

BRISBANE VALLEY AIRSHOW 2016



Scott Williamson

Bill Finlen's VH-UUL was one of two rare D.H.85 Leopard Moths that joined the line-up of antiques like Waco, Fairchild, Stearman, Tiger Moths etc at the show.



GMO

The restoration of Harvard VH-NRO was completed by the team at Performance Aero at Archerfield quite recently. It was one of a gaggle of Harvard/T-6 and T-28 machines at the show.



Scott Williamson

An "Unparalleled success" was a quote typical of the many accolades I heard to describe the inaugural running of Australia's newest aviation event. The country's famous 'Sunshine State' of Queensland lived up to its name for the weekend of 27th-28th August, and the days preceding, with stunning clear, calm and warm conditions. Visitors got to enjoy a broad range of great aerial performances from a collection of rare vintage Moths ("The geriatric de Havillands"), through to numerous warbirds displays, aerobatics, ex-military jets, all the way through to the RAAF's huge C-17 Globemaster transport, all of which came together for the first serious airshow event to be held in southern Queensland for years.

The range of aircraft gathered for the event was extremely broad, and the number of exotic machines parked in the static display line-ups reminded us that this airshow has been built on the foundation of years of very successful fly-ins. Although technically a brand new event on the downunder airshow landscape, the inaugural Brisbane Valley Airshow has had the advantage of attracting a broad body of high calibre support from the aviation communities of south east Queensland who'd previously worked on the more relaxed Festival of Flight weekends, the Gathering of Eagles fly-ins etc. hosted at the historic Watts Bridge Memorial Airfield. This represents over two decades of experience in managing logistics, food provision, traffic management etc., resulting in a first time airshow that felt as though it was run by professionals 'from the get-go'.

Organisers were careful to provide all the elements of family fun entertainment coupled with a flying programme that for the most part flowed freely and well. A few unexpected elements included such things as the classic twin-engined twin-tailed Morava flying in formation alongside the L-39 jet. This saw a few bewildered faces amongst the aviation fraternity until the penny dropped that these were both Czech-Aero products. Excellent commentary from announcers John Knox (Snr. & Jnr.) joined the dots for those who hadn't! The very pleasing sight of R-2000-powered Yak-3U 'Steadfast' flanked by two Mustangs made an enticing presentation before the Yak split

It's not that common to see a jet like the L-39 operating off a grass airfield however Cam Rolph-Smith made it look easy!

One of the stars of the show was the Yak-3U 'Steadfast'. Co-owner/pilot James Crockett showed off its wing-tip smoke generators to wonderful effect in the cobalt skies above Watts Bridge.

away to perform its party trick with wing tip smoke generators filling the sky with spectacle.

If this first Brisbane Valley Airshow is anything to go by, there will be much to look forward to in the future as the show matures and grows. Our congratulations to everyone involved in this very successful inaugural event.



Dieter Hitchins

Peter Lynch delighted everyone with his magnificent aerial yacht, the Grumman Mallard VH-CQA, usually based at Evans Head on the northern NSW coast.



Nicki Biddle

'The Flying Geriatrics', referred to the aged de Havilland aeroplanes participating, however the appearance of these nurses etc showed it was not just the aircraft showing their vintage but the pilots as well! This was a fun comical touch that the crowds loved.



Dieter Hitchins

Archerfield based Fighter Pilots Adventure Flights had a strong presence at the BV Airshow which included their recently acquired P-51D Mustang. This pristine aircraft was displayed by Cam Rolph-Smith and was one of two Mustangs at the show.



GMO

Anthony Freer's ever imposing TBM Avenger torpedo bomber was one of several warbirds brought down from the growing warbird centre that is Toowoomba.



GMO

Moth magician Bill Finlen, who has flown various Tiger Moths at Watts Bridge in the past, brought two de Havilland classics this year, which included his lovely DH.60M Moth, the total restoration of which was completed little more than a year ago.