



The N.S.W. Sport Aircraft Club Newsletter

APRIL - MAY 2013

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ABN 57784 250667 **ACN** Y2094624
Address PO Box 450
CAMPBELLTOWN NSW 2560
Phone (Caretaker) 0425 380 964



Above: Steve Cohen lands his Vari Eze after its Australian maiden flight. Photos taken by Martin Ongley. More on **Page 7**. **Below left:** Dave Thomas at the St. Patrick's Day party. More pictures are on **Page 6**. **Centre:** John Onrust turns 60. More on **Page 7**. **Right:** Aerobatics at NATFLY. More photos on **Page 7**.



Contact your Newsletter Editor at
david.rittie@optusnet.com.au

Visit our website:- www.wedderburnairstrip.com.au

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UPCOMING FLYING AND SOCIAL EVENTS

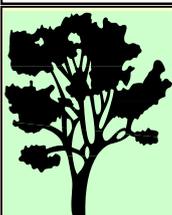
If you want to stage an event, or invite the Club to join you on a flying jaunt please talk to me. You will earn additional Championship points.

Bret Cavanagh

UPCOMING EVENTS. Put 'em in your diary.

AAAA National Fly-in	Friday to Sunday, 12 th – 14 th April.	Echuca.
Snowy River Aviators Open Day	Saturday, 27 th April, 10am till late.	Adaminaby
Aviatex Expo & Trade Show	Please note: THIS EVENT HAS BEEN CANCELLED	
April's Social Workday	Saturday, 4th May. Sign in by 9am. Contact: Richard Thompson. Please note that this has been moved from its usual date, due to the Anzac Day long weekend.	Wedderburn
Wings over Illawarra	Sunday, 5 th May, 9am to 4pm.	Wollongong
Water & Land Fly-in to Lake Boga/Swan Hill	Friday to Sunday, 17 th - 19 th May. Refer to Page 8 for further details Contact: Donna Handley on 0409 172 776 or at donnadqn@gmail.com	
Blue Mountains Fly-Over.	Saturday, 25 th May. Contact: Doug Stickland.	To Bathurst
General Meeting	Sunday, 9th June, 2pm. Contact: Lloyd Shepherd.	Clubhouse
Social Workday	Sunday, 30th June. Sign in by 9am. Contact: Richard Thompson.	Wedderburn

We need members to organise some social events and flying adventures. Contact **Bret Cavanagh** if you can help.

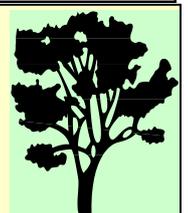


Need some exotic plants, or want some peaches or other stone fruit? You can choose from a wide selection near the airfield, just around the corner at #7 Blackburn Road.

HARLAND'S Fruit, Nursery and Landscaping

Phone 4634 1234 or 0402 086 032, or drop by and see Charles or Clayton.

The Harlands also do hangar concrete slabs, at very reasonable prices



Your New Committee

The members pictured below were voted on to the new SAC Committee at the AGM on 10th March.

Due to the fact that there was no nomination for the position of Secretary, Lloyd Shepherd offered to step up to this position, which was immediately accepted by the remainder of the Committee.



The new Committee Members. **From the top, left to right:** David Rittie (President), Lloyd Shepherd (Secretary), Diane Brookes (Treasurer), Bret Cavanagh, Matthew Gray, Don Harvie, Doug Stickland and Richard Thompson.

From your Editor

Welcome to the April/May 2013 issue of the NSW SAC Newsletter. (Yes, it seems that I'm back as your Newsletter Editor for another term.)

This issue contains details of the new Committee, as elected in March's Annual General Meeting, who have volunteered to serve the Club for the next 12 months.

There are some pictures of NATFLY (RAAus National Fly-in) at Temora, and some great photos of Donna and Bill Handley's Saint Patrick's Day

hangar party sent in by Colleen Pillemer.

Also in this edition is a story sent in by Tim Davis where he took a helicopter lesson, and there is a Letter to the Editor from Peter Hodgens.

There are some other articles from Committee Members, the Cabin Crew report, the usual contribution from our caretakers, and a farewell message from our retiring Secretary, Margaret Nightingale, who



has served the club for around ten years.

In amongst all that you will find a few words and pictures about John Onrust's 60th birthday surprise party, and some pictures of Steve Cohen test flying his newly acquired Vari Eze.

Enjoy.

You can contact your Newsletter Editor at david.rittie@optusnet.com.au

David Rittie

Words from the President

Hi there.

New Committee

Your new committee has changed a little from last year, with fewer members retiring than was originally anticipated. Bret Cavanagh, Matthew Gray, Don Harvie, Lloyd Shepherd and Richard Thompson have all returned to serve yet another year.

Because we had no nomination for the secretary's position, Lloyd Shepherd offered his services to fill this vacancy. His offer was readily and unanimously accepted by the committee. Thanks for filling the position Lloyd.

Those members departing the committee are Allan Aaron, Tim Causer and Margaret Nightingale.



Allan Aaron, who is pictured at left, joined us as our Treasurer two years ago to perform this most important and arduous duty.

Tim Causer served us for three years as our expert advisor and hard-working hands-on infrastructure man. He has contributed a great deal to our airfield in many practical ways, and is offering to continue to assist where required with his considerable skill and experience.



Margaret Nightingale had served the Committee as Minute Secretary for nearly four years and then stepped up to be our Honorary Secretary for six years. The committee and the club will miss her greatly.

Allow me to sincerely thank these three departing members for the considerable contribution they have made to our club.

We welcome Diane Brookes as our new Honorary Treasurer, who brings a wealth of book-keeping experience with her. Also joining us for this term is Doug Stickland. Committee meetings will not be boring with Doug on board with his wonderful sense of humour.

Our thanks go to Noel Carmody and his team of assistants for their work on election day.

The full details of the election results appear in the Secretary's Column.

Dangerous Rotor on Runway 3-5

About 12 years ago Vic Laybutt and I were coming in to land on Runway 3-5 in Vic's C177 Cardinal with about a 10 knot nor-westerly wind blowing at the time. As we approached to within 100 metres of the threshold we got pulled down by a rotor to the level of the surrounding trees. Vic needed full power to climb back up to the intended glide path.

Vic tells me that Bruce Cunningham had a similar experience just recently. Please take extra care under these particular conditions.

Complaint from Victoria Road.

Sadly, I must report that we have received another complaint from a resident who lives on Victoria Road, just to the north of our airfield. I mentioned this complaint in a recent Newsflash.

Immediately after the Newsflash was broadcast our member, Peter Reardon, did an internet search using a program that records all transponder transmissions at any selected time. (It may be FlightRadar24.) The results show that no transponder equipped aircraft flew over the



Victoria Road house at the time. There was however, a trace at about the right time, of an aircraft that flew past and over our airfield, and which continued on towards Bankstown. Its flight path was a little to the west of Victoria Road. This tends to indicate that the cause of the complaint was not one of our aircraft.

Thanks for your assistance with this very useful information, Peter.

Dates for the Christmas Parties

Donna Handley is already planning the Christmas parties for this year. The Children's Christmas party will be held on Sunday 1st December, and the adult's party will be held on Saturday evening 7th December. The adults party will, once again, be held in a large marquee on the Clubhouse forecourt, with the food being prepared by Elke Travers of Bite Size Catering. Donna has also booked the band Re-Load.

The Committee will ensure that the cost per person for the Christmas party will be held down to the affordable rate of \$30 per person. Please keep these dates clear in your busy social schedules.

Please ensure the gates remain locked and Please fly safely.

David Rittie

The Secretary's Column

At the AGM, Returning Officer Noel Carmody and his team ran the elections in their usual professional manner, and reached the following conclusions:

President: David Rittie (unopposed)

Secretary: no candidate

Treasurer: Diane Brookes (unopposed)

Committee:

Richard Thompson	80	elected
Don Harvie	80	elected
Lloyd Shepherd	79	elected
Doug Stickland	71	elected
Matthew Gray	55	elected
Brett Cavenagh	47	elected
Allan Aaron	43	
Peter Lightbown	37	

I put up my hand to do the Secretary job, and also became the Public Officer.

When Margaret vacated the Secretary position after many years, she very kindly brought everything as close as possible to 'up to date', so I've been having fun going through records, minutes etc. to try to get up to speed as soon as possible. It's been quite busy. It has reinforced to me the desperate need we have for a decent membership database--another project for the future!

A quick check of all the Hangar Licence Agreements revealed some discrepancies which will need to be rectified. Some members will be getting letters about this in the near future.

A reminder that any business to be included on the agenda for general meetings will need to be in my

hands at least 14 days before the date of the meeting so the agenda can be organized and publicized.

Putting on my safety hat, with the changeover from daylight saving, it's a good time to do a 6 monthly check of your safety equipment.

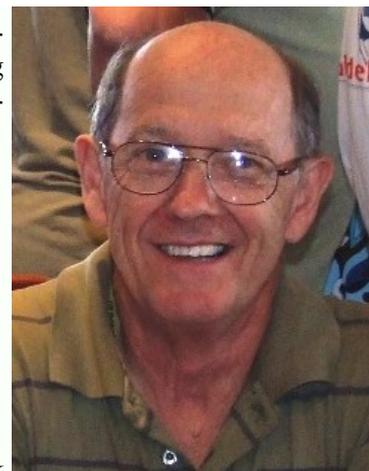
Replace smoke detector batteries and test.

Foam extinguisher—check pressure is in the green band.

Dry powder extinguisher—check pressure is in the green band and that the powder is not caked. If you can hold the extinguisher against your ear as you invert it (awkward but possible), you will hear the powder inside moving. Give it a good shake to keep the powder loose. If your hearing is like mine, I'd suggest that this test needs to be done somewhere quiet! If the powder doesn't move, then servicing is required.

RFS tell me that hazard reduction burn-offs adjacent to the airfield are still 'on the radar'. There is still quite a backlog from last year, and they are very weather dependent, of course.

There is still a big pile of tree mulch near the southern end of the runway for anyone who wants it. Take as much as you like, then take some more!!



Lloyd Shepherd

From our retiring Secretary's Desk

Hi Everyone

I'd just like to take this opportunity to thank members of the Committee and the Club over the past 10 or so years who have both supported and helped Stan and myself as we each served in the role of Honorary Secretary. It has been our privilege and honour to fulfil that role and we hope that each of us has done it to the best of our ability.

While it hasn't always been easy, I feel that working with the various members of very capable and trusted Committees over the years has enriched both of our lives. We have made some lifelong friends and have enjoyed the goodwill of most members of the Club. I wouldn't have swapped the experience for anything.

I'd like to wish everyone all the best for the future and I know that the Club will continue to go from strength to strength while ever we all focus on what's important, not the interests of the individual but the interests of the collective known as the NSW Sport Aircraft Club.

Best regards to all.



Margaret Nightingale

The “Cabin Crew” Report

Below: The many ladies that joined in to help provide the lunch for the recent Social Workday, held on Sunday 24th February. There was an excellent roll-up of members who thoroughly enjoyed the meal provided.



Further to The ‘Cabin Crew’ Report on the Fly-in/Drive-in Brunch held earlier in February, Donna Handley informs us that Bruce Keen kindly donated some goodies for the event. He donated some pre-packed cereal, a box of tea, a box of coffee and a box of sugar.



Thanks for that Bruce.

Above: The smiling Bruce Keen is pictured here unloading the goodies for the Fly-in/Drive-in Brunch.

The story in pictures from the SAINT PATRICK’S DAY Hangar Party

Photos are courtesy of Colleen Pillemer



Donna and Bill Handley hosted a hangar party on St. Patrick’s day. Everyone seemed to have a whale of a time and the outfits were superb.

At Right: Jacqie Thompson drinking something green



Dave Thomas (pictured at left) wore a very colourful outfit, and consumed green meat and drank green liquid?? Bruce Cunningham was dressed in an “Orangeman” outfit, just to buck the trend, and wore a very funny rude sign on his back (which was unable to be reproduced in this publication).

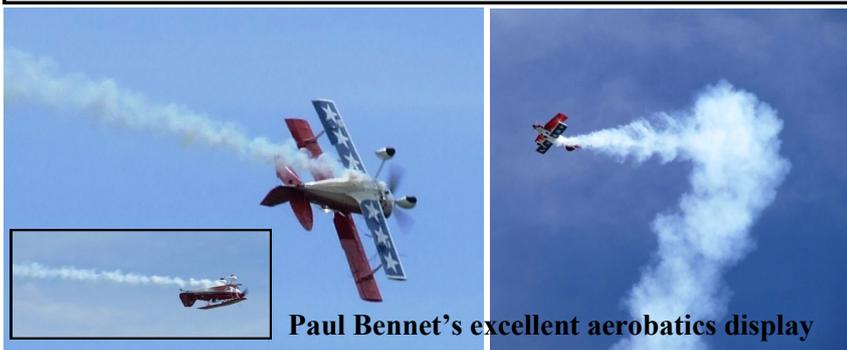


At Left: Wendi Leigh. **At Right:** Bill Handley definitely having fun, Colleen and Errol Pillemer. **Below:** Donna Handley with Phil Lee, Karen and Steve Lalor. Dave Thomas and Bruce Cunningham (the Orange and the Green!)

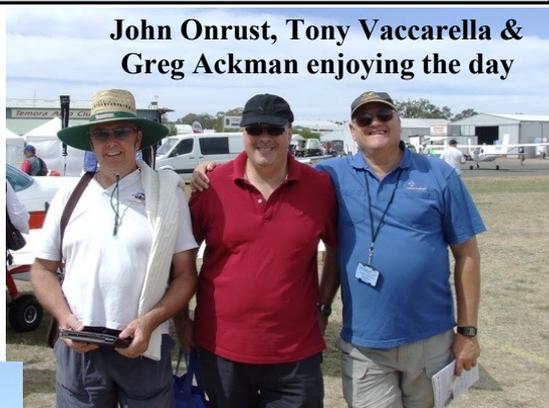
Thanks to Colleen Pillemer for sending in the great photos.



NATFLY at Temora - the story in pictures



Paul Bennet's excellent aerobatics display



John Onrust, Tony Vaccarella & Greg Ackman enjoying the day



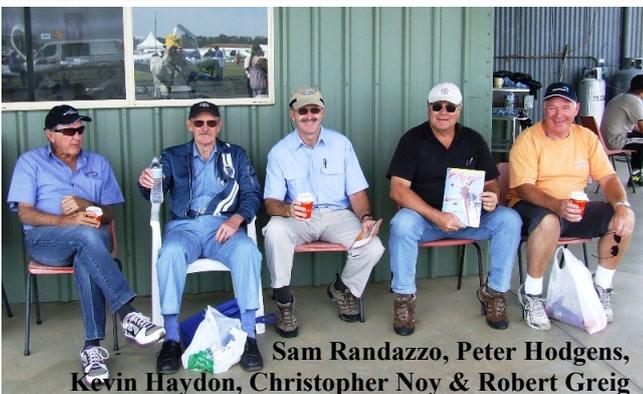
The BRM Bristell on display



Sam Randazzo's Lancair 4



Kevin Brodie watches as Lee Ungermann (of CASA) carries out a simulated ramp check on a Jabiru and pilot at NATFLY.



Sam Randazzo, Peter Hodgens, Kevin Haydon, Christopher Noy & Robert Greig

As far as we are aware, the following SAC members attended NATFLY:

Greg Ackman, Clin Ashton-Martin, Kevin Brodie, Dave Ecclestone and Sue, David Eyre, Robert Greig, Rick Harper, Kevin Haydon, Peter Hodgens, Michael Kennard, Christopher Noy, John Onrust, Barry Pascoe, Nash Pilling, Sam Randazzo, David Rittie, Peter Scott and Tony Vaccarella.

John Onrust turns 60

John Onrust celebrated his 60th birthday recently when he arrived at a surprise party which had been organised without his knowledge. "It was a complete and absolute surprise." he said.

The party, which included around a dozen SAC members, was arranged



The birthday cake

secretly months in advance by his business secretary, Lesa Chapman.

The picture at right shows John's favourite birthday present. It is a blind beggar man's walking stick, with a money tin attached with the label: "Aviators Retirement Fund".

HAPPY 60th BIRTHDAY JOHN



Steve Cohen's Vari Eze

Steve Cohen test flew his Burt Rutan designed Vari Eze, which he imported from New Zealand, on its maiden Australian flight recently.



Taking off on Runway 3-5

Steve was happy with the aircraft and noted that the aircraft had sensitive controls, and was hard to slow down in the circuit on downwind, as it glided so well.

The test flight was achieved on April 1st, but it was not another one of Steve's April Fool's Day jokes!



Tim Davis tells us about his Helicopter Ride

During the last SAC Open Day, I was the lucky winner of the choice between a helicopter ride or a lesson on flying a helicopter. Naturally, I chose the lesson.

What follows is my own personal experience and may bear little resemblance to the way one should operate a helicopter.

On 5 March 13, I went out to Bankstown Helicopters at the airport and met my instructor, Ryan Butler. My TIF began by watching a 15 minute video on the principles of helicopter operations. Ryan then gave me a briefing on the controls and what I would be expected to do. As I had thought, I would not be doing any takeoffs or landings and only attempting level flight and perhaps a few turns. After the preflight inspection of the Robinson R22, Ryan took off. This is one of the few easy things about helicopters. You do not have to worry about things like runways.

Once aloft, Ryan demonstrated the four basic controls. The Cyclic (Stick) for Speed and Direction. The Collective that sets Manifold Air Pressure (MAP), the throttle, and the Pedals which control YAW via the tail rotor.

As we approached Homebush, Ryan pulled back on the stick to reduce speed. When we got to 35 knots, I thought we're going to stall ! But of course, that's not how a helicopter operates. Ryan first let me use the rudder which is much like that on a fixed wing plane, except you can go around in circles in exactly the same spot if that's what you want to do. Neat ! I then tried the cyclic which is like a normal stick in that it banks the helicopter to the left or right. Push the stick forward and you go forward, back and you become stationary or even go backwards. The Collective adjusts the main rotor blade angle to go up and down. Once set, you don't normally have to touch the throttle. Finally, I was allowed to use all the controls, except throttle. I flew straight and made a few mild turns. I would have crashed after 2 minutes if Ryan hadn't grabbed the cyclic. Big Rule - Never take your hand off the cyclic.

After going over Prospect, we headed back to Bankstown. All up, it was a fantastic experience. Got my logbook signed, but don't think I'll be having more lessons. My Jabiru is challenging enough for me. If you can rub your tummy, pat your head and scratch something else all at the same time, helicopters are for you.

Tim Davis

Sounds like you had a wonderful time in the chopper. Thanks for the story, Tim.

Ed.

Left: One of the Robinson R22s operated by Bankstown Helicopters.



Come, join in the Water and Land Fly-in/Splash-in to Lake Boga/Swan Hill

Donna Handley is organising a fly-away weekend to Lake Boga (Swan Hill for land planes). Friday to Sunday, 17th to 19th May. The planning so far includes:

- Depart Wedderburn on Friday 17/5/13.
- Arrive at Lake Boga & Swan Hill at midday.
- Lunch at Catalina Hotel, Lake Boga.
- Accommodation is available at the Lake Boga B/B for \$65 per night for the first 20 people.
- **Friday night:** dinner at Mystics Hotel with Dick Peel.

- **Saturday:** at Lake Boga for sea plane activity on the lake
- BBQ lunch at the park and tour of the Catalina Museum, with a tour to a local winery for the ladies.
- **Saturday night:** Dinner on the Swan Hill Paddle Steamer (to be confirmed).
- **Sunday:** Late check out and return home.

To secure your spot contact Donna Handley on 0409 172 776 or at donnadqn@gmail.com
Please Note: a \$50 deposit will be required.

Roo's News

The Caretaker's Column of Candid Comments A DAY OR THREE IN THE LIVES OF THE CARETAKERS A few words from Dawn and Ruouen Andrews

Hi to all members.

2013 AGM

As there have been some changes to the club's committee I would like to thank past members for the help and support they have given us in our role here.

TO MARGARET NIGHTINGALE Our sincere and grateful thanks for your friendliness, courteousness and generosity of spirit in all dealings with us, in your capacity as club Secretary. You will be sorely missed by all members. Our sincere thanks also to Stan (and his sidekick Riley) for the welcome you gave us, your caring attitude and fatherly advice at all times- we will miss you Stan and we wish you a happy retirement.

TO TIM CAUSER (My mentor) The 'GO TO' man for all matters, building, electrical and plumbing, my sincere thanks and gratitude for all your assistance and for all you have achieved in your time on the committee.

TO ALAN AARON My sincere thanks for the way in which you answered all my calls for assistance and advice during your time as club Treasurer and to Shereen for the tasty bagels that arrived on our doorstep from time to time.

SAINT PATRICKS DAY HANGAR PARTY At the Handleys hangar!! Thank you Donna and Bill for the invitation to another great party.

I believe there are some photos in circulation - (oops sorry, apologies to Colleen and Errol) I wasn't supposed to mention them!! There are also photos of an ORANGEMAN that bears a remarkable resemblance to a retired Qantas Captain and another of an ex Qantas Flight Engineer in fancy dress, drinking green beer and eating steak with green sauce - YUK!!

NEW COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Welcome and congratulations to Diane Brookes, the new club Treasurer and to Doug Stickland elected to the committee (definitely cherry pie Doug) and to Lloyd Shepherd on his elevation to club Secretary - High heels, fishnet stockings and wig, would be the go Lloyd!! Final-

ly congratulations to our President David Rittie, for once again being voted MVP and to Don Harvie, Matthew Gray and Bret Cavanagh for making the starting line-up and not having to come off the bench!!

SPECIAL PEOPLE

There are always special people to thank, Greg Goulding for your help and generosity in our time of need. To Vic Rimkus for green-keeping duties on his days off, and to Milli Kresovic for his great assistance in helping me change a tractor tyre in difficult circumstances, and to Richard Thompson, our workday coordinator for sound sensible advice always and for your great support in our roles here as Caretakers.

As we are here to serve the club members, if you have any problems give us a ring or call at the residence and if we can help we will.

Dawn and Rouen Andrews
Phone: 0425 380 964



Below: Victor Rimkus is seen here carrying out his "Green Keeping" duties!



A letter to the Editor from Peter Hodgens

At the Last General Meeting I expressed my concerns at our exposure to a major bush fire.

We are located in a high risk zone, and our buildings are because of there contents classed as high risk.

Over the history of our club we have experienced several bush fires. The last was the most severe destroying some 20 caravans and gaining entry into several hangars. The good Lord was with us that day. However the result could have been far more catastrophic.

We as managers of this club have certain responsibilities to our members well being and to protection of their valuable assets such as hangars, aircraft etc.

The question I pose is whether we are doing all we can to meet our responsibilities ? and I feel sure we are not!

Assuming I am right what would be the outcome of a severe Bushfire.

First of course is that lives could be put at risk. Second is that many Hangars and there contents could be destroyed. Thirdly legal action for damages or worse could ensue, amounting to millions of dollars in claims.

In the event it is proven we have not met our responsibilities, we could be held to have contributed to the tragedy.

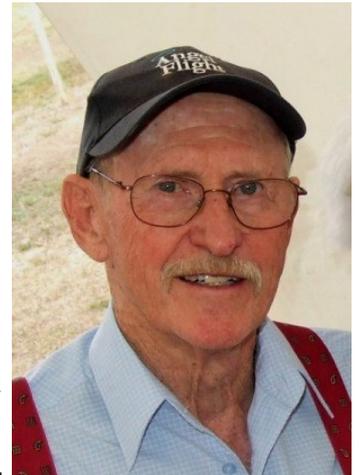
At our next general meeting I intend to raise these matters again for discussion. As I imagine some members Will not share my concerns, I encourage all members to attend and have their say.

In conclusion I consider these matters vitally important to the well being of our club.

Let us plan for the worst and hope for the best.

Happy Flying

Peter Hodgens
Membership No. 009



* * Aircraft and Hangars For Sale * *

David Kent's Classic Cessna 172a is for sale

Classic Cessna 172a VH-MHF for sale. TTAF 4211.7
100 hourly done in August 2012 (90 hours to run).

Continental 0-300 6 cylinder 145hp engine, McCauley two
blade fixed pitch prop.

Hangared constantly, good paint, interior excellent.

Dual TKM MX11 VHF coms, intercom, Bendix T12C ADF
with Davtron digital readout, Narco AT165 Transponder,
dual GPS (Apollo/Garmin 295), Strobes.

Price: **\$45,000**

Contact: David Kent at dbkent@gmail.com or on **8005 2652**



Stan Nightingale's new Whisper Motor Glider is for sale

This almost new **Whisper Motorglider**, registered experimental ZIP with the Gliding Federation of Australia, is the first flying aircraft of its type in Australia. Factory built, its features include: 120hp 6 cylinder 3300 Jabiru engine, Dynon D180 EFIS engine monitoring system, Flightcom 403 MC intercom, Icom A210 radio, LX16 electronic LCD variometer, Garmin 296 GPS, Garmin GTX 327 transponder, dual battery and wiring system, Airmaster AP 332 feathering inflight adjustable propeller and leather seats.

Wingspan 16m, Fuel capacity 85L, Glide Ratio 1:28 at 105km/h, 25 hours engine time and total hours.

Asking price: **\$99,000** (negotiable).

Contact: Stan Nightingale on 0415 911 373



Nick Hunt's two CESSNA AIRCRAFT are FOR SALE

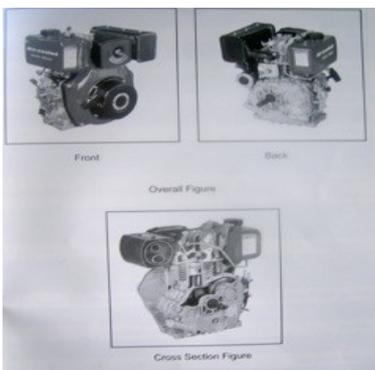
Nick Hunt is seeking expressions of interest from any club member for the purchase of his two Cessna aircraft. He will sell them separately, but if a member is interested in taking them both, a more favourable agreement could be reached.

Classic 1955 Cessna 180. VH-YMH. 4700 hrs TT. Immaculate condition. 3 bladed prop. New interior including panel. Recent new paint. Glider tow-hook. Due for engine Overhaul. **\$108,000.**



Cessna 185, 1961. VH-FFC. 6000 hrs TT. 300hp Engine, Eng O'haul due at 7025 hrs, 88" Seaplane prop. Parachute door. Glider tow-hook. Interior/Exterior excellent. **\$145,000**

For more detailed specifications and more photos, please contact Nick via e-mail at: nickhunt.1@bigpond.com.au or by mobile phone 0427 279 798



10 HP Diesel Engine For Sale

T.W.M QDE 10

Never used.

Electric or hand start.

Comes with assorted pulleys.

\$500.00 or near offer

Call Margaret 0415 911 373



For Sale - Randall Krebs' Zenith Tri Z



The late Randall Krebs' 4 seater Zenith Tri Z, VH-DJE is for sale.

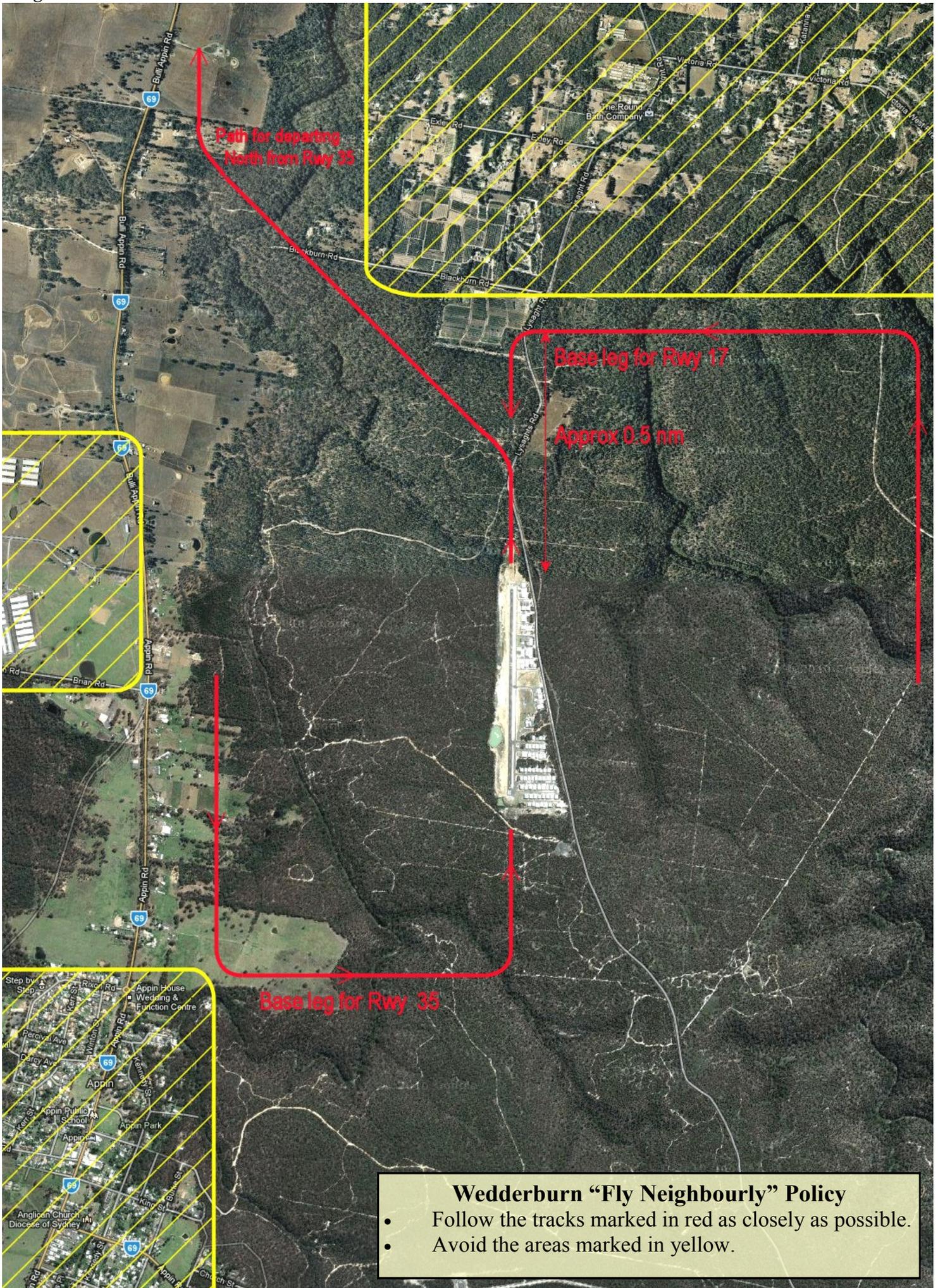
TT 591, Engine 522 TR, Prop 1966 TR. Fresh 100hrly as at 15/3 2012. 2 x Com, ADF, intercom.

This aircraft is being advertised in the Aviation Trader for:

REDUCED PRICE \$35,000

However, a better price may be available to a NSW SAC member. For further information or test flight contact:

Matthew Gray at weemelah@optusnet.com.au or on **0411 505 521**



Wedderburn “Fly Neighbourly” Policy

- Follow the tracks marked in red as closely as possible.
- Avoid the areas marked in yellow.