

Fly About

Northam Aero club (Inc.) Newsletter

Vol. 53 Issue No.1 January 2022



In This Issue

- ◆ A Message from the President
- ◆ Club Captain's Report
- ◆ Next Club Comp
- ◆ Classifieds
- ◆ Club Calendar

Presidents Message

Hi all, I hope you had a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Heather and I flew to Kalgoorlie to spend Christmas with my son, his wife and my grandchildren. A slight head wind flying to Kalgoorlie but managed an 18 knot tailwind on the way home.

The water bombers have departed our Airfield and I believe the fact they were stationed in Northam proved to be very successful in preventing a fire getting out of hand.

On Wednesday 19th January about 15 Royals pilots will be flying to Northam Aero Club at around 1800 hours for a quick bite to eat and then leaving again at around 2000 hours to fly back to Perth. This is so they can stay current with their night VFR. Anyone that would like to be a part of this fly in is more than welcome to come down.

On Wednesday 2nd February the Club has invited the Northam Town Councilors down to the Airfield to be shown around the Airfield. This will start around 1730 hours followed by a Barbeque. Once it is dark, we will then turn on the runway lights for them to see. Once again Members are more than welcome.

My best wishes go to Matt Bignell one of our Life Members who unfortunately is spending time in hospital. All the best Matt, get well soon.

Cheers, Errol Croft

PRESIDENT

Northam Aero Club

PH: [0428 880 149](tel:0428880149) FAX: 08 9629 1754

Club Captains Report



Some of our Team NAC Pilots at Northam for Xmas Comp.

"L. to R.: Peter Hill, Nick Kostov, Peter Hill [GrandSon), Steve Hvala and Ian Berry, Current Club Champ.

Club Competition

The next club competition is to be held on the

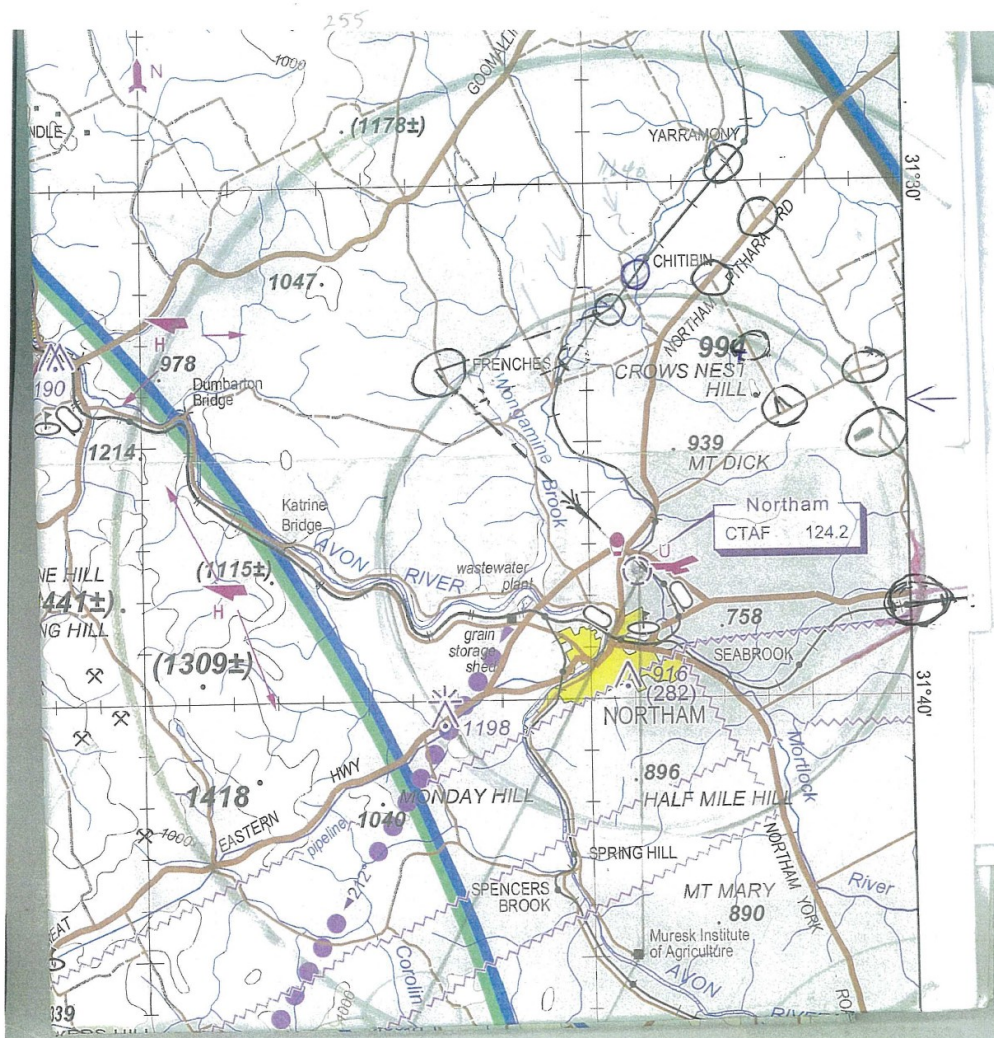
13th February 2022

Please see below for the Comp notes:



TEAM NAC FLYING COMP... IFR ... (I follow roads)

PILOT



Club Competition



PILOT _____

CALL SIGN _____

NAC FLYING COMP -- IFR -- (I follow roads)

RUNWAY 32...Take off and depart crosswind (N/E).
MAINTAIN 1,500 ft.

At Railway line:.. TURN PORT and follow Railway line.
Stay right side of line to assist visibility.

AT FIRST RAILWAY BRIDGE: HOW MANY PYLONS SUPPORTING BRIDGE? ____ 10 Pts

AT SECOND RAILWAY BRIDGE: HOW MANY PYLONS SUPPORTING BRIDGE? ____ 10 Pts

AT INTERSECT OF RAIL AND ROAD:

Is there a FENCED COMPOUND AT THIS LOCATION? Yes / No 10 Pts

Are there any SOLAR PANELS in compound? Yes / No 10 Pts


TURN SOUTH EAST ALONG ROAD:

AT NEXT "T" JUNCTION TURN SOUTH WEST.

AT NEXT "T" JUNCTION TURN SOUTH EAST AGAIN and fly along road.
Where this GRAVEL ROAD _ _ _ CHANGES TO SEALED ROAD ____

HOW MANY ROWS OF HAY BALES ON L/H SIDE OF ROAD? 10 Pts

HOW MANY ROWS OF HAY BALES ON R/H SIDE OF ROAD? 10 Pts

AT  "T" JUNCTION PERFORM RATE ONE LEFT HAND ORBIT:
IS THERE A...

NEEDLE POINT OBELISK MONUMENT SOUTH SIDE OF JUNCTION? Y/N 10 Pts

HOW MANY ROUND TANKS AT THIS JUNCTION? 10 Pts

NOW TURN NORTH EAST AND FOLLOW ROAD. MAINTAIN 1,500 Ft.

AT NEXT CROSSROADS:

IS THERE A SHED JUST NORTH/EAST OF INTERSECTION? Yes/ No 10 Pts

NOW TURN SOUTH EAST UP ROAD FROM THIS INTERSECTION.

LOCATE CLAUDE'S AIRSTRIP:

IS RUNWAY ON EAST OR WEST SIDE OF ROAD? 10 Pts

AT GT.EASTERN HWY TURN STARBOARD -You are 5 miles East of YNTM.

RADIO: "INBOUND 5 Miles to East at 1,500 Ft. ETA _ _ _ Northam." 10 Pts

Follow Gt Eastern Hwy

IDENTIFY GRASS VALLEY WHEAT BIN ON RAILWAY LINE:

IS WHEAT BIN NORTH OR SOUTH OF Gt. EASTERN HWY? 10 Pts

RADIO: "JOIN BASE RUNWAY 32 NORTHAM". 10 Pts

BONUS POINTS: LAND ON KEYS 10 Pts

RADIO: "LANDED AND CLEAR RWY 32 NORTHAM" 10 Pts

Club Competition



TEAM NAC FLYING COMP -- IFR --. (I follow roads)

PILOT _____


RWY 14.TAKE OFF,DEPART CROSSWIND TO EAST UP GT EASTERN HWY. CALL SIGN _____
MAINTAIN 1,800 ft.

IDENTIFY WHEAT BIN ON RAILWAY LINE AT GRASS VALLEY
IS WHEAT BIN NORTH OR SOUTH OF RAILWAY LINE? 10 Pts

TURN TO PORT AT GRASS VALLEY TOWNSHIP,FOLLOW UNDERPASS ROAD.
IDENTIFY CLAUDE'S AIRSTIP. DESCEND TO 1,500 ft....
IS RUNWAY ON EAST OR WEST SIDE OF ROAD? 10 Pts

AT NEXT CROSSROADS:
IS THERE A SHED JUST NORTH EAST OF INTERSECTION? Yes / No 10 Pts

TURN SOUTH WEST ALONG SOUTHERN BROOK ROAD FROM THIS POINT.

AT "T" JUNCTION WITH  SIDE ROAD PERFORM LEFT ORBIT.
IS THERE A....
NEEDLE POINT OBELISK MONUMENT ON SOUTH SIDE? Yes/No 10 Pts

HOW MANY ROUND TANKS AT THIS "T" JUNCTION? 10 Pts

PROCEED NORTH WEST UP SIDE ROAD
AS SIDE ROAD CHANGES FROM SEALED _____ TO GRAVEL _____
HOW MANY ROWS OF HAY BALES ON LEFT HAND SIDE OF ROAD? 10 Pts

HOW MANY ROWS OF HAY BALES ON RIGHT HAND SIDE OF ROAD? 10 Pts

AT NEXT "T" JUNCTION TURN STARBOARD (NO,NOT FARM DRIVEWAY!)

THEN AT NEXT "T" JUNCTION TURN TO PORT UP ROAD.

IDENTIFY ROAD/RAIL LINE INTERSECT:
IS THERE A FENCED COMPOUND AT THIS LOCATION? Yes / No 10 Pts

ARE THERE ANY SOLAR PANELS IN COMPOUND? Yes / No 10 Pts

PROCEED SOUTH WEST UP RAILWAY LINE : CLIMB TO 2,500 ft.

AT RAIL BRIDGE OVER CREEK: PERFORM LEFT HAND ORBIT.

HOW MANY PYLONS SUPPORTING RAIL BRIDGE? 10 Pts
CONTINUE SOUTH WEST.

AT NEXT RAIL BRIDGE OVER CREEK:

HOW MANY PYLONS SUPPORTING RAIL BRIDGE? 10 Pts

NOW TRACK WEST /SOUTH WEST approx 3 miles.

NOW TURN PORT ONTO 140 DEGREES
ALIGN AIRCRAFT WITH RWY 14 YNTM FOR STRAIGHT IN APPROACH.

RADIO: "INBOUND 5 MILES TO NORTH WEST AT 2,500 ft
FOR STRAIGHT IN APPROACH RWY 14, ETA ____ NORTHAM.... 10 Pts

RADIO: "ESTABLISHED 3 MILE FINAL STRAIGHT IN RWY 14 Northam.... 10 Pts

RADIO: "ONE MILE FINAL STRAIGHT IN RWY 14 FULL STOP NORTHAM"... 10 Pts
BONUS POINTS: LAND ON KEYS 10 Pts

RADIO: "LANDED AND CLEAR RWY 32 NORTHAM" 10 Pts

You talkin' to me?

Robert de Niro's famous line in *Taxi Driver* wasn't all that scary. But what is seriously scary for a bush pilot? Even scarier than an engine failure at night when you're dodging CB's and one of your passengers has just been sick? Talking to Air Traffic Services. So who are those monsters you can talk to on the radio, and what are their jobs?

Air traffic services come under two broad headings: Air Traffic Control (ATC) and Flight Information Service (FIS). Usually if you're OCTA you're talking to FIS, and in controlled airspace you're talking to ATC.

ATC

The different ATC functions, and ways you'll address them, include:

Tower

A Tower frequency controls circuit and runway traffic. On the ground your first contact with Tower is at the holding point, and in the air in Class C (radar-controlled) airspace such as Perth, your first contact is close to landing, when an approach controller tells you to contact them.

In some Class D (controlled but without radar surveillance) airspace, where there are no Ground or Approach frequencies, on the ground you'll talk to Tower prior to taxi, and in the air you'll talk to them OCTA when you switch from the area frequency and ask for your airways clearance.

Ground

All Class C aerodromes such as Perth, and some Class D aerodromes such as Jandakot and Karratha, have a Ground frequency. This is the controller who gives you your taxi clearance, whether it's getting to the runway for departure, or getting to your parking spot after exiting the runway.

If there's no Ground frequency, such as at Alice Springs or Launceston, all your taxi clearances will be from Tower.

Approach and Departures

Class C airspace, which is radar-controlled airspace around major airports such as Perth, has Approach and Departure frequencies. Generally all the traffic in one sector will be on Approach, and in the other sector it will be on Departures, depending on which runways are in use. For instance, at Perth, when Runway 03 is active, everyone to the north will be on Departures and everyone to the south will be on Approach. So if you're flying down Route 66, which is mostly south of the airport, when 03 is in use you'll get your clearance from Approach, and if you do the same thing in the afternoon when 21 is in use, you'll talk to Departures. You don't need to remember which is which because Perth Centre will always tell you who to call, and on what frequency, for your clearance.

If you take off from Perth, Tower will usually tell you to contact Departures when airborne: "PGL, contact Departures 118.7 airborne, clear for take-off." You'll switch over and make an airborne report (not a departure report) as soon as practical once you're airborne.

If you depart VFR from Jandakot by day, you have to depart OCTA, which means you don't need to talk to anyone after take-off. If you're departing NVFR you need to get up to LSALT within 3nm, which means you're in Perth's airspace as soon as you climb above the Jandakot CTR, so Jandakot Tower will tell you to contact Approach or Departures when they give you your take-off clearance: "PGL, passing 1500 contact Perth Departures frequency 118.7."

When you talk to them you'll make an airborne report as you would if you'd taken off from Perth: "Perth Departures, PGL, turning right, passing 1500, climbing to 4000." The "passing" bit allows them to check your transponder readout against the altitude you're telling them.

Delivery

Major airports such as Perth have a Delivery frequency, which is for getting your airways clearance on the ground at Perth prior to departing. You always ask for it before you move, which gives ATC time to get it organised before you get to the holding point. Once upon a time there was also a Delivery frequency

Centre

As with most capital city airports, Perth Centre is the frequency you're on if you're OCTA within a certain radius of the main airport – 36nm in the case of Perth – unless you've been told to contact an ATC frequency such as Approach or Departures. You'll call Perth Centre for a clearance, they'll give you a transponder code, and they'll tell you to call Approach or Departures for your clearance.

You also call Perth Centre on the ground if you're departing from Jandakot IFR or at night. The time between getting airborne and entering Perth's airspace on the way to LSALT is not enough time to get a clearance, so you need your clearance before you take off. A helicopter departing from the RPH helipad or the Vulture 7 or Vulture 9 studios also calls Centre for a clearance, because they're in controlled airspace as soon as they're airborne.

Approach, Departures and Perth Centre are all based in the Area Control Centre at Perth Airport. But over most of the continent, if you're in CTA you're talking to either Brisbane or Melbourne Centre.

FIS

If you're OCTA and more than 36nm from Perth, the person who's there to help you is FIS. This may be the same frequency that's providing ATC to another pilot. For instance, over Brooklands Class C airspace starts at FL125, so Melbourne Centre (120.3 MHz) provides ATC to a parachute aircraft at FL140, but he provides FIS to you buzzing around at 3000 ft.

FIS is not legally bound to provide you as a VFR pilot with any service, but they will if workload allows, and/or if they deem it necessary. A good example is in busy lanes such as around Armadale and Mount Dale, or along the Perth coast. In these areas it's good airmanship to let them know you're there. They'll advise you of known traffic, and they can advise other traffic about you. Also, within radar coverage you can request Flight Following, which is simply a radar surveillance and information service that FIS will provide if their workload permits.

For instance, if you're one of those pilots who's brave enough to fly to Jandakot via Mount Dale, a typical call might be: "Perth Centre, C172 PGL, Mount Dale, 3500, tracking for Jandakot via Wungong Dam." That makes PH CEN's life much easier than if he/she has no idea who all those little "1200's" on the radar screen are.

Flying around Mount Dale recently, we were treated to the sound of PH CEN using phrases such as "Aircraft north of Fremantle at 1500, traffic is two aircraft northbound south of Fremantle, intentions unknown." If those aircraft had all identified themselves, FIS's job would have been so much easier because firstly, he would have been sure they were listening on the right frequency, and secondly, he would have been able to give them better information about each other.

Two points to finish with: remember the radio is in effect another pair of eyes, and ATS are there to help.

EDITORS SCRATCHINGS

Hi All, I hope everyone had an enjoyable Christmas and New Year!

As another years rolls over and we all age a little and try hard to cope with the “Crazy Covid Life” we can take comfort in the thought that we can Go fly for fun.

I have made the huge decision to this year upgrade the avionics in my poor old Cherokee 180, VH-RXA.

Out go the “steam/sucker gauges” and in come the new electronic AI (Attitude indicator) and DG (Directional Gyro), along with ADSB both in & out, and not one, but two new Garmin radios.

After much deliberation and google searching I have taken the advice of my avionics tech and I am installing the uAvionix AV-30-E EFIS Display, one configured as an AI and the other configured as the DG.

The radios will be the Garmin GTR200B and the ABSD is the Skyecho system also from uAvionix.

Along with the new instruments I will relocate the old AI and DG to the copilot side of the panel, just to have some “back-up”.

Below is a picture of the current old panel, I will keep you updated as the upgrade progresses.



EDITORS SCRATCHINGS

This will be stage one of the upgrade and will be all I will do this year, but the next stage is Digital EMS, with full fuel computer!!

The AV30 as an AI



The Garmin GTR200B VHF
Transceiver

The AV30 as a DG

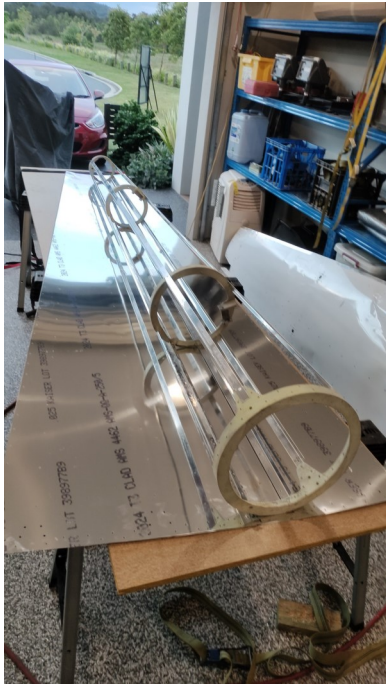


The Skyecho ABSD system which
projects traffic to you favourite
EFB screen via bluetooth

EDITORS SCRATCHINGS



An Update on my Rotorway EXEC 90



Just a quick update on the progress with the re-birthing of my Rotorway EXEC 90 Helicopter.

The tail boom has now been reskinned and is ready to have all of the tail rotor hardware installed.



Membership Renewal & Apparel

Northam Aero Club Membership & Apparel Order Form

Name: _____ ☐ Not Renewing

Address _____

Phone: _____ Email _____

Type of Membership: ☐ Adult \$55.00 ☐ Junior \$10.00

Club Bank Details: BSB 036-107 Acc Number: 69-2937

Apparel: ☐ Club Polo Shirt \$35.00 – Size _____ Name on Shirt: _____

100% breathable polyester jersey knit, snag resistant. Knit collar with contrast tipping.

Mens sizes S M L XL 2XL 3XL or 5 XL (185gsm standard 3 button)

Womens sizes 8 10 12 14 16 18 20 22 or 24 (Ladies 215 gsm with open V with 2 press studs)

Club Cap \$25.00 plus \$8.00 postage ☐ Caps also available from the Bar

Total enclosed \$ _____

If you would like to receive an invoice please tick ☐

"Fly About" magazine Yes ☐

No ☐

Many thanks,
Northam Aero Club Committee

Northam Aero Club Cap \$25.00

Northam Aero Club Polo Shirt \$35.00 personalised



BAR ROSTER



NORTHAM AERO CLUB

Bar Roster

2021

Opening Hours

Saturday 5pm - 7pm

| July | | 2021 |
|------|---|-------|
| 3rd | - | Matt |
| 10th | - | Dave |
| 17th | - | Howie |
| 24th | - | Peter |
| 31st | | mike |

| AUGUST | | |
|--------------|---|------------|
| 7th | - | Croffy |
| 14th | - | Dave |
| 21st | - | Sue |
| 27th-3rd Sep | - | Ballooning |
| | | |

| September | | |
|-----------|---|-------|
| 4th | - | Peter |
| 11th | - | Dave |
| 18th | - | Matt |
| 25th | - | Howie |
| | | |
| | | |

| October | | |
|---------|---|--------|
| 2nd | - | Croffy |
| 9th | - | Dave |
| 16th | - | Sue |
| 23rd | - | Mike |
| 30th | | Peter |

| November | | |
|----------|---|--------|
| 6th | - | Matt |
| 13th | - | Dave |
| 20th | - | Howie |
| 27th | - | Croffy |
| | | |

| December | | |
|----------|---|--------|
| 4th | - | Mike |
| 11th | - | Dave |
| 18th | - | Sue |
| 25th | - | closed |
| | | |
| | | |

IF UNABLE TO DO YOUR ROSTERED
DAYS PLEASE MAKE ARRANGEMENTS
TO SWAP WITH SOMEONE
Manager

Next Club Competition

**NEXT NAC FLYING COMP is scheduled for:
Sunday 13th February 2022**

**Next Club Committee meeting is:
Sunday 13th February 2022
13:00 at the Clubrooms**

Bar Hours

The Bar is now re-opened.
Please check with Matt Bignell for opening times.
New bar roster to be published after AGM.
0407 873 700

NAC Website access QR code

We are slowly sliding into the new technological world!

Here is the latest High-Tech way to access the NAC website.

If you are “QR” code ready then simply scan this code with your phone or tablet and you will be taken to the club website.

What will they think of next!



(QR code reader apps can be downloaded from the App store or Play store)

Jan/Feb 2022



| Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday | Sunday |
|--------|---------|---|-----------------------------|--------|----------|--|
| 17 | 18 | 19 Royals visit & Dinner | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 |
| 24 | 25 | 26 AUSTRALIA DAY | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 |
| 31 | 1 | 2 Council mem- bers airfield visit | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 Club Comp. & Committee meeting |
| 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 FLY ABOUT DEADLINE | 18 | 19 | 20 |
| 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 |
| 28 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |



\$25.00 available from Northam Aero Club

Wanted - Aviation Memorabilia

- Books
- Artifacts
- Photographs
- Old Aircraft Parts
- Signs

If it's old and historic—I'm interested

Adam Price—0428 611 797

NAC Club Aircraft Bookings



Enquiries— Matt Bignell

0407 873 700

Classifieds

Northam Aero Club Merchandise

Club Polo Shirts with name and club logo—\$35.00

Postage available—\$10.00 per order

Club Caps with logo—\$25.00 available at the bar

Stubbie Holders—\$7.00 available at the bar

Postage available—\$8.00



LEARN TO FLY **Recreational Aviation** **Capital of the West**



Ph Errol 0428 880 149 or Dave 0416 242 846

www.northamaeroclub.com



**Western
Airmotive
Pty Ltd**

30 Eagle Drive Jandakot
Western Australia 6164
Ph: +61 8 9332 7655
E: airspares@westernair.com.au
www.pilotshopwa.com.au

FOR ALL OF YOUR FABRIC COVERING NEEDS



CECONITE



**"For all your aircraft parts
and pilots' supplies"**

NAC Cessna 172—VH-PGL

Hire Fee Structure

Private Hire - \$240 per hour

Dual Training - \$350 per hour

TIF's - \$175 per 1/2 hour

Briefing - as required

Instructor (in owner's aircraft) - \$115 per hour

Pre-paid Discounted Block Rates Available

- 5 hours - less 5%
- 10 hours - less 10%
- 20 hours - less 15%

Student pilots may use the discounted block rate for aircraft hire only

Instructor fees remain as priced above

For all further enquiries please contact:

NAC Treasurer - nactreasurer@bigpond.com T: 0428 743 031

Aircraft Bookings: Matt Bignell - 0407 873 700

Membership Renewals

Northam Aero Club Membership Renewal due January 2022

Our Membership year runs from January to December each year.

The cost of club membership remains unchanged at \$55.00 per year.

Bank Details to make Membership payment to **Northam Aero Club**
BSB: **036107** Account No. **692937** Reference **(please use your surname to make it easier for us to find you)**

**President**

Errol Croft

E: dowref@bigpond.net.au

T: 0428 880 149

Vice President

Matt Bignell

E: big.matty@hotmail.com

T: 0407 873 700

Secretary

Susan Clements

E: info@northamaeroclub.com

T: 0488 441 274

Treasurer

Dave McFarlane

E: nactreasurer@bigpond.com

T: 0428 743 031

Club Captain

Peter Hill

E: prh@aurora.net.au

T: 0450 415 947

House & Grounds

Vacant

Aircraft

Dave Beech

E: dbeech@iinet.net.au

T: 0438 016 903

Flight Training

Kevin Lathbury

E: Kevinlouise62@gmail.com

T: 0434 000 217

Flight Training

Murray Bow

E: bowie1@iinet.net.au

T: 0424 160 750

Aircraft Bookings

Matt Bignell

E: big.matty@hotmail.com

T: 0407 873 700

Fly About Editor

Martin (MJ) Jacobson

E: auswideaviation@bigpond.com

T: 0408 439 160

Membership Officer

Heather Deegan

E: heatther1957@gmail.com

T: 0248 738 808

THE NORTHAM AERO CLUB (Inc.)
PO Box 247 NORTHAM

SURFACE MAIL
POSTAGE PAID
AUSTRALIA

TO:

"FLY ABOUT"
PRINT POST APPROVED PPN: 100018823

