

Australian Piper Society

Wangaratta Pilot Proficiency Programme 19th – 21st August 2016



12 braved the inclement weather and arrived at Wangaratta to learn all about airspace. Indeed, so bad were the conditions, all but 2 travelled by car. The Friday night get-to-know-you dinner became a cosy affair in the hotel restaurant as the rain continued to tumble down.

Out to the aero clubrooms at 9.00am we were soon absorbed in Colin Burns as he unravelled Class A E C D & G airspace, reinforced by a PowerPoint presentation supplied by Albury ATC Simon Thomas.

Winding up for lunch there were mutterings around the table of 'that was really good'. Geoff Wood, assisted by other aero club members, had anticipated the session's conclusion to perfection having already cooked the bbq & laid out the salads for lunch.



Some breaks in the heavy cloud began to appear & the cloud base rose to around 2200. Our 'bad weather plan' was to drive to Albury airport for a session in the control tower. With the weather reprieve we agreed to load the 2 aircraft with 8 of us & fly in to Albury. Jenny was on duty and put on a great display multitasking traffic control whilst answering all our questions. As we made our radio calls to Jenny on departure one felt we had cemented a special relationship with ATC.

And then it was time for the Saturday night dinner. The courtesy bus picked us up at 6.00pm & was soon wending its way down country roads to the small town pub at Thoono. An open fire attracted many discussion groups, their backs to it as they clutched favourite beverages awaiting their generous serve of pub fare to arrive. John Pullen was able to enlighten the group about Thoono: it is famous for its annual wheely-bin races!

After Sunday breakfast it was time for farewells. Our thank-you to Colin Burns for stepping up to the 'yoke' in Tony's absence & coordinating another unique & satisfying PPP.

Alan Bradshaw

