

Mem Date 15/11

Kempsey Aero Club Newsletter

May 2011

President's Report

THIS financial year represents a major changing of the guard for our club, with long-standing treasurer Lyle Notley and secretary Tom Dick both indicating they will not be standing as candidates for their present positions.

Having served alongside both Lyle and Tom for the past almost two decades, their services and commitment to local aviation will be surely missed. Fellow long-serving executive member Milton Riggs was also the recipient of a Life Member Award during the year.

Very special thanks are also extended to the ladies of the club who worked tirelessly again this year to bring each of our social occasions to life with superior catering and organisational skills.

.....
THE use of the airport facilities has been scrutinised by the committee in relation to a proposal to use the

airstrip as a Drag Racing site. Following my negotiations with the Drag Racing Club and Kempsey Shire Council, we were able to address concerns that this activity could be disruptive to the airport's day-to-day activities. As a result, the Drag Racing Club has undertaken to resubmit their Development Application to Kempsey Shire Council for approval and an outcome is pending.

.....
MEANWHILE, our Fly-In/Open Day, held on the 10/10/10 was a big success, despite midday rain which sent most people home and limited the number of aircraft able to fly in. An estimated 2-300 people visited the Airport during the day to look at the aircraft display and inspect the hangers and facilities. It has been pleasing to see that our regular BBQ nights on the first Sunday of each month have attracted good numbers, as have our flying competition and

sausage sizzle on the third Sunday of each month.

.....
AT the time of going to press, TDK is awaiting a new motor transplant which has arrived in Kempsey and work will begin on this shortly.

.....
ON the financial front, the club remains in a financially sound position, however that could be shaken by the cost of the new TDK motor.

.....
WE look forward to another strong year in 2011 and strongly encourage all of our members to nominate for positions on the committee to help push our club forward. Like any club, we are only as strong as the support we receive from our members.

**Yours in Flying,
Graeme Smith
President**

**Member Profile:
Ross Costanzo,
flight instructor**

THE flying bug is alive and well in the Macleay Valley, according to Mid Coast Flying Instructor, Ross Costanzo.

Since offering recreational flight instruction at Kempsey Airport in October, 2010, Ross says he has received enquiries from people from many different walks of life.

"I've had calls from teenagers, to young women, to retirees, to middle-aged business owners," Ross said.

"We're really hoping this means the Kempsey club can look forward to a new mix of people signing up."

And, with one Sydney client choosing to learn to fly at Kempsey instead of Armidale, Ross says he hopes tourists will begin visiting the area to learn to fly.

"Learning to fly in such a beautiful location gives tourists a great reason to visit Kempsey," he said. "If we can create a flying tourism market, we may also succeed in attracting other business to the airport."

ORIGINALLY a microlight pilot under HGFA, Ross later flew AUF ultralights and was instructed by Dave Rolfe. He then went on to be a GA pilot and owned a Cessna 172 for many years before selling it to return to RAA aircraft and becoming an RAA instructor, with Dave Rolfe as CFI.

Originally a glider pilot, Dave has a flying school at the Oaks near Camden and a satellite school at Wollongong, with Kempsey and Taree being temporary satellite schools.

So committed is Dave to the Kempsey cause, he has been commuting to Kempsey Airport every

second Sunday since last October.

And local flight enthusiasts are benefiting.

In March this year, three of Ross' students – including locals Eric Walsh and Brett Stephenson – successfully completed their first solo, an achievement that also sees Ross graduate to Senior Instructor level.

THE good news for Kempsey Flying Club members is discount flight instruction rates courtesy of Mid Coast Flying.

Ross says he is also trying to get another aircraft available to Kempsey Flying Club so new RAA members can keep flying.

Ross offers lessons on Saturdays and Sundays with the Sportstar, while Dave is available on Sunday afternoons in the Sierra 200.

.....

2011 Calendar of Events

DATE	EVENT
1 st Sunday of the month	BYO BBQ Evening
3pm, 3 rd Sunday of the month	Flying Comp & Sausage Sizzle
Sat, May 21	Inter-Club Flying Comp @ Kempsey – Ray Lynd
Sat, June 11	Camden Haven Flying, phone 6586 3911
Sun, Sept 4	Spring Fly-In Breakfast @ Kempsey