

MAY 2007

L'il Tinny

Chances are if you have been up at Watts almost any weekend over the last few months, you would have spotted a very shiny new aeroplane buzzing around the skies.

“What’s that” you may ask, “Can’t say I’ve seen anything just like that one before”. And you’d be quite right. The aircraft you’ve spotted is QUA member Richard Faint’s all new plane called “L’il Tinny”.

Richard “scratch built” L’il Tinny, which in aeroplane talk means that there was no kit or plans to aid the building. Design and construction took approximately 1,800 hours spread out over a 3 year period with the first flight in September 2006.



Since then in excess of 80 trouble free hours have been flown. The aircraft is powered by a 50 HP Rotax 503 dual ignition two stroke engine. Performance figures collected to date show comfortable cruise speed of 80 Knots and a stall of 38 Knots.

L’il Tinny’s first truly long distance flight was to attend the RAAus Easter Fly In at Narromine, where the aircraft was awarded the “Scott Winton Memorial – Most Innovative Design Award”.

And so why the polished aluminium finish?

Richard explains, “Well not having spray painted anything in my life, I reckoned that I could do a better job polishing than painting and besides, it gives me something to do up at Watts on Saturday evenings – you can always go and have another round of polishing”!

But wait... There could be more! Rumour has it that Glenda and Richard are busy hatching a similar aircraft. The her’s version of a his and her’s pair. “As they say, “Watch this space “

The Water Crisis and Lease Registration Sign-offs

Members are probably aware that each lease, and there are over sixty, have five copies that must be signed off with two signatures per stakeholder. In round figures, this equates to well over 3000 signatures for the whole lot.

As you know we have a water crisis and SEQWater has advised us that its workload has increased dramatically. Accordingly, it can only sign off our leases in increments of about fifteen at a time. While this process does not add to our costs it is delaying completion. So your patience is asked for as we progressively distribute signed leases to our members.

Mike Nelson, Board of Management

Wild Storm at Watts



A violent storm hit the airfield on the evening of Saturday December 16th 2006. The winds blew at 150 KPH plus and around 60mm of rain fell in 15 minutes. The QVAG Christmas party was in full swing as a huge gaping hole was opened in the roof by large pieces of airborne debris. The interior was flooded in seconds.

This picture is the Drifter wreckage. The aircraft was housed in one of the hangars when the building itself was demolished.

The next picture shows the remains of the Glider flight control vehicle nicknamed the pie cart. The glider winch was damaged as well.



Debris was piled up against the boundary fence which collapsed under the weight. Remarkably, all Peter Freeman's windsocks survived. Most hangar doors were blown out in this precinct and aircraft inside suffered considerable damage.

The Airchalet precinct escaped with minor damage. Derek Robinson's roller door was torn out, slicing through Jeff Underhill's powerline. The door was found in the farmer's paddock almost a kilometre away beyond Silverleaves Road.

We are thankful that there was no loss of life during the storm although some folk at the QVAG party suffered cuts, lacerations and bruising.

A New Hustler Super Z Ride-on Mower for Watts

Funded by



Gambling

Community Benefit Fund

Queensland Government

The Queensland Government's Gambling Community Benefit Fund has provided \$19,923 to Watts Bridge Memorial Airfield for the purchase of a Hustler Super Z Ride-on Mower. This acquisition is largely due to the efforts of Cheryl Brown who wrote the submission after considerable research whilst gaining written support from various community groups. Also to Peter Freeman who identified the mower's requirements, made the business connection and secured great value in terms of the funding given. The mower will make a tremendous contribution in reducing the maintenance hours required for our large airfield



More development at Watts



These pictures tell a welcome story on further construction. Not to mention additional approvals already in train. Watts is certainly the desirable place to be in recreational aviation.

Watch out for our new speed bumps

Members have long complained about the dust nuisance created as thoughtless folk tear along our gravel roads. Thanks to Rod Mill and Peter Freeman the main road inward has been built up so that it is more passable in wet weather. As part of the upgrade, new speed bumps will be added, along with reflective warning signs.



ANZAC Day

Watts Bridge was totally fogbound on the morning of April 25th, ANZAC Day. This may have contributed to the smaller than usual gathering. Nevertheless those attending affirmed their commitment by honouring the lives of those who fought and died in the ANZAC tradition. It was noteworthy to see some attendees wearing their service medals. They reminded us of the continuing ANZAC commitment.



Progress on QVAG's Clubhouse restoration

Craig Justo reports on progress being made in getting the QVAG clubhouse back 'better than new'.

Well, with the Easter break now well and truly behind us, we are now focusing on getting the Clubrooms back into a habitable state. Pursuant to the working party of 14 - 15 April when the ceilings were stripped out of the building, another follow-up working party staged over the weekend of 28 - 29 April concentrated on rectifying the very noticeable "bow" in the middle of the Clubrooms structure. I am pleased to advise that this somewhat convoluted exercise was 95% successful and thus the Clubrooms are now straight, straighter than they have been for the past 15 or so years.



With that exercise completed, this paved the way for the roofers to replace the old "Super Six" roofing material with Custom Orb sheets. The colour chosen for the roof was "Classic Cream"! The roofers were on site at 0700 hrs. on Wednesday 02/05 and by 1700 hrs. on the same day, the building had a brand new roof and it is fully insulated. Additional to that, the Scope of Works covered by the Insurance also included replacement of the material on the three awnings attached to the Clubrooms! To ensure that the building remains relatively straight, two of the interior walls have been sheathed with structural ply which should, in unison with the new roof, prevent another instance of the building bowing in the middle.

As of Thursday 03/05, the interior of the Clubrooms are ready for the plasterer to begin installing the ceilings etc. and current advice is that he will be on site on either 23/05 or 24/05 to begin the work. As intimated previously, we intend to engage the plasterer to replace the three additional bays of ceiling whilst he is on site and at the current time, we are awaiting his quotation for that work.



At this point in time, I will take this opportunity to proffer on behalf of the QVAG Committee, our sincere appreciation to those Members who have assisted with this the enormous amount of work that has been required. It has not been easy but I believe that in the foreseeable future, the Clubrooms will be a retreat for Members and one of which they will be proud! Additional to those who have contributed their time and efforts, to all who have contributed funds to the post storm renovations of the Clubrooms, I will take this opportunity to proffer on behalf of the QVAG Committee, our sincere appreciation for your generosity. Craig

Advance announcements

"QUA Poker Run" will be the 14th July. For more information contact Richard Faint on 0412 317 754 or (07) 3818-1988.

Christmas in July will be held on the 14th July also. For details contact Liz Cook on 0419 369 963