



AVIATION HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA (NSW) Inc

ABN: 83 295 759 224
HON SECRETARY, PAUL EWOLDT : E paul.ewoldt@hotmail.com
13/40A ROSLYN GARDENS RUSHCUTTERS BAY NSW 2011

Southern Skies

THE NEWSLETTER OF AHSA (NSW) Inc

FEBRUARY 2019 ~ No 535

Honorary Life Member AHSA (NSW) Inc: Ian Debenham

THE AHSA FEBRUARY MEETING WILL BE HELD ON WEDNESDAY 6TH COMMENCING AT 8.00 PM. PLEASE NOTE THE VENUE AT:
THE STATION, JACKSONS LANDING, 58 BOWMAN STREET, PYRMONT
PARKING IN NEARBY STREETS : METER PAYABLE UNTIL 9-00pm
VISITORS ARE MOST WELCOME
~~ SUPPER WILL BE AVAILABLE AFTER THE MEETING ~~.

Directions by Car, Public transport: Light rail, and 389 bus from Bondi Junction and 501 bus from West Ryde are in previous newsletters.

The Station is the small building behind the hedge which is just past the Jacksons Landing security office.



DINNER WILL BE AT THE CHINESE RESTAURANT ON THE PLAZA next to the Point Hotel, Pyrmont, OR at the Point Hotel at 6.30 pm. If there are any problems (including parking) ring Tom Lockley 0403 615 134.

MANY MEMBERS MET OUR FEBRUARY SPEAKER, OWEN JUPP, when he flew the Jabiru carrying the postcards commemorating Maurice Guillaux's airmail flight Melbourne-Sydney 1914-2014. The manufacturer of Jabiru Aircraft also supplied the aircraft for Owen's money-raising RFDS 'Solo Flight' around Australia. He has previously owned a Tiger Moth and a Piper Tomahawk.

Owen has flown around 90 widely varying types at last count reviewing aircraft for various magazines.

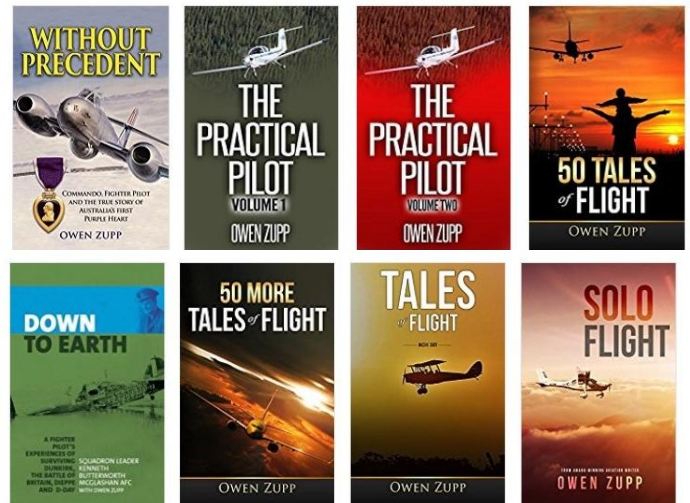
The son of a decorated fighter pilot, Owen Zupp was born into aviation. His flying career has taken him from outback Australia to the rugged mountain ranges of New Guinea, the idyllic islands of Micronesia and across the oceans of the world to the United States, Europe, Africa and beyond.

Owen is an award-winning aviation writer, published author and commercial pilot with nearly 20,000 hours of flight time, accumulated over a thirty-year career. He has flown all manner of machines from antique biplanes to globe-trotting Boeings and shared the journey with readers

around the world in a variety of publications. Owen also holds a Masters Degree in Aviation Management and has consulted on aviation projects ranging from films to technical manuals. **Whether** witnessing rocket launches from 40,000 feet or circumnavigating Australia for charity in a tiny two-seat training aircraft, Owen has cherished every minute aloft.

Owen will be speaking about his most recent book, 'Without Precedent' - which details his father's life. This presentation has been given at a range of venues including the National Press Club in Canberra.

COPIES OF THE BOOK WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR MEMBERS TO PURCHASE.



JR

Some members may like to purchase a book and, after reading it, donate it to our AHSA library.



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ONE HUNDRED YEARS AGO

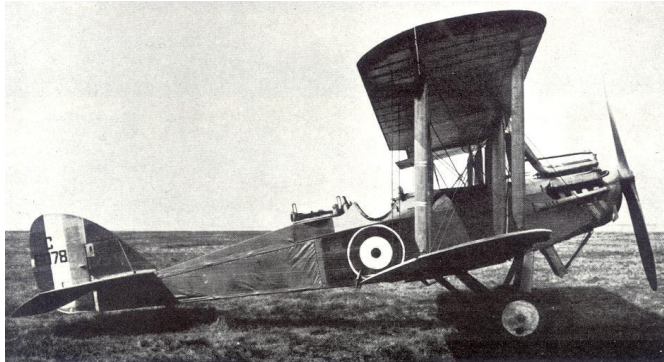
JANUARY 1919 - 2019

Chronology GL

NB Post war regulations limited aerial activity as there were still in place the wartime laws banning commercial aviation. For example on the first France-UK commercial flight all the passengers were servicemen with written orders to fly to the UK & return.

01 SS *Riviera* entered the Black Sea carrying the first batch of men and DH9 machines of 221 Sqn RAF to support General Denikin's Don Cossack Army against the Red Caspian-Caucasus Army Group.

02 Australian Capt Andrew Lang ex 4 Sqn AFC with Canadian Lieut A.W. Blowes as observer and wearing electrically heated 'Sidcot' suits established an unofficial world altitude record of 30,500 feet over the sea off Great Yarmouth, UK. The aircraft was DH9 C.6078 with a prototype Napier Lion engine equipped with a heated induction system.



D.H.9, C.6078, with the first production Napier Lion engine.

03 Capt Lang placed under technical arrest for the unauthorized press interview. He was 'Severely censured' at the official Inquiry on 21 February. Lang shielded those responsible for the leak to the press.

05 The Nationalist Socialist Party is founded in Germany.

08 Civil aviation resumes in Germany.

10 Airco DH4s of the RAF's 2 (Communications) Sqn are converted for transporting passengers and mail between London and Paris in support of the Versailles Peace Conference.

14 Mr Winston Churchill appointed UK Secretary of State for War and Air.

- Sen G.F. Pearce, The Australian Minister for Defence, announces that the Airco DH 6 and Maurice Farman Shorthorns in use at the CFS are offered for sale at not less than their market values of £1,800 and £1,500 respectively. No serious offers are received.

15 Spartacist leader Rosa Luxemburg killed while under arrest in Berlin.

16 Aerial Services Ltd registered in Sydney.

- The RAF's Maj A.S.C. MacLaren and Capt Robert Halley flying a Handley Page V/1500 complete

the first England-India flight. Only two of the aircraft's four engines are still operating.

- In the USA the 18th Amendment to the Constitution authorizing Prohibition goes into effect.

18 In Paris the first meeting of the Peace Conference opens. The British dominions receive separate representation thanks to agitation by Australian PM, Billy Hughes.

19 Jules Védrines claims a FF25,000 prize by landing a Caudron G-3 on the roof of a department store in Paris. Making a hard landing in a space only 28x12 m Védrines is injured and his aircraft is damaged beyond repair.

21 In the first shots of the Anglo-Irish War two Royal Irish Constabulary men are killed in an ambush in Co. Tipperary.

31 A ground survey party organised by Aerial Services Ltd left Fivedock, Sydney, to survey an air route across Australia and on to Calcutta, Port Said or Baghdad, one of which was to be the terminal of their proposed airline service.

ONE HUNDRED YEARS AGO

FEBRUARY 1919 - 2019

Chronology GL

03 Michael Collins organizes the escape of Éamon de Valera the leader of Sinn Féin and two other prisoners from Lincoln Prison.

04 The French government awards French citizenship to all Algerians who served in WWI.

05 In Germany, regular flights between Berlin and Weimar by the Deutsche Luft-Reederei begin using AEG and DFW biplanes.

The Polish and Czechoslovak governments agreed to an armistice in their war over borders.

06 The delegates of the German National Assembly met at Weimar to draft a new constitution for the German republic.

08 Lucien Bossoutrot pilots a Farman F.60 Goliath carrying 12 passengers from Toussus-le-Noble, France to RAF Kenley, England on the first commercial flight between London and Paris.

12 In the UK a Department of Civil Aviation was established within the British Air Ministry.

19 3rd Afghan War commences with the assassination of Amir Habibullah the leader of Afghanistan. Air power proved to be Britain's greatest asset in this conflict.

25 An Air Traffic Committee made up of representatives of 36 states in the British Empire under the Council of Defence meets for the first time.

Gordon Lasslett

CALENDAR OF EVENTS - 2019

THE TEMORA AVIATION MUSEUM'S AIRCRAFT DISPLAYS

Email: info@aviationmuseum.com.au
Website: http://www.aviationmuseum.com.au/event/aircraft-showcase

Thank you, Gordon Lasslett, John Scott, Paul & Christine Ewoldt, Tom Lockley, and aviation friends for submissions to this newsletter. Contributions should be sent to the Newsletter Editor: judyrainsford@hotmail.com jr65 AHSA (NSW)

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AVIATION HISTORICAL SOCIETY of AUSTRALIA (NSW) Inc

ABN: 83 295 759 224

13 / 40A Roslyn Gardens
Rushcutters Bay NSW 2011

2019 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

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- The Acting Membership Secretary, AHSA (NSW) Inc,
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(BSB) 062 009 Account Number 00904128

Please insert your name in the Reference box and advise that you have paid to the Membership Secretary by Email at scottassoc@ozemail.com.au along with your current address, contact details or any changes, and whether you wish to receive Southern Skies via Email or hard copy.

The Ross and Keith Smith flight, 1919: philatelic matters.

This year (10 December) will mark the hundred year anniversary of the arrival of Ross and Keith Smith's Vickers Vimy in Darwin after their epic pioneering flight from England.

This magnificent feat must be commemorated, and we believe that within the next few months Australia Post will be planning their 2019 releases. Following the committee meeting, we have written to Australia Post urging that they should make a special stamp issue to mark the occasion.

If anyone else would like to make their feelings known on this issue, the best contact at the moment is *Michael Zsolt, Manager Philatelic L13, Australia Post. GPO Box 1777, MELBOURNE 3001*. Australia Post apparently prefers that stamp suggestions should be forwarded as written submissions by post, rather than by email.



Philately of the first flight was not well organised. About 200 private letters were carried. When the aircraft reached Darwin, Prime Minister W M Hughes set in motion a process by which a 'vignette' (above) was produced. It is not exactly a stamp, more a commemorative sticker, but Nelson Eustis claimed that it was the most valuable non-stamp piece of paper of its size in the world. Various sources give its value as up to \$16000, mint unused. In 2016 the 'vignette' above, unused, sold for over \$5000.

Letters have been sold at prices up to \$16 000, the most valuable being any of the private letters sent from England or particularly from or to intermediate stops. There is also a good market for philatelic material carried by the other starters.

I think that letters such as the one below were only carried from Darwin to the nearest Australian stop.



Smith flight information

On my website at www.lockoweb.com/smith (a 'blind link' not accessible from the main page) there is some material on the flight that I have collected. If you have anything to add please email me at tomlockley@gmail.com.

At the recent committee meeting we decided to monitor the situation re the approaching centenary and to become involved in the commemorations.

Countdown to 10 December 2019

PROGRESS OF THE SMITH FLIGHT IDEA, DARWIN TO ADELAIDE.

We have got encouraging responses of varying degrees of enthusiasm and commitment.

At this early stage a few people are already deep into planning! It seems that there is interest from Darwin, Longreach, Charleville, Cloncurry (very keen), Caboolture (detour to this historic airfield, very interested), Bourke, Narromine (very keen), HARS (only informal contact so far with a few key people), Temora, Henty (very keen), Cootamundra (very keen, an important player in 1919), Essendon, Parafield, including Adelaide airport, the History Trust of South Australia, Australian airmail stamp group, AHSA Queensland and Victoria, Owen Zupp and a number of other airmen and several others. For next month I will have a full outline of these contacts.

If the project is still looking good, we can have a major announcement of all those interested on March 19 to coincide with a major announcement from Darwin. There is no way that we can do all the work for this event, but there seems to be enough enthusiasm along the way to do major organisation regarding the various stages, and maybe we can attract interest from some group who can take over the overall project.

The latest news from Darwin re the England / Australia section can be seen on <https://zca.campaign-view.com/ua/viewinbrowser?od=27218d28c96aa859ec7f67892534d11bd1185630859ca1fd0&rd=16c75d99dc47d2ae&sd=16c75d99dc47d24b&n=11699e4bec162a4&mrd=16c75d99dc47d235&m=1>

I think they are having some problems, one the most serious of which is the parlous condition of Northern Territory Government finances. I hope to have more information to report at the meeting.

Tom Lockley