

# TUMUT AERO CLUB LTD

## PRESIDENT'S NEWSLETTER – SPRING 2008

Spring means longer days for flying after work. The best flying is early morning or later in the afternoon so if you haven't flown our new J170 give Ben a call on 0417 262 330. It seems to me that every time Ben comes back from flying the Jabiru he has a big grin on his face – he reckons it's a great little aircraft.

### WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING.

# The Tumut Valley Fly-in on 31<sup>st</sup> August was a great success despite the weather. Over 50 people were here for lunch and a lot of fellowship although no one flew in on the day. Hopefully next year the weather will be kinder to us.

# Air BP in their wisdom has removed the underground fuel tank at the airport due to environmental concerns. At the moment we only have Avgas available in drums. This is for member's use only. Hopefully the Council will come up with a solution in the very near future.

# Welcome to new members since the last newsletter. They are : Ken McCloskey, Colin Dowling, Ralph Murphy, Walid Kesserwan, Nader Khadsayha, Ian Lambert, Anthony Smith, Thomas Fitzsimon, Perer Vallee, and Tom Grigg. Welcome to you all and please keep an eye on the Notice Board in the clubhouse as it is here you'll find all the details about flying events, fly-aways and other invitations. Also make sure you check out the Club's website.

# Eyes in the Skies – Fire Watch. This will commence soon so if you would like to be on the roster either as a pilot or observer then speak to Barry.

# New toilets and showers are now fully operational. If you are camping on the field and you want to use these facilities it cost \$10/night. Thanks to John Sturt who put these in.

# The Airport Lodge is available for overnight accommodation – members can access the Lodge for \$30/night. See Pat for bookings.

# Ralph and Natasha Murphy have moved to Cowra. Hopefully we will see them back in Tumut from time to time.

# Mark Craine has bought Tony Urbancik's Corby Starlet so it is good to see him flying this around.

# David Francis' new hangar on the western side of the runway is complete and now houses his new RV.

# The new barbecue area is finished together with changing the position of the gates. Thankyou for all those people who helped with this.

# There will be some working bees in the new year to hook up our newly installed water tanks. These new tanks are thanks to Ben who did all the ground work organising Government subsidies etc.

# Graham Smith has been busy putting new flashing on the middle hangar. If anyone has any scaffolding to enable this job to be completed please see Graham.

# Tumbarumba Flying Group is trying to get established and want to have us help with this.

# Holbrook wants to establish some kind of liaison with us. They are welcome to visit our club at any time.

# Corryong Fly-in is on 22<sup>nd</sup> November.- At this time there are four aircraft that have indicated they will attend the Fly In.

# PLB's and EPIRB's – anyone interested in purchasing one of these speak to Ben as there may be a chance to get a bulk discount.

## **OTHER IMPORTANT POINTS.**

### **# CHRISTMAS PARTY AND AGM.**

Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> December. The Christmas Party starts at 3pm (hopefully Santa can come) followed by the AGM at 5pm. After the AGM we'll all go back to the RSL for dinner and presentations.

# **HANGARAGE** – if you have an aircraft living in the Club's hangar make sure you get a Hangar Agreement filled in and given to Ben. Also make sure you have your rent paid up as required. We have new owners looking for space and anyone who is not up to date could find your aircraft out in the cold. See Ben if you are not sure.

# **MEMBERSHIP REMEMBER** - MEMBERSHIP SUBS ARE DUE ON 1<sup>st</sup> January 2009. MEMBERS \$30, FAMILY \$50, CADET PILOTS \$10.-

**NO REMINDER WILL BE SENT – PLEASE GET YOR MEMBERSHIP IN NOW .**

# TALBINGO FLY- IN 27<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER. SEE BEN FOR DETAILS.- The day will be general flying for a local charity at Talbingo . Lets help out – we need as many aircraft as possible to make the day work – it will only be for a couple of hours .

**BBQ BREAKFAST \_ 1<sup>ST</sup> SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH \_ 8AM .**

**DO NOT MISS IT !!**

**Phil Crocker – President**

**From the Cockpit**

We have had heaps of flying and it would be fair to say that you old members have not met the new Student Pilots and therefore new Club Members so please make the effort to come along to the XMAS PARTY at the TUMUT RSL and meet the new and eager student pilots as we have a very diverse and professional band of men and women. – Just remember your training days and that you remember just talking to other pilots did put your mind at ease and a little encouragement goes a long way.

For the R.A.A. Pilots – please note the new operations manual recently sent out by R.A.A. has some additional study for you to remain current as you are required to complete - the HUMAN FACTORS EXAM – you never stop learning .

All pilots must have completed approved training of Human Factors within the next two years and it's another safety tool for keeping you and me in the air safely.

Jabiru 170 \_\_ has only passed her first birthday and has reached the 180 hours mark and is flying perfectly so let's see some of you older G.A. and R.A.A. pilots get behind the stick and take her up for a trial flight. We presently have the hourly rate at \$110.00 and that would be the best rate for an Aero Club aircraft this side of the equator (have I gone too far – no way!!).

We still have our old LSA 55 for sale and presently we have two new pilots looking at the little girl – value for money it's the best buy on the market by far.

Fuel – Yes we are refuelling out of drums presently but the committee have been working extremely hard to have a new above ground dispensing system in place by January 2009 so watch this space. The response form the Tumut Shire Airport Committee has been very encouraging and we are in the final stages to make a decision on just what type of unit to purchase. The Aero club committee have recommended that our Aero Club donate \$15,000.00 towards the project that is expected to be around the \$80,000, 00 mark.

### **Student Update:**

**Dan Edwards** – our only Gundagai lad is progressing very except ally and you cannot take away the benefit of youth. Dan is on the short end of a Solo Flight and providing the progress is maintained the next time you see Dan you will know of the Solo Flight by the grin. – Hot off the press and as from tonight Dan went **Solo** this afternoon and what a lovely landing , great work Dan and we know you will look forward to the Navigation training .

**Ned K** – our Back Specialist is continuing towards the goal of Solo and is not that far away . As all pilots remember the repetitious circuits we all had to fly , well our young Ned knows only too well but Ned understands the importance of the perfect circuit .

**Andrew Turner** has commenced his training and I don't think I have seen anyone more addicted to flying. Andrew has adapted to the circuit work and progress is on target .

**Jessica McKenty** has completed her year 12 school exams and is now a devoted student having completed the Cadet training and now making herself at home in the Jabiru 170 . Jessica and I were on a taxi run in the 170 last weekend for departure on 17 and blew a tyre on the port side that was a little exciting but good experience on an emergency.

**Matthew Bright** - another Aero Club Cadet is progressing on target into the circuit work and has now been under the watch full eye of Ben and Graham having completed air work with both instructors .

**Moshe Zanetti** – another Aero Club Cadet has commenced his training last Saturday and as Moshe is possibly leaving the area he is determined to get in as much flying towards his pilots licence before the move .

**Bruce Avery** – our Holbrook colleague has completed his pilot check flight last week as he stayed over in Tumut for two nights to complete the check flight and is in the progress of completing the paperwork for his licence . Bruce is keen to purchase his own aircraft and spend many hours in the air . We congratulate you Bruce .

**Richard Davis** – has also completed his pilot licence and has not let the grass grow under his feet as Richard is in the air once a week in the Club 170 and wonders why he did not attempt his pilot licence years ago . Again congratulations Richard – well done .

**Simon Smith** – has commenced his training under the close eye of his experienced Dad ( Graham ) and it must be working as there are no arguments on debriefing and I have a feeling that Simon will be a chip of the old block as a dedicated and safe pilot .

**Chandra Swamy** – is in the final hours of completing his pilot licence and he has had to compete with his work commitments for any flying time however perseverance has paid off and the race is nearly over . Chandra has been a solid club member this year and we look forward to the celebrations .

**Thomas Grigg** – another Holbrook member and Tumut Aero club member has commenced his flying training . Tom has adapted well into the training and is keen to get on with the job to gain his pilot licence .

Congratulations to the following Club students who completed the R.A.A. Instructional Flying lectures and exams . This was the first time Graham and Ben had conducted a Senior Pilot Training Course class and it proved to be a huge success with four of the students completing and passing the course .

The family of **Greg and Di Strong** completed the course and although Di does not want to fly she just wants to make sure that Greg knows what he is doing up there and a good offside in navigation never hurt anyone .

**Simon Smith and Dan Edwards** also completed the course and all students gained a wealth of knowledge that most students usually gain in the cockpit under a very high work load and the pressure usually works against the student's ability . The aid of understanding the concepts of aviation before you enter into the cockpit will not only enhance the student to learn quickly and adapt to the inputs required but they will be a safer and more competent pilot .

**David Fletcher** has almost completed his conversion to the RAA. Licence and is a regular flyer in the 170 . It's good to see some G.A. pilots flying the RAA way .

**David Johns** has also completed his conversion to RAA and is proudly flying his home built Savannah around and please make the effort to talk to David as you will find him a very interesting person with a very diverse background .

Please be aware that all pilots must complete the course in Human Factors and that BFR's are being certified by Flying Instructor's and sending the info into RAA so we do not just sign your log book any more .

Without beating a big stick – fly within the rules and be current with your BFR as there may be some ramp checks in the future .

Both Graham and myself are available at any time if you need advice or some general information so please do not hesitate to contact us .

Safe Flying and keep the pointy bit in front of you and in trim . **Ben D.**