

January/February 2016

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## HAPPY NEW YEAR!

### Fun Flight 2015

In November, the annual Fun Flight Day was held at Toowoomba Airport providing an opportunity for children and their families touched by adversity to experience the wonder of flight.

The Darling Downs Aero Club was once again honoured to host this wonderful event. Despite ominous skies, the weather held out long enough for the event to take place.

Club members **Mark Guth** and **Grant Pitman** spent the day showing these families around the various aircraft before taking off on a series of magical flights around Toowoomba. For some of these children,

this was their first time in an aircraft!

Who knows, there may have been a future A380 captain or FA18 pilot among them.



As pilots, it is all too easy to take the wonder of flight for granted. For many, it is merely an efficient mode of transportation for their business, or simply their chosen career.

All too often after crawling out of bed at the crack of

dawn to flight plan and pre-flight the aircraft, followed by a long day of flying to and from your destination with a couple of hours of business on the ground in between, the beauty of flying becomes overlooked.

So next time you're flying home in the late afternoon, take a moment to look outside and soak in the glorious sunset views that so few people are privileged to experience.

Events like Fun Flight are a brilliant reminder to us all of just how fortunate we are to participate in something that we love, and share this experience with others so deserving.

### Free training for ALACs and volunteers needed!

The Royal Federation of Aero Clubs of Australia flying training conference and Australian Light Aircraft Championships (ALACs) are fast approaching (11-17 April).

As the host Club, we are looking for a number of volunteers to assist with the running of the event.

We would like ground crew to assist with marking the runways and competition judging, people to help with cooking for the welcome BBQ, as well as general assistance during the event.

Just as a reminder, the

ALAC events are streamer cutting (pictured below), forced landings, spot landings, formation flying and aerobatics.



The spot landing comp in particular requires several ground crew to initially mark the runway, plus ground judges to stand adjacent to each landing box to judge the competitor's touchdown point.

During the next three Club comps (January/February/March - see dates on back page) as well as pilot practice, we will hold training for the ALACs ground crew, so if you would like to volunteer during the ALACs please attend these club competitions.

Please register your availability with DDAC if you are able to assist in any way during the ALACs.

**Remember that ALACs flight training is free!** Make a booking to fly with an instructor for ALAC practice and only pay for the aircraft hire, the instructor's coaching is free.

### Recent Achievements:

#### FIRST SOLO

- CODY FORBES

#### RPL

- JOSEPH CASALEGNO

### Inside this issue:

FLYING TRAINING SCHOLARSHIPS	2
STAFF PROFILE - MARILYN ANDERSON	2
MEMBER PROFILE - TODD PEACH	2
AMBERLEY AIRSPACE ATC PRESENTATION	3
NOVEMBER CLUB COMP - BALLOON BURSTING	3
FRED'S FORMATION FUN	3
MILLMERRAN FLY AWAY	3
'TAILWHEEL' - NEWS, UPCOMING EVENTS, QUIZ, CLASSIFIEDS	4

# Slipstream

“LEARNING TO FLY IS AN EXPENSIVE EXERCISE, HOWEVER ...THERE ARE FLYING SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE TO ASSIST WITH THE COST.

SCHOLARSHIPS ARE WORTH FROM \$500 TO \$8,000 EACH.”

## RFAC and AWPAs flying scholarships - worth up to \$8,000!

Learning to fly is an expensive exercise, however for those who think it is beyond their means, there are flying scholarships available to assist with the cost.

**The Royal Federation of Aero Clubs of Australia** is offering two \$7,700 learn to fly scholarships for new students who do a TIF before 28 March 2016.

This is an excellent time to recommend a TIF to someone who has always wanted to fly.

The RFACA also offers ad-

ditional scholarships for those with a PPL who would like to do CPL or instructor rating training, based on the recommendation of flight schools. DDAC has been very fortunate with a number of students being awarded a scholarship in the past.

For the female pilots, the **Australian Women Pilots' Association** offers numerous scholarships every year, with a combined value of over \$60,000! Individual scholarships are worth from \$500 to \$8,000 each.

Scholarships are offered for ab initio training, navigation training, instrument and instructor ratings, formation or aerobatics, night VFR, ATPL theory, PPL charts, CASA fees, flight reviews, endorsements and theory training.

There are scholarships to suit everyone, and often there are very few applications, so apply for everything you can! Applications for most close on **31 January 2016**.

Further information can be found on the AWPAs website: [www.awpa.org.au](http://www.awpa.org.au)



Marilyn Anderson modelling DDAC's new line of headsets.

Marilyn is one of DDAC's full time Grade 1 flight instructors. She grew up in Sydney and started flying at Camden Airport in 1992.

Marilyn was successful in aerobatic competitions in NSW and owned a half share of a single seat Pitts Special with the unfortunate registration of VH-TIT.

She worked for a jet warbird adventure flight company at Bankstown, and was Dick Smith's assistant, flight planning several around the

world flights and assisting with aviation regulatory reform during Dick's tenure as the Chairman of the Civil Aviation Safety Authority.

Marilyn also worked for CASA as team leader communications and reporting, then technical officer for the General Aviation Task Force which introduced the drivers licence medical.

Previously she worked as a music product manager, horse riding instructor, and in various film production roles.

She is a former QLD President of the Australian Women Pilots' Association and was a member of the Griffith University Aviation Board. She is currently a member of the Council's Toowoomba airport advisory committee.

In her spare time you may find her flying the Victa Air-tourer, VH-MVF.

Outside of flying, Marilyn competes in jumping and horse trial events with her Irish Sport Horses.

## Member profile - Todd Peach



Todd Peach, as you've never seen him before...

**Todd Peach's** smiling face can often be seen gracing the buildings of DDAC. Todd began his training with the Club in 2008 with the original goal of making a career change and becoming a commercial pilot. He completed the first step in this journey by passing his CPL flight test in 2010.

Todd then furthered his aviation credentials by com-

pleting his command instrument rating on a Beechcraft Baron. However, after spending fifteen years as an agronomist prior to flying, he came to the decision that the agricultural industry was where he wanted to remain. Not wanting to turn his back on his passion for aviation, Todd found the perfect way to combine his agronomy work with flying.

He flies weekly to work in the agricultural regions of

southern NSW. Until recently, Todd hired DDAC's JCU for this travel, however he managed to convince his 'minister of finance' to purchase his very own Cessna 210 "purely for work of course". Todd said he loves "the flexibility of flying to my own schedule, without checking in for airline flights, and avoiding long tiring commutes by road". Having his pilots licence has made his weekly travels not just bearable, but an absolute pleasure.

## Saturday 13 February - Amberley Airspace presentation

Everyone is welcome to attend a briefing by Amberley RAAF Air Traffic Controller, **Andy McWaters**, on Saturday 13 February.

We will hold a BBQ from 1pm at the DDAC Touch and Go Bar, followed by Andy's presentation.

Andy is a pilot who learned to fly with the Darling Downs Aero Club. The presentation is easy to understand and informative.

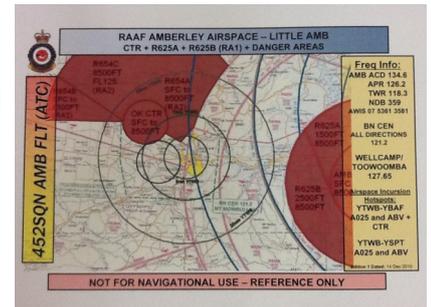
Andy is very approachable and would be delighted to answer any of your questions.

The presentation is ideal for anyone starting their navigation training for PPL, or for pilots who may not transit controlled airspace regularly.

The presentation is free and everyone is welcome, members and non-members, so please invite your pilot friends.

We would love to see some pilots from further afield who may be unsure about the correct procedures to use when transiting Amberley airspace, perhaps on the way to Archerfield.

Although bookings are not required for the presentation, for catering purposes please advise DDAC if you will be attending the BBQ, either by phone on 4634 2777 or by email [admin@ddac.com.au](mailto:admin@ddac.com.au)



## November Club Competition - Balloon Bursting

Once again we had a great turn out for the November Club competition. This time it was balloon bursting with a glide approach to finish.

Just how does one burst a balloon in-flight I hear you ask? With the propeller of course! A couple of fortunate competitors managed to pop it with the aircraft's wing instead, however one unlucky person bumped the balloon with the wing, only to have it bounce straight off (sorry Greg!).

The TAF for Toowoomba

wasn't looking promising with low cloud, showers and thunderstorms forecast from mid morning.

Thankfully the weather gods were in our favour. Despite the increasingly sinister skies to the west, the weather passed to the south and all competitors got their chance to fly.

The glide approach component of the flight also proved challenging for some, with a sneaky patch of sink on mid-base catching many unaware.

It was fantastic to see some new faces on the day, which included our winner. Congratulations go to **Josh Masterson** in first place, who hadn't flown a Tomahawk in 18 years! Second place was a tie between **Ross Remilton** and **Mark Guth** and third was **Ben Blades**.

Thank you to everyone who attended, and a special thanks to **Mark Guth** for being CBB (Chief Balloon Blower-upperer - look it up, it's in the AIP).

“ THE PRESENTATION IS IDEAL FOR ANYONE STARTING THEIR NAVIGATION TRAINING ... OR FOR PILOTS WHO MAY NOT TRANSIT CONTROLLED AIRSPACE REGULARLY.

THE PRESENTATION IS FREE AND EVERYONE IS WELCOME...”

## Fred's Fabulous Formation Flying Fun

DDAC Committee member **Fred Carter** recently completed his formation flight activity endorsement in his lovely new Cirrus aircraft.

Which aircraft could keep up with Fred's Cirrus? Another two Cirrus aircraft of course!

It was a delight to see the beautifully matched aircraft flying in formation around the district.

Fred is now keen to represent DDAC with a Cirrus formation entry in the ALACs in April.

Multiple teams are permitted, so why not do some training and form another team?

Formation training can be completed at Toowoomba with **Matt Handley** at Aero-tec, and DDAC aircraft can be used.



Cirrus aircraft ready for some formation practice. They even park in formation!

## Short fly-away - Millmerran Show Saturday 27 February

Forget the EKKA - why not take your family to a real country show? The Millmerran Airport is right next to the Showground so you can land and walk straight in. There are rides, entertainment and dagwood dogs! Watch the barrel racing, ring events and woodchopping. Pat the cattle, sheep and even the reptiles on display. It is **only 39 nautical miles** from Toowoomba!

## SLIPSTREAM

### UPCOMING EVENTS

#### JANUARY 2016

- 31 Club comp - ALACs practice and ground crew training.

#### FEBRUARY 2016

- 13 Presentation on Amberley Airspace  
27 Fly away to Millmerran Show.  
28 Club comp - ALACs practice and ground crew training.

#### MARCH 2016

- 27 Club comp - ALACs practice and ground crew training.

#### APRIL 2016 (ALACs)

- 11 RFACA executive meeting and welcome BBQ.  
12-13 RFACA Conference  
14 ALAC practise day  
15-16 ALAC comp days

#### **Did you know?**

Air travel is the second safest form of transportation. Only the elevator/escalator is safer, although it would take quite some time to travel 1,000 miles on an escalator!

### TAILWHEEL

- Congratulations to DDAC instructor **Josh McKeon** and his lovely wife Codie on the birth of their second child Mason Felix McKeon, born on the 13th of December.
- Unfortunately the Decathlon SDK is not available for tailwheel training at present due to storm damage sustained while parked at Archerfield.
- Heard on the airwaves:  
**"Routing along the coast",**  
During the balloon bursting competition: Once the balloon was released **"Target sighted, switching to guns"** shortly followed by **"target destroyed"**.
- **Answers to November/December 2015 Quiz**  
1.B, 2.A, 3.B, 4.C, 5.B, 6.C.  
No correct entries were received so no prize was awarded!

Visit us at  
[www.ddac.com.au](http://www.ddac.com.au)

#### **CLASSIFIEDS**

Do you have anything you would like to advertise? Send details to [admin@ddac.com.au](mailto:admin@ddac.com.au) so we can publish your ads here!

### **Quiz**

- Applying full carburetor heat will:
  - Richen the mixture and decrease the power.
  - Richen the mixture and increase the power.
  - Lean the mixture and decrease the power.
- Flying over Cambooya airstrip you notice a white cross near the windsock. This means:
  - There is a glider operating there.
  - Avoid all soft surfaces.
  - The airstrip is closed, do not land.
- The Toowoomba AWIS states the temperature is 38 degrees C and the QNH is 998 hPa. The Density Altitude is closest to:
  - 2,500ft
  - 6,000ft
  - 1,800ft
- Compared with a standard day, when flying on the day from Q3 above:
  - The rate of climb would improve.
  - The indicated stall speed would increase.
  - The angle of climb would decrease.
- While flying coastal near Bribie Island you see a boat sinking and people overboard. You should:
  - Make a may day call on Brisbane Centre.
  - Make a pan pan call on Brisbane Centre.
  - Conduct a precautionary search and landing on the beach to assist.
- The weather forecast includes the abbreviations GR FU. This is:
  - Hail and smoke.
  - Mist and fog.
  - An insult.

The first correct entry emailed to [instructor@ddac.com.au](mailto:instructor@ddac.com.au) will receive a prize!

(Answers will be published in the next newsletter).