



**Watts**  
**News**  
A newsletter issued by the  
Watts Bridge Memorial Airfield

DECEMBER 2008

### SURPRISE JET FLIGHT

Sunday morning on August 3<sup>rd</sup> 2008 saw the arrival at Watts Bridge of John and Jude Gross, along with their granddaughter Nataya. Unbeknown to Nataya her grandparents had organized a flight in the Grumman Panther jet replica, which grandfather John had constructed over a period of some eight years. So, with the parachute strapped on, the nervous young lady climbed into the Jag for the tow to the end of RNY30. Left -John and Nataya.. your aircraft is ready for boarding.



Up, up and away. Off to the fly-in at Kingaroy. We don't have any photos of their arrival, but as soon as Nataya disembarked she phoned her boyfriend and exclaimed "I'm still alive".



Returning to Watts. Over the fence for RNY 12 landing.



Flight's over.. phew! Now's the time to look cool and happy. Hmm, how many girls can say they've flown in a Grumman Panther??



## Annual General Meeting Outcomes

Approximately 35 members attended the Watts Bridge Annual General Meeting at the AAC Clubhouse on Sunday November 23rd. Reports were given by the President, Secretary and the Airfield Council. Several resolutions were passed including a proposal by the Airfield Council to raise membership fees to \$110 annually with a CPI index built in. Also it was agreed to change the title of 'Legal Liaison Officer' to 'Maintenance and Infrastructure Officer' For further details on these and other agreed changes, including those to ensure auditing processes are current, please see the minutes from this meeting. AGM minutes have been circulated to Airfield Council Homebase Representatives who have forwarded these on to their members.

### Office bearers for 2009

Board of Management:	Airfield Council Homebase Representatives
<b>President</b> , Mike Nelson <b>Vice President</b> , Rod Mill <b>Secretary</b> , Liz Cook <b>Treasure</b> , Cheryl Brown <b>Legal Liaison</b> , Peter Freeman	<b>AAC (Qld Chapter)</b> , Brendan Scilini <b>SEQ Gyroplane Club</b> , Ian Sganzerla <b>Qld Ultralight Club</b> , Richard Faint <b>Qld Vintage Aeroplane Group A.F.M. inc</b> , John Innes <b>Leaseholders Group</b> , Mal McKenzie

### AEROBATIC CLUB

Well the Aerobatic Club continues to flourish and enjoy their flying at lovely Watts Bridge. Since the Queensland competition in June the club has met each month to practise their flying in the aerobatic box just to the South West of the field (those little yellow markers that you can see from the air).

There are a couple of new aircraft now flying with Mark Foy's yellow peril Pitts, VH- FOY, leading the newbies; seen above behind the beautiful pink Pitts of Brendan Scilini. Below is the tail of the recently refurbished Pitts S2B of Kevin Dreise.



Mark Galletly has imported his aircraft from Sweden, an Andreasson BA6B. Tony Chapman has now got his Akro in the air and is flying regularly. Tony Hall flies down from Rockie to take part in his Cessna 150 and does very well with this aerobatic aircraft although it is difficult to get it round the sequence. And watch this space as more aircraft are due to take to the Watts Bridge skies in the next few months.

The weekend of 15<sup>th</sup>/16<sup>th</sup> of November was the last practise weekend for the year and so opportunity was taken to fly a mini-competition. Four pilots took part (with many frustrated pilots sitting on the ground watching) with Brendan Scilini

winning the Advanced group in his Pitts; Mark Galletly won Sportsman; Tony Chapman beat Tony Hall to win the Graduate Category flying his Akro.

The Saturday evening was the Christmas party at the clubhouse and great fun was had by all although our usual waiter, Rodger, couldn't make it this year. This did not stop most people not retiring until gone midnight.



## QVAG's Tribute Fly-in

Sunday December 14<sup>th</sup> was hot and windy as vintage aircraft started touching down at Watts Bridge on what seemed to be the greenest airfield ever seen. Around fifty vintage aircraft flew in and about 200 people gathered to honour the memories of Barry Hempel and Shane Winter.

At 1100hrs the formalities began. The proceedings were chaired by Craig Justo and concluded with the naming of the 'Shane Winter Retreat'. This commemorative plaque has been placed over the main entry into the clubhouse.

The formalities over, luncheon was served in hangar 1. The tremendous support given to this commemorative event was heart-warming; and would indicate that the QVAG vision fostered by Shane and Barry is alive and well.



In the drier months Mike O Sullivan raised some dust beating up the strip in his Spitfire.

Now that it is green Mal McKenzie captures a nice shot of the flowing headwaters of the Brisbane River close to Watts Bridge.

*Members of the Watts Bridge Memorial Airfield wish you health and happiness during this festive season.  
May the Peace and Joy of Christmas be with you throughout 2009.*