



Pilot Proficiency Program

“Flying in Controlled Airspace”

16th to 18th March 2018 Tamworth, NSW

Our 2018 PPP kicked off for the Society with a weekend proficiency course at Tamworth. The “fly- in” was hugely supported by the Local Aero Club who put on a welcoming barbecue dinner on Friday night. We were joined by local aero club members who all mixed in to make us feel welcome. and With all participants having arrived safely & having sampled the local drop they were bused back to town for a well-earned rest. There were a few anxious moments during the afternoon as we were to do an interview with the local media. Dave Ind & Vicky were still enroute, Alan Bradshaw & Kath, who were seconded for the interview were also having trouble with the headwinds. So as a fallback position, **Kar Sing Ho** the CFI for the weekend, fronted the cameras The poor guy. I virtually pulled him out of the airplane and thrust him into the spotlight (*I hear he has been promoted to PR executive OZ Flying Cowra*). We could not have had a more amiable & capable ambassador for the Society. The reports back from the dual flying members was highly enthusiastic. I was a poor second for the interview job. The aired version is available on the links below for all members to see. It had something like 150 hits within the first hour. For the people who are number-conscious there were 17 of the members aeroplanes that flew into Tamworth. To make sure Kar Sing was in the swing I got him to do 2 dual flights after his interview, just to make sure he felt appreciated. The reports from the 2 pilots concerned were high commendations and so the weekend was off to a “flying start”.

http://www.pipersociety.org.au/email/mail.cgi/r/APS_Members/259778870786/cumulus/inter_node.on.net/

<https://www.prime7.com.au/news/1365-pilots-touch-down-in-tamworth>

Saturday morning rolled around and commenced with a buffet breakfast at the BAE training facility at Tamworth. They kindly hired this great venue to us for the weekend. It is a fantastic facility and after a hearty breakfast it was down to business. **Kar Sing** led the morning session with an informative power point presentation on controlled airspace. He was well supported by **Anthony MacBeth** “National Check and Standardisation Supervisor”. (*Tony look after*

regional towers for all of Australia). To do justice to the quality of the presentation you just had to be there. They carved up the airways, radio calls, CTAF's, CTR, CTA, Class C,G,D & E classes of airspace, along with airports that are procedural and those with Radar eyes, covering the law of the air as well. They came up with an anomaly at Canberra and Tony is taking it to task. There were airspace cakes on the drawing board. Questions, questions and even more questions. By the time lunch arrived, we were air-spaced out.

The afternoon highlight was a tour of the tower. There were two groups of 10 led by Tony Macbeth. The first group monopolized the tower for over an hour. The second group were not any better. I didn't hear all the questions but a huge thankyou to the ATC guys. The participants left with a huge information overload and got to see how the airspace is looked after by these people. Kar Sing stepped up to mark again and we launched another two pilots on dual flying. By the time they hit the deck, safely I might add, the day was dusted.

The Partners came with us to experience breakfast at the college. It must be said how lucky we are to have such a large group who actively participate and support us in these "Biggles" adventures. A special thank-you to Paul Rolfe and his wife Megan from the Tamworth Aero club who put so much work to make this a success, backed up Saturday to escort this group around the local region. I heard good coffee was first on the list, a search along the street to find DJ's (not found), then off to Nundle, a study of the rich irrigated Lucerne flats and local scenery. (Bit dry at present). At Nundle a visit to the old Woolen Mill, then checked out the local shops. I understand a few purchases were made for some lucky partners. Mount Misery mine was on the list, no gold was found, but its name tells all. Chaffey Dam was next in their sights. This is Tamworth's water supply and recently had a major upgrade. It is used for recreational fishing, water skiing, camping & canoeing. Also visited were the tourist information center along with the \$60 Million dollar Australian Equine and Livestock Events Centre.

This pretty much rounded out the day. Back to our accommodation to freshen up and then off to the Old Tin Shed we went. This is a private venue not used by the public. The 28 attendees set about making themselves at home. All the beverages were hand brewed except for the odd bottle of wine and a couple of special requests The sheep was a bit tough but didn't seem to deter the ensemble from digging into this special menu of unusual treats including Murray cod. I am assured by many the Rum was good, the Beer great and the White Lightning to be taken cautiously. The evening rounded out and the good crew was ferried back for a deserved rest.

Sunday was billed as the Oz Runways Day. Well it should have been a weekend on its own. Breakfast, then it was straight into it with Ellen & Jake the lead team. We had several visitors who came especially for this presentation. I understand these people have been turned into members. There wasn't one attendee that didn't trot out their Ipad and fingers started racing



across the screens. Then as Ellen launched into another area there were questions, consultations & cheating from your neighbour's Ipad. Jake was in constant demand, myself included. For me this was a very pleasing result witnessing the full participation of the group. I understand that night the 'NOSEND' test brought the web server down! The AVPlan guys present were of the advanced users group and we look forward to having a similar session for them in the future.



Australian Equine and Livestock Events Centre



In all these sorts of events there are always a lot of people to thank. First and foremost my thanks to the Club Members who made the effort & got themselves to Tamworth. “The world is run by people who turn up”. If I name everyone, someone will be offended because I left them off the list. So, to all the partners and to the “Biggles” Group, thank-you for a great weekend.

Steve Mathers, Alan Bradshaw & David Goode.

