Laura - Third Time Lucky 2

After departing Atherton we headed to Mt Mulligan for a photo shoot and then north almost to Lakeland.



The Old Mt Mulligan mine site and chimney at the base of the escarpment



As usual the views around Mt Mulligan did not disappoint



Passing Lakeland. Super green at the moment



Laura from the circuit. Green after lots of rain.

We then followed the road to Laura. Landing at Laura was uneventful and we walked into town to find the elusive Harold, who turned out to be not so elusive.

Laura - Third Time Lucky 3



Laura Airport — Facilities an absolute minimum. Very little parking with nowhere to avoid prop wash from or to keep clear of taxiing aircraft. We had to push our aircraft across the vehicle access track onto rough ground.



Laura was like a ghost town and the only person to be found anywhere was Harold. We met him at the general store, had a long chat and some lunch. We were then treated to typical country hospitality. We asked if there was anything to see and Harold loaned us his car and we drove off to look at the aboriginal rock paintings about 10 km out of town. These were deserted as well but worth a look. We then headed off to look at some old bridge pylons Harold had told us about.



Laura - Third Time Lucky 4



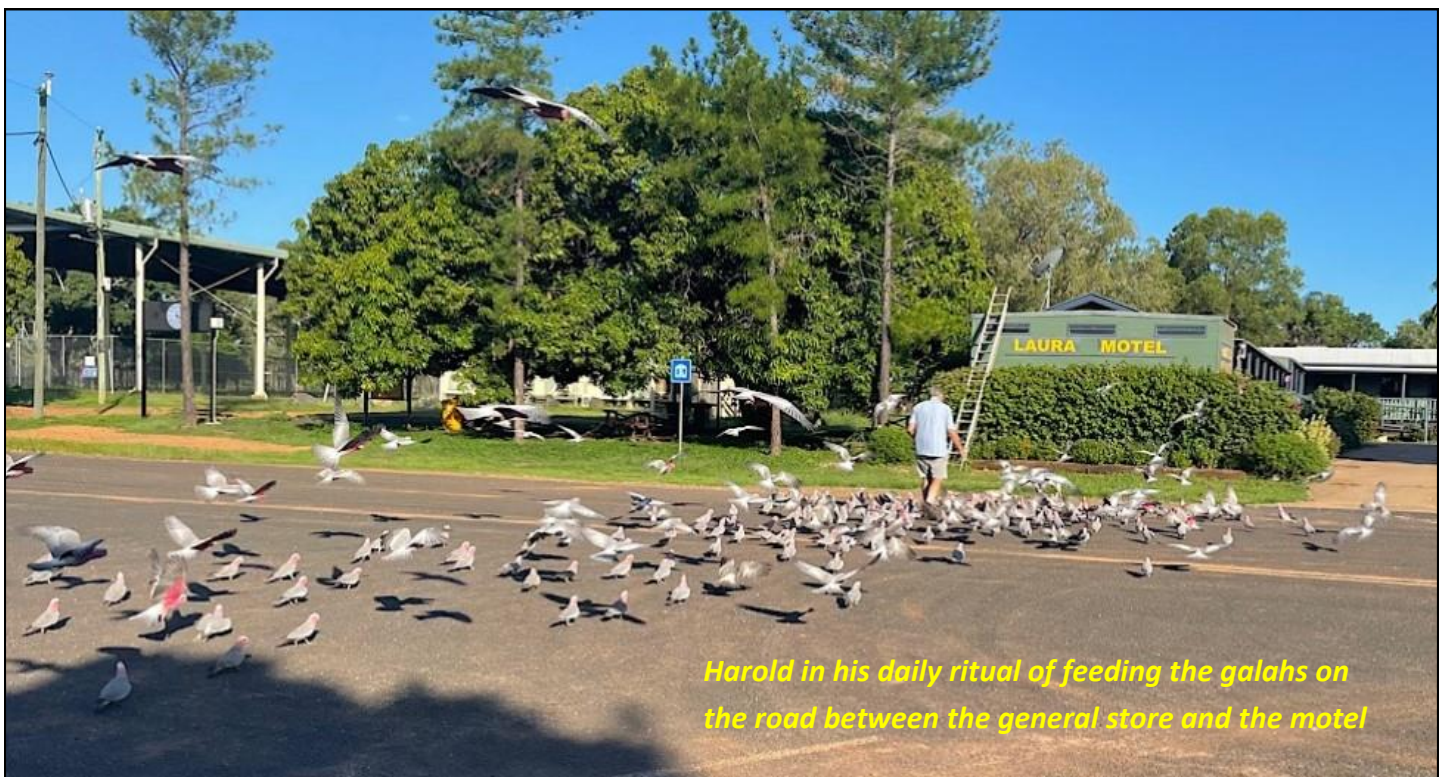
The Laura River in minor flood level



Martin and Harold at the ruins of the old rail bridge

We returned to town and got settled into the motel, and then Harold took us back to the airport to get our bags and to have a look at the Jabirus. Harold is a pretty big guy and didn't fit well in the Jab. Just as well he had already ordered a Foxbat.

After we headed back to town it was late afternoon and Harold settled into an afternoon ritual for which he is locally famous. Hundreds of galahs come into town and he feeds them with cracked corn. They congregate on the road in front of the shop and motel and make a huge racket and fight over the food he puts out.



Harold in his daily ritual of feeding the galahs on the road between the general store and the motel

After feeding the galahs Harold again played perfect host and brought over a few beers and we sat on the veranda and did the usual pilot thing of telling "war stories" of our past flying exploits. Martin and I had to make do with microwaved TV dinners as the pub, the roadhouse and the motel kitchen were all closed for the season.

Laura - Third Time Lucky 5

Harold turned out to have a vast array of experience of 18 years flying in Vanuatu as an airfield maintenance officer looking after 20 odd airfields around Vanuatu. He had lots better stories than us! After a few beers and getting a bit late we called it quits for the night.

The next day dawned to blue sky but stronger winds. The forecast was for 20 plus knot winds out on the coast but at least we would be over water for most of it.

Harold ferried us to the airport and we headed north following the road to Musgrave Station. The strip was apparently in good condition but we didn't need to land so we just turned there and headed east to Princess Charlotte Bay. We flew over Marina Plains ALA but despite having GPS co-ords it was nowhere to be seen. Presumably it was somewhere in the long grass. If you plan on flying and landing there be aware it may be impossible to find.



The Road to Musgrave Station



Musgrave Station. Strip in good condition but potential cattle risk so we overflew



Princess Charlotte Bay



Princess Charlotte Bay from Over? Marina Plains



Looking south at Cape Melville



Cape Flattery Airport

Laura - Third Time Lucky 6

We punched into 30 knot head winds and followed the coast line out to Cape Melville then south over water to Cape Flattery then Cooktown where we landed for fuel.



Dave Camp and his passenger, Yodels, (AKA Rob Wilkins) were waiting for us on the ground at Cooktown. They had come up from Atherton to meet us. We refuelled and headed off coastal back to just north of Port Douglas and crossed over Julatten and Mareeba back to Atherton.

Getting back into Atherton was typical Atherton weather and we landed with showers around Malanda and near full cloud cover.

All in all a great weekend was had and another local destination added to the list of places we've been.

John Martin

ATHERTON



AERO CLUB

AGM

*Sunday the 20th March at
the Aero Club facility,
Atherton Aerodrome.
Commencing 10:30am.*

CASA AvSafety Seminar Sunday 13th March

A good turn out with two dozen local pilots attending. A great presentation by Rob Whittle that contained a lot of new and interesting material. Good to see CASA out there again now that Covid restrictions have been relaxed. Photos below show the finished building interior.



NORTH QUEENSLAND AERO CLUB NEWS & EVENTS



Corsair First Flight

NQAC 01 March 2022

A massive congratulations to former NQAC President and life member, Mike Spaulding, who witnessed another dream become a reality yesterday afternoon.

The Corsair test flight was successfully carried out yesterday afternoon by Stephen Death.

No words can describe the sight and sound that this beautiful machine makes. 2000 horsepower...

Photo Above:

The Corsair Crew, 4 good men. From left John Lucey, Paul Knox (Chief Engineer), Mike Spaulding and Stephen Death (test pilot).



NQAC SAFETY FLASH

FLASH

Time Management

- * Are you rushing?
- * What have you missed?
- * Did you catch the error?




Evidence proves that pilots rushing can miss critical items or conduct incorrect procedures.

If we are rushing, it's already too late. We can slow ourselves down by a master reset;

B-S-T	B - Breathe	Take a moment, orbit if you need
	S- Space	Build space - reduce IAS?
	T - Time	Reassess your timing

Obviously, our best strategy is to allow enough time at the planning stage. If we do miss this, we need to step back, slow down, not stress & be aware we may have missed something **critical**.

Safety Flash #1-22
5th Jan 2022

NORTH QUEENSLAND AERO CLUB NEWS & EVENTS



Bill Owen
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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



Extracts from the FNQAM March 2022 Newsletter

The year has got off to a busy start with a mix of onsite activity by our volunteers and various meetings to coordinate our latest infrastructure grant application. This year will continue with the setup of our restoration area which will be a great launch pad as we continue to expand facilities at the west end of Mareeba Airport in the new aviation air park. There are now 8 new commercial and recreational hangars that have been built in Mareeba Airport's new area including Mission Aviation Fellowship's adjacent maintenance facility.

More volunteers are invited to get involved with our Dakota C-47 restoration project.

This year the Mareeba airport reaches a significant milestone in May with its 80th anniversary. Anyone with photos taken on or around Mareeba airport since it was built in 1942 are encouraged to send in originals (which can be returned after digitisation) or via emailing admin@fnqam.com.au. If you would like any more information please drop by our JRM Braes Rd facility at Mareeba Airport on a Thursday or Saturday between 9am and noon.



Lysaght involvement dating back to WW2

Lysaght steel recently shared its centenary with the RAAF and last year assisted with the contribution of roofing iron sheets. It was unknown to us at the time but we received in-kind support through their local community fund. Other Lysaght products including louvrescreen and topspan were also utilised to help weather proof and secure the restoration area. FNQAM now feature on Lysaght's national website!

Lysaght used to manufacture Owen guns and was spotted in an article, saving Mareeba local Craig Marster-son's father from a bullet during WW2 (pictured above).

Continued/

FNQAM March 2022 Newsletter — *Continued*



Restoration

Technical director David Falls, a former Royal Australian Air Force member has been working on the restoration program of the Dakota C-47. The aircraft was relocated off the dirt and onto the tarmac using our recently restored towbar and tug.

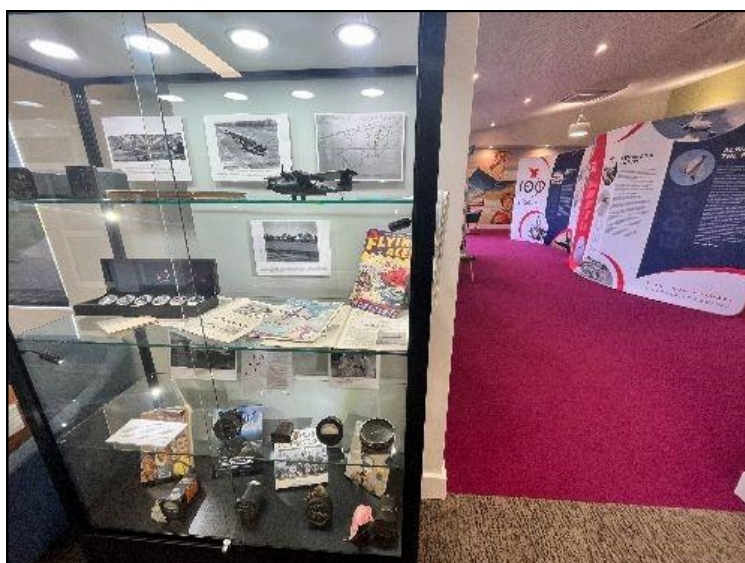
Our immediate focus will be to have some stairs sourced, modified or fabricated to improve access in and out of the aircraft for both volunteers & visitors. We have all the materials to replace deteriorating floorboards which will be next on the agenda.

Recently signed up visitor Leo, has recently moved to the area with his family with a background in flight simulator manufacturing. Plans have commenced for the replacement of missing cockpit panels and will also assist with the build of simulators for future stages of museum development.

Aircraft Models

Scott Collingwood has offered to assist with the building of aircraft models to be housed in display cabinets. Andy Smith has already contributed a "black cat" catalina which were based in Cairns & the North during WW2.

If you would like to assist with the building of a RAAF or USAAF aircraft models, let us know so we can put you in touch with Scott or a modelling group.



Continued/

FNQAM March 2022 Newsletter — *Continued*

Taxiway

MAF has recently completed a new taxiway out the front of our airside block. The bitumen tarmac extends the existing taxiway with their ramp and will provide plenty of aircraft activity past the front of our facility for visitors.



Volunteers

Aviation Engineering student Dom Evans returned all the way from Townsville to make his first Saturday morning resto session of 2022. Pictured here are Dom & Leo from the weekend completing post Christmas shutdown serviceability checks on the aircraft tug.

Thinking about volunteering? Then why not drop out and say G'day.

Culture, Heritage and Arts Regional Tourism (CHART) Grant

Last week we learned of our success with an Australian Museums and Galleries Association grant. This will enable the digitisation of photos, magazines, books and manuals. Thanks to Secretary Paul Hobson, a former museum collections technician, for applying for this.

If you are interested in preserving history you are encouraged to visit on a restoration meeting day.

Mareeba Airport 80th anniversary

This year the Mareeba Airport will celebrate a significant milestone reaching 80 years. During WW2 it took 8 days to prepare the airstrip in 1942 with the first aircraft being RAAF 100 Squadron Beaufort aircraft. To mark this milestone we are putting together a collection and tribute to mark the event.



HELP! If you have any old photos or memories of Mareeba Airport, its aircraft, airshows or people we would love to make a copy and document a record of this. If you have any photos or memories you would like to share please send to admin@fnqam.com.au or get in touch.



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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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facebook



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

Mar Sun 20th **AAC Annual General Meeting**—1030 Atherton

Other Clubs 2022 Events

Mar Sat 19th **NQAC Cardwell Trip & Lunch** (Weather dependant)

(See NQAC 2022 Events Calendar)

Mar Sun 27th **Donnington (YDOP) Social Fly-In Breakfast** then every
Fourth Sunday of the month through to November

Apr 1st – 3rd **Fly'n for Fun to Parkes (NSW)** partnered with RAAus

May 28th & 29th **Old Station FlyIn, Raglan**



"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)

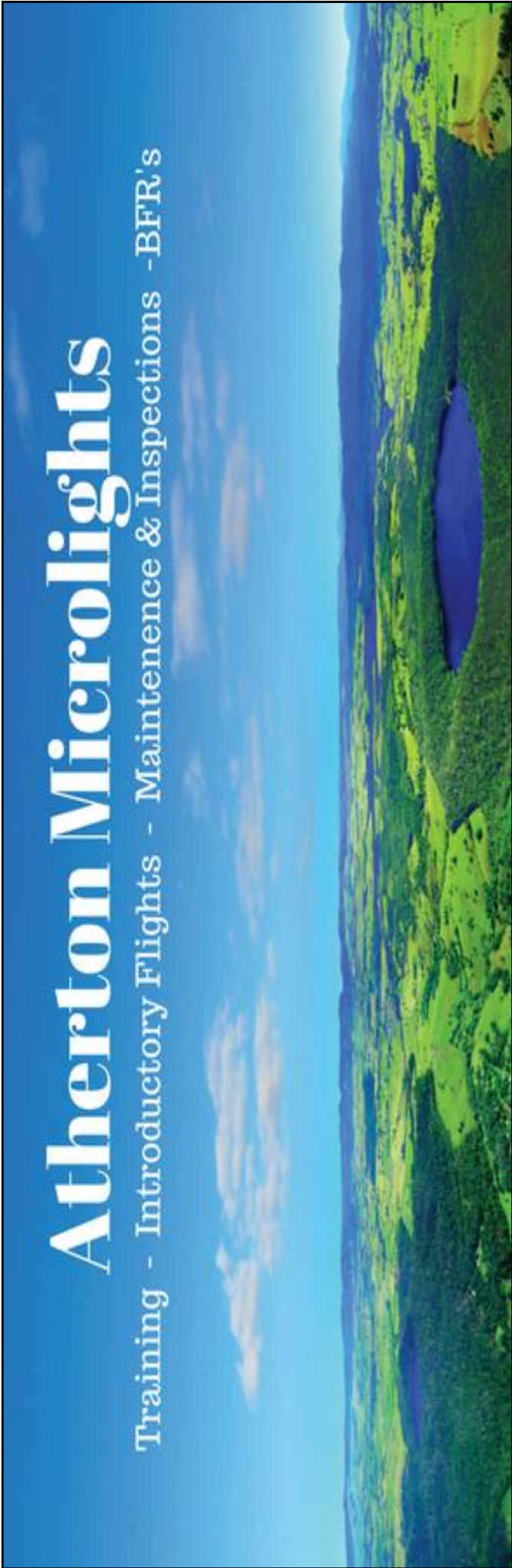


Atherton Aero Club (YATN)



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



FLYING

You are doing it wrong.