

ASC e-News

Electronic news from the Adelaide Soaring Club



Number 22/2017

20th November 2017

Welcome to the latest ASC e-News. A special welcome to the following people who were admitted into membership at the last committee meeting: Adam Richard, Emily Hale, Charles Maddern, Euan Coles, Man Hang (Henry) Wong,

Worth celebrating

ONE HUNDRED YEARS AGO ON 23 NOVEMBER 2017



Bitten by the flying bug, Ballarat car dealer and entrepreneur, R G (Robert Graham) Carey purchased a wrecked Bleriot XI. This aircraft had been used by Frenchman Maurice Guillaux to fly Australia's first airmail in 1914. It crashed during a demonstration flight and Guillaux left it behind when he returned to France to enlist at the onset of WW I. Such was the rapid development of flying machines at that time that it was already obsolete when Carey rebuilt it in 1917.

After obtaining the first flying licence to be issued to an Australian civilian, Carey embarked on a series of promotional flights around Western Victoria. At 42 he was too old to enlist in

the Royal Flying Corps so his contribution to the war effort was to fly his frail and under-powered Bleriot over local fairs and drop posters to raise funds and promote recruitment. In October 1917 the Commercial Travellers' Association brought Carey to Adelaide to appear at a carnival to raise money for the Army Nurses' Fund.

Arriving in Adelaide he battled a gale to fly over the city and drop leaflets promoting a war loan. Over the next few days he made several flights over Adelaide's suburbs, dropping more leaflets, until he struck a surveyor's peg when landing at his temporary airfield at Enfield and shattered a wheel. With that repaired, his next engagement was a Red Cross Carnival at Gawler. An official airmail was approved for the flight – the first in South Australia and only the third in Australia. This time it was an unseen fence wire that brought him down near Islington.

The crowd waiting at Gawler were understandably disappointed; no aeroplane had ever flown over the town before. The organisation committee had no trouble persuading Carey to complete the flight once the Bleriot had been repaired – and, on Friday 23rd November 1917, Gawler finally had its first sight of this marvel of the modern world.

Once again, Carey had to battle adverse weather to complete the flight, touching down on Gawler Racecourse at 3.30pm with a bag of commemorative postcards and letters, included those intended for the earlier attempt. These items are now amongst the most highly sought-after in Australian philately.

Vast crowds inspected his aircraft at the racecourse and the bravest accompanied Carey on joy flights over the town. On November 26, once more in a rainstorm, Carey had another miserable flight back to Adelaide in minimal visibility and battering gales carrying the return mail. This was Carey's last flight in his Bleriot.

He went on to acquire a fleet of war-surplus Maurice Farman Shorthorn biplanes and continued his round of displays, joyflights and delivery runs.

In 1957, Carey, now 83-years old and retired from flying, returned to Gawler for a 40-year Commemorative event, once more delivering a parcel of specially-franked airmail. Eighteen months later he died at his home in Melbourne.

This year a Centenary Mail has been arranged by the Australian Airmail Society and will be flown to Gawler on 23rd November by Mick Wright and Mark Michell of the Adelaide Soaring Club. A commemorative postmark will be available at the Gawler Post Office on the day. There will also be a memorial celebration at the Carey Plaque at Gawler Racecourse (adjacent to the fence on Adelaide Road) at 1.00pm – to be followed by a meal, display and presentation at the Gawler Airfield from 3.00pm.



FURTHER DETAILS ARE AVAILABLE FROM:

MARTIN WALKER (Australian Airmail Society) 0418 800 132

JOHN COUPER-SMARTT (Adelaide Soaring Club) 0439 834 441

* R G CAREY GAWLER AIRMAIL CENTENARY *

TIMETABLE

Thursday 23 November 2017

TIME	ACTION	NOTES
0930	Mail from Gawler PO delivered to pilot at YGAW	Mick Wright and Mark Michell
1030	Centenary Flight departs YGAW for YPFD	
1045	Centenary Flight arrives YPFD	
1100	General Public mail bag delivered to YPFD	Mail bags handed to pilot
1115	Flight departs YPFD to return to YGAW	
1130 approx	Overfly Racecourse <i>en route</i> YPFD - YGAW	
1145	Centenary Flight arrives at YGAW	
1200	Veteran car carries airmail bags to Gawler Racecourse	
1300	Ceremony at Racecourse	Welcome by G&B J C Introduction by Martin Walker Speech by Mayor Karen Redman Unveiling of sign by Tony Piccolo MP Signing of Airmail and Postcards
1345	Veteran car departs to carry airmail to Gawler Post Office	
1400	All depart for Adelaide Soaring Club, Gawler Belt Road	
1430	Open Hangars and Display at Gawler Airfield	
1500	Afternoon Tea (Bookings essential) Bar Open Airmail Souvenirs available for purchase	
1600 - 1730	Illustrated Presentation: <i>The Adventures of R G Carey</i> by Martin Walker	



For Further Details and Bookings

CONTACT

JOHN COUPER-SMARTT

0439 834 441

Did you know....

- that the members of the ASC Committee are meeting this Saturday to work on the club's strategic plan
- the total membership of the ASC is 329 (210 flying members)
- that in the last financial year there were 309 glider AEFs conducted
- that in the last financial year club owned aircraft flew a cumulative total of 2522 hours

Memberships

All membership fees are now due!! Please pay membership fees as our insurance relies on you being current and all membership fees paid to ensure smooth running of our club.

Jabiru Engine Maintenance Workshops

2018 Dates Released!

Workshops are run at a rate of 1 workshop per month with a maximum of 4 people (preferably) per workshop for hands on experience. Our engine workshop covers some 100hrly maintenance, leak downs, practice fitting valves, measuring guides, seating valves. We do measuring of engine components or if we get a customers plane to work on we might go right down to as far as changing through bolts, pistons, inspecting cylinder heads and troubleshooting.

Duration of the workshop is 4 days - Monday to Thursday

Cost of attending a workshop is \$495 which is payable approximately 8 weeks prior to start date

Below are the dates which have been released for the first half of 2018.

- 15 – 18th January
- 12 – 15th February
- 12 – 15th March
- 16 – 19th April
- 14 – 17th May
- 11 – 14th June

If you would like to book into a particular workshop above please contact Sonya at Jabiru on 0741551778 or email: sonyah@jabiru.net.au

Also another option to think about, if you are attending our workshop and your Jabiru engine is due for a service or requiring some engine maintenance to be carried out, your engine might be a great fit to be volunteered for one of the workshops above. When volunteering your Engine for a workshop, there are no labour rates charged for the period of the workshop and parts used are offered at a discounted rate.

As this mail out has gone to our entire customer database and also our waiting list that we are holding some workshops may book out quickly given we prefer to only have a maximum of 4 people per workshop.

If you are emailing your choice of workshop date, please let us know your top 3 choices of dates (in case your first choice &/or 2nd choice has been booked out prior to receiving your email).

Should you have any further queries on the workshops please let us know.

Happy Flying!

Please shut the gate

Please remember to shut the gate if you are the last person leaving the airfield of an evening.



Daryl Trigg - ASC e-News Editor

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ON THESE OR ANY OTHER CLUB TOPICS CONTACT ANY MEMBER OF YOUR COMMITTEE.....

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